



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 787-th FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(6 May 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
Agenda item 2

**Madam Chair,**

A week since the last meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation did not bring positive changes in the situation on the occupied territories of Ukraine. We continued to register numerous violations of the Minsk agreements by the Russian Federation and the illegal armed groups it supports. There were no improvements as the Russian Federation had not yet demonstrated willingness and readiness to reverse its military aggression against Ukraine, whereby it grossly violated international law and the fundamental OSCE principles and commitments. It is of our deep concern that the illegal armed groups increasingly used heavy weapons, including larger caliber artillery and MRLSs that must have been withdrawn in compliance with the Minsk agreements.

Over the weekend pro-Russian fighters in Donbas shelled positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and civilian areas across the contact line 60 times using heavy armoured vehicles, 120-mm mortars, and heavy artillery of 122-mm and 152-mm calibre.

From April 30 till May 05, Russia-backed terrorists used MLRS Grad (four times), bombardment artillery (43 times) as well as mortars (115 times) and tanks (7 times) against Ukrainian Armed Forces. As a result, **4 Ukrainian military were killed, 21 – wounded**. Since February 15, when the immediate and comprehensive ceasefire was established by the relevant provision of the Package of Measures of 12 February 2015, **the Russia-backed militants have shelled Ukrainian positions over 2850 times**.

The build-up of Russian troops next to the Ukrainian border and information about continued inflow of military equipment and personnel into Ukraine from the Russian Federation further add to our concern. Russia also continued to provide training, and command and control support for militants in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine, for its part, consistently implements the Minsk agreements, from de-escalation to political settlement, and continues to see a political solution as the only way out of this conflict. The Ukrainian armed forces ceased fire at agreed date and time, verifiably withdrew heavy artillery, have strictly abided by the cease-fire and have not used arms except for cases of self-defense.

The present situation shows that it remains imperative for the Russian Federation and the militants it backs to swiftly and fully implement the Minsk agreements and honor their commitments, in particular on ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons.

**Madam Chair,  
Distinguished colleagues,**

The Delegation of Ukraine already referred to the ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the pro-Russian militants. Let me bring to your attention some facts of continuous violations by the pro-Russian militants, which were registered in the period of 30 April – 5 May:

-on 30 April the Russia-backed terrorists used MLRS “Grad” (3 times), bombardment artillery (14 times) and tanks (9 times) against the Ukrainian Armed Forces. As a result, two Ukrainian military were wounded;

-on 1 May the settlement of Novotoshkivka, Luhansk oblast, suffered from heavy shelling from tanks and mortars. Several shells and mines exploded in the center of the village. The blast took off windows and doors in many houses. It was registered that the fire from tanks was conducted from the village of Zholobok occupied by the Russian regular troops, in particular, tanks with crews from Buryatia. Mortar fire on Novotoshkivka was also conducted from the village of Holubivske occupied by the "LPR" militants;

-on 2 May pro-Russian militants violated the ceasefire 32 times in the Donetsk oblast. The militants used mortars with caliber 120-mm (7 times), artillery systems with caliber 122-mm (2 times). Fire from heavy artillery was made on the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the area of settlements of Avdiivka, Opytne, Pisky, Tryohizbenka and Shyrokyne. a fierce battle took place. The Ukrainian military repelled a fierce militants' attack near the village of Pisky. On this day the Ukrainian military also registered 8 UAVs of the Russian armed forces in the skies over Donbas;

-on 3 May militants fired on the village of Pisky near Donetsk. One local resident received multiple injuries during the mortar attack and was hospitalized with multiple shrapnel wounds;

-on 4 May pro-Russian separatists violated the ceasefire 27 times, firing at the ATO positions with 120-mm caliber mortars aiming near the villages of Shyrokyne, Pisky, Hnutove, Opytne, (all in the Donetsk oblast) as well as by 82-mm mortars near the villages of Mayorsk, Leninske and Kirove. The militants also opened fire from 122-mm artillery and tanks in the area of Shyrokyne, as well as nearby settlements of Opytne, Pisky, Hranitne and Avdiivka.

In the Luhansk oblast separatists opened fire on the Ukrainian positions from 82-mm mortars near the village of Syze. The Ukrainian soldiers stopped the attack of separatists near the settlement of Zolote;

-on 5 May an active movement of military equipment and armed forces of militants was observed from the field bases and camps, already for the parade on 9 May in the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk. All equipment underwent repair and maintenance. In particular, the following military equipment moved in convoys - tanks T-64B, T-72BA and T-72B3; armored combat vehicles BMP-2, BTR-80; 122-mm self-propelled artillery systems 2S1 "Gvozdika", "Strela-10M", 152-mm towed canon 2A65 "Msta-B" and MLRS BM-21"Grad". This equipment moved accompanied by the haulage trucks and fuel tankers towards the center of these cities, and then dispersed to the militants' field bases and camps. The SMM already made clear and public its position that the movement of heavy weapons in so-called "parades" will violate the Minsk agreements. So far Russia and the militants have ignored it.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

The Ukrainian side would like to express its deep concern with recent reports about the setting up by the Russian military of the so-called "training centre" for pro-Russian militants near the settlement of Markine in the area of Novoazovsk. According to the ATO staff, a week ago up to 150 people - the future militants - came from Russia to the "training centre". The real purpose of the existence of such "centres" is to create a "picture" for the foreign media about the alleged local "militias" who are fighting in the east of Ukraine. At the same time, the so-called "vacationers" from the Russian regular army are servicing the Russian modern military equipment in Donbas. A distinctive feature of this recent arrival in the militants training centre was that it consists of prisoners released in Russia. The following conditions were put before the prisoners: release on parole, participation in the fighting on the territory of Ukraine (at least 6 months), and afterwards - the long-awaited freedom. While the Russian Federation continues to deny its direct

military involvement in the conflict in the east of Ukraine, the available evidence once again proves the opposite.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

The security of SMM monitors is of great importance. A particular concern of the Ukrainian side are instances involving of the OSCE Special monitoring mission on 2 May on visits to the government-controlled settlements of Ukraine - Pisky, Avdiivka and Shyrokyne. Near the village of Pisky (13 km in the north-west of Donetsk), four 82-mm mortar shells landed in a sand mound in the vicinity of the SMM observer. The unharmed observers left the place as soon as the situation allowed it.

Shortly after the first incident the same SMM team heard volleys of 152-mm artillery shells in Avdiivka (14 km in the north-west of Donetsk), which began to explode nearby. The SMM took refuge in a nearby underground shelter and was able to leave the shelter after a five-minute bombardment. The SMM Patrol was luckily not injured.

The above highlights prove that:

- 1) The Russian Federation and pro-Russian militants continue to disregard and violate the cease-fire regime;
- 2) Heavy artillery and its specific systems have not been withdrawn and have been used by militants now;
- 3) SMM monitors continue to face restrictions to the performance of their duties.

The Russian Federation has its responsibility to make sure that these violations are stopped and the appropriate round is set for the progress on the political settlement of the crisis. It remains critical for reaching de-escalation that Russia does not attempt to distance itself from the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

**Madam Chair,**

I will conclude by reiterating our commitment to and call for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements, including substantial and effective OSCE monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian state border, by all signatories, including Russia, as the only way forward towards a sustainable political solution. Full respect for the ceasefire regime and a verified withdrawal of heavy weapons are essential steps in the implementation of the Minsk agreements. We once again call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of the fundamental OSCE principles, to respect sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, to reverse annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

**Thank you, Madam Chair.**