



Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 772-nd FSC plenary meeting

(26 November 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)

Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor to share information concerning the continuing fighting in some parts of eastern Ukraine and further attempts by the Russian-backed separatists to consolidate control and gain strategic advantages in violation of the Minsk Agreements.

In this context let me draw your attention to recent heavy shelling, resulting in numerous military and civilian casualties, and to reports about convoys moving into the militants held areas with substantial amounts of heavy weapons, tanks and troops without insignia from across the Russian border. In this connection we also take note with concern of OSCE Observer Mission reports of the highest number, since the beginning of its mandate, of persons in military-style dress crossing the border in both directions between Russian and Ukraine.

There is continuously growing evidence that militants in Donbas are directly supported also with weaponry from Moscow and Russian regular troops have not withdrawn from Donbas, but rather consolidated their positions.

Distinguished colleagues,

Ukraine appreciates the consistent efforts of the OSCE and the SMM to Ukraine invested into stabilization of the situation in Donbas. The use of the Unarmed/Unmanned Aerial Vehicles reinforces the Mission's ability to monitor and report on the security in the east of Ukraine as well as the implementation of the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum. We reiterate the need for their unimpeded use to perform the demanding monitoring tasks.

Mr. Chairman,

Regrettably the Russian Federation has not yet underpinned the Minsk protocol and the Memorandum with concrete and meaningful steps from its side, including withdrawal of its military units from Ukraine's territory and halting reinforcement of the terrorist groups with Russian weapons and mercenaries. The approximate number of Russia-backed military formations that are operating in Donbas, according to the ATO headquarter assessments, are up to 25 thousand fighters and 10 thousand Russian servicemen.

From 20 till 25 November we continued to register numerous serious violations of the cease-fire committed by the militant forces and their reinforcements:

-on 20 November a column of 130 pieces of Russian military equipment passed across the city of Krasnyi Luch on the highway from Krasnodon to Lugansk. Then one part of

the column moved towards the city Snizhne in Donetsk region, the second part went to Znamianka;

-on 21 November terrorist groups conducted indiscriminate fire from different types of small arms and weapons at the positions of the ATO forces. 79 attacks on the Ukrainian position were recorded during that day;

-on 22 November a column with about 20 pieces of military equipment went across the checkpoint "Izvaryne" of the state border of Ukraine from the territory of the Russian Federation, and headed towards Luhansk;

-on 23 November 70 attacks of militants were recorded during the day. The activity of illegal armed groups was concentrated in three strategic areas: Lugansk, Donetsk and Debal'tseve. As a result, 3 Ukrainian servicemen were killed. The militants also fired at the town of Avdiivka, Donetsk region, 5 civilians were killed;

-on 24 November the terrorists 16 times opened a fire at the ATO forces. Most attacks were concentrated in the direction around Donetsk. There were several settlements in the area affected by the terrorists' artillery and mortars: Olenivka, Novotroitske, Nikolaivka, Krasnogorovka, Avdiivka, Piski, Vesele, Tonen'ke. Over the past week shelling was resumed from the territory of the Russian Federation. Attacks were carried out in Stanichno-Luhansk and Verhnie-Olhove directions.

-on 25 November in Donetsk, a shuttle bus was hit by a shell, killing 3 and injuring 8 civilians with various degrees of severity.

Tragically, the Ukrainian citizens continue to lose their lives. Since the cease-fire started, the positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces have been shelled over **3412** times. **130** Ukrainian servicemen were killed, over **700** wounded and dozens civilians lost their lives.

Distinguished colleagues,

We would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the participants of this FSC meeting that the exchange of notification formats between the Russian Federation (format F07 on 20 November) and Ukraine (format F00 on 25 November) took place under the regional Document on Confidence-and Security-Building Measures on the Naval Field in the Black Sea.

In its notification format the Russian Federation informed about 2 largest planned naval activities in the Crimean costal area in 2015. In this regard Ukraine has stated that it had not authorised Russia to carry out any military activities in the Crimean costal area and underscored that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea remains an integral part of Ukraine.

Ukraine declares that the non-authorized military exercises of the Russian Federation on the sovereign part of the territory of Ukraine and within Ukraine's exclusive maritime economic zone will be considered, according to the norms and principles of the International Law.

Mr. Chairman,

Against this background Ukraine continues to see a political solution as the only way out of this crisis. Therefore, we call to avoid further escalation of hostilities, to implement fully and without further delay their commitments under the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum, as means for a peaceful sustainable solution based on respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Sustainable peaceful resolution in Ukraine's east requires all parties to fulfill their commitments in full and in good faith. The Russia-backed militants together with Russian troops, which continue to remain on our soil, must cease their military actions and stop shelling of civilian areas. All foreign military personnel and mercenaries must leave the territory of Ukraine. The Russian Federation must cease its illegal supplies of weapons and equipment, and halt the flow of the so called "volunteers" into our sovereign territory through re-establishing effective control at the border under the OSCE monitoring.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.