



DELEGATION OF
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**Statement by Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna at the 1193rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in response to the statements by Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group and Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
(19 July 2018)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan, SMM Chief Monitor and Ambassador Martin Sajdik, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, back to the Permanent Council and thank them for their comprehensive reports. We reiterate our strong support to the activities of SMM and TCG.

Yesterday at the Economic and Environmental committee meeting dedicated to the theme of “environmental impact and risks in crisis situations” we were able to get acquainted with work of SMM in detail. It was very important to hear from Ambassador Apakan about existing environmental threats, which present serious risks to civilians in Eastern Ukraine. Active engagement of SMM in facilitating operations of the Donetsk Water Filtration Station (DFS), including the access of “Voda Donbassa” water company employees to the DFS, and monitoring the adherence to the ceasefire from nearby areas is significant. The tremendous work done by SMM regarding the DFS was also acknowledged by UNICEF representative during the second committee meeting yesterday.

We do highly value cooperation of SMM with the Office of the Coordinator for economic and environmental activities and OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. We were particularly glad to hear about appointment of environmental adviser and plans related to environmental focal points in SMM monitoring teams.

In the same vein, we appreciate close cooperation of SMM with TCG Economic Working Group on the projects on early warning.

Kazakhstan fully endorses the activities of the Trilateral Contact Group and its working groups on implementing confidence-building measures in four areas that they are covering.

We commend the work of the Working group on Security issues which resulted in Adoption of a Statement by the Trilateral Contact Group on a “Harvest Ceasefire” on 27 June 2018. In this regard, we welcome reduction in the number of

cease fire violations that has occurred since recommitment to the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine, which came into effect shortly after midnight on 1 July 2018.

However, we are seriously concerned about the fact that during reporting period sides continued to fail to adhere to a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire and fully withdraw heavy weapons including all three disengagement areas, which resulted in alarming number of civilian casualties. In this regard, we call the sides to ensure the respect for and protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure such as the DFS. We believe that full withdrawal of heavy weapons, foremost from hotspots and populated areas, should be a priority action and remains a critical step towards reducing human suffering and a sustainable ceasefire.

Moreover, SMM has recently reported on restrictions of the freedom of movement of monitors and other impediments to the fulfillment of its mandate. The presence of mines and unexploded ordnance in populated areas continued to present a severe threat to civilians, as well as to the SMM's safety and freedom of movement. Cases such as in Petrivske, when an armed member of the armed formations forced an SMM monitor to drive over a section of a road containing an anti-tank mine should never happen again.

We call for full, safe and unhindered access for the SMM monitors throughout Ukraine since full transparency in the conflict zone is an essential requirement for confidence building. We condemn any threats against SMM monitors and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Missile fire and small-arms in their proximity are unacceptable.

We welcome the reuse of the long-range UAVs at night time by SMM during the reporting period. In this regard, we appreciate regular informal briefings by SMM organized in Vienna.

We remain supportive of the work of SMM, for a time being, in addition to existing SMM monitors from Kazakhstan, application of several candidates from our country are screened by OSCE Human Resources Department and we hope that these skilled candidates will be enrolled to SMM soon.

We recognize the importance of the Minsk agreements in the process of settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, and constantly call for compliance with these agreements as the only currently available mechanism for the peaceful settlement.

We believe that for the continuation of a constructive negotiation process it is necessary to hold meetings of conflicting sides on a regular basis. Kazakhstan is ready to make all possible inputs in a sake of peace, including in the framework of non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

It should be noted that a strong political will remains a key precondition to settle the crisis.

In conclusion, Ambassador Apakan and Ambassador Sajdik, we greatly appreciate your outstanding work and excellent cooperation as you jointly contribute to the achievement of settlement of the crisis in and around Ukraine. I wish you a success in carrying out your important missions.

I thank you.