

RUSSIA WELCOMES INDIA'S STAND ON EASTERN UKRAINE SITUATION

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

Show of strength: A warship of the Russian Black Sea fleet during naval drills near the Crimean port of Sevastopol. AFP/AFPAFP | Photo Credit: HANDOUT

The Russian Embassy here on Friday welcomed "India's balanced, principled and independent approach" in response to India's statement at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) welcoming the implementation of the Minsk agreements which, it said, provided a basis for a "negotiated and peaceful settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine." Any steps that "increase tension may best be avoided by all sides", it stated.

Ukraine has accused Russia of ceasefire violations in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk and using weapons prohibited by the Minsk agreements. It stated that their armed forces "strictly adhere to the Minsk agreements and norms of international humanitarian law".

Speaking at the UNSC on the implementation of the Minsk agreements on Ukraine, Permanent Representative of India to the UN T.S. Tirumurti, said, "The well-being of Indian nationals is of priority to us." Welcoming the efforts under way for the implementation of the "Minsk agreements", including through the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) and under the Normandy format, he urged all parties to continue to engage through all possible diplomatic channels and keep working towards the full implementation of the agreements.

"Any steps that increase tension may best be avoided by all sides in the larger interest of securing international peace and security. Quiet and constructive diplomacy is the need of the hour," he stated. "This issue can only be resolved through diplomatic dialogue."

Defensive actions: Kiev

Blaming Russia for the situation in the "temporarily occupied territories", Commander-in-Chief of the Ukraine armed forces Lt. Gen. Valeriy Zaluzhny said, "The armed forces of Ukraine strictly adhere to the Minsk agreements and norms of international humanitarian law, do not plan any offensive operations or shelling of civilians. Our actions are purely defensive."

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