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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 803-rd FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(11 November 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
(Agenda item 2)

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ukraine continues to implement fully and in good faith its commitments under the Minsk agreements, including on withdrawal of weapons under the Addendum to the Minsk Package of measures of 29 September 2015. The removal of tanks and artillery below 100mm calibre from the contact line in Donetsk region was launched on 21 October. All tanks and artillery systems were relocated to areas beyond the withdrawal lines.

In particular, the ATO forces in Donetsk region on 5 November began and on 8 November completed withdrawal from the contact line of mortars smaller than 120mm calibre in the Artemivsk direction. On 6 November the Ukrainian side started withdrawal of weapons of 82mm calibre from the contact line in the Mariupol direction. On 7 November this process continued in the Donetsk direction. The process of removal of these weapons by the Ukrainian side will be completed by 12 November.

According to the Minsk agreements the weapons from the three above mentioned directions in the Donetsk oblast were withdrawn on distances of 15 kilometers and more in the government-controlled territory. Now the Ukrainian armed forces are engaged in maintenance of military equipment and weapons and get ready for winter. These allowed the OSCE SMM to begin on 10 November verification of the withdrawn military equipment and weapons by the Ukrainian military.

However, the September 1 ceasefire remains under growing pressure from recent provocations by the pro-Russian militants on the line of contact, in particular at the Donetsk airport. In the last two weeks we've seen a worrying growth of violence. Small subversive groups of Russian-led militants infiltrate across the line of contact to stage attacks on Ukrainian positions, resulting in new casualties.

We note with great concern that, in spite of the undertaken commitments on the synchronized withdrawal of weapons from the contact line, the Russian-backed illegal armed groups have moved some weaponry so as to put it beyond the scope of the Addendum and therefore beyond the verification process. Russia and the militants it supports continue to amass weaponry that can be quickly brought to the front in a re-escalation of the conflict.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Supporters of the so-called "Russian world" in Donbas continue to shell the peaceful settlements and Ukrainian armed forces positions in the ATO zone. **During the period from 20 October till 10 November** the Ukrainian side of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) **recorded 34 violations of ceasefire, which included 375 provocative shelling** of the ATO positions by militants, compelling the Ukrainian Armed Forces to open fire in response. The Ukrainian side considers such provocative actions of pro-Russian militants as purposeful steps to destabilize situation

that could lead to the disruption of the removal process of specified weapons and further escalation of the conflict.

Every day we register an increasing number of attacks on the Ukrainian armed forces positions with average amount of 21 times per day, concentrating on Donetsk, Mariupol and Artemivsk directions. The Ukrainian positions were shelled near the settlements of Mar'inka, Avdiivka, Troitske, Pisky, Opytne and Krasnohorivka. **As a result of these attacks 11 Ukrainian servicemen were wounded last week.**

In particular, the SMM Report of 6 November stated that following up on information supplied by a Ukrainian Armed Forces officer of the JCCC shelling the previous night in government-controlled Pisky (11km north-west of Donetsk), the SMM observed a fresh impact crater in the town. Following crater analysis, the SMM assessed that it had been caused by a 30mm automatic grenade launcher round, fired from the south, most probably from "DPR"-controlled Volvo Centre area (9km west-north-west of Donetsk). While at the scene – just under half an hour – the SMM heard numerous explosions caused by incoming fire, accompanied by sporadic small-arms fire, south of Pisky.

It is necessary to draw attention of the Forum to the growing activity of the sabotage and reconnaissance groups of the combined Russian-separatists forces and the emergence of new infantry militant groups on vehicles in Donbas. Each of such a group is composed of up to 50 militants with small arms and grenade launchers AGS-17, sometimes with mortars and anti-aircraft installations ZU-23-2. Infantry manoeuvres of such terrorist groups at the forefront of provocative firing were repeatedly recorded in the towns of Opytne, Pisky, Yasynuvate, Popasna, Schastya, Trohizbenka and Donetsk airport. These sabotage and reconnaissance groups are trying to infiltrate into the rear of the ATO forces. They periodically open fire in the Security Zone trying to create an impression as if the militants in this sector actively resist penetration of the mythical Ukrainian troops to their positions.

We have reports that structural units of the FSB and GRU of the Russian Federation have joined efforts to co-ordinate their actions in the ATO area (for intelligence purposes) as well as in other oblasts of Ukraine (for organizing and carrying out of acts of terrorism and sabotage). Such coordination centre comprising representatives of both Russian security services was established in the city of Donetsk on the Rosa Luxemburg street. The raids of the sabotage and reconnaissance groups of the Russian Special Forces, in the amount of up to 25 people each, are also carried out under the guise of refugees with the documents of citizens of Ukraine in order to penetrate the operational and tactical rears of the ATO zone.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Ukraine welcomes that the SMM increased the number of field presences in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, opening forward patrol bases in Volnovakha, Novoaidar and Stakhanov. The establishment of additional patrol hubs and forward patrol bases, along with more effective use of established and new remote observation tools, will transform the Mission's capabilities in this, as well as other respects.

We note that the SMM OSCE does not yet enjoy full freedom of movement and access to the Ukrainian-Russian border, in particular in the Luhansk oblast.

Also, the SMM completed all logistical activities and assessment of the security situation in order to deploy next patrol bases in the regions controlled by so called

"DPR" forces. We see particular merit for deployment of these bases near the Ukrainian-Russian border.

We are concerned over continuing significant impediments that the SMM faces in the areas under the control of the combined Russian-militant groups, in particular while attempting to access the border area.

In particular in "LPR"-controlled Diakove (70km south of Luhansk), a so-called "LPR" "border guard commander" did not allow the SMM to proceed to "LPR"-controlled Chervonyi Zhovten (82km south of Luhansk) on the Ukraine-Russian border.

The SMM report of 5 November stated that in areas beyond respective withdrawal lines, at a known training area in "LPR"-controlled Uspenka (23km southwest of Luhansk), the SMM observed ten howitzers (D-30, 122mm) and eight self-propelled howitzers (Gvozdika, 122mm). The SMM was unable to check serial numbers at the location to verify the withdrawal of weapons in accordance with the Minsk package.

We would like to draw your attention that on 7 November the terrorists accused the Ukrainian military of shelling the center of Donetsk by MLRS "Grad". This statement is and was dismissed as such by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The ATO forces respect ceasefire and fulfill undertaken commitments under the Minsk agreements. The Ukrainian heavy artillery systems have been withdrawn from the contact line, including the MLRS "Grad". It would not be the first time that the militants themselves shell the residential areas of Donetsk, as it was the case with the tanks fire last July, to set a scene for the Russian propaganda TV and blame the Ukrainian armed forces for violation of the ceasefire.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Recently, the Russian delegation has expressed its concern on the multinational military exercises that are taking place on the territory of Ukraine, including with the assistance of the military personnel from the partners. We would like to underscore that the aforementioned military exercises are being conducted in accordance with the Annual Programme of the International Military Cooperation and Partnership for Peace and is adopted by the relevant decision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The Russian officials are well aware of this practice of joint military exercises, which have been conducted in Ukraine for more than 15 years. And this year, in light of the Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, they are particularly important for the safety and security of my country.

According to Para 30.2 of the Vienna Document a participating State will conduct, on a voluntary basis and as appropriate, joint military training and exercises to work on tasks of mutual interest. Moreover, according article IV Para 14 of the Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security a participating State may station its armed forces on the territory of another participating State in accordance with their freely negotiated agreement as well as in accordance with international law.

The Russian side is also well aware that paragraph 10 of the Package of measures of 12 February 2015 on withdrawal of all foreign armed formations, military equipment, as well as mercenaries from the territory of Ukraine solely refers to the peaceful settlement of conflict in Donbas. But since all the provisions of the Package must be implemented by all sides, including the Russian Federation, before the end of this year, the Russian side is beginning to come up with its own distorted interpretation of the Minsk agreements.

We urge Russia to act in full respect to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity as the Russian President reconfirmed in the joint statement of Normandy group leaders of 12 February 2015.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ensuring sustainability of the peace process remains a crucial task, whose implementation depends upon the readiness of the Russian Federation to practically deliver on the commitments it has undertaken to resolve the conflict.

The country that resorted to armed aggression against Ukraine and claiming interest in peaceful resolution must withdraw its regular armed forces, weaponry and mercenaries from the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

We call on Russia to abide fully and in good faith by the Minsk agreements, to put an end to its aggression against Ukraine. We urge Russia to restore its respect for international law and the OSCE principles and commitments and reverse the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman**