



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 968<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**

(17 February 2021, via video teleconferencing)

(Agenda item 1, General Statements,

on the subject of “Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea”)

Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of “Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea”.

The Russian delegation feels uncomfortable to discuss the consequences of its ongoing armed aggression in Donbas which raises death toll among Ukrainian servicemen every week and brings suffering to the people of Ukraine. It is sad and frustrating to hear that it is “boring” for the Russian representative to genuinely seek dialogue to stop the war in Donbas based on full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine which have been flagrantly violated by the Russian Federation.

Since the last time we met in this virtual setting to discuss the conflict between Russia and Ukraine the security situation in the conflict area in Donbas has not improved. For the past two weeks the armed formations of the Russian Federation violated the ceasefire regime 76 times by shelling the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine from different grenade launchers, heavy machine guns, small arms, including Minsk-proscribed 82mm and 120mm mortars near Pivdenne, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> of February, and near Krasnohorivka, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February. They continued using sniper fire and drones to drop VOG-17 shells (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, near Avdiivka, on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February, near Zolote-4) and conduct distance mining by landmines POM-2 (on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, near Novomyhailivka, on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of February, near Luhanske).

As a result of the ongoing armed aggression of the Russian Federation for the past two weeks, 8 Ukrainian servicemen were wounded and 7 killed. In our presentation today we would like to draw your attention to specific cases of ceasefire fire violations by the Russian armed formations, conducted from the temporarily occupied areas of Donbas, which inflicted injuries and death among Ukrainian servicemen in the course of this year.

## PRESENTATION

Slide 1. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, sniper fire (1 shot) was conducted on the Ukrainian positions near Vodiane from the direction of Vesele claiming the live of one Ukrainian serviceman.

On 12 January (21.25-22.45), rocket-propelled grenade launcher RPG-7 (3 shots), automatic grenade launcher AGS 17 (18 shots) and small arms fire (21 rounds) were used from Zolote-5 (48040`20,38N, 38033`13,10E) against the Ukrainian position near Zolote-4 (48040`44,23N, 38031`51,77E) inflicting injuries to one Ukrainian serviceman. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of January (17.25-17.35), one Ukrainian serviceman was wounded near Hnutove (47012`55,54N, 37044`49,00E) as a result of fire unleashed from the direction of Pikuzy (47009`27,67N, 37048`43,97E) with the use of heavy machine gun (5 rounds).

Slide 2. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January (21.48-22.05), near Trudivske one Ukrainian serviceman sustained injuries as result of the targeted fire with the use of small arms (16 rounds) from the direction of Vasylievka.

Slide 3. One Ukrainian serviceman was wounded, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January (19.58), near Rodnikove as a result of sniper fire (1 shot) from the direction of Starohnativka.

Slide 4. Reckless sniper fire (1 round) of the 21<sup>st</sup> of January (18.50) from the direction of Zayichenko was fatal for one Ukrainian serviceman near Hnutove.

Slide 5. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January (12.08-13.55), one Ukrainian defender was wounded near Khutor Vilnyi from rocket-propelled grenade launcher RPG-7 (10 shots), automatic grenade launcher AGS 17 (50 shots), heavy machine gun (45 rounds) and small arms (60 rounds). The shelling was conducted from the direction of Zolote-5.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January (18.45-19.10) another Ukrainian serviceman was wounded near Novooleksandrivka (48036`55,50N, 38025`43,29E) as result of shelling with the use of automatic grenade launcher AGS 17 (9 shots), sniper fire (1 shot) and small arms (5 rounds) from the direction of Kalynovo-Borshchevate (48037`06,34N, 38029`32,43E). On the 29<sup>th</sup> of January (12.05), near Vodiane two Ukrainian servicemen sustained injuries from the fragmentation ammunition dropped on the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with the use of a drone. Two Ukrainian servicemen sustained injuries, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January (13.01), near Novomyhailivka (47051`14,61N, 37029`13,33E) as a result of shelling with the

use automatic grenade launcher (15 shots) and heavy machine gun (15 rounds) from the direction of Luhanske (47053`09,34N, 37040`32,35E).

Slide 6. Again, sniper fire (1 shot) caused death of the Ukrainian serviceman, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February (13.15), near Shumy. The fire was conducted from the direction of Shakhty 6, 7.

One Ukrainian serviceman was wounded as a result of shelling of Ukrainian positions near Pivdenne (48021`50,01N, 37054`46,71E) with the use of Minsk-proscribed 82mm mortars (10 shots) and small arms (1 round) from the direction of the residential area of Shakhty named by Gagarin (48020`56,84N, 37055`28,28E). One Ukrainian serviceman sustained injuries, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February (13.00-13.01), near Novozvanivka (48034`57,90N, 38021`36,30E) due to the shelling with the use of small arms (1 round) from the direction of Kalynove (48032`37,13N, 38029`36,98E). On the same day (13.05-13.06) another Ukrainian serviceman was wounded near Pivdenne (48021`50,01N, 37054`46,71E) as result of small arms fire (1 round) from the direction of Shakhty named by Gagarin (48020`56,84N, 37055`28,28E). On the next day (17.15) due to sniper fire (1 shot) from the direction of Luhanske (47<sup>0</sup>53`09,34N, 37<sup>0</sup>40`32,35E) one Ukrainian serviceman sustained injuries near Novomyhailivka. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of February (11.30), one Ukrainian serviceman was wounded near Pisky (48003`44,15N, 37040`29,12E) as result of sniper fire (1 shot) from the direction of Vesele (48003`46,20N, 37043`19,88E).

Slide 7. Targeted heavy machine gun fire (4 rounds) from the direction of Luhanske caused death to one Ukrainian serviceman, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February (20.45-21.00), near Novomyhailivka.

Slide 8. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, deadly sniper fire (1 shot) claimed the life of another Ukrainian defender near Zaitseve (48025`56,31N, 38001`08,46E). The fire was conducted from the direction of the temporarily occupied Holmivske (48024`09,48N, 38004`28,44E).

Slide 9 – 10. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of February (9.10-10.20), the Russian armed formations conducted artillery fire against the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. According to the data obtained by the Ukrainian side the fire was, presumably, conducted from a self-propelled howitzer D-30 or Gvozdika 2C1 deployed near the temporarily occupied Horlivka.

Despite these outrageous armed provocations, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in the majority of cases, exercised restraint. Constant shelling of the Russian armed formations clearly violate provision 2 of the TCG agreement of 22 July 2020 and lead to death and injuries among Ukrainian servicemen. Such actions jeopardize the fragile ceasefire regime.

The Russian armed formations continued developing new positions and reinforce the existing ones. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, the SMM reported on extension of

trenches near the temporarily occupied Naberezhne assessed as forward movements of the Russian armed formations, reducing the distance between their positions and those of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to about 700m and 500m, respectively. These actions infringe provision a) of the TCG agreement of 22 July 2020 and are considered by the Ukrainian side as of having offensive and provocative nature. You may find detailed information on specific cases of these violations for the period from 4 through 15 February 2021 in the distributed version of our presentation (Slides 11-17).

Amid severe impediment of the freedom of movement of the SMM and interference with its assets on the temporarily occupied areas of Donbas, Russia continued enhancing its illicit military presence in the temporarily occupied areas of Donbas. Only on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, the Mission reported on 34 pieces of 122mm multiple launch rocket systems BM-21 Grad in violation of withdrawal lines near Miusynsk, Sadovyi and Khrustalnyi and 60 pieces of diverse heavy weapons outside the designated storage sites in the Luhansk region.

Moreover, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, the SMM recorded over 840 ceasefire violations near the Donetsk Filtration Station and Sofiiivka assessed as live-fire training exercises which clearly breach the TCG decision of 3 March 2016 that prohibits such activities in the security zone. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, in a training area near the temporarily occupied Ternove (57km east of Donetsk), the Mission observed 3 pieces of 122mm towed howitzer (D-30 Lyagushka), 122mm multiple launch rocket system BM-21 Grad and 122mm self-propelled howitzer 2S1 Gvozdika deployed in violation of withdrawal lines and 35 tanks outside the designated storage sites.

Large-scale military build-up by Russia in the vicinity of the contact line endangers the lives of civilians and Ukrainian servicemen. It reflects further readiness of the aggressor-state to launch offensive operations against the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Ukrainian side considers such actions of the Russian armed formations as a blatant violation of the Minsk agreements and disregard of the TCG ceasefire agreement of 22 July 2020, as well as deliberate steps to destabilize the situation in the temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and adjacent territories and further instigation by Russia of the conflict it started.

Ukraine has been proactively restoring civilian infrastructure either destroyed or damaged as a result of Russia's armed aggression in the conflict-affected areas under the Government control, with the SMM and Ukrainian side of the JCCC observing adherence to the localised ceasefires. We are grateful to the Mission for its dedicated and restless work on this track.

From the 30<sup>th</sup> of January through the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, Ukrainian demining teams surveyed over 67 hectares of land and destroyed 1502 explosive devices.

We call upon Russia to ensure free passage of the residents forced to live under its occupation to the Government-controlled areas through all entry-exit checkpoints and provide security guarantees for maintenance and repair works on critical infrastructure sites to restore power supply in the residential areas of Bohdanivka, Opytne, Donetsk region; gas supply to Mariinka and Krasnohorivka, Donetsk region; and ensure repair works at the water supply systems for the residential areas of Maiorsk, Zaitsevo, Toretsk, Donetsk region. The Ukrainian side, for its part, sent respective requests for such security guarantees to the SMM at the end of January 2021.

Distinguished colleagues,

The temporally occupied Crimea is used by the Russian Federation as a base for preparation of subversive actions of hybrid warfare against Ukraine. Russia has deployed the Federal Security Service (FSB) and Military Intelligence (GRU) special units on the territory of the peninsula with the task of conducting intelligence and subversive activity on the territory of Ukraine.

Most recently, in February 2021, the counterintelligence officers of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) exposed and neutralized the FSB agent network operating in Kyiv, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Zhytomyr and Chernihiv Oblasts of Ukraine.

The SBU has established that this network was organized and handled by Russian FSB officers Vadim Dautov, d.o.b. 09.12.1972, and Denis Sobko, d.o.b. 31.03.1984, deployed in Crimea.

The FSB planned to use this network for assisting sabotage and intelligence groups from the temporarily occupied Crimea in conducting subversive activity on the territory of the Mykolaiv region of Ukraine. The combat aircraft of the Armed Forces of Ukraine at the Kulbakino airbase was one of its targets.

The FSB also tried to use this network to collect information on locations and movements of the Armed Forces of Ukraine personnel, operational and service activities of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the MoD of Ukraine, Special Operations Forces, Navy Headquarters, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Naval Special Operations Center of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, their international interactions with foreign partners etc.

The SBU also exposed the FSB plans to abduct and illegally transfer to Russia one of the former commanders of the Special Operations Forces (SOF) of Ukraine. In order to carry out this plan, the Russian special service offered a reward of \$ 100,000.

The following arsenal of weapons and ammunition was seized by the SBU during the searches: 4 AK-74 assault rifles, 2 pistols, 2 RPG grenade launchers, 44 grenades, more than 4 thousand cartridges of various calibers, about 3 kg of TNT, electric detonators, etc.

In conclusion, we once again urge the Russian Federation to stop its aggression against Ukraine, reverse its illegal occupation of Crimea, de-occupy parts of Donbas, and restore freedom of navigation in the Black Sea, through the Kerch Strait and in the Sea of Azov. Russia must fully implement its commitments under the Minsk agreements, including withdrawal of its forces, illegal armed formations and weapons from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.