



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 824th FSC Plenary Meeting**

(6 July 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 2)

Mr. Chairman,

The ongoing discussions at the FSC Plenary meetings has underscored the tremendous challenge the crisis in and around Ukraine poses to all of us in the OSCE but also and even more importantly for European Security as a whole. A stable and sustainable ceasefire would be a critical first step and we must continue to focus our efforts on achieving that.

Ukraine with a great concern assesses the current situation in the conflict-affected areas of Donbas, where combined Russian-separatist forces have significantly intensified their aggressive activities. Over the past three weeks the Russian hybrid forces were very active in the Luhansk, Donetsk and Mariupol areas across whole contact line, where the pro-Russian mercenaries persisted in defying the Minsk agreements.

On 29 June the Security Working Group of the TCG in Minsk made one small, albeit important step in this direction by deciding on the co-ordinates of two of the three priority areas for disengagement. At the same time, we learnt that progress on the political issues is needed to support the efforts towards stabilizing the ceasefire. There is no alternative to the full implementation of the Minsk agreements and it is worth recalling the assessment of Ambassador Sajdik: "There is reason to believe in reason. The implementation of Minsk is possible, provided the necessary political will".

Taking this opportunity we would like to draw attention of the OSCE participating States to the adoption by the President of Ukraine a Decree of 6 June 2016 "On Strategic Defence Bulletin of Ukraine" in which the basic directions of the defence policy of Ukraine and the development of defence forces until 2020 are designated. The Bulletin is aimed at ensuring practical implementation of the Military Doctrine of Ukraine and the Concept of Development of Security and Defence Sector of Ukraine; defines strategic and operative goals of the defence reform and expected results of their achievement taking into account topical politico- military threats and challenges. The Bulletin provides for the active participation in the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European

Union and active cooperation with NATO in the achievement of criteria necessary for the full membership in Alliance.

Distinguished colleagues,

The SMM reports and information from Ukraine's military Headquarters portray an extremely worrying picture with the number of ceasefire violations being on the rise and heavy weapons, in particular mortars and towed high calibre artillery being widely used by the combined Russian-separatist forces in the east of Ukraine. They deliberately provoke violence by intensifying shellings and direct attacks on the Ukrainian positions, sniper fire and activities of their subversive groups along whole contact line.

The combined Russian-separatist forces are trying to expand their control of the territory in the Donetsk direction. The Armed Forces of Ukraine fought off the attacks and made the militants return to their former positions. Militants resorted to multiple shellings, including with the use of infantry fighting vehicles, 120-mm and 82-mm mortars at the Ukrainian positions near Stanytsya Luhans'ka, Trohizbenka, Svitlodars'k, Horlivka, Yasynuvata, Avdiivka, Pisky, Mar'inka, Novotroitske, Hranitne, Mayors'k, Zaitheve, Chermalyk and Shyrokyne. The toll of casualties continues to steadily grow. The positions of Ukraine's army were shelled with an average intensity of 32 times per day. 10 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 56 were wounded during the last three weeks.

In these conditions the SMM crucially contributes to the stabilization and, ultimately, political resolution of the crisis in and around Ukraine. Impediments and obstruction of the SMM are unacceptable. We continuously insist on the need to ensure the safety and security of SMM monitors as a matter of the first priority. Nevertheless, according to SMM report of 1 July, near village Logvynove (DPR-controlled) SMM lost contact with its mid-range UAV. This UAV was jammed, exposed technical problems and then crashed to the north from Logvynove.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the reached agreements the combined Russian-separatist forces continue to receive on the permanent basis military equipment, ammunition and fuel materials from Russia. New facts of replenishment with military personnel, weapons and equipment, ammunition and fuel for the combined Russian-separatist forces in the occupied territories have been registered. According to information of the ATO Headquarters, two convoys of trucks with ammunition for battle tanks and multiple-launch rocket systems "Grad" arrived from Russia in the towns of Krasnodon and Debaltseve. A train delivered in Roven'ky, Luhansk oblast, 7 fuel cisterns, and platforms with 4 infantry fighting vehicles, three 152-mm self-propelled guns, lubricants and ammunition.

The combined Russian-separatists forces increasingly use UAVs to spy on the Ukrainian army and adjust fire in the combat zone. According to competent authorities, there were six flights of UAVs of the Russia-backed separatists detected on 2 July in eastern Ukraine combat zone. Other semi strategic drones had been launched from the Russia's territory. 25 flights of drones were spotted over the past week, with five of them conducted reconnaissance operations from the Russia's territory. Drones were also used to adjust artillery fire in the direction of Novoaidarsk, Donetsk, Volnovakha and Mariupol. The intelligence determined that currently the UAV troops are commanded by Russian captain Vasiliy Malakhevich, who trained local fighters from the occupied areas of Donbas to operate combat and spy drones.

The Russian supplies must stop and this depends on the Russian authorities, which some time ago expressed their readiness for de-escalation. The issue of permanent OSCE monitoring at the border and establishing security zones in border areas of Ukraine and Russia, as agreed in Minsk, has critical importance for progress on peaceful resolution.

It is evident that the militants would not have been able to constantly provoke, shell and escalate the conflict unless they received permanent replenishment of ammunition and logistical support across the border from Russia. The Russia's supplies need to be stopped.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Ukrainian competent authorities regularly communicate information on Russian servicemen suspected of committing war crimes in the territory of Ukraine. This also includes information concerning participation of the officers of the Russian armed forces in committing war crimes in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas to be further transferred to the International Criminal Court, according to the established procedure. We have spoken on this at the 814, 815 and 817 FSC Plenary Meetings. We will indicate now new information about one of these war criminals: Commander of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade (Debaltseve) of the 1st AC Russian colonel Aleksandr Bushuyev, who was killed on 2 July 2016 by his own subordinates - militants near the settlement of Khartsyz'k. In this regard, I want to ask a question of the Russian delegation: "What other proof or evidence you need on the participation of the regular Armed Forces of Russia in the fighting in Donbas? Or even cost of life of this colonel as many other Russian officers and soldiers is not convincing?"

Mr. Chairman,

In the interests of advancing peaceful resolution in the east of Ukraine we urge the Russian Federation and its proxies to stop military provocations, to withdraw their heavy weapons in a verifiable manner, to stop provision of

Russia's weapons, ammunition and logistical support to the illegal armed formations.

We emphasise the imperative of full freedom of movement for the SMM, establishment of permanent and unhindered monitoring and creation of security zones in border areas of Ukraine and Russia as envisaged by the Minsk agreements. Re-establishing control on the Ukrainian-Russian state border remains critical.

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.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.