



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 769-th FSC plenary meeting**

(5 November 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)

**Mr. Chairman,**

In breach of the letter and the spirit of the Minsk Protocol, signed by the representatives of the trilateral Contact Group, including by the Russian representative, on 2 November 2014 so called “elections” were organized by illegal armed groups in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. This illegitimate exercise contravenes Ukraine’s laws and Constitution, derails efforts of the international community to find a sustainable political solution to the crisis, jeopardizes the entire peace process and substantially worsens the situation in Donbas.

Once again Russia failed to honor the agreements, while this time it signed just two months ago in Minsk, by choosing to give recognition to these illegal so called “elections”. By so doing, the Russian Federation again violates international law, violates Minsk Protocol, takes responsibility for aggravating the peaceful resolution.

Ukraine does not recognize these pseudo elections; their results are null and void. We strongly condemn their organization and all forces who stood behind this illegal and irresponsible act. We appreciate the solidarity in the OSCE in not recognizing and condemning this illegal exercise.

Ukraine reviews the situation against the backdrop of this serious setback for peace efforts. In his address to the nation on 3 November President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko stressed and I quote: “Despite provocations, the diplomatic path of resolution remains the priority for the Ukrainian authorities.”

**Distinguished colleagues,**

Ukraine appreciates the tireless efforts of the OSCE and its Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine which it invests into stabilization of the situation in Donbas. The use of the Unarmed/Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to monitor the situation and gather information complements the Mission's ability to monitor and report on the security in the east of Ukraine as well as the implementation of the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum.

On 2 November, the SMM reported that one of its UAVs was fired at with numerous rounds by a truck-mounted anti-aircraft system (probably a ZU-23) at a location 17km east of Mariupol’ and east of the line of contact at a height of 5,000 feet. We condemn this attack by terrorists just as any attempts to limit the SMM’s monitoring capabilities and area of operation as provided by the mandate.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the participants of this FSC meeting disturbing update from Donetsk and Luhansk where terrorist leaders had been

bolsters by strengthened support from Russia. The terrorist groupings DPR and LPR have declared about the creation of “the regular army” and “total mobilization of the citizens”. By now, the militants reportedly have formed 4 assault groupings (Luhanske. Gorlivs’ko-Donetske. Volnovakhske-Tel’manivske and Novoazovs’ke) comprising over 15 000 Russian mercenaries and 12 000 local rebels. They have at their disposal around 115 tanks, 280 armored fighting vehicles, over 100 artillery systems and MLRS “GRAD”, up to 500 trucks.

The analysis of the received data shows the growing tendency of the saboteur groups’ activities and increasing intensity of shelling by terrorists supported by the Russian troops. The Russian military command has tasked its units and local illegal armed groups to block and paralyze roads Donetsk-Maripol’ and Novoazovs’k-Odesa.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Let me bring to your attention some facts of continuous violations by the pro-Russian militant groups, which were registered from 30 October till 4 November:

-on 29 October terrorists were shelling at positions of the ATO forces, which support several block-posts on the road Bakhmutka. The fire was undertaken by light weapons, antiaircraft systems ZU-23-2 and mortars.

-on 30 October a column of 11 MRLS "Grad" and 8 "Ural" heavy trucks with ammunition was registered in Makiivka, Donetsk oblast, as it was moving from territory of the Russian Federation;

-on 31 October militants shelled Ukrainian Armed Forces 45 times. The most intensive attacks were registered at Debal’tsevo, Donets’k and Luhans’k directions. Terrorists were using different types of weapon, received from Russia: light weapons, mortars, artillery systems, tanks, anti-aircraft systems ZU-23-2 and MLRS “GRAD”;

-on 1 November a terrorist attack was carried out the block-posts near Mariupol. The attack left 2 Ukrainian servicemen killed and 2 wounded;

Tragically, the Ukrainian citizens continue to lose their lives. Since the cease-fire started, the positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces have been shelled over 2400 times. As a result of these attacks, 100 Ukrainian servicemen were killed, over 600 wounded and dozens civilians lost their lives.

### **Mr.Chairman,**

At the 766 FSC’s meeting on 15 October the Russian representative stated that on 11 October President Vladimir Putin tasked minister of defense Sergey Shoygu to start withdrawing Russian servicemen, who trained on the exercise fields of Rostov oblast to their permanent bases. However, the available information shows that the Russian troops continue their concentration in Rostov oblast near the state border with Ukraine. In particular, units of 2<sup>nd</sup> tank division «Taman’» (Moscow oblast), 2<sup>nd</sup> separate brigade of Spetsnaz of the Main intelligence directorate (the city of Pskov) and 28<sup>th</sup> separate motorized rifle brigade (the city of Yekaterinburg, Ural region) have been deployed near the Ukrainian border. Moreover, yesterday 6 operation-tactical missile systems «Iskander» were reported at the region of the RF adjacent to Donetsk oblast.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Sustainable peaceful resolution in Ukraine's east requires all parties to fulfill their commitments in full and in good faith. The militants together with Russian troops, which continue to remain on our soil, must cease their military actions and stop shelling of civilian areas. All foreign military personnel and mercenaries must leave the territory of Ukraine. The Russian Federation must cease its illegal supplies of weapons and equipment, and halt the flow of the so called "volunteers" into our sovereign territory through re-establishing effective control at the border under the OSCE monitoring.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**