



ENGLISH only

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 795-th FSC Plenary Meeting
(9 September 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine warmly welcomes Norway as the new Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation and wishes it every success in guiding our work in the third trimester of 2015. We are grateful to H.E. Bard Glad Pedersen, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway for his opening statement outlining priorities and planned activities of the FSC Chairmanship. We also warmly welcome and wish success to the Netherlands as a new FSC Troika member and thank Mongolia - the outgoing Troika member - for constructive cooperation with our delegation and its efforts and dedication over the past three trimesters.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing Chairmanship of Montenegro for its determination to advance the Forum's work during the second trimester of 2015. In the course of the Montenegrin Chairmanship the FSC was actively engaged in reviewing military aspects of the crisis in and around Ukraine. Our deliberations and evidence presented in the Forum have reaffirmed that the crisis stems from the Russia's military aggression and flagrant violations of OSCE principles and commitments. We are grateful to the OSCE participating States for solidarity and firmness in upholding Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chairman,

5 September 2015 marked one year since the Minsk Protocol was signed by the Trilateral Contact Group of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the OSCE as a mediator. Immediately after signing the Protocol and later Memorandum of 19 September, Ukraine has consistently demonstrated its commitment to full and good-faith implementation of the Minsk agreements, in particular by adhering to ceasefire regime, withdrawal of heavy weapons and adopting the necessary legislative acts.

In striking contrast to the continued, concrete steps taken by Ukraine, the Russian Federation until now failed to practically deliver its commitments taken in Minsk. Throughout the second stage of the FSC annual session of 2015, despite consistent calls from Ukraine and OSCE participating States, the Russian Federation has failed to meet its commitments pursuant to a number of OSCE instruments in politico-military dimension. The Russian military personnel and hardware remain on the territory of Ukraine. Russia continues to supply the militant groups with weapons and ammunition.

Distinguished colleagues,

Since the last FSC meeting and until last days of August we witnessed increased number of militants' provocative shellings and attacks, including with the use of tanks, larger caliber artillery and MRLS. In August **the Ukrainian positions and the residential areas were shelled over 1400 times**. The record number of shelling for

the last six months - 175 was registered on 14 August 2015. Many of the ceasefire violations were carried out with heavy weapons that must have been withdrawn in line with the Minsk agreements.

The OSCE SMM, in particular, reported on GRAD shellings by the militants of the villages Svitlychne and Nyzhnye in its report of 25 August, the village of Orikhove – in the report of 29 August. According to the competent authorities of Ukraine in the course of August **37 Ukrainian servicemen lost their lives and 180 were wounded.**

The SMM constantly reports on the large concentration of weaponry in the occupied areas. During August militants continued to strengthen actively its formation in Donetsk and Luhansk by bringing another 2,000 mercenaries exclusively of Russian citizens and delivering military equipment and armament in Yenakiyev, Vuhlehirsk, Schastya and Stanytsya Luhanska. The arrived Russian mercenaries were disguised as "Kazaks". Also a battery of 203-mm self-propelled artillery 2S7 "Pion" (5 units) came to Donetsk. A mechanized infantry battalion of militants, reinforced by two tank companies on T-72BA, was transferred to the towns of Yenakiyev and Vuhlehirsk to strengthen separatist of "DPR". A column of 15 tanks and 28 infantry fighting vehicles and armoured personnel carriers from Russia was registered in the town of Krasnodon.

In addition to the numerous evidence of Russian weapons in Donbas, that has been earlier provided by our delegation, notable is the SMM report of 30 August, registering a mobile jamming station R-330ZH "Zhytel" near Telmanove. According to experts, this advanced station, produced in Voronezh, does not only suppress the GPS signal, but disorients a flying vehicle, making it lose control and crash. Incidentally, the mentioned report was followed the next day by the loss of the OSCE UAV over the same area to the northeast of Mariupol where "Zhytel" station was spotted. We condemn the impediments by the militants to the SMM patrol to access the area and undertake a search. It is clear that the Russian Federation, which deployed these modern jamming systems and anti-aircraft weapons in Donbas, bears responsibility for the incidents with the SMM UAVs aimed at concealing the troops and armaments concentration in the occupied territories of Donbas.

Russia-backed terrorists do not fully adhere to the agreements on the ceasefire starting **from 1 September 2015.** In particular, on 2 September Ukrainian mobile team comprising of the military, civilian officers and volunteers was ambushed by the terrorists near the village of Lobacheve, Luhansk oblast. As a result 1 volunteer and 1 fiscal officer were killed, 4 Ukrainian militaries wounded. On 7 September, as a result of infiltration by the pro-Russian sabotage and intelligence group, 2 servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces were killed and 2 wounded during a combat clash near the village of Bolotenne, Luhansk oblast.

Distinguished colleagues,

The delegation of Ukraine to the FSC has repeatedly provided convincing evidence of the presence of the Russian military personnel and equipment on the occupied territories in Donbas. Today we would like to draw your attention to the briefing of the Head of the Security Service of Ukraine Vasyl Hrytsak that took place on 28 August 2015 in Kyiv. According to Mr. Hrytsak, there are over 33 thousand mercenaries and about 9 thousand regular Russian troops of the combined Russian-terrorist forces in Donbas. These 21 tactical groups include 15 battalion- and 6 company-level tactical groups. In addition, 53 tactical groups of the Russian armed forces - 39 battalions and 14 company tactical groups with a total of 50.5 thousand

officers and soldiers - have been concentrated on the Russian territory near the Russian-Ukrainian state border.

Moreover, 111 training camps are located on the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, in which representatives of the Russian Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces (GRU) and Federal Security Service (FSB) train terrorists. Another 30 training bases located in the territory of the temporarily occupied Crimea. There are also 54 camps in the Russia's regions bordering Ukraine. Overall amount of Russian training camps amounts to 195.

The Ukrainian special services have found that the combined Russian-terrorist troops in Donbas are divided into two army corps: one in Donetsk and one in Luhansk region, which are under the control of the combined Russian-terrorist forces. Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces general of army Valeriy Gerasimov is in command of these two corps through the headquarters of the Russia's Southern Military District (commander - general-colonel Alexandr Galkin) and the 12th Command of Reserve this District (general-colonel Andrey Serdyukov). Deputy Commander of Land Forces of the Russian Armed Forces general-colonel Alexandr Lentsov coordinates actions of the two corps on the ground. In addition, at least another eight Russian generals are involved in military operations in Donbas, among them: Sergey Yudin, Andrey Hurulov, Sergey Solomatin, Alexey Zavizyon, Evgeniy Nikiforov, Valeriy Solodchuk and Sergey Kuzovlev.

On 28 August the voluntary project "InformNapalm" held a presentation at the Ukrainian Crisis Media Centre in Kiev on the results of its investigation of the Russian military presence in Donbas. The researchers showed the largest, by far, database, which collected evidence of Russian aggression in Ukraine. The database provides information of Russian military personnel in Ukraine, demonstrates a specific list of military units and formations, gives dates, places and duration of their stay in Donbas. The database also shows how to identify them by photos in social networks, video propaganda under the title of "Novorosia", the expert analysis of weapons and equipment, etc. At the time of presentation the database included 116 incidents, in which troops and equipment from up to 60 Russian military units and formations were identified. You can easily find a complete list at <https://en.informnapalm.org/RussianPresence/>, where each incident is a result of careful investigation and research of the social networks of the Russian servicemen. This database is available now in Ukrainian, English, Russian, German, Polish, and Spanish. Now you can see on the screen the geography of the Russian military units and formations' engagement in the east of Ukraine.

Distinguished colleagues,

On 26 August 2015 the Russian edition of "Business Life", which makes reports on markets, finance and business, in one of its analytical materials entitled "Growth of benefits to the military in 2015," referred to compensations to killed and injured Russian soldiers in the fighting on the territory of Ukraine. One section of the material read as follows: "Compensation to military personnel for participation in military operations in Ukraine in 2014-2015". It says that the families of the dead soldiers who participated in the military operations in Ukraine, receive compensation of 3 million rubles. Those left with disability - 1.5 million rubles. In addition, it also provides information on the so-called "hostilities" payments to the contracted servicemen in the amount of 1.8 thousand rubles for each day of stay in the zone of military conflict. As of

1 February 2015 the cash compensation has been already paid for more than 2 thousand families of the victims and 3.2 thousand military who have been seriously injured with confirmed disability.

In this context, it is worth recalling that on 28 May 2015 Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree stipulating that all military deaths will be classified as state secrets not just in times of war but also in peace – a move that significantly hinders the reporting on Russian soldiers' casualties in eastern Ukraine. The Russian president has amended a decree to extend the list of state secrets to include information on casualties during special operations when war has not been declared, among other changes. Previously, the list had only forbidden “revealing personnel losses in wartime”. Revealing state secrets is punishable by up to 7 years in prison.

The purpose of this decree is obvious – to silence families, journalists, activists and NGOs, who investigate the losses of the Russian army in the Ukrainian conflict. It is yet another attempt to cover up Russia's direct involvement in the conflict in Donbas.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by reiterating our call on the Russian Federation to immediately take all necessary practical steps towards de-escalation in Donbas, stipulated by the Minsk agreements, and honor its commitments in good faith and in full respect of Ukraine's territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty.

The ceasefire must be respected, heavy weapons withdrawn and Russian armed formations, military equipment and mercenaries removed from the territory of Ukraine. We urge Russia to use its considerable influence over the illegal armed groups it backs to ensure that they implement their Minsk commitments in full.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.