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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 775-th FSC Plenary Meeting

(17 December 2014 at 10.30, Hofburg)

Mr. Chairman,

Since it is the last regular plenary meeting of the Forum for Security and Co-operation before the winter recess let me first of all express sincere appreciation to Monaco for steering the work of this decision-making body of the OSCE in politico-military dimension during the final stage of this FSC annual session. We commend the Monegasque FSC Chairmanship for its high professionalism and dedication shown in adverse circumstances dominated by the crisis in and around Ukraine. We would also like to thank the FSC Chairmanship for their constructive efforts to achieve consensus on the two MC documents adopted earlier this month in Basel.

We warmly welcome the next FSC Chairmanship of Mongolia and wish them every success in guiding our work in the first trimester of 2015. I avail myself of this opportunity to express gratitude to the delegation of Moldova, the outgoing FSC Troika member, for its efforts and commitment in the time, when challenging and threatening scenario started to unfold in and around Ukraine. It gives me also a great pleasure to greet Montenegro as a new member of the FSC Troika.

Distinguished colleagues,

Despite consistent calls from Ukraine and its international partners throughout the third stage of the FSC annual session, the Russian Federation has failed to meet its commitments pursuant to number of OSCE instruments in politico-military dimension; no substantial step was made by the Russian side to enable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine. More and more innocent civilians are paying their lives for irresponsible politico-military adventure of the Russian Federation, aimed at destabilizing Ukraine and undermining its statehood.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine and against European security architecture, of which the OSCE is an essential pillar, cannot be contained unless the Russian Federation understands the costs such illegitimate actions entail. We reiterate our call for ever more concerted efforts and solidarity in stopping the threat to security of all of us.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,

Let me bring to your attention some facts of continuous violations by the pro-Russian terrorist groups, which were registered last week:

-pro-Russian militants continued to ignore the cease-fire regime and increased their fierce attacks on the Donetsk airport. The situation in the city of Donetsk remains extremely tense;

-the militants shelled the settlements of the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts by 23 rounds of mortars, artillery systems and MLRS “GRAD”. A school, several private houses and communications got under attacks. During 5 days 3 Ukrainian military servicemen lost their lives and 12 were wounded;

-the militants using tanks, artillery, grenade launchers, mortars and light weapons attacked the areas near the cities of Debal'tseve, Kryms'ke, Nikishene and Chernuhine. This action left 1 Ukrainian serviceman killed and 5 wounded.

Tragically, the Ukrainian citizens continue to lose their lives. Since April 2014 **4707** Ukrainian people were killed, **10322** wounded. Since the cease-fire started, the positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces have been shelled over 4260 times. **1357** Ukrainian people were killed, over **2800** wounded.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine reiterates its call to the Russian Federation to stop violating imperative norms of international law under the UN Charter, the OSCE Helsinki Final Act and numerous OSCE commitments, bilateral and multilateral agreements, which guarantee Ukraine's territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and non-intervention in its internal affairs.

Taking this opportunity I want to once again call on the Russian Federation to remove without delay its troops from the sovereign territory of Ukraine and resume the return to Ukraine of its Navy - 10 warships and boats and 7 auxiliary vessels which the Russia still illegally holds, as well as armaments, military equipment and other property, administrative documentation and personal records of the Ukrainian Naval Forces. Ukraine is prepared to restart relevant contacts at the earliest possibility. To date Ukraine's 19 aircraft and helicopters, 172 battle tanks, 2107 motor vehicles, 349 pieces of rocket and artillery armaments, 447 pieces of operational support equipment remain in the occupied Crimea.

On December 15 the Annual Exchange of Military Information took place in Hofburg. Despite Russia's ongoing aggression and military support to illegal armed groups in the east of Ukraine, our country has submitted in a timely manner its information in pursuance of the Vienna Document and Global Exchange of Military Information. Due to the objective circumstances Ukraine's submissions do not include information concerning the above referenced armaments and military equipment.

We note that the Russian Federation included into its year's submission in accordance with Vienna Document Russia's military forces that illegally occupied the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which remain an integral part of Ukraine.

We note that the increase in the occupied Crimea of the numbers of Russia's armaments and military equipment further undermine confidence, international peace, security and stability, including in the Black Sea region.

The Ukrainian Delegation emphasizes that the troops, armaments and military equipment which the Russian Federation has been deploying on Ukraine's territory without host nation consent, constitute a flagrant breach of the international law, as well as of the OSCE founding principles.

Mr. Chairman,

Numerous attempts throughout the year to use the FSC mandate and the existing politico-military toolbox to the full extent were undercut as the situation on the ground has been further escalating, threatening not only Ukraine and its people but also the whole European security architecture. At this final FSC meeting in 2014 we once again urge the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of the fundamental OSCE principles, to respect

sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, to reverse annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Russia must immediately halt exporting terrorism to Ukraine and stop interference into internal affairs of my country. We demand the Russian Federation to back up its declarations with practical meaningful deeds of de-escalation, which has not yet happened.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.