



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 963rd FSC Plenary Meeting on Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and
illegal occupation of Crimea

(9 December 2020, Vienna, via video teleconferencing)

(Agenda item 4, «General Statements»)

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”**.

On the 9th of December, 2019, at the Paris Summit, the leaders of the Normandy 4 countries, Germany, France, Ukraine and Russia, adopted a number of important measures that have to be implemented by the parties of the international armed conflict, taking place on the Ukrainian soil. For its part, Ukraine has been exerting every effort in implementing these measures in order to reach peaceful settlement of the armed conflict, started and sustained by the Russian Federation. The implementation of the N4 decisions as well as the Minsk agreements remains the backbone of politico-diplomatic settlement of the armed conflict and restoration of peace in the region. We call upon the Russian Federation to step up efforts in fulfilment of its obligations under the N4 and TCG frameworks and immediately cease its armed aggression against Ukraine.

Despite visible progress reached in the implementation of the agreement on the additional measures to consolidate the ceasefire regime agreed at the TCG meeting on the 22nd of July 2020, the Russian Federation continue armed provocations, including by opening the targeted fire. In total, **for the period from the 27th of July through the 29th of November 2020 the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine were shelled 309 times near 43 residential areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions**. On 11 instances Russian forces conducted fire from the Minsk-proscribed weapons, 82 mm and 100 mm mortars, near the residential areas of Vodiane, Katerynivka, Novhorodske, Kamianka and Krasnohorivka.

The Russian forces **used forbidden UAVs on 36 occasions**, including to drop grenade shells on the Ukrainian positions, and **fortified their positions on 20 occasions**.

Since 27 July, as a result of such armed provocations, 4 Ukrainian servicemen were killed while 15 Ukrainian servicemen were wounded in action.

PRESENTATION

(slide 1) Most recently on the 4th of December, the Russian armed formations unleashed **provocative fire from Minsk-proscribed** weapons, 120 mm (6 shots) and 122 mm (13 shots) mortars, against Ukrainian positions near Vodiane settlement from the direction of the temporarily occupied Sakhanka. Simultaneously with this shelling the Russian armed formations requested the regime of silence claiming an alleged ceasefire violation of the Ukrainian side near the Uzhivka settlement. This is a common practice of the Russian armed formations aimed at plotting false accusations of ceasefire violations against the Armed Forces of Ukraine with the use of provocative fire.

The use of Minsk-proscribed weapons by the Russian forces in Donbas, as demonstrated in this case, raises our serious concerns. These reckless actions are aimed at inflicting death to Ukrainian military and exerting psychological pressure on them to provoke response fire, which would then be used as a pretext to claim an alleged breach of truce by Ukraine. Undoubtedly, such actions are clear indicators of reluctance of Russia to abide by ceasefire agreement and are intended to further ignite hostilities at the entire line of contact.

In violation of para 2 of the TCG decision of the 22nd of July, the Russian armed formations continue to open **sniper fire** against the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It is aimed at inflicting injuries and death among the Ukrainian servicemen and exerting psychological pressure on them to provoke response fire. Since the 22nd of July, in total, 6 such cases were registered. As a result, three Ukrainian servicemen lost their lives and one was injured.

(slide 2) On the 30th of October, the Russian armed formations conducted sniper fire and used AGS-17 (10 shots), GP-25 (10 shots) grenade launchers near Vodiane from the direction of the temporarily occupied Pikuzy. As a result, 2 Ukrainian servicemen were killed.

(slide 3) On the 24th of November, the Russian armed formations conducted 3 shots from sniper weapons near Avdiivka from the direction of the temporarily occupied Kashtanove, inflicting death to 1 Ukrainian serviceman.

(slide 4) On the 4th of December, the Russian armed formations conducted sniper fire near Luhanske settlement from the direction of the temporarily occupied Kalynivka. As a result, 1 Ukrainian serviceman was wounded.

Other cases of sniper fire against the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine were observed on the 13th, the 14th, the 19th of November and the 5th of December. Apart from Ukrainian military, the Russian armed formations target the surveillance cameras.

The Ukrainian side to the JCCC duly informed the SMM on every such case. We believe the SMM should give its due assessment to such violations.

In violation of paragraph 1 of the TCG decision of 22 July 2020, the Russian armed formation **conduct subversive and reconnaissance activities**.

(slide 5) In the morning of the 29th of November, in the area of Luhanske, the Armed Forces of Ukraine revealed a sabotage and reconnaissance group of the Russian armed formations that crossed the line of contact and approached Ukrainian positions. Faced by a real threat to their lives, Ukrainian military had to respond forcing the group to retreat and subsequently abandon their plans to carry out any further sabotage operations against the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

The indisputable proof of the intentions of this group to mine Ukrainian positions, including with the use of weapons prohibited by the “Geneva Convention”, was the Russian-made mines, which Ukrainian servicemen detected when the group were retreating (48°24'17,96

"N38°15'5,64"E). In particular, three MON-50 mines and an equipped cluster container of KSF-1 type with PFM-1 mines (prohibited by the Convention) were detected. In addition, personal belongings and a bulletproof vest, 2 military bags, a hank of cable, 4 magazines equipped with 5.45 mm cartridges were found.

(slide 6) The actions of the group were well prepared and performed by professional servicemen. This is proved by the simultaneous use of UAV to conduct reconnaissance activities and adjust the route of the group. The UAV was shot down by small arms fire and retrieved by Ukrainian servicemen at the site of the crash (coordinates 48°23'57,04"N 38°15'50.39"E). It was the UAV type "Grenade", which is a part of the artillery support complex "Navodchik-2".

(slide 7) This type of military equipment was reported by the SMM in its daily report №272/2020 of the 14th November 2020. The UAV control system "Navodchyk-2" observed by the SMM near the temporarily occupied Luhansk city is manufactured in Russia and has never been in service with the Armed Forces of Ukraine. This fact is another proof of the presence of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas and their participation in hostilities against Ukraine.

We would like to draw your attention to the **regular use of the UAVs** by the Russian armed formations aimed at receiving necessary information on the defensive positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine for further offensive actions and shelling.

(slide 8) On the 30th of November, between 15h30 and 15h38, in the area of Vodiane settlement, opposite to the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Russian armed formations used an UAV (of the "quadcopter" type). It was moving from the direction of the settlement of Pikuzy in the direction of Vodiane crossing the line of contact. This violation forced the Armed Forces of Ukraine (for security and defense purposes) to use small arms fire in order to avoid losses among its personnel. As a result, the UAV was shot down (coordinates of the fall 47°10'41,12"N 37°47'17,95"E). You can see the photo on this slide.

Ukrainian side considers such actions of the Russian armed formations as a blatant violation of the Minsk agreements and disregard of the TCG ceasefire arrangement 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.

The Russian Federation has been **supplying its forces in Donbas with weaponry, ammunition, fuel and lubricants and manpower** through the uncontrolled by the Government of Ukraine section of the Russian-Ukrainian state border, located in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas.

From the 18th through the 25th of October, according to our information, **20 regular officers of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation and 25 officers of the Armed Forces** were present in the seized building of the Security Service of Ukraine in the temporarily occupied city of Donetsk.

On 21 October, **29 Russian active servicemen**, including 7 officers, **were leaving the temporarily occupied territory of Donbas to Russia** through the checkpoint in Izvaryne. **The reason of their departure was "an end of the contract", which was stated in their accompanying documents.** On 9 November, **17 officers of the Southern Military District of the Russian Armed Forces** arrived to the permanent deployment base of the 1st Army Corps

of the **Russian occupation forces in Donetsk** in order to exercise control over the military exercises held on the 10-14 of November.

On the 5th, the 29th of October, **2 military-type cars UAZ**, loaded **with radio electronic warfare systems RP-377L “Lorandyt”**, accompanied by an armoured vehicle on the base of Ural and 2 vehicles KAMAZ loaded with **2 UAVs “Forpost” entered the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas from Russia** through the checkpoint “Diakove”. On the 5th of November, **5 tilt-covered trucks** entered the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas from Russia through the residential area of Sorokine.

On the 25th, the 28th of October, in total **40 railway cisterns** with approximately **2400 tonnes of fuel and lubricants** entered the temporarily occupied Rovenky from Russia from the direction of Gukove. On the 4th of November, **3 railway cisterns with approximately 180 tonnes of fuels and lubricants** entered the temporarily occupied city of Luhansk from Russia from the direction of Gukove.

According to the information at hand, currently, military logistics and combat support units, military advisors and instructors of **the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, amounting to 2100 persons, and 40 pieces of weapons and military equipment** of the regular units of the Russian Armed Forces are **deployed in the temporarily occupied areas of Donbas**. According to the open sources, since the beginning of the conflict in Donbas, more than 2,600 Russian servicemen from 101 units of the Russian Army and Russian law enforcement agencies were identified in Ukraine, as well as 51 types of Russian weapons and military equipment that could not have been captured in combat and apparently were secretly brought to Donbas from the Russian Federation. Main battle tanks of 5 modifications which are not in service with the Armed Forces of Ukraine have been identified among the equipment that was transferred to Donbas from the Russian Federation.

On the 26th of November, the SMM observed another so-called Russian **“humanitarian convoy”** of three covered cargo trucks, escorted by three other vehicles entering a compound near temporarily occupied Donetsk city’s Budonivskyi district, which breached the Ukrainian-Russian state border, violating the norms of international law, Ukraine’s legislation and modalities for delivery of humanitarian assistance agreed with the ICRC. It was repeatedly reported that among the “humanitarian cargoes” there were those not of a humanitarian but of a military nature.

All these facts point to the ongoing violation by Russia of the OSCE fundamental principles, enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, as to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. The SMM, given its mandate, should examine these facts and give its unbiased assessment.

Distinguished colleagues,

During the last FSC Plenary meeting on the 25th of November the Russian side claimed that heavy weapons and military equipment of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, reported by the SMM between the 16th and the 18th of November at railway junctions in the Donbas, were allegedly transferred to the conflict area.

We have carefully analysed this piece of information as well as some other assertions, actively spread by the Russian delegation. In particular, we noted that it was actively disseminated by the Russian side immediately after the SMM spotted the latest Russian equipment system in the temporarily occupied area of Donbas. We believe that these are

mere attempts to distract our attention from the facts of constant violations of withdrawal lines by the Russian armed formations. The Russian side claimed that the SMM recorded a large build-up by the Armed Forces of Ukraine of weaponry at railway hubs in the Donbas. It was also noted in the official Twitter messages of the 22nd of November by the Russian Mission to the OSCE that “in the past few days alone, over 70 tanks and dozens of heavy large-caliber weapons” were heading to Donbas. According to the information received through regular Google search by independent military analysts, the photo used in the mentioned Twitter messages matched the one in the news story on the UApres website as of the 10th of July, 2014 headlined “A train with Ukrainian tanks is moving to the Donbas”. Quite an interesting match, don’t you think so?

Let me point out in this regard that a number of Ukrainian tanks were, indeed, reported by the SMM at railway stations 60-70 km from the zone of conflict (**far beyond the withdrawal lines**). However, this indicated not the arrival, but the dispatch of the equipment for maintenance and withdrawal. The equipment is periodically withdrawn from the Joint Forces Operation zone and sent for repairs to other parts of Ukraine. For instance, in October 2020, Ukroboronprom, Ukrainian defence industry association of enterprises, reported that the state enterprise Malyshev Plant in Kharkiv repaired and modernized a batch of T-64 tanks from the JFO zone in the Donbas.

Meanwhile, the SMM reports also periodically show that tanks and other heavy weapons of the Russian armed formations in Donbas are not only positioned in violation of the withdrawal lines but are also located near and within the residential areas. In particular, these facts were recorded in one of the latest SMM reports No. 278/2020. However, this information did not raise any concern of the Russian Delegation.

Madame Chairperson,

On the 5th of December 2020, we marked the 26th anniversary of signing the Memorandum on Providing Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine’s accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, also known as the Budapest Memorandum.

Having concluded this document with Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Russian Federation reaffirmed their obligations to respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. France and the People’s Republic of China have provided the similar assurances in the separate letters.

However, the relevant obligations towards our country have not been fulfilled. The Russian Federation as one of the states-guarantors has flagrantly violated its obligations under the Memorandum and the basic principles of international law, by occupying the sovereign part of the territory of Ukraine - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol - and starting the armed conflict in the Donbas region.

Nowadays, Russia progressively militarizes the territory of temporarily occupied Crimea, having transformed it into a powerful military base. The recently adopted UN GA Resolution «Problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov» serves as yet another confirmation of this reality. (reference to the statement of the Foreign Minister of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba <https://mfa.gov.ua/en/news/statement-minister-foreign-affairs-ukraine-dmytro-kuleba-adoption-unga-resolution-problem-militarization-autonomous-republic-crimea-and-city-sevastopol-ukraine-well-parts-black-sea-and-se>).

Taking into consideration the strategic location of Crimea in the region, the potential deployment by Russia of nuclear weapons on its territory seriously compromises the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons regime and undermines the global security system in general. The international community must properly react to such actions.

Ukraine continues to consider the Budapest Memorandum as an important international political and legal base for ensuring Ukraine's security by the U.S., the UK, France and the People's Republic of China. In this regard, we call on the international community to increase its pressure on Russia to ensure it returns to the implementation of the Budapest Memorandum. Russia must fully comply with its obligations under this instrument.

Ukraine highly appreciates actions of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France, which remain resolute in their support of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and strengthen their support through practical assistance towards enhancing Ukraine's defense capabilities and implementation of sanction mechanisms against the aggressor state.

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, Madame Chairperson.