

Conference on Disarmament

1 February 2017

Original: English

Note Verbale dated 31 January 2017, transmitting a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 30 January 2017

The Delegation of Ukraine to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Conference H.E. Mr. Michael Møller and has the honour to transmit herewith the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 30 January 2017, concerning the recent sharp increase of massive attacks by the Russian-terrorist forces in Donbas, which has led, in particular, to 8 Ukrainian soldiers killed and 26 wounded.

The delegation of Ukraine would highly appreciate if this Statement could be issued as an official document of the CD and circulated to all Member States and observer States of the Conference.

The Delegation of Ukraine to the Conference on Disarmament avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the CD and the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.

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Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the deteriorating situation in Donbas

1. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry expresses deep concern over the intensification of the Russian-terrorist forces in Donbas.
 2. For the last two days, the Russian occupation forces carried out massive attacks across the contact line using all available weapons, including MLRS "Grad", artillery of 152 mm and 122 mm, mortars of 120 and 82 mm, tanks, all prohibited by the Minsk agreements, and small arms. The Russian weapons killed 8 Ukrainian soldiers and left 26 wounded.
 3. Civilians suffer because of the shelling of the residential areas: 2 civilians have been wounded. The cities of Yasinovata and Avdiivka were fully cut off from electricity by shelling. More than 400,000 peaceful civilians in the region have no access to water, electricity and heating. Given the harsh weather conditions and the continuing shelling by the militants, the humanitarian situation in the area continues to deteriorate.
 4. Such actions of the Kremlin may qualify as a war crime, a gross violation of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, an unlawful, wanton and extensive destruction of property not justified by military necessity.
 5. Obviously, the current escalation in Donbas is a clear indication of Russia's continued blatant disregard of its commitments under the Minsk agreements with a view of preventing the stabilization of the situation and achieving any progress in the security and humanitarian spheres.
 6. We demand from the Russian Federation to cease hostilities immediately and to comply strictly with the ceasefire.
 7. We request our international partners to step up political and diplomatic pressure on the Kremlin to stop dangerous escalation in Donbas and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe in the region.
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