Security Council

Briefing on Ukraine

5 May 2015

Talking Points

Mr. President,

We thank Under-Secretary General, Mr. Herve Ladsous and Deputy Monitor of OSCE Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Mr. Alexader Hug for their briefings on recent developments in the situation in Ukraine.

We are deeply disturbed with the evolving turn of events in Eastern Ukraine.

The cease-fire brokered in Minsk seemed, in general, to be holding, despite difficulties, persistent killings and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, as described in the late report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

However, the large scale military operations of the last few days represent a real setback to the expectations we nourished for the consolidation of the cease-fire, as a first step to tangible progress towards a sustainable peace settlement in Ukraine.

As we stated in previous occasions that this issue was brought to the attention of the Security Council, we reiterate the inalienable right of Ukraine to its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter; we also reaffirm our principled opposition to threats or the use of force as a means of solving disputes among States.

Thus, we call for the immediate cessation of hostilities, for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements, for the withdrawal of heavy weapons and foreign military fighters from Ukraine; we further call upon the facilitation of access for OSCE special Monitoring Mission to monitor and verify full compliance with the Minsk Agreements.

Too much bloodshed has been spilled and too senseless human suffering has already been endured by the Ukrainian people. We urge a halt to the conflict; we urge the strict respect for international commitments agreed under international guarantees, in order that the people of Ukraine is allowed to live in peace, freedom and security.

Thank you, Mr. President.