



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 856th FSC Plenary Meeting

(7 June 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 2)

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Colleagues,

«The OSCE is the only institution that its presence in Ukraine helps to curb Russian aggression» - stated the Foreign Minister of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin during the meeting of 29 May 2017 with a delegation of Permanent Representatives of OSCE participating States, arrived in Ukraine to learn about the state of settlement of the crisis in and around Ukraine and the SMM current activity. Special attention during the meeting was paid to the need for implementation by Russia and the illegal armed formations the Minsk agreements. Ukrainian Minister praised OSCE efforts to stabilize the situation in the Donbas, and the key role of the SMM in the implementation of effective monitoring and verification of the Minsk agreements implementation. He also stressed the importance of unimpeded access to all territories temporarily uncontrolled by the Government of Ukraine, including to the uncontrolled section of the Ukrainian-Russian state border in order to prevent supplies from Russia of military equipment, ammunition and fighters.

Distinguished Colleagues,

According to the last SMM Weekly Report of 31 May, the security situation during the previous week remained volatile with ebbs and flows in the number of ceasefire violations recorded at the main hotspots and along the contact line. The SMM recorded 45 per cent more ceasefire violations compared with the week before.

The Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk airport area remained the most kinetic hotspot along the contact line where about 40 per cent of all registered ceasefire violations were recorded - an increase by 35% of the total number in the area compared with the week before. Fighting increased also east of government-controlled Mariupol. The Mission recorded twice as many ceasefire violations in the area compared with the previous week. The SMM recorded 35 per cent more ceasefire violations around “DPR”-controlled Horlivka.

Shutting and shelling by the hybrid Russian forces continued to affect lives and destroy properties of civilians. Pupils and staff from two schools in government-controlled Marinka ended their school year by being forced to take shelter in the basement due to shelling. In neighboring Oleksandrivka, teachers ran

into the playground to bring children inside the school building as shelling was heard nearby. The SMM observed damage assessed as caused by 122 and 152mm artillery rounds at various residential areas in government-controlled Krasnohorivka. The SMM also observed damage to a hospital and a school building in Krasnohorivka from shelling that reportedly occurred in the early morning of 28 May.

Distinguished Colleagues,

The SMM continued to observe the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Although such an important aspect of the agreements as *demining* remains incomplete, the SMM noted some demining activity, including the removal of seven anti-tank mines but only by a Ukrainian Armed Forces demining team near a checkpoint east of government-controlled Popasna.

At the southern entrance of “DPR”-controlled Nova Marivka (south of Donetsk), the SMM saw again an unexploded 120mm mortar round half embedded on the right side of the asphalt road. The SMM observed demining activities on 2 June at the road junction near government controlled Ozerne (north of Donetsk). It saw areas marked with red wooden sticks in the woods and a sign that said demining was ongoing by a mine-clearance organization.

On 1 and 2 June, at a checkpoint 800m north of “LPR”-controlled Pervomaisk (west of Luhansk), the SMM saw the placement by the militants of six TM-62 anti-tank mines in violation of the Framework Decision on disengagement.

On 4 June an SMM UAV spotted six anti-tank mines approximately 10m west of the asphalt road and six anti-tank mines approximately 10m east of the same asphalt road where the anti-tank mines had been spotted on 1 June.

The SMM continued to follow up on allegations of *damage to critical infrastructure* in residential areas caused by shelling and firing. On 3 June, officers of the JCCC told the SMM that government-controlled Avdiivka was without water following damages to an electricity supply line for the Donetsk Water Filtration Station as well as to a water pipeline on the outskirts of Donetsk, both allegedly caused by shelling on 1 June. On 4 June, UAF and RAF officers of the JCCC told the SMM that due to the absence of security guarantees from “DPR”, repair works of the electricity lines to restore the electricity supply at Donetsk Water Filtration Station have not yet begun.

Concerning an inability of the JCCC to implement its tasks with regards to *guarantying freedom of movement*, the SMM reported that the Russian part of the JCCC does not have power over the “DPR” and “LPR”.

The SMM remains unable to comprehensively monitor the border areas outside the government control mainly due to continued refusal of those in effective control of these areas to provide security guarantees for the SMM to extend its presence closer to the border areas through the opening of patrol bases.

According to the last SMM Weekly Report, the SMM’s *freedom of movement was restricted* – apart from areas contaminated with mines and UXO –

exclusively in “DPR”-controlled areas: on 14 occasions, including three denials of access during the week.

On numerous occasions those in effective control of these areas have accused the SMM, including through media statements, of not being present to verify violations, civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, or that the OSCE uses its equipment to reveal militants’ positions to the other side so they can correct their fire. Such allegations about the SMM, besides being unfounded, and especially if amplified, serve to undermine public confidence in the SMM as well as create and embolden hostility towards it.

According to the SMM reports, so called «DPR» and «LPR» «authorities» often fail to ensure SMM’s access to implement its tasks. As an example, medical staff in hospitals in “DPR”-controlled areas continued to tell the SMM, on two occasions during the reporting week, that it required written permission from “DPR” members to be able to follow up on civilian casualties.

These «so called authorities», also failed to organize a normal life for citizens of the occupied territories. So, in “LPR”-controlled areas several residents – workers in the local mines – told the SMM that miners had not been paid since February when companies registered in government-controlled areas, but operating in areas not controlled by the government of Ukraine, were subjected to «external management» by those in control in occupied areas.

Distinguished Colleagues,

As in the previous week the past week was marked by the same intensity of fire attacks at the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine along the whole front line. More intensively, the hybrid Russian forces carried out their combat activities at the Donetsk and Mariupol directions. Although a level of use of the Minsk proscribed weapons by the hybrid Russian forces slightly decreased, this seemingly positive trend hasn’t brought peace and stability to Donbas. On the contrary, indiscriminate shelling of the residential areas in settlements on the government-controlled territories caused suffering among civilians. On 2 June, in government-controlled Marinka (south-west of Donetsk), two civilians were injured by mine splinters as a result of mortar fire and transferred to Kurakhove city hospital (government-controlled, west of Donetsk). On 3 June, militants shelled Krasnogorivka (west of Donetsk). As a result of the fire attacks one mortar mine got into a schoolyard, two others exploded close to a private house where a woman was injured.

High intensity of sniper teams` activities continue being registered in the vicinities of the settlements of Troitske, Luhanske, Maiorsk, Avdiivka, Verkhnotoretsk, Novotroitske, Marinka, Pyshchevyk, Hnutove, Shyrokyne, Vodiane.

Several groups of graduates of a so-called sniper school of the 2nd AC were sent to non-government-controlled Donetske, Zhelobok and Sokilnyky to practice their skills. Acting as field engineers guided by Russian military instructors, the snipers had arrived at the positions around “Bakhmut route”.

During the last week *the hybrid Russian forces have violated ceasefire 396 times, more than 25 % of which was carried out by the Minsk-proscribed weapons. 5 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 26 were wounded during the week.*

The command of the 1st and 2nd AC conducts covert regrouping and dislocation of their forces and equipment with the aim of reinforcement. In addition, rotation of front position units is being held. One additional tank platoon and one artillery platoon have been transferred to Luhanske (Donetsk region). 11th separate motorized infantry regiment of the 1st AC has been augmented by a reconnaissance company. A troop train with military servicemen and equipment of the 92nd separate radio technical brigade of special purpose from Eastern military district of the Armed Forces of Russia (military unit 64845, settlement of Starosysoivka) has arrived at the Kamenskaya railway station (town of Kamensk-Shakhtinsk, Rostov region, Russia). These servicemen and equipment will soon be deployed in Donbas.

Russian “military advisers” in headquarters of the 2nd AC has prepared for informing the Territorial Forces Centre of the Southern military district of the Armed forces of Russia a report titled “Combat activities of the AC on May 2017”. The report informed about a low level of military discipline in the units of the formation. The commanders of the units very often gave orders to open fire without an order of the superior commanders. Such orders had neither real tactical reasons nor special necessities. According to the report the level of moral in units is very low and has become a subject for great concern.

Distinguished colleagues,

As we have stated many times before Ukraine is fully committed to full and faith implementation of the Minsk agreements. In this regard we call on Russia 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.

The conflict instigated and fuelled by the Russia 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.

I thank you for the attention.