



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 793-rd FSC Plenary Meeting
(1 July 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

Madam Chair,

As repeatedly reiterated in this forum, bringing peace to Donbas requires political will and observance of undertaken commitments by all signatories of the Minsk agreements of September 2014 and February 2015. The implementation of these agreements, to which all sides have declared their commitment, can succeed only on the basis of a ceasefire, permanent withdrawal of heavy weapons, regular and effective monitoring and verification.

Ukraine, for its part, has consistently demonstrated good-faith and responsibility in fully implementing the Minsk agreements and has strictly observed agreements on cease-fire, withdrawal of heavy weaponry and adopting the legislation on the special order of self-governance in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, thus laying ground to holding free and fair local elections in those areas.

However, in clear breach of the Minsk agreements, the illegal armed groups, with direct support of the Russian regular armed forces, continuously violate the comprehensive cease-fire as of 15 February 2015. Militants continue to use the period to regroup, get reinforced and concentrate on positions to conduct further offensives.

Russia and Russia-backed militants have imposed a number of significant limitations on the SMM and significantly distort monitoring statistics of withdrawal. They have not disclosed all baseline information, continuously deny or hinder access of SMM observers to sites of heavy weapons, prevent SMM from following convoys of heavy weapons being withdrawn to the concentration points and visiting these points later. The SMM teams are escorted by pro-Russian militants and SMM in fact visits much less holding areas of the militants than those of the Ukrainian forces. Russia-backed militants do not grant access of the OSCE SMM to the large part of the territory controlled by them including state border between Russia and Ukraine.

We remain deeply concerned about the build-up of Russian troops next to the Ukrainian border and in Crimea as well as the growing evidence of the longstanding direct involvement of active military personnel of the Russian Federation in the fighting in eastern Ukraine. Against this background, we reiterate our call on Russia to withdraw all heavy weapons and its armed formations, military equipment as well as mercenaries from the territory of Ukraine in line with the Minsk agreements.

**Madam Chair,
Distinguished colleagues,**

According to the ATO Headquarters, since February 15, Russia-backed militants have shelled Ukrainian positions over **6747** times. **164** Ukrainian military have been killed and **919** wounded as a result of shelling and attacks since February 15. Since the beginning of ATO, Ukraine lost **1695** military and **6892** were wounded.

On-going intense fighting takes place in Shyrokyne near Mariupol. We strongly condemn the escalation in Shyrokyne and urge the Russian Federation to exert influence on its proxies to halt armed provocations allowing to resume 24/7 OSCE monitoring in the village. In Donetsk region, militants continuously attacked the Donetsk airport, Mar'inika,

Krasnohorivka, Avdiyivka, Pisky, Svitlodarsk, Opytne, Vodyane, Tonenke, Popasna, etc. In Luhansk oblast, they targeted Krymske, Sokol'nyky, Stanytsya Luhanska, Zolote, Schastya etc.

Over the last two weeks pro-Russian fighters in Donbas shelled positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and civilian areas across the contact line 875 times using heavy armoured vehicles, 120-mm mortars, heavy artillery of 122-mm calibre and MLRS «Grad» that must have been withdrawn under the Minsk agreements.

We remain deeply worried about the disastrous impact of ceasefire violations on the civilian population. The SMM continues to provide reporting that demonstrates the failure of Russia and the militants it backs to comply with the commitments they made in Minsk. These findings are also confirmed by observations of JCCC.

We note with great concern the SMM information of 29 June on a convoy of 25 large (32-ton) civilian trucks escorted by a "DPR" military truck at its end in Makiivka ("DPR"-controlled, 7km north-east of Donetsk). All vehicles were heading towards Donetsk city. At least two of the trucks had Russian Federation license plates, and the majority of the trucks had their license plates covered. The trucks were moving slowly and their cargo compartments were covered with canvas, therefore they seemed to be carrying heavy loads, but SMM could not see the nature of the cargo. Yet we all realize that to sustain the intensity of cease-fire violations the militants require a steady resupply of ammunition from Russia.

Moreover, Russia continues its breaches of the Ukrainian airspace. Contrary to the Minsk agreements drones are used heavily, including almost daily cases when they are launched from the Russian territory. In June alone Ukraine's ATO Forces along with the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine have observed 316 UAVs used by the Russian Armed Forces and Russia-backed terrorists to conduct reconnaissance of Ukraine's positions as well as Ukraine's state border with Russia.

We urge Russia to immediately halt its violations of the airspace of Ukraine, to guarantee no repetition of the above-mentioned unlawful activities and to contribute to restoring security, trust and confidence in the OSCE region by implementing in good faith the relevant OSCE politico-military instruments.

Madam Chair,

Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian state border is an integral part of a sustainable political solution, which fully upholds OSCE principles, and re-establishes Ukrainian control over its sovereign territory, including the border. We regret that the militants continue to prevent the SMM from gaining full access to the border areas. We call on Russia to use its influence on the pro-Russian illegal armed groups to ensure the SMM has unfettered access and the necessary security conditions to permit full and effective monitoring of areas of Ukraine's border not currently under its control.

Ukraine insists on the importance of implementation of paragraph 4 of the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014 - ensure permanent monitoring on the Ukrainian-Russian state border and verification by the OSCE, together with the creation of a security area in the border regions.

I will conclude by reiterating our commitment to and call for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements by all signatories, including Russia, as the only way forward towards a sustainable political solution. We urge Russia to back up its political commitments by practical steps which has not yet been the case.

Thank you, Madam Chair.