**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR APAKAN
As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 18 September 2014

Mr Chairman,

The Special Monitoring Mission is playing a crucial role in our efforts to help de-escalate the situation in Ukraine. The Mission operates in a challenging – sometimes even dangerous – environment. We therefore highly value that Ambassador Apakan himself regularly reports to the Permanent Council.

Mr Chairman,

The SMM has had to tackle a highly volatile situation with escalated fighting, the downing of Malaysia Airlines MH17, increasing Russian support to the separatists, and direct Russian military intervention.

After the signing of the Minsk protocol, the mission now faces challenging new tasks and a major expansion. The SMM will succeed only if we – all 57 – provide the mission with the necessary resources. In order for us to do so, we need detailed information, including on budgetary requirements. We understand that a detailed plan will be presented shortly. We will consider it carefully.

Mr Chairman,

Ceasefire violations and severe security threats to SMM observers are deeply disturbing. We welcome Ambassador Apakan's emphasis on security. To enable us

to contribute, we need a better understanding of the security challenges the SMM faces and how they can be met. We therefore call on the SMM to provide regular updates regarding the security situation on the ground.

Mr Chairman,

As the SMM is recruiting new monitors, we are doing our best to nominate suitable candidates. In order for the SMM to recruit the necessary number of people with the right qualifications, all 57 participating States need to contribute. Bearing in mind the underrepresentation of some countries in the SMM, we propose that the CPC consider creating a voluntary fund for candidates from countries with few or no observers. This could facilitate quicker deployment of observers with the appropriate qualifications.

Thank you, Mr Chairman