



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 848th FSC Plenary Meeting
(15 March 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 2)

Mr. Chairperson,

A slight decrease in quantity of ceasefire violations by the hybrid Russian forces in Donbas during the past week is not indicative, unfortunately, of the improvement of the security situation. In accordance with the SMM reports and assessments of Ukrainian ATO HQ, the volatility of the situation is a characteristic feature of affairs. Continuing non-implementation by the Russian hybrid forces of the security provisions of the Minsk Agreements leads inevitably to the defensive response on the part of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Defence and protection of lives are the only motive that necessitates to open fire in response. During the reported period the hybrid Russian forces have violated ceasefire around **500** times, more than one third of which was carried out by the Minsk-proscribed weapons, mostly mortars. The past week *took away lives of 5 Ukrainian servicemen and 37 soldiers were wounded*. The civilians are not spared either - *3 civilians were wounded*.

Distinguished colleagues,

To have a clearer picture on the scene of ATO we would like to share information provided by the competent bodies of Ukraine concerning the combat actions by the hybrid Russian forces in the reported period:

On 08 March, in Luhansk direction intensity of fire slightly decreased. However, the settlements of Troitske, Novoalexandrivka and Popasna got under fire. The armed provocation by terrorist fighters with light weapons took place in Stanytsia Luhanska and Krymske. As far as Donetsk city and its surroundings is concerned, intensive mortar fire was registered at the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine near the occupied town of Horlivka, where only Novgorodske village was targeted by about 100 mortar mines. About 30 122-mm artillery rounds were fired at the Ukrainian positions in Zaitseve. Altogether 33 cases of fire attacks took place in Mariupol direction. 122-mm artillery was applied by hybrid Russian forces for shooting Ukrainian positions in Shyrokyne.

On 09 March, combat actions of medium intensity targeted Popasna and Novoaidar vicinities. The Ukrainian positions in Krymske were heavily bombarded with mines. From time to time the illegal armed formations organised provocations with the use of the light weapons at Stanytsia Luhanska. Avdiivka was shelled by

mortars. Ceasefire violations by small arms were registered close to this town as well. Donetsk airport and outskirts of Horlivka and Nevelske were also under attack. Mariupol direction in comparison with Luhansk and Donetsk sectors was marked by the record number of ceasefire violations. 40 cases of fire attacks were registered there.

On the 10th of March the village of Krymske, which is in the Luhansk sector, was shelled by 120 rockets of the «Grad» systems, 70 152-mm rounds, and over 120 mortar mines. The hybrid Russian forces conducted fire from heavy artillery and MLRS located near the village of Sentianivka at the rear Ukrainian positions in the village of Smolianinove that is 20 km away from the line of contact. In the Donetsk direction 35 fire attacks were registered. The hybrid Russian forces again chose Svitlodarsk bulge and the industrial zone of Avdiivka as targets for mine shelling. Mar'inka, Mykolaivka, Vodiane and Gnutove were objects of fire attacks from mortars.

On 11 March, the hybrid Russian forces often used 120-mm mortars to shell the Ukrainian positions at Katerynivka, Novooleksandrivka and Popasna from Pervomaisk direction. Krymske got under mortar fire as well. Avdiivka was shelled by both mortars and tanks. 5 tank rounds hit multistorey building east of Avdiivka and 6 private houses were damaged as a result of mortar shelling. The electric supply of the town was again disrupted. Again, the local population was left without water. Mortars shelled the Ukrainian positions near Mar'inka, Mykolaivka, Berezhove and Krasnogorivka. Again, Pavlopil, Gnutove and Shyrokyne became targets for the enemy mortar fire.

On 12 March, twice mortars fired at the Ukrainian positions in Krymske. The silence regime was violated by hybrid Russian forces by light weapons shooting around Stanytsia Luhanska and Popasna. Ukrainian positions in the industrial zone of Avdiivka were shelled by mortars and MLRS «Grad». Mortars also shelled the Svitlodarsk bulge, Zaitseve, Novgorodske, Troitske, Yasynuvata, Verkhnotoretske and the vicinity of the Donetsk airport. The government controlled Mar'inka and Krasnogorivka were targeted by mortars and tanks. Intensive small arms fire was registered at the area ranging from Chermalyk to Shyrokyne.

The Russian delegation in the FSC meetings constantly denies the irrefutable evidence of Russia's military presence in Donbas. In this respect, we would like to point out that on 8 March one Russian terrorist-sniper was killed in a combat engagement in an industrial zone of Avdiivka, who carried the documents of a citizen of Russia. And such facts are numerous. We would like to present to the delegations a respective concise *video presentation*.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,**

In connection with the terrorist activities on the Ukrainian territory we wish to inform that recently the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies proved the involvement of the Russian officer, colonel Anatolii Sinelnikov, nicknamed «Zakhar», former commander of the 5th army brigade of the so called «DPR», into

the shelling of the route bus «Zlatoustivka - Donetsk» by the MLRS «Grad» rockets. This terrorist attack, which took place in winter 2015, killed 12 civilians and traumatized 18 persons. One more perpetrator of this barbaric attack was also identified. The documents in connection with this criminal act of terror have been submitted by the Ukrainian side to the UN International court of justice in the Hague.

Recalling groundless as well as senseless allegations by the Russian Delegation regarding the assumed application in the ATO zone by Ukrainian soldiers of their skills received in training conducted by our foreign partners we would like to inform that Canada recently extended its military training mission in Ukraine until the end of March 2019, as was announced by the Government of Canada last week. The purpose of the mission is to support Ukraine forces by providing military instruction and capacity building in order to maintain the sovereignty of Ukraine. Canadian forces will be helping with training, explosive ordnance disposal, military policing, medical training and modernizing Ukraine's logistics system. The renewed mission will involve 200 soldiers, the same number as previous one. As the Canadian Defense Minister said the Russia's actions were what caused Canada to step in and help Ukraine in the first place. It is a sign of solidarity with Ukraine, a powerful signal of deterrence to Russia and a strong sign of Canadian leadership in dealing with global challenges.

Currently Canada, Britain, the United States and some others have had military trainers in Ukraine since Russia occupied Crimea and began deployment of its hybrid forces in Ukraine's Donbas region.

Distinguished colleagues,

As we have stated many times before Ukraine is fully committed to full and faith implementation of the Minsk agreements. In this respect we call on the Russian Federation to exercise its responsibility in implementing the Minsk agreements, in particular their security provisions on comprehensive cease-fire, withdrawal of forces and full access of the SMM for monitoring. We urge Russia to pull out its forces from Ukraine, halt its support to the illegal armed formations in Donbas region of Ukraine as well as its military build-up along Ukraine's south-eastern borders.

The conflict instigated and fuelled by the Russian Federation will not be resolved until the Russian forces get out of the territory of Ukraine. Therefore 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. Chairperson.