



Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 766-th FSC plenary meeting

(15 October 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)

Mr. Chairman,

Over the last seven months, to dispel security concerns over the unusual military activity of the Russian Federation, the Delegation of Ukraine sought to make full use of existing mechanisms of the OSCE politico-military toolbox, in particular, those instruments, envisaged in **the Vienna Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures**, which we discussed under the first agenda item of our today's meeting. Regrettably, it did not prevent amassing of Russian troops along the border with Ukraine, flows of Russian weapons and mercenaries to reinforce the terrorist organizations, shelling of Ukrainian territory from the Russian side and, eventually, direct military incursion on Ukraine's territory.

Therefore, I take the floor to share information concerning some latest developments relating to security and military situation in and around Ukraine, which, from our perspective, deserves attention of this FSC plenary meeting.

While Ukraine continues to suffer from illegal annexation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and terrorist activities in the east of the country, fuelled from a neighboring state, the President and Government of Ukraine remain committed to pursuing peaceful solutions to the crisis in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Ukraine is committed to full implementation of all provisions of the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum based on the Peace plan of the President of Ukraine and has taken concrete practical steps in this direction. The Ukrainian side fully observes the cease-fire regime, while we again witness violations on the part of the illegal armed groups, continuous attacks on the positions of the Ukrainian military, towns and settlements that continue to lead to loss of life. It remains critical to ensure that all parties concerned implement all provisions of these documents in good faith.

Mr. Chairman,

In the address to the nation on 12 October the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko outlined what our nation has already managed to do since the signing of the Minsk protocol on 5 September. In particular, Ukraine managed to stop the advance of enemy on all fronts, who were not only mercenaries, fighters and terrorists, but well trained units of the regular army of a neighbouring country; The cease-fire regime was established and maintained along the significant part of the security zone; Almost 1.5 thousand Ukrainian prisoners and peaceful citizens, who had been held hostage, were released from the torture chambers of terrorists; In freed localities a normal life is coming back again.

Mr. Chairman,

Unfortunately we continue to register numerous serious violations of the cease-fire committed by the Russia-supported militant forces.

The Donetsk airport, Debaltseve and Mariupol' were in the focus during the last days. These air, rail and sea hubs have been under attacks for weeks despite the Minsk agreements. Ukrainian servicemen have repelled more than **1300** attacks and have lost **65** lives since the cease-fire began.

We would like to bring to your attention some facts of serious violations, which were registered from 9 till 14 of October:

- a column of 30 pieces of military equipment from Russia crossed the checkpoint Uspenka towards Ukraine;
- a group of about 100 people of well-armed and equipped mercenaries trained in the Crimea came to Donetsk;
- a column of "Gazelle" vans with ammunition and equipment arrived from Russia to Alchevsk;
- several Russian military convoys consisting, in total, of 70 pieces of tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and "KAMAZ" heavy trucks and 40 buses with servicemen entered the territory of Ukraine at the Izvarine border crossing point, Luhansk oblast, and at the Uspenka border crossing point, Donetsk oblast;
- concentration of military equipment including 50 pieces of different types of weapon of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation was registered near the town of Millerove, Rostov oblast, the Russian Federation;
- regular violation of the Ukrainian air space by Russian UAVs with the reconnaissance purpose in the vicinity of Mariupol' and other settlements in Donetsk region.

Late yesterday SMM circulated two spot reports on serious violations by terrorist groups of cease-fire regime – heavy "GRAD" attack on outskirts of Mariupol' and attack on a check-point near Smile in Luhansk oblast.

We expect this week to show if there is will on the part of Russia and so called "DPR" and "LPR" to fulfill their obligations, as well as exert real influence on the illegal armed groups.

For Ukraine, the key focus remains on comprehensive implementation of the Minsk agreements, consolidation of the cease-fire regime under OSCE monitoring, establishing permanent OSCE monitoring and verification on the Ukrainian-Russian border, withdrawal of Russian regular and illegal armed units, fighters and mercenaries, military equipment from the territory of Ukraine across the Ukrainian-Russian border.

To facilitate implementation of the Minsk arrangements, the Ukrainian authorities appealed to OSCE to broaden and increase the effectiveness of its Special Monitoring Mission.

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation has once and again declared in various formats its interest in peaceful resolution of the crises in and around Ukraine. However, the very fact of 17,6 thousand of the Russian troops being on exercise for more than six months and presence of heavy armaments in the area of application of CSBMs in the Rostov region is in contradiction with Section 5 and 6 of the Vienna Document. Therefore we urge full implementation by the Russian Federation of its obligations and commitments under the Vienna document, which should include pulling back the Russian Armed Forces from the Ukrainian territory and withdrawal of troops from the state border with Ukraine.

In conclusion, let me state that the most effective means to solve the crisis in and around Ukraine would be the renewal of the fulfillment by the Russian Federation of norms and principles of international law and OSCE principles and commitments which remain flagrantly violated for the last seven months by this participating State.

Taking this opportunity, I pass the floor to the Deputy Head of the verification directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine colonel Andrii Hudz', who will speak on topic "Features of this year's implementation of the Vienna Document in Ukraine."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.