



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 857th FSC Plenary Meeting**

(21 June 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 2)

Mr. Chairperson,

For over three years the Russian Federation continues its hybrid warfare against the territorial integrity, sovereignty, political unity and independence of Ukraine, flagrantly violating the OSCE principles and commitments and the rules of European security order. Russia's blocking the formation of an international tribunal to investigate the downing of the Malaysia Airlines MH17 flight indicates its involvement in the crash, Ukrainian President P. Poroshenko said on 9 June at a joint briefing with Lithuanian President D. Grybauskaitė. «Russia is blocking the formation of a tribunal, which is de facto a guilty plea». The Ukrainian president recalled the new reports, which contain «a direct evidence of the Russian Federation's involvement in the terrorist attack on the Malaysian aircraft», published in early June 2017 by the British investigative journalists group Bellingcat which found a photo of the Buk 323 missile launcher of the Russian 53rd anti-aircraft missile brigade taken before the launcher was used to down the MH17 passenger flight in Donetsk region in July 2014.

Russia continues fuelling the conflict in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. According to the last SMM Weekly Report of 14 June, it recorded a 75% increase in ceasefire violations compared with the previous week. The number of explosions attributable to the use of weapons that should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements increased as well, and the SMM noted the use of MLRSs in western Luhansk region. Violence also sharply increased around government-controlled Krymske and “LPR”-controlled areas of Zholobok and north of Sentianivka, an area in central and western Luhansk region.

The SMM corroborated reports of *civilian and non-civilian casualties* on both sides of the contact line. The hybrid Russian forces resort to shelling at the residential areas of the Ukrainian government-controlled settlements of Mar'inka, Avdiivka, Kam'yanka, Krasnohorivka, Sartana, Olginka, Grafts'ke, Sukha Balka, Hranitne and Berdianske. These attacks brought death and suffering to civilians and destructions to private houses and other infrastructures. At 22:45 on 14 June militants attacked the village of Sukha Balka with 152-mm artillery, *killing a local resident*. Shells also damaged two houses and completely destroyed another one.

In Donetsk region, the SMM corroborated 11 civilian casualties consisting of eight men, two women, and a 15-year-old boy, all injured by shelling or shooting inside residential areas. In government controlled Marinka, a 50-year-old woman was shot with a 12.7mm bullet in her hip outside her son's house on 8 June. A 15-year old boy was injured when a mortar exploded near his house in government-controlled Kamianka. A man and a woman were injured by shrapnel when an explosion hit their home in Marinka on 9 June. A man suffered shrapnel injuries in Trudivske. In three separate cases, injured civilians told the SMM that ambulances refused to go to the residential areas affected by shelling and they had been transported to hospitals by UAF soldiers.

During the past two weeks, *the hybrid Russian forces have violated ceasefire around 800 times, one third of which was carried out by the Minsk-proscribed weapons. 14 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 69 were wounded.*

The crimes committed by the hybrid Russian forces in Donbas continue to be enabled by the *on-going flow of Russian weapons, ammunition, fighters and troops* through the uncontrolled segments of the Ukraine-Russia state border. On 25 May, 9 cisterns of fuel and lubricants (nearly 540 tons) were delivered to the Central storage base at the settlement of Rovenki (Luhansk region) by the railroad. From 26 till 28 May, several railway platforms with 30 pieces of weapons, including battle tanks, APCs and 152-mm caliber guns "Giatsint-B" arrived at the settlement of Diakove. The purpose of the cargo was to supply additional weaponry for the 1st and 2nd AC from the territory of Russia. The delivery of 9 railway carriages with ammunition (270 tons) was registered in Illovaisk on 29 May. On 31 May, Rovenki train station received another 11 cisterns of fuel and lubricants (nearly 660 tons). On 6 June, 11 cisterns of fuel and lubricants (nearly 660 tons) were delivered to the Rovenki Central storage base. On 7 June, Rovenki train station received another 13 cisterns of fuel and lubricants (nearly 780 tons). On the same day 10 railway carriages with ammunition (300 tons) were delivered to Ilovaisk train station from Russia. On 7 June, a convoy consisting of 12 KAMAZ trucks with ammunition arrived at the city of Luhansk.

Russian military commanders who came on the rotational basis to the 2nd AC complain that they don't have due conditions for staying during their mission to Donbas. According to them, bad conditions prevent them from normal discharging duties in their capacities as instructors and commanders of different levels.

The SMM was subject to security incidents, throughout the week, primarily in areas outside of government control. On 8 June, at a "DPR" checkpoint, an armed man first stopped the SMM from traveling to Oleksandrivske and then armed men stopped the SMM from continuing to Markyne. After 15 minutes, the SMM patrol was encircled by six vans and one bus, none of which had license plates, and was photographed by one of the armed men. Four of the other armed

men pulled on balaclavas or hoods to hide their faces. At one point, the armed men allowed two military trucks to pass by while still blocking the SMM. After 20 minutes, another vehicle with “police” markings arrived and requested the SMM patrol plan. After making a phone call, the armed man told the SMM they were “released”, however, the “police” vehicle continued to escort the SMM, later on he demanded that the SMM return back to base.

Security incidents and restrictions to the SMM’s freedom of movement continued, primarily in non-government-controlled areas, including the SMM being blocked by nearly 30 armed men near «DPR»-controlled Oleksandrivske. The SMM experienced shooting at SMM UAV on three separate occasions, with two of the three instances taking place in areas outside of government control: on 7 June in “DPR”-controlled Zaichenko and on 11 June near “DPR”-controlled Mineralne. On 8 June, the SMM saw two self-propelled howitzers (2S1 Gvozdika, 122mm) near «DPR» –controlled Zaichenko in the same area where the SMM UAV had been fired upon the day before.

During the week, in addition to *restrictions to the SMM’s freedom of movement* due to the observed or potential presence of mines and UXO, the Mission’s *freedom of movement was restricted 21 times*, an increase of 50% over the previous week. *These included 18 instances in areas outside of government control and 3 instances in areas controlled by the Government.* This confirms the steady tendency of recent months regarding the systemic nature of restrictions on the part of the IAF.

Armed militants continued to use methods of intimidation and restriction of SMM patrol and access, impeding the SMM’s ability to fulfill its mandate. The Mission was denied access to some of the same villages *in areas outside of government control* as last week including Kozatske, Sidove and Staromykhailivka. After a two-hour delay on 5 June, the SMM was able to gain access to Staromykhailivka only on condition of “DPR” escort. The SMM was restricted in this area 5 other times throughout the week. Additionally, armed men restricted SMM access to the Trudivske settlement of Petrovskiy District of Donetsk on 4 different occasions throughout the week, in 2 cases only allowing SMM access under escort. In Yasne, armed men delayed the SMM for one hour after requesting to see the SMM patrol plan. Armed men then remained present while the SMM spoke with civilians for 30 minutes. The SMM was prevented from entering non-government-controlled Smile, where the SMM had notified the JCCC that it intended to conduct a UAV flight. Another very dangerous case of posing direct threats and intimidations by pro-Russian militants to the SMM patrol comprising two armored vehicles with 6 members happened on 20 June at the railway station Yasynuvata (see the SMM Spot Report of 20 June).

Despite restrictions of its freedom of movement, the SMM continued to observe an increase in the number of **weapons in violation of the respective**

withdrawal lines, noting 44 instances (20 in government- and 24 in non-government-controlled areas), almost 50 % more than the previous week.

Some aspects of the TCG *Framework Decision on Disengagement of Forces and Hardware* remained unimplemented in the three agreed areas. Fighting within and near disengagement areas explicitly contradicts the commitment to create demilitarized areas to further normalization. The SMM observed nearly 30 armed men inside the *Stanytsia Luhanska disengagement area* on the “LPR” side on 8 June, one of whom fired a flare, the SMM recorded 11 ceasefire violations assessed as inside the area throughout the week.

In the Zolote disengagement area the SMM’s access continued to be restricted from the “LPR” side by recently laid anti-tank mines. Despite requests from the SMM and indications from the JCCC that it would be done, the SMM had no indication that the mines were removed.

The Mission saw mines and unexploded ordnance and again noted the urgent need for mine action and observed unexploded ordnance primarily in non-government-controlled areas. The SMM observed demining and signs warning of the presence of mines in government-controlled areas. On the northern edge of government-controlled Krasna Talivka (north-east of Luhansk) it observed a demining team from an international humanitarian mine clearance organization in a field with mine detecting equipment. The head of the team told the SMM that they planned to demine an area of 50 hectares, that was marked with mine signs. While present during demining to facilitate repairs at the Donetsk Water Filtration Station, a Ukrainian demining team showed the SMM a box of UXO, collected while clearing the area.

Russian so-called «*humanitarian convoys*» are regularly reported crossing the border without full inspection and in violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as international norms and principles. According to the «OSCE Observer mission at the Russian checkpoints in Gukovo and Donetsk» in the early morning of 15 June 2017 the 66-th Russian convoy arrived at the Donetsk BCP. 22 vehicles were visually checked from the outside by the Russian border guards and customs service prior to their crossing into Ukraine. The convoy consisted of 17 cargo trucks and five support vehicles. The *Ukrainian officials were allowed to perform visual observation of the vehicles only from the outside and without entering the trucks’ cargo space.* The SMM also observed on 15 June a convoy of those 17 trucks in Luhansk enter two warehouse compounds but *was denied entry to both compounds.* Such illicit practice by the RF is in breach of the international law and other regulations and must be stopped.

We urge Russia to stop its aggression against Ukraine, to implement in a good faith its commitments under the Minsk agreements, to reverse the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula, which remains an integral part of Ukraine.

I thank you for the attention.