



DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE OSCE

**Statement by delegation of Kazakhstan at the 1258th meeting of
the OSCE Permanent Council in response to the reports by the
Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine
and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Heidi Grau and the
Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
Ambassador Halit Çevik
(6 February 2020)**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We warmly welcome the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Heidi Grau and the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Ambassador Halit Çevik and thank for their updates.

Welcoming the first report of Ambassador Grau to the Permanent Council who is well-known to most of us owing to her active and successful work during the Swiss Chairmanship in 2014 as the Head of OSCE Task Force. Taking into account her rich diplomatic experience, we wish all the best in her efforts for the peaceful settlement of the crisis in and around Ukraine.

January meetings of the Trilateral Contact Groups allowed to discuss a large number of important humanitarian, economic and security issues related to implementation of Minsk agreements.

We welcome the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Prime Minister and Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, Mr. Edi Rama's first visit to Ukraine, his meetings with top officials in Kiev, as well as the visit to eastern Ukraine on 21 January in order to see the security and humanitarian situation in the conflict-affected areas, and to observe the activity of the SMM on the ground in person.

We are encouraged to hear that during the reporting period, the number of fire violations was decreased by 22 percent.

We highly value the activities of SMM on monitoring and supporting repairs and maintenance works in recovery of civilian infrastructure objects.

Since opening of the bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska, people got the opportunity to freely move between areas in special pedestrian zones, and vehicles to move along the asphalt road.

We believe that this fact is another real evidence of how connectivity can serve to comprehensive security at the micro level.

We welcome the exchange of detainees in government-controlled territory Maiorsk and checkpoint of the armed formation in Horlivka on 29 December 2019 and encourage to continue this process further.

At the same time, we are concerned that unmanned aerial vehicles continue to be hindered or fired from small arms, which posed a threat not only to property, but also to the SMM patrol monitors. We call upon on providing free, full and safe movement of SMM monitors in order to fulfill their mandate in Ukraine.

We express our concern about 7 casualties (2 fatalities and 5 injuries) caused by ongoing shelling, gunfire, threat of mines and unexploded ordnance as well as a number of damages of civilian objects.

Unfortunately, we observed the deterioration of situation in January in comparison with the average level of last year because of ongoing ceasefire violations after New Year and Orthodox Christmas. Moreover, as a result of shelling and mines, the number of civilian casualties has increased compared to the end of last year.

In this context, we call upon conflicting parties to undertake all necessary measures to ceasefire, demining activities and provide for civilians' access to social, health and education institutions as well as guarantee safe delivery for humanitarian aid, including foods and medicines in conflict-affected areas.

Bearing in mind agreements reached at the Normandy Four Summit on 9 December 2019, we also call to implement reached decisions, particularly, in part of withdrawal of forces from conflict zones.

We recognize the importance of the Minsk agreements, and constantly call for compliance with these agreements as the only currently available mechanism for the peaceful settlement.

In conclusion, allow me to wish Ambassador Heidi Grau and Ambassador Halit Çevik every success in future endeavors.

I thank you.