



Permanent Mission of Ukraine  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 826<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**

(20 July 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
(Agenda item 2)

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the onset we wish to note that on 17 July 2016 Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine issued the joint statement in the UN framework on the second anniversary of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17. The countries: - recalled their full commitment to take effective measures to bring to justice the persons who are responsible; - restated their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of victims of this tragic event and to all grieving nations; - recalled the concern expressed by the Security Council Resolution 2166 (2014) about acts of violence that pose a threat to the safety of international civil aviation; - recalled the demand by the SC that those responsible for this incident be held accountable, reiterated their commitment to achieving that objective, and further recalled the SC's demand that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability; - noted the independent technical investigation into the cause of the downing by the Dutch Safety Board, that was conducted in full compliance with ICAO Standards, and its report published on 13 October 2015. They also noted the ongoing criminal investigation conducted by a Joint Investigation Team.

The authorities of Ukraine will continue to undertake all possible efforts to secure fulfilment of the obligations under the provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 2166. It remains a core interest and objective to ensure comprehensive, transparent and unbiased international investigation into the MH17 tragedy and bringing perpetrators to account.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

The competent authorities of Ukraine have presently at their disposal full information about a high numbers of heavy weapons and military equipment, Russian made, Russia supplied, used and accumulated in the occupied territories of Donbas. There are: 702 modern battle tanks of three modifications; more than one thousands of artillery systems, guns and mortars. The combined Russian-separatist forces have accumulated in Donbas a large number of the weapon warehouses, facilities for repair of weaponry,

reconnaissance equipment, field hospitals etc. They include the most important and necessary components of a military nature, which can ensure the conduct of military operations of offensive character with causing large losses to the adversary. The SMM registered pontoon exercises in the occupied areas. The consolidation of Russia's presence in Donbas indicates the absence of intentions to withdraw from there.

The patterns of the Russia hybrid war against Ukraine and its strategies of deception have not sustained significant change in the last two years. Presently, security situation in Donbas again deteriorates. Regular ceasefire violations by the Russian hybrid forces, often with the use of heavy weapons, remain the daily reality. The Russian exclusive modern weaponry continues to be registered in use in the occupied part of Donbas. The Russian hybrid forces continue to resort to different strategies of deception to escape responsibility for non-implementation of Minsk agreements and shift blame on the Ukrainian forces.

Over the past week the combined Russian-separatist forces were active in the Luhansk, Donetsk and Mariupol' areas, persistently defied the Minsk agreements. Ceasefire violations were recorded along the contact line in the sub-sections of Mariupol, Starohnativka, Donetsk, Avdiivka, Yasynuvata, Horlivka, Svitlodarsk, Debaltseve, Pervomaisk, Siverskyi Donets River, Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska. The weapons used included infantry fighting vehicles, 120mm and 82mm mortars and 122mm self-propelled guns 2S1 "Gvozdika". The positions of Ukraine's army were shelled with an average intensity of 54 times per day. **9 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 33 wounded during the week.**

The majority of ceasefire violations in the Donetsk region again occurred near Avdiivka, Yasynuvata and the northern outskirts of Donetsk city, constituting more than **70 per cent** of all violations in the region. Significant numbers of violation were also recorded in the area of Horlivka, where the situation continued to deteriorate for the third consecutive week; and closer to Mariupol', where they were recorded by the SMM cameras mainly near Shyrokyne.

The persistent impediments to the SMM monitoring and verification activities by the combined Russian-separatist forces have not been stopped and seriously undermine the efficiency of the SMM monitoring and de-escalation efforts. During the past week the Mission again reported on numerous cases of freedom-of-movement restrictions, traditionally with **over 90%** of them in the occupied areas. In particular:

On 13 July: - at the border crossing point in Voznesenivka, an armed so-called "LPR" member denied access to the SMM as it did not provide its patrol plan; - at the so-called "LPR" checkpoint immediately south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, both an armed "LPR" member and his superior denied the SMM patrol access to the bridge as it did not provide its patrol plan in Russian language.

On 14 July: - in so-called "DPR"-controlled Naberezhne (north-east of Mariupol), "DPR" members told the SMM that they could not keep going to the

western end of the village because there was a “military position” at that location; - at the “DPR” checkpoint at the western entrance to Kominternove (north-east of Mariupol), armed “DPR” members instructed SMM to stay on the main road and not to speak to anyone.

On 15 July: - in the morning hours, at the so-called “LPR” checkpoint immediately south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, an armed “LPR” member again denied the SMM access to the bridge; - in so-called “LPR”-controlled Kalynove (west of Luhansk), armed men did not allow the SMM to operate a mini UAV in the area.

Such restrictions breach the agreed mandate of the SMM and its ability to report objectively on the situation on the ground. We urge Russia to deliver on its commitment on the SMM’s full freedom of movement.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Discontent of residents in the temporarily occupied areas of Donbas is growing. Specifically in the town of Krasnyi Luch on 13-14 July local people took the courage to protest against location in the town in the premises of local machine-building factory of large number of artillery and MLRS "Grad".

According to the competent authorities of Ukraine, on 17 July in Donetsk the Russian hybrid forces of the 1st separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1 AC dispersed with firearms a peaceful assembly against the deployment of firing positions of the artillery units in residential areas of the city. As a result 3 local residents received firearm wounds. In order to conceal the incident, the Russian occupational command actively spread rumors that the shooting at locals was made by a retired militant in a state of mental disorder. As previously reported, in June this year in the Kalinovskiy region of the occupied town of Horlivka, Donetsk oblast, the local residents attacked militants because they were shelling positions of the ATO forces from residential areas of Horlivka. We have repeatedly informed the Forum about this criminal tactics of the hybrid Russian forces during many previous FSC meetings. Such Russian tactics of deception and shelling from residential areas, using civilians as a human shield, was confirmed by the last SMM weekly report of 12 July 2016.

New facts of replenishment with military personnel, weapons and equipment, ammunition and fuel for the combined Russian-separatist forces in the occupied territories are continuously registered. On 16 July in Donetsk city the Russian intelligence radar complex "Zoopark-1" was registered. Also in the settlements of Kalynove and Almazna (responsibility zone of the 6th separate mechanized regiment of the 2nd AC of the combined Russian-separatist forces, town Stahanov) activity of the electronic warfare division using automated radio interference system R-330 "Zhytel" and electronic warfare system "Svet-KU" with the aim of jamming of all SMM UAV flights is registered.

According to available information, last week for the need of the so-called 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the combined Russian-separatist forces the following supplies arrived from Russia:

- on 13 July to Roven'ki 6 fuel cisterns, and 4 wagons with lubricants and ammunition, to the tank farm of Luhansk - 26 bowsers with diesel;

- on 14 July to Ilovaisk a train delivered 2 battle tanks, 2 armoured combat vehicles BMP-2, two MLRS "Grad" and 5 fuel cisterns; to Khartsyzs'k - a train of 7 cisterns with fuel, 3 wagons with ammunition, 85 mortars of calibre 120mm and 40 mortars of calibre 82mm;

- on 16 July to Ilovaisk a train delivered 3 fuel cisterns; to Suhodol'sk - a train with cisterns with fuel and wagons with ammunition;

- on 18 July to Donetsk a train delivered 30 platforms with battle tanks and self-propelled guns, some wagons with personnel and cisterns with fuel.

In Donetsk city rotation of the 331st airborne regiment of the 98th airborne division of combined Russian-separatist forces was held.

As we have repeatedly stated 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. Russia's military supplies must be stopped.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In the interests of advancing peaceful resolution in eastern 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 both 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.**