



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 760th FSC Plenary Meeting
(16 July 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

Since the last FSC plenary meeting situation in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine remained tense and further aggravated due to illegal activities of Russia - backed separatists. Such developments, which constitute the threat not only to Ukraine, but have negative repercussions on security environment within the OSCE space and beyond, need constant attention and adequate reaction from this decision-making body of the OSCE and from our capitals.

Few days ago President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko observed that regular military officers of the Russian Armed Forces directly participated in the attacks against Ukrainian forces. By doing so the Russian Federation confirms again that it sponsors and supports terrorism and its credibility as a partner in combatting this transnational evil, has been by now reduced almost to zero level.

On 11 July 2014 in Zelenopolje two Ukrainian military units were attacked from the Russian territory by the new type of the multi-launch rocket system, presumably “Tornado-G”, which was only recently issued into the Russian Armed Forces. As a result – 19 servicemen were killed, 93 – injured. On 14 July an aircraft AN-26 of the armed forces of Ukraine was shot down. Since this aircraft flew at the altitude 6 500 meters, it was not reachable for the MANPAD. The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine examines now two versions, namely – the plane was hit either by modern land-based rocket-artillery system “Panzer” or by the air-to-air self-guided missile “X-24”, launched from a Russian aircraft, stationed in the airfield “Millerovo”, Rostov region of the Russian Federation. After this incident with AN-26 the flights of the Ukrainian military aircraft in the ATO zone were temporarily suspended. Therefore all subsequent events, where the military aircraft presumably were used, are the responsibility of the party, which provides comprehensive military support to terrorists. In this connection the Ukrainian side considers the air attack yesterday morning on the town of Snizhne in Donetsk region by an unidentified aircraft as a cynical and brutal provocation, revenge on Ukrainian citizens which did not rise *en masse* to destroy Ukrainian statehood in the east of Ukraine. Numerous cases of shelling by militants of residential areas in the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, their suburbs were reported in recent days. The terrorists use multi-launch rocket system “Grad” and mine-launchers deployed on the trucks, moving inside the cities, and put under indiscriminate fire targets within the city to intimidate the local population and force them to see the Ukrainian forces as their enemies.

We have posted on our web-page one of the video-evidences, demonstrating how multi-launch rocket system “Grad” is firing from the terrorist positions in a residential area in Luhansk at the village of Stanytsa Luhanska. Let me reiterate that Ukrainian forces never target residential areas, security of the people being their high priority. Ukrainian forces which have resumed control of Sloviansk, Kramatorsk and other cities in Donetsk region are largely regarded by the locals as their saviors, since they brought with them peace and tranquility, restoration of normal life. They are engaged in the large-scale demining in areas freed from terrorists. Electricity and water supply, banking operations, allowing the payments

of salaries, pensions and social benefits are returning back to normal. The population has now access to different sources of media, allowing them to judge for themselves what has happened to them and what hardships have been imposed on the region by illegal armed groups.

The Ukrainian authorities seek speedy return to normal life of all inhabitants of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. To achieve this goal peacefully and avoid casualties among the citizens of Ukraine (both peaceful civilians and military servicemen) we uphold efforts for creating conditions for the resumption of bilateral cessation of hostilities.

Active phase of the ATO continues exclusively due to the terrorists unwillingness to respond to offers of peaceful resolution and engage substantively in implementation of peace plan of the President of Ukraine. At the same time Russia continues to provide all necessary logistical and organizational support to terrorists. Flow of weapons through the Russian border with Ukraine, including heavy weapons, and increase of terrorist manpower continues unabated.

Situation on the state border of Ukraine with Russia in the zone of ATO is very serious. The violent struggle for the seizure of the control of the border continues. Terrorists and Russian mercenaries keep on shelling the positions of the Ukrainian border guards. In this context the MFA of Ukraine on 12 July condemned the provocations on the Russian-Ukrainian state border, referring to the mine shelling of Marynivka – Ukrainian border control point from Kuibyshevo, Rostov region, on the Russian side of the state border.

The number of provocations on the border has increased significantly. The militants deliberately open fire on the Russian territory using mine-launchers, small arms and light weapons, which caused death of one Russian citizen. Russian side`s attempts to attribute these actions to the Ukrainian forces are utterly groundless. In its statement dated 13 July the MFA of Ukraine regretted the casualties, which happened in Donetsk of Rostov region, and stated that the Ukrainian forces did not fire from the area, which was mentioned in the relevant statement of the Russian MFA. Ukrainian forces never shelled and will never shell the territory of neighbouring country and residential areas. In this context the protest was issued in relation with the breakthrough of the state border of Ukraine near Izvarino, carried out on 13 July by large group of mercenaries with 150 pieces of armoury.

Photo-information concerning some aspects of Russia`s role in supporting terrorist activities against Ukraine and its citizens will be distributed in attachment to this statement.

Throughout several months of 2014 the Delegation of Ukraine regularly informed the FSC about military situation in and around Ukraine, which was characterized by different phases of concentration of the Russian military presence and its unusual military activities alongside the border with Ukraine, creation of conditions on the border for transfers of weapons, including battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, MANPADs, multi-launch rocket systems from the Russian territory to illegal armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, flow of mercenaries from the Russian Federation, military actions of terrorists against Ukrainian internal security forces, border guards and armed forces.

The Russian Federation has not made so far any substantial step to redress the situation, it remained unresponsive to consistent calls from Ukraine and its international partners. This situation testifies that the aggression of Russia against Ukraine and against European security architecture, of which the OSCE is an essential pillar, cannot be contained without the Russian Federation bearing the appropriate cost for its illegitimate actions. Now is the time for ever more concerted efforts and solidarity in stopping the threat to security of all of us.

Let me conclude by reiterating our persistent call on the Russian Federation to adhere to the fundamental OSCE principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, to reverse annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

We urge Russia to halt exporting terrorism to Ukraine and to stop interference into internal affairs of our country. We urge the Russian Federation to back up its declarations with practical meaningful deeds of de-escalation, which has not yet happened. Instead, the events of the last days produced evidence of Russia's involvement in increasing tensions and further escalation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.