

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/172/22  
10 February 2022

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1354th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 February 2022

**On the deteriorating situation in Ukraine and the continued non-implementation by the  
Ukrainian authorities of the Minsk agreements**

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past few days, we have seen a certain change of rhetoric in those countries where, until recently, they were scaring the world by invoking the threat of an “imminent attack” on Ukraine. Some media outlets, for example the Bloomberg news agency, managed to release fake news into the information sphere last Friday about an “invasion” that was already under way. Then they removed the articles in question. Officials in the United States of America have also adjusted their tone. Just the other day, the EU foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, also stated that he did not believe that Russia was going to invade Ukraine.

Let us recall the fervour with which, not so long ago, representatives of a number of Western countries sought to convince everyone otherwise, in this room and elsewhere. Different time frames were mentioned: in November, in December, in January and so on. As the facts show, all these “scare stories” turned out to be nothing more than a “puff of propaganda” and idle talk.

Now let us turn to the real situation in Ukraine. A protracted armed civil conflict, brought about and fuelled by the West’s aggressive and cavalier interference in the development of the Ukrainian State and society, is continuing in the country. In February, Ukraine will mark the eighth anniversary of the bloody, foreign-backed armed coup d’état of 2014. A coup that elevated to the firmament of Ukrainian politics the most radical nationalist parties and movements, which set about aggressively imposing ideas of militant nationalism and Russophobia that were alien to the majority of the population – all under the mantle of alleged patriotism. The uncontrolled circulation of weapons among nationalists and neo-Nazis and their desire to impose their rules throughout the country led to a natural outcome: many Ukrainians opposed the artificial division of society and took a stand against the self-appointed authorities, who were operating in tandem with the nationalists. During this period, people in south-eastern Ukraine began to organize themselves into people’s militias to protect their homes and peaceful way of life from encroachments by the nationalists.

The refusal of the Maidan authorities to engage in civilized and respectful dialogue with the inhabitants of their own country led to armed confrontation. A military operation was launched to suppress dissent. The then Ukrainian leadership continued its military planning for “direct dialogue with the Donbas” even after it had signed the Minsk agreements under international supervision. Dialogue with the aid of artillery and mortars – in the form of shelling, casualties and destruction.

In choosing such tactics, the Ukrainian authorities have never been acting autonomously. The notorious “external control” under which the country has fallen in recent years, while bidding farewell to what was left of its State sovereignty, is making itself felt. There is no doubt that without the destructive influence from abroad, the Ukrainians would have been able to find a common language and achieve peace among themselves much faster. On both sides of the line of contact live relatives and loved ones who are trapped between new political watersheds artificially imposed on the country – dividing lines introduced by geopolitical strategists from the West and other demagogues, who generously handed out biscuits and equally sweet but empty promises on the Maidan.

In the midst of the armed civil confrontation, instead of promoting an inclusive nationwide dialogue in the interests of peace on the basis of the Minsk Package of Measures, the post-Maidan authorities’ foreign patrons decided to invest in the militarization of Ukraine. Instead of sending political signals to Ukraine about the need to implement the Minsk agreements, they started to send military aid, equipment and weapons, shells and ammunition, with which some Ukrainian citizens continue to kill other Ukrainian citizens to this day. In short, they began to do their best to push the hotheads towards a military solution to the “Donbas problem” at a time when the Minsk agreements were being sabotaged.

Take a look at the figures from the beginning of this year alone: at least 12 aircraft each from the United States and the United Kingdom, two from Canada and one from Poland landed in Ukraine – all with weapons and other military cargo on board. The United States alone sent some seven hundred tonnes of cargo. As soon as these cargoes arrived, the United States and the United Kingdom, using their so-called “instructors”, began training the Ukrainian military in the combat use of the delivered missile systems, grenade launchers and other weapons in urban areas. Specific plans to send at least an additional 100 soldiers from the United Kingdom Special Forces and 200 troops from the Canadian Special Operations Forces have long been no secret. If the authorities in Kyiv claim that they are not preparing for offensive operations or armed provocations, what is the point of all this? Incidentally, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) has already counted over 8,000 ceasefire violations in Donbas since the beginning of the year. Will there be fewer ceasefire violations after these military preparations?

Eight years later, the problems in Ukraine are the same as in 2014. Radical nationalists from illegal armed formations have not been disarmed. Take, for example, Right Sector. They continue their attempts – with the support of the current authorities – to impose their rule in eastern Ukraine by fire and sword. Their plans do not include observing the ceasefire or implementing the Minsk agreements. The authorities, for their part, are unable or unwilling to do anything about this, acting essentially in concert with the armed formations.

Let us recall how representatives of the nationalist battalions prevented President Zelenskyy from carrying out the disengagement of forces and hardware in Zolote in November 2019 and did not want to leave this disengagement area with their weapons. Under pressure from them and at the “prompting” of the United States, Volodymyr Zelenskyy refused, at the “Normandy format” summit in Paris on 9 December 2019, to approve the plan for the disengagement of forces and hardware along the entire line of contact already agreed on by experts and accepted by the representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk. Having agreed in the minutes of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) meeting of 11 March 2020 to direct dialogue

with the plenipotentiary representatives of certain areas of Donbas, the Ukrainian Government then effectively disavowed its signature on the agreement to create an advisory board.

It is also not surprising that the meetings of the TCG and its working groups held on 8 and 9 February concluded once again without any results. They confirmed once more that the Ukrainian Government has no intention of engaging in direct dialogue with the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk. On 3 February, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Ukrainian television that the Minsk agreements “cannot be implemented on Russia’s terms, which are based on direct dialogue between Ukraine and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. It [direct dialogue] is being imposed on us”. A day earlier, he said that no special status would be granted to Donbas. He stressed that the Ukrainian representative would be heading to today’s meeting of the foreign policy advisers of the Normandy Four leaders in Berlin with these guidelines in mind. Should we expect any progress there?

As for the need to implement the Minsk provisions in consultation with and upon agreement by representatives of certain areas of Donbas, it is worth emphasizing that these are not “Russia’s terms” but an explicit provision of the Minsk Package of Measures. Once again, we draw attention to the statement by the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, in an interview with Associated Press: there he stated directly that the Ukrainian Government had no intention of implementing the Minsk agreements, since their implementation “would mean the destruction of the country”.

Thus, the Ukrainian authorities, without facing any criticism from their foreign backers, are trying to send a false signal to Ukrainian society that the Minsk agreements are destructive by their very nature and that their implementation would more or less amount to “capitulation”.

Against this backdrop, it is worth paying attention to what the militant Ukrainian radical nationalists are saying today. Listen to the words of Yevhen Karas, leader of the notorious C14 movement – on 5 February, at the “Bandera readings” nationalist forum in Kyiv he said: “They gave us so many weapons now, not because we are good, but because we are the only ones who are ready to fulfil the tasks of the West. Because we have fun, it’s cool to kill and it’s cool to fight.” These reflections on how “funny and cool” it is to wage war against one’s own people are eliciting neither a proper legal evaluation by Ukraine’s law enforcement agencies, nor a political evaluation by the country’s leadership, nor an international evaluation – for example, within the OSCE.

New paramilitary nationalist groups also continue to spring up – at the start of the year, a so-called “closed guerrilla network” by the name of Honour of the Nation was established, which now numbers around a thousand people. On 6 February, under the instruction of nationalists from the Aidar battalion who had spent time in Donbas, members of this association conducted combat training exercises with weapons in their hands.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau, is paying a visit to Ukraine these days and will also go to areas of Donbas controlled by the Ukrainian Government. We regret that Mr. Rau did not respond to the invitation from the representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk to the TCG and did not find it possible to familiarize himself with the real state of affairs on the other side of the line of contact.

Once again, we call on the foreign handlers of the current regime in Kyiv to refrain from nurturing the ideas of aggressive nationalism in Ukraine and to stop the destabilizing militarization of that country. It should be understood that the full implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures of 12 February 2015,

which was endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, is the only means for a peaceful, political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict. The implementation of the Minsk provisions in their entirety, in the correct sequence and in a co-ordinated manner will not be a “capitulation” but rather a tool for ending the armed confrontation in eastern Ukraine, achieving sustainable peace and nationwide reconciliation, and restoring territorial integrity.

In particular, we should like to point this out to the members of the United Nations Security Council that on 17 February 2015 joined in unanimously supporting the Package of Measures, which provides for direct dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Thank you for your attention.