



Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 792-nd FSC plenary meeting

(17 June 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)

Agenda item 1

Madam Chair,

The Delegation of Ukraine joins other delegations in warmly welcoming today's speakers and thanks them for their valuable contributions to the FSC discussion on the effectiveness of the VD regime and regional CSBMs in crisis situations. Let me offer you some of our thoughts and observations on this important topic based on our experience in connection with the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Over the last fifteen months, to dispel security concerns over the unusual military activity of the Russian Federation, the Delegation of Ukraine sought to make full use of existing mechanisms of the OSCE politico-military toolbox, in particular, those instruments, envisaged in the VD on CSBMs. The Vienna Document's CSBMs have been used in Ukraine extensively and in creative ways. I'm thinking in particular of the voluntary visits to dispel concerns and above-quota inspections that Ukraine has hosted throughout the crisis.

Regrettably, these steps have not been reciprocated. Russia has refused to provide substantive answers to requests for clarification under the Vienna Document's Risk Reduction provisions and has chosen not to facilitate transparency on the buildup of Russian forces on Ukraine's border.

Moreover, it did not prevent amassing of Russian troops along the border with Ukraine, flows of Russian weapons and mercenaries to reinforce the terrorist organizations, shelling of Ukrainian territory from the Russian side and, eventually, direct military incursion on Ukraine's territory in Donbas.

Distinguished colleagues,

The crisis in and around Ukraine, stemming from Russia's aggression, has challenged the very essence of trust and confidence and thus also the CSBMs at our disposal. This challenge compels us to assess the relevance as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the OSCE politico-military instruments, in particular with respect to compliance with and implementation of the VD.

In connection with the current crisis we continue to rely on verification mechanisms stipulated by the Vienna Document and other relevant politico-military instruments.

We are determined to use all options offered by the OSCE political-military toolbox to seek de-escalation and peaceful resolution. From 5 March 2014, we have been actively using provisions of Chapters III, IX and X of the Vienna Document to make full use of the evaluation visits to eastern Ukraine by multinational teams of inspectors and on the territory of Russia. We are grateful to all our partners and to all inspectors who participated in these missions. We continue to view it as critically important that international observers continue to verify the situation on the ground.

Also, we actively used the potential of paragraph 16 of the VD's Chapter III, requesting Russia's explanations concerning unusual activities of its military forces and initiating joint FSC-PC meetings in this regard, in which, regrettably, the Russian Federation decided not to participate despite legitimacy of Ukraine's concerns.

The delegation of Ukraine has repeatedly brought to the attention of the OSCE participating States the illegal international transfers of military goods and equipment from the Russian Federation across the uncontrolled sections of the Ukrainian-Russian border to Russia-backed militant groups in the east of Ukraine, which constitute a serious violation of Russia's numerous international obligations. In this connection, I would like to remind our distinguished colleagues that numerous photo evidences on the Russian illegal arms transfers to the Ukrainian territory provided by the Security Service of Ukraine were presented at the 774th FSC Meeting on 10 December 2014, 790th FSC Meeting on 27 May 2015 and the 1037th PC Meeting on 29 January 2015.

**Madam Chair,
Distinguished colleagues,**

Based on the experiences of the past year it is our strong belief that provisions of Chapter III of the Vienna Document should be updated in the context of present realities. The crises in and around Ukraine has put on the agenda a number of urgent tasks before all of us in areas such as lowering the thresholds for notification, increasing opportunities for verification activities, expanding the range of military activities subject to notification, modernizing and updating the exchange of military information, strengthening the risk reduction mechanisms, considering possibilities to enlarge the scope of CSBMs.

We also think that the current situation shows the urgent need for the soonest recovery of the CFE regime. Those are the tasks requiring immediate response, which should be done with the further aim of improving our overall level of implementation.

We would like to underline our readiness to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of modernizing the Vienna Document on CSBMs as well as other OSCE instruments, aiming at enhancing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

We welcome the OSCE efforts aimed at supporting Ukraine in de-escalation and stabilization of situation on the ground, in particular through the activities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, established in March 2014. Ukraine has implemented in good faith the provisions of the Minsk agreements. For these agreements to work it remains imperative that the undertaken commitments be fully implemented by all parties, including the Russian Federation.

Thank you, Madam Chair.