



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON UKRAINE  
As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 4 June 2015

Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Latvia on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Chairman,

We have recently received a very alarming report from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Eastern Ukraine. This includes serious human rights violations, including intimidation and harassment of the local population in the areas controlled by the separatists. Cases of summary executions and torture and ill-treatment in detention are documented. There are also reports of cases of illegal deprivation of liberty, forced labour, looting, ransom demands and extortion of money in these areas. This lack of rule of law affects all citizens.

The situation in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea is also of grave concern. Arrests, ill-treatment, torture and intimidation continue against political opponents of the occupying regime, primarily against the Crimean Tatars. The rights to freedom of expression, assembly and religion are restricted. There is no access to justice for victims and no accountability for perpetrators.

Mr Chairman,

There are also accounts of torture and ill-treatment in detention committed by Ukrainian armed forces.

We condemn all cases of human rights violations and urge all parties to respect the principles of human rights, international humanitarian law and the rule of law.

Mr Chairman,

Let me now turn to two issues related to the implementation of the Minsk Package.

First, the self-styled leader of the self-declared “People’s Republic of Donetsk”, Mr. Alexander Zakharchenko, recently again made statements to the effect that the “DPR” has territorial designs on the Ukrainian city of Mariupol. Furthermore, Mr.

Zakharchenko stated that the “DPR” would resort to force if they would not be able to expand their territory solely by political means.

Mr. Chairman,

This is not the first time Mr. Zakharchenko has made statements threatening further expansion of the “DPR”. Such statements are dangerous and can only contribute to a further escalation on the ground. Mr. Zakharchenko needs to be reminded of the commitments the “DPR” has made related to the implementation of the Minsk agreements. Given its relationship with the “DPR”, the Russian Federation bears a special responsibility to make sure he is reminded.

Mr. Chairman,

We are glad that the working groups under the Trilateral Contact Group are now established and that work seems to be under way. One of the tasks for the working group on humanitarian affairs is to secure access for humanitarian actors to the conflict affected areas. However, Russia continues to send so-called humanitarian relief convoys into Ukrainian territory without consultation with or consent from Ukrainian authorities.

Mr. Chairman,

This is not only a clear breach of international humanitarian law, but also of the commitments in the Minsk Package.

If Russia has concern for the civilian population, it should facilitate humanitarian relief through the proper channels.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.