



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 845th FSC Plenary Meeting
(15 February 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 3)

Mr. Chairman,

Although since the last FSC meeting the intensity of hostilities in Donbas decreased, the Delegation of Ukraine regrets that ceasefire violations remain a «normal» practice on the part of the hybrid Russian forces, which constantly «test» the Ukrainian Forces defences.

According to the last reports made by competent authorities of Ukraine, a number of shelling at Ukrainian positions in the ATO zone has been ranging from approximately 50 to 70 per day. **4 Ukrainian servicemen were wounded** for the reported period.

On 8 February, although intensity of combat actions around Avdiivka has slightly decreased, the Donetsk sector remained an epicenter of the tensions on the front. Areas in proximity to Mariupol and civilian infrastructure in the Luhansk sector also came under hostile fire.

In the Donetsk sector the situation remained tense all along the contact line. The hybrid Russian forces were actively using heavy weapons both during the day time and at night. A tense situation was in Avdiivka and at the Svitlodarsk bulge. In these areas militants intensified their attacks in the afternoon and remained active until late evening. They were massively using mortars, howitzers and tanks that were supposed to be withdrawn from the contact line in accordance with the Minsk agreements. The hybrid Russian forces made a total of 33 attacks upon Ukrainian positions in the Donetsk sector over the day. Almost two thirds of the attacks were made with the use of heavy weapons. In the Luhansk sector they continued intense attacks upon Ukrainian positions in Krymske with the use of artillery. Militants fired over 90 shells in the area over the day. There were occasional ceasefire violations on the part of militants in Popasnyanska area, close to the Bakhmutska road and in Malynove located north of Stanytsia Luhanska. The hybrid Russian forces were using mortars in all three locations. Resulting from another hostile attack on the Bakhmutska road Zanivska water pump station was damaged. Five thousand persons residing north of the impact area - in Toshkivka and Toshkivka-1 villages were left without water supply. There were 25 militant attacks in the Luhansk sector over the day. Violations with the use of heavy weapons accounted for one third of the attacks. In the

Mariupol sector tense situation was observed in the city's eastern outskirts, especially in Lebedynske and Shyrokyne. Militants made a massive attack in the evening. They used artillery and mortars. Earlier militants were widely using small arms and occasionally 82-mm mortars. Adjacent villages got damages in course of the above attacks upon Ukrainian positions. Shelling hit a sub power station leaving Talakivka, Hnutove and Sartana without electric power. In Maryinka militants violated ceasefire three times. They were using heavy weapons in the last two attacks. Check point across the contact line in the area came under their fire yet again. Militants made a total of 24 attacks in the Mariupol sector over the day, 10 of them included the use of heavy weapons.

On 9 February, the hybrid Russian forces have violated the ceasefire 61 times over the day. In Donetsk sector, militants shelled Luganske, Avdiivka, Troitske and Verhnotoretske with 82-mm and 120-mm mortars. Zaitseve, Avdiivka, Opytne and Pisky were fired on with grenade launchers and small arms. Ukrainian positions near Avdiivka and Opytne were also shot at by BMP. In Luhansk sector militants fired on Shariv Kut, Lobacheve, Novooleksandrivka and Novozvanivka with mortars, grenade launchers and small arms. In Mariupol sector the enemy shelled Vodiane and Pavlopil with mortars, while Pavlopil, Novotroitske, Shyrokyne, Maryinka, Hnutove, Lebedinske and Vodiane - with grenade launchers and small arms.

On 10 February, combat actions continued in all sectors with lower intensity. The hybrid Russian forces fired from MLRS «Grad» in the Mariupol sector. In the Donetsk sector, Avdiivka and its outskirts found themselves in the center of combat actions, where hostile attacks started at 8am and lasted all the day with some breaks. Overwhelming majority of the attacks was made with the use of light weapons. Militants fired twice from mortars targeting the industrial area. Hostile tanks fired three times upon the Ukrainian position "Shakhta Butivka". In the area of the Donetsk airport militants made two short-lasting attacks upon Ukrainian positions in Opytne. One was mortar attack. Another mortar attack took place in Nevelske town in proximity to the airport. In the area of Horlivka hybrid Russian forces fired from small arms including sniper rifles targeting Ukrainian positions in Zaitseve, Novhorodske and Verkhnyotoretske. At the Svitlodarsk bulge militant attacks included the use of light weapons and sniper rifles.

Lithuania's Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius being with a visit to Ukraine visited Avdiivka. With his own eyes he saw the outcomes of the hostile consequences of the «Russian world» promotion. He was able to see that such geopolitical ideas of Ukraine's eastern neighbor do not lead to anything else but suffering of local population, damages and destructions in the near-front areas.

In the Mariupol sector the hybrid Russian forces shelled Ukrainian positions near Krasnohorivka with MLRS «Grad». They fired half of the system's full load - 20 rockets. Immediately after the attack the adversary brought tanks to the contact line and fired 10 salvos. An hour and a half later adversary restarted attacks and used rocket artillery again. Starting from 6pm

and once in every two hours the enemy was massively firing upon Ukrainian positions. Tanks were also used by the enemy during the last two attacks. According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine 28 MLRS «Grad» rockets, over 25 tank gun shells and over 130 mortar mines impacted Ukrainian positions in Krasnohorivka. Tense situation also stands in the southern part of the Mariupol sector - along the frontline between Pavlopil and Shyrokyne. Militants fired there both during the day and at night, mostly using light weapons. The area near Krymske was the hottest spot in the Luhansk sector. Militants were firing upon Ukrainian positions there using light weapons.

On 11 February, hostilities in the ATO zone again took place in the Avdiivka industrial area and on its flanks. Militants were conducting shooting attacks for eight hours with recesses. The hybrid Russian forces used mortars, launching several dozen shells. Ukrainian troops responded with fire. Adversaries also violated the ceasefire in other areas, particularly, at the Svitlodarsk bulge, Horlivka perimeter and Donetsk airport. Therefore, the enemy returned to its usual practice of “disturbing fire”, mostly during the hours of darkness. Militants conducted 23 attacks in the Donetsk sector, six of them involved use of mortar launchers. Militants’ activity in the Mariupol sector was focused in Pavlopil-Shyrokyne area. They were shelling Ukrainian positions during the day and at night. Moreover, militants instigated escalation near Krasnohorivka late at night. They used mortar launchers and APC’s, the firefight lasted about one hour. The hybrid Russian forces conducted 36 shooting attacks in the Mariupol sector.

On 12 February, the total number of shelling was 67. In the Donetsk sector, Verkhnotoretske and Avdiivka came under mortar fire. Zaitseve, Pisky, Novoselivka-2, Kam’ianka and Luhans’ke were fired on with grenade launchers and small arms. Militants were shooting at the Ukrainian positions in Avdiivka with the use of weapons based on an Armoured Fighting Vehicle. Militant snipers opened fire in the direction of Troitske, Novoselivka-2 and Kam’ianka.

In the Luhansk direction, Novoaleksandrovka and Novozvanivka were fired on with grenade launchers and small arms. In the Mariupol direction, militants shelled on Pavlopil, Novotroitske and Krasnohorivka with mortars of different calibres. Pavlopil, Novotroitske, Hnutove, Novohryhorivka, Chermalyk, Mykolaivka, Lebedinske, Vodiane and Shyrokyne were fired on with grenade launchers and small arms. Militant snipers conducted fire on Maryinka.

On 13 February, Ukrainian positions were shelled 72 times. In the Donetsk direction, Pisky was fired on with 122-mm artillery. 120-mm and 82-mm mortars were used to fire on Nevelske, Verkhnotoretske, Avdiivka and Troitske. The settlements of Nevelske, Zaitseve, Pisky, Novoluganske, Verkhnotoretske, Novoselivka-2 and Luhanske were fired on with grenade launchers and small arms. Militant snipers opened fire on Nevelske. In Mariupol sector the enemy shelled Vodiane with 122-mm artillery, tanks, APC and IFV. Pavlopil, Krasnohorivka and Shyrokyne were shelled with mortars of

different calibres. Grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms were used to shoot at Lebedinske, Bohdanivka, Pavlopil, Shyrokyne. The settlement of Shyrokyne was fired at with APC and sniper arms. In the Luhansk direction, militants used 82-mm mortars and grenade launchers to fire at the Ukrainian positions in the vicinity of Krymske, Valuiske, Novooleksandrivka and Stanytsia Luhanska.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to draw a special attention of the Forum to an example when the SMM monitors not only underwent further restriction for their freedom of movement in areas temporarily not controlled by the Government of Ukraine but also came under warning shots fired by militants. The SMM in its daily report of 13 February informs the following - on 12 February, while observing a camouflaged tank in "DPR"-controlled Pikuzy (23km north-east of Mariupol), the SMM heard 15-20 shots of small-arms fire 50-100m from the SMM's position near the tank. The SMM assessed the shots as not to be directed at the SMM but to be warning shots. The SMM left the area immediately. This example is clear evidence of Russia's backed militant's noncompliance with the provisions of the Minsk Agreements which provide, inter alia, for the ceasefire, withdrawal of weapons as well as non-intimidation of the SMM monitors.

In regard of the Russian-produced weapon presence in eastern Ukraine the Delegation of Ukraine would like to refer to an SMM daily report of 11 February which reads the following - «on the night of 8 February, the SMM camera at Stanytsia Luhanska recorded the launch of a rocket-assisted projectile (outside the disengagement area) it assessed as a round of a light portable rocket system (Grad-P, 122mm) flying from south-south-east to north-north-west».

We would like to draw attention of the delegations that militants continue to get logistical and training support from Russia. The last clear evidence of such illegal practice became the detention by the Security Service of Ukraine of a woman-sniper of a rapid reaction platoon of the so called «interior forces» of the "DPR" who had four months special training in Russia near the city of Taganrog in the Rostov region.

Given the many facts of systematic ignorance by the hybrid Russian Forces of the TCG calls for the establishment of a comprehensive ceasefire in eastern Ukraine, on 14 February 2017 the Ukrainian authorities forwarded to the SMM and to the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office in Ukraine, OSCE Representative in the TCG a detailed information on numerous specific facts of such flagrant violations.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

We call on the Russian Federation to exercise its responsibility in implementing the Minsk agreements, in particular their security provisions on comprehensive cease-fire, withdrawal of forces and full access of the SMM for monitoring. We urge Russia to pull out its forces from Ukraine, halt its support to the illegal armed formations in Donbas region of Ukraine as well as its military build-up along Ukraine's south-eastern borders.

For its part Ukraine is fully committed to full and faithful implementation of the Minsk agreements. We regret that Russia fails to translate into practical steps its political declarations on peaceful resolution.

The conflict instigated and fuelled by the Russian Federation will not be resolved until the Russian forces get out of the territory of Ukraine. Therefore we urge Russia to return to the tenets of the international law, to cease its aggression against Ukraine and reverse the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.