

Chairmanship: Azerbaijan

1003rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 9 March 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 12.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Sadigbayli

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Russian war of aggression against Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/120/22/Rev.1) (FSC.DEL/120/22/Add.1), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 1), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/117/22 OSCE+), United States of America (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/123/22), United Kingdom (Annex 3), Canada (Annex 4), Georgia (Annex 5), Turkey, Lithuania (Annex 6), France-European Union, France, Latvia (Annex 7), Poland, Germany (Annex 8), Austria, Belgium
- (b) *Special military operation to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine*: Russian Federation (Annex 9)

Point of order: Canada, Chairperson, United States of America

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Announcing and Reminding Mechanism pursuant to FSC Decision No. 10/02:
Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 16 March 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video
teleconference



1003rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(a)

STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The delegation of France, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

Mr. Chairperson,

President Putin recently stated that his war against Ukraine, or, in his Orwellian formulation, “the special military operation”, was proceeding “according to plan”. Let us look more deeply into this revealing statement.

The European Union and its Member States are deeply concerned about what this “plan” is covering. Does it aim at the following:

- Bombing the densely populated Kyiv at 4 o’clock in the morning on the first day of the invasion and continuing to do so in blatant disregard of civilian lives and the basic principles of international humanitarian law?
- Reducing Ukrainian cities like Kharkiv and Mariupol to rubble, reminiscent of long forgotten images in Europe?
- Misusing the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone for military purposes and attacking the largest nuclear power plant in Europe?
- Having hundreds of Ukrainian civilians killed and thousands wounded and traumatized, including children, while targeting and devastating, including with indiscriminate use of cluster munition and thermobaric bombs, civilian infrastructure and hospitals, and attacking people on the run as it was the case in Irpin or Mariupol?
- Causing the unnecessary death of or severe injuries to thousands of soldiers and combatants?
- Forcing millions of people in Ukraine to desperately flee their homes in search of safe shelter?

Did the Russian leadership consider the economic consequences for its own population we had been incessantly warning of? The Russian rouble is nosediving and hundreds of international companies are leaving Russia not only because of sanctions, but mostly because they do not want to do business with this aggressor State killing innocent people.

Mr. Chairperson, our position is and remains unambiguous. The European Union and its Member States condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter, and undermines international security and stability. The Lukashenka regime allowed the use of Belarusian territory for the attack against Ukraine and thus became a co-aggressor under international law. We demand that Russia immediately cease its military operations, withdraw all its troops and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders. Sheer force cannot be allowed to trample over law, democratic values and choices and the basic sense of morality and reason.

We stand in full solidarity with Ukrainians at this dramatic and tragic juncture. We resolutely support Ukraine's inherent right to self-defence, and the Ukrainian armed forces' efforts to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and population in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. We applaud their heroic resistance in the fight for preserving their independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, democracy and dignity.

We underscore that abidance by international humanitarian law, notably the Geneva conventions, is simply not optional – full stop. The establishment of humanitarian corridors providing protection and safe passage for civilians through local ceasefires is urgent. We strongly condemn Russia for impeding the opening of safe corridors, as well as for targeting civilians who are fleeing the battlegrounds. Ukrainian and UN humanitarian agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), medical personnel, and non-governmental assistance providers must be guaranteed safe, rapid and unimpeded access to people in need throughout the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We are particularly grateful for the ICRC's efforts in this context and recall that its emblems are protected under international humanitarian law and must not be misused.

Mr. Chairperson, originally we planned for this week to focus on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in a joint session with the Permanent Council. As “business as usual” is not an option presently, we wish to pay tribute to the courage and strength of Ukrainian women standing up against the war and oppression brought to their country by those in the Kremlin obsessed with the ideas of gathering “historic lands”.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable in situations of conflict and displacement. Hence it is of utmost importance to protect them against sexual violence, trafficking and other forms of exploitation, in particular from the occupational forces, as required by international humanitarian law.

We want to express our utmost respect to the women affected. To the women forced to seek shelter in basements, bomb shelters and metro stations. The women struggling to protect their homes, livelihoods and families under the harsh conditions of war. Women like

OSCE staff member Maryna Fenina, who was killed while waiting for medicines for her disabled brother.

With over 15 per cent of the armed forces being women, they take an active part in the defence of their country with unwavering determination. We pay tribute to their role in the heroic Ukrainian resistance to the ongoing Russian aggression. Iryna Tsvila was a member of the National Guard of Ukraine. She and her husband were killed on 25 February when stopping Russian armoured combat vehicles from entering Kyiv. Iryna was a mother of five children. She said that she was fighting so that her children and grandchildren would live in a free Ukraine.

In Russia, too, women of all ages stand against this unprovoked folly unleashed by President Putin. Lyudmila Vasilyeva, an 81-year-old who lived through the siege of Leningrad, protested against Russia's war in Ukraine. The Russian police took her into custody. They also arrested children between the ages of 7 and 11 for leaving flowers at the Ukrainian embassy in Moscow. We are aghast at the lawlessness that Russia employs in unconvincingly covering up the truth about its invasion of Ukraine. But this truth will come out in Russia as it has everywhere else. In fact, it is already coming out.

President Putin may speak for the official Russia, but certainly not for the Russian people. Despite all the darkness, there is a glimmer of hope. Every day since the start of the invasion we have been witnessing people protesting against this war, all around the world, but most importantly in Russia and Belarus where such protests carry serious personal risks for those involved. Only last Sunday about 5,000 people were detained during such protests. We stand in solidarity with the Russians saying “нет войне” (no to war) and condemn the violent crackdown on peaceful, anti-war protests and independent media as well as the widespread use of disinformation and propaganda by the Russian authorities and its affiliated media and proxies trying to justify an unjustifiable military aggression. “Нет войне” (no to war) or “нет войны” (there is no war) – two narratives in Russia, the latter of which is becoming increasingly absurd by the minute.

Mr. Chairperson, the European Union and its Member States wish to stress the importance of accountability for what is happening in Ukraine. We welcome the measures taken by the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Court and the Human Rights Council in this regard. Moreover, last week, 45 participating States, including all 27 EU Member States with the support of Ukraine, invoked the OSCE Moscow Mechanism in light of our grave concerns regarding the human rights and humanitarian impacts of Russia's invasion and the possibility of war crimes and crimes against humanity. There is no doubt. In today's digitalized world such crimes cannot be hidden. All those responsible will be held accountable for what they did, including the involved military commanders.

In conclusion, we reiterate our demand to immediately stop this senseless war of aggression. The whole world is watching and demanding the same. The vote at the UN General Assembly last week with the result 141 to 5 speaks volumes.

Thank you.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, and Albania¹, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



1003rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We wish to register our disappointment that a joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council was not held today. A joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council would have been the appropriate level at which to address the premeditated, unprovoked, and unjustified war of aggression Russia is waging against Ukraine, which is the only issue on the Organization's agenda at this critical time. My ambassador will address this issue in all its aspects in the Permanent Council tomorrow, as he did in the special Permanent Council meeting earlier this week, and all those before it.

The joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council was scheduled to discuss women, peace and security to coincide with International Women's Day on 8 March before the meeting was cancelled. It is indeed difficult to broach this topic when today, there is no peace and no security for the women of Ukraine. Sadly, tragedy has touched our OSCE family first-hand when we lost one of our own: Maryna Fenina, a Ukrainian member of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission was killed on 1 March when Russian forces shelled Kharkiv. Maryna died while standing in line to obtain medicine for her disabled brother – another civilian victim among the hundreds who have needlessly lost their lives.

We would like to take a moment to pay tribute to the women of Ukraine who are full, equal and meaningful participants in their nation's stand against Russia's aggression and for the preservation of their freedom and democracy. We have seen so many profiles in courage among our Ukrainian sisters – from the babushka in the southern Ukrainian town of Henichesk, who famously told Russian soldiers to put sunflower seeds in their pockets, to the women in other towns and cities across Ukraine who have volunteered to take up arms and make Molotov cocktails to defend against the invaders. A BBC correspondent dispatched to Dnipro quoted a young teacher as she assembled a Molotov cocktail saying, "No one thought this is how we'd spend our weekend, but it seems like the only important thing to do now ... It's pretty terrifying." Another courageous woman, a Ukrainian MP who is sheltering in her basement with her family, told the BBC Women's Hour how she had been trained to use an assault rifle to defend herself and her country. There were now tens of thousands of women in Ukraine prepared, she said, "to fight for their lives."

And fight for their lives is what they are doing. Let us recall that one of the pillars of “women, peace and security” is “protection.” The abject suffering caused by Russia’s inhumane war of aggression affects countless women and girls, and vulnerable populations, including the elderly and persons with disabilities. We will never forget the harrowing image of little girls cowering in an improvised bomb shelter in the Kyiv metro as Russian shellfire exploded overhead. An image replicated a thousand times across Ukraine in the basements of Mariupol, Kharkiv, and other towns and cities. Nor will we forget the mother who was killed by mortar fire along with her children while trying to cross from Irpin into Kyiv last weekend. Or the hundreds of thousands of refugees flooding into neighbouring countries, a tide that has now surpassed more than two million souls, mostly women and children, as their partners, fathers, and brothers stay behind to fight.

We are starting to see reports of sexual and gender-based violence. Sexual and gender-based violence in conflict is not an inevitable outcome of war; it is a crime and perpetrators will be held accountable.

Nor can we forget the suffering of Russian mothers. Before it became a criminal offence to publish such material, Novaya Gazeta carried an interview with the mother of one young conscript from the Saratov region of Russia whose son had been killed in Ukraine the day before his 22nd birthday. She had no body to bury, she told the reporter, “They said that the body would not be given out until everything was over, so as to not raise a panic.”

Discussion of women, peace and security should also encompass the role of women as peacebuilders and the need to support women in post-conflict and rehabilitation efforts. But that is for another day. For now, we rightly focus on those women participating in the defence of their country and their democracy, and on the plight of the defenceless who need our protection.

I know my Russian colleague will say that their stories have no place in this Forum, that they are outside its “politico-military” mandate of the FSC. But Russia cannot silence them – these women bear witness to the truth of the humanitarian toll of Russia’s aggression.

Allow me to echo the call by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Liliana Palihovici yesterday, “On International Women’s Day, the best reward for the women of the world would be to stop this pointless war. This would signal that the right to a safe life for all women and men can be restored. Today, when war is a threat to the life and security of all, women’s voices must be heard and taken into account.”

Let us be clear, this is no Russian “special military operation” in Ukraine – it is a bloodbath. There is no euphemism for human suffering. My Russian counterpart cannot dismiss these human stories as “hysterical.” I remind you that on 23 February, when we last met in this Forum on the eve of Russia’s invasion, he disparaged our warnings as an “orgy of propagandistic hysteria.” He assured us that Russia would “never” invade Ukraine. He either lied or was not informed. Now, no amount of deflection or projection can hide the truth. These women and girls bear witness. We will not listen to the propagandists of a bankrupt regime – morally, and now financially, bankrupt.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1009

9 March 2022

Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1003rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

This statement is delivered under the topic raised by Ukraine and I request that this be accurately reflected in the journal of the day.

Mr. Chairperson,

Two weeks ago we sat in this Forum and, on what we now know was the eve of Russia's premeditated and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, our Russian colleagues proclaimed the world had nothing to be concerned about, that there was no war, that there would be no invasion, and that it was all Western anti-Russian hysteria. How we wish that were true.

Because if it were true, we would not now be witnessing the shocking and barbaric indiscriminate attacks being conducted by Russian forces, that are resulting in the deaths of innocent civilians, including children.

However, to their great shame, our esteemed Russian colleagues were lying. They lied to us, the world and to the Russian people. We have endured their lies and disinformation since we first raised concerns back in November and called on Russia to explain its build-up of forces. I would humbly ask my Russian colleague to not participate in this lie any longer, and to remember the words of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in *The Gulag Archipelago*: "The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie – one word of truth outweighs the world."

Mr. Chairperson,

This was not a clever military deception, and there was no "maskirovka" in what Russia did. Russia's plan seems to have been horrifyingly simple: It chose brawn over brains. In less than two weeks, Russia's reputation for military intellectualism has been wiped out and replaced by brutal, egregious violations of international law, including the law of armed conflict.

Russia has repeatedly claimed, including today, that it is not conducting missile or artillery strikes against civilians or civilian targets – I think the innocent men, women and children trapped, injured and killed in Ukraine’s cities would strongly disagree.

In the two weeks since the conflict began, reports indicate that Russia has used: multi-launch rocket systems, Iskander ballistic missiles, artillery, air-to-ground attack, main battle tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and tens of thousands of troops to attack all the major Ukrainian cities, civilian infrastructure and residential areas, hospitals, ports and even foreign commercial flagged shipping in the Black Sea. It has unleashed a horrendous amount of violence on the Ukrainian people.

The Ukrainian people’s response in the defence of their homeland against a foreign invasion has been stoic, united and defiant. From President Zelenskyy’s leadership from Kyiv to the thousands upon thousands of Ukrainians who have volunteered to join the territorial defence, their displays of courage, determination, and resolve will go down in history.

Meanwhile, unconscionably, Russian forces have attacked Europe’s largest nuclear power station. This attack could have changed the course of history. We are grateful to the Ukrainian authorities who got the fire under control. We are relieved that they have reported that no radioactive material was released and that the Zaporizhzhia’s safety systems are unaffected.

This is the first time that any State has attacked a fuelled and functioning nuclear power plant in flagrant disregard of international law and the special protection for nuclear facilities. It must never happen again. And Russia must restore full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine to the competent Ukrainian authorities.

Russia has claimed the war is going to plan, but no one would plan for what we are witnessing today. No one plans for such catastrophic losses of their own troops, tanks, armoured combat vehicles, aircraft and helicopters. Over the weekend, President Putin passed laws which further restrict the freedoms of the Russian people and media. The Russian State is attempting to minimize coverage of the conflict and hide the impact of its invasion from the Russian people. President Putin and his military leadership have made the most severe miscalculations, which they will need to answer for.

The United Kingdom, along with many others, repeatedly warned that any Russian military incursion into Ukraine would be a massive strategic mistake and would come at a severe cost. We will make the Russian Government pay the price of its actions. The United Kingdom stands with the Ukrainian people. And we are joined in our outrage by friends and allies around the world. We will work with our partners – for however long it takes – to ensure that the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine is restored. We will continue to support Ukraine, our friends, in their fight for their homeland.

Thank you. And I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



1003rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Two weeks ago tonight, the Russian Federation initiated a large-scale, multi-domain invasion of its neighbour Ukraine. We knew Russia's true intentions, we knew that Belarus was not being truthful, and now, here we are, with the truth obvious to the entire world. This was a deliberate and premeditated attack on a neighbouring country, with the stated intent of destroying a neighbouring State, denying its right to exist.

Russia continues to attempt to convince us that they are not targeting civilians in its "special military operation", but we should be very clear. This is not some limited military activity, it is war. Russia is waging full-scale conventional war against its sovereign neighbour. Nobody believes that it is anything other than what it is, war. A war that is seeing escalating use of indiscriminate violence by Russian forces and the introduction of banned munitions such as cluster munitions into residential neighbourhoods.

Russia has used almost the entire spectrum of its conventional capabilities, including ground forces, theatre-launched missile systems, heavy bombers, naval bombardment, amphibious assault ships and troops, airborne assault troops, and special operations forces.

However, in the face of this unimaginable adversity the courage of the Ukrainian people is now undeniable, and they remain resolute in their desire to be a free, democratic country, in control of their own destiny.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia has launched the largest war in Europe in generations. Remarkably, here at the OSCE Russia continues to peddle the fabrication that it had no intention of military action against Ukraine, which is clearly a blatant lie. A lie intended to support an aggressive disinformation campaign, designed to hide this heinous act of aggression by Russia from the Russian people in a veneer of falsehoods and fabricated pretexts. By imposing draconian responses against anti-war protests in Russian cities, detaining thousands, and threatening any media that reports anything that has not been sanctioned by the Kremlin, Russia affirms its fear that ordinary Russians will discover they have been sold a lie. But, as is always the case, people will eventually find the truth.

The facts of the matter remain, Ukraine has done nothing to provoke or instigate this conflict. Ukraine is not the aggressor. Quite the contrary. As Chief Monitor Çevik had previously reported, in the lead up to the Russia's full-scale invasion, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine did not observe any unusual military activity west of the line of contact. There was no threat to the people of Donbas, Russia manufactured it. Russia created a fake threat, a fake refugee crisis, and a fake need to "intervene".

Everyone in this chamber, and in fact, in the world, can see through the veneer. Nobody believes the lies.

Despite the overwhelming evidence emerging through a myriad of sources, Russia continues to attempt to convince the rest of the world that they are not targeting civilian populations. Frankly, this is an insult to this chamber and to the memories of hundreds of people who have been killed at the hands of Russian air strikes, indiscriminate artillery shelling, and multiple-launch rocket system strikes over the last 13 days. Entire families have been killed. Countless videos have emerged of residential neighbourhoods being shelled or hit by missiles. Russia cannot hide from the truth. They are shelling residential neighbourhoods and the whole world has watched it. Perhaps Russia can hide this truth from its own people, but they will see through the lies, Russia should know that rest of the world can see the truth. Assertions from the Russian Federation that they are not shelling residential neighbourhoods are a complete lie. To quote a CNN reporter, who was reporting live Monday from a bombed out neighbourhood in Irpin, a suburb of Kiev: "Russia says it is only striking military targets, but there is no military activity around here for miles, just people's now destroyed homes. Either Russia is really bad at aiming, or they just don't care."

Mr. Chairperson,

There is a humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, that is a fact. What is also a fact, is that the crisis is the direct result of the Russian invasion. Nothing else. That is it. There has been a massive flow of refugees, now more than 1.7 million people, who have crossed over the border into neighbouring countries, they are scared, they are running for their lives. Why are they scared? Why are they running? The answer is simple, they are scared of Russian bombing and artillery, they are running from invading Russian forces. They are proud Ukrainians, Ukraine is their home, and now they are refugees all because of Russia. That is it. They are running from you. If Russia had not invaded their sovereign country, there would be no humanitarian crisis. If you want to solve the humanitarian crisis, the answer is equally simple. Cease your aggressive military action. Stop the war. Withdraw your troops and equipment back to Russia, where it belongs and all of these people will be able to return to their homes. Or at least, whatever is left of their homes after Russian forces have shelled it.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is worth recalling that in previous years we have marked International Women's Day during this particular Forum for Security Co-operation meeting, and while we are focusing our statement this week on Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, we should recall that women remain disproportionately affected by the horrors of war. In the 13 days since Russia's brutal invasion of its sovereign neighbour, we have seen countless scenes of women and children being forced from their homes, while enduring the horrors of

indiscriminate shelling, or air raids. We know that brave Ukrainian women serving in the Ukrainian armed forces are, along with their fellow soldiers, making the ultimate sacrifice upon the altar of freedom, and we know that mothers and grandmothers are living in fear that their children will become victims of this senseless war. This is the face of full-spectrum conflict, it spans all of society, touches every home, and affects every person. This is the direct result of Russia's choice of violence and aggression instead of dialogue and peace.

In these difficult and uncertain times we must remain faithful to the truth. And the truth is that the Russian Federation is waging a violent and unjust war against Ukraine. A war that was planned within full view of the OSCE participating States. A war that was prepared and initiated while Russia and Belarus flouted confidence-building mechanisms, and ridiculed attempts to increase transparency and build trust. The trust is now broken. There never was transparency. It was all a grand illusion, a facade, designed to mask preparations for the violence we are now witnessing.

Canada reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have, and will be, along with our allies and partners, continuing to forcefully and collectively respond to these reckless and dangerous acts. We join the chorus of nations all around the world in reiterating that we stand with Ukraine.

Slava Ukraini!



1003rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered under agenda item 1(a) raised by Ukraine.

We align with the statement delivered by the European Union delegation. However, allow me to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Georgia once again strongly condemns Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine in blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act.

According to the United Nations data, over 2 million Ukrainians have been uprooted and fled to the neighbouring countries in search of shelter, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainian cities, towns and settlements are continuously being subjected to massive and indiscriminate bombing and shelling by the occupying forces. The number of civilian casualties is rising by the day. We are appalled by the Russian forces' direct strikes on civilian infrastructure and attacks on journalists and medical staff, and reports of rape. International humanitarian law is unambiguous when it comes to deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians or civilian objects. These attacks must stop immediately.

The horrific crimes that Russia is committing under a false pretext cannot go unpunished. Georgia is sparing no effort to support Ukraine on this matter, both here at the OSCE and within all other relevant international organizations and bodies.

In order to help alleviate the humanitarian suffering caused by Russia's aggression, Georgia dispatched a second cargo of humanitarian aid to Ukraine over the past weekend. Our support will continue.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have been following the developments related to Ukraine's nuclear power plants with great alarm. We reiterate our call on Russia to immediately cease military action around the nuclear sites, withdraw all its troops and allow the Ukrainians unimpeded control of their

facilities. Georgia supports the IAEA's efforts to stabilize the situation and avert a nuclear accident that would have catastrophic consequences for the entire continent.

Mr. Chairperson,

Georgia reiterates its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas, and Ukraine's navigational rights in its territorial waters.

We call on Russia to immediately, completely and without preconditions cease aggression, withdraw all its forces and armaments from the whole territory of Ukraine, and to allow immediate, safe and unfettered access to all international humanitarian and human rights mechanisms.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1009

9 March 2022

Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

1003rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. However, in support of our Ukrainian colleagues, allow me also to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Everything that was just said by the Russian delegation is a pack of shameful lies. The talking points used by the head of the Russian delegation may be suitable for his interviews with Russian propaganda outlets, but not at the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). Stop using this format to spread your lies – nobody in this room or participating in the meeting remotely believes them, nor does anyone outside the Hofburg premises.

Even the people of Russia do not swallow them. Some Russian citizens are displaying courage and taking to the streets to protest against their country's war of aggression against Ukraine. But many are afraid to join anti-war protests, as they could be detained and face long-term imprisonment. Many of them are also victims of your lies and propaganda. However, once they find out that their loved ones are not returning home – and so far the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine has reported at least 12,000 Russian soldiers killed in action – they will all come to the authorities in Russia and ask some legitimate questions.

Your lies cannot hide the truth. It is a well-established fact, and we are also seeing this happening on the ground with our own eyes, that Russia is the aggressor, Belarus is its accomplice and Ukraine is the victim. A sovereign democratic State is now being attacked by the two non-democratic regimes in its neighbourhood.

The entire international community stands by Ukraine and continues to support the Ukrainian Government and the Ukrainian people in the face of Russia's war of aggression against and invasion of Ukraine.

Therefore, please stop lying about your so-called "special military operation in Ukraine". Last week, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty published a very good infographic on Twitter showing that all wars and acts of aggression by Russia since the invasion of Poland in September 1939 were always referred to as some sort of "special operation"

(<https://twitter.com/RFERL/status/1499388988460785666?s=20&t=uINQ3JbzwSFCBfqjSrWZsA>).

Russia's playbook remains the same. What is now being done by Russia in Ukraine, with the complicity of Belarus, is a violation of all possible international norms and principles, a shameful war of aggression against Ukraine, and you will not be able to justify these acts, no matter how hard your delegation or your propaganda organs try.

Russia must stop hiding behind the completely ungrounded concept of the so-called "denazification" of Ukraine. Let me put it bluntly: all these instances of indiscriminate shelling and even bombardment of residential areas and other civilian objects in Ukraine, all this mining of roads to be used for humanitarian corridors, all these instances of fire being opened on civilians fleeing the battlegrounds, of people on the run and their homes being looted, of women being raped in the Russian-occupied cities of Ukraine, but also of your own citizens being put behind bars for asking the Russian Government to stop the war and the bloodshed – this is what real Nazism looks like. Indeed, new terms are already emerging to describe what Russia is doing in Ukraine, such as "RashiZm" and "PutiniZm". It is the actions by Russia that need to be denazified.

You will also not manage to gloss over your aggression by using slogans about the "demilitarization" of Ukraine. For a number of years, and especially over the past few months, we have been raising, not least at the FSC, the issue of Russia's unprecedented military build-up near the borders with Ukraine, in the occupied parts of Ukraine and lately also in Belarus. It is your military and your weapons that are killing innocent Ukrainian people, not those of Ukraine. And it is the Russian armed forces that need to be demilitarized. Indeed, as we see it, the defenders of Ukraine are carrying out this demilitarization quite effectively. I should also praise Ukrainian farmers in this regard.

At today's meeting, Russia again complained about our military support for Ukraine. However, Russia is the last country that should be lecturing us and other participating States on how to go about this properly.

In the face of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, Lithuania continues to respond to Ukrainian needs and to provide military support and defence-related assistance to Ukraine. We will carry on doing so, in full compliance with international law, thereby assisting Ukraine to exercise its right to self-defence against Russia's aggression under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Let me also add that when providing defensive weapons to Ukraine before 24 February, our leadership always stressed that "We sincerely hope and wish that there will be no need to use these defensive weapons". Regretfully, this has not proved to be the case.

Having said all this, I must also emphasize that we continue to believe that in Russia and Belarus, including their diplomatic services and permanent missions to the OSCE, there are still brave and reasonable people who do not want to be seen as accomplices in the war crimes committed by Russian forces, assisted by Belarus, in Ukraine.

We continue to encourage them to follow the good example of students at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) who signed an open letter to President Putin calling for this war to be stopped

(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uAiGSF97ysGKbzC3-6qDGNb0xb6xjvHcKChsQtx9Af4/edit?fbclid=IwAR3Q3e9e0kk7bI3Sn38p_iucUqp7DF6rqKOVs7wDnRYZTKJ2muZlxxwD3qs), or that of former Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who called on Russia's diplomats to be "professionals and not cheap propagandists" and to resign in protest at these tragic developments (<https://twitter.com/andreivkozyrev/status/1498713596900958210?s=20&t=yBGTLESr3cBfGnZRUIJCbDQ>).

In closing, I wish to quote the lyrics of a song by a prominent Russian singer and intellectual, Andrei Makarevich, the leader of the band "Mashina Vremeni" ("Time Machine"). The song is entitled "Моя страна сошла с ума", "My country has gone insane", and was written – unless I am mistaken – in 2014, when Russia's aggression against Ukraine started (<https://youtu.be/b2FjeVVftAo>):

"[...]
И что тут делать, и как тут быть,
Если всё отныне верх дном.
Не надо нимбы и крылья растить
Надо просто не быть говном.

И я уверен только в одном
Пришла пора выбирать.
Но если решил не быть говном
И жить легко и умирать.
И жить, и не умирать."

"[...]
What can we do and how should we live
If everything is now a mess and upside down?
There is no need to grow halos or wings –
What matters is simply not to be a piece of s***.

And I am sure of one thing alone:
It is now time to make a choice.
And if you decided not to be a piece of s***,
It will be easy for you to live and to die.
It will be easy for you to live and not to die."

Lithuania remains unwavering in its support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We admire their unity and resolve in defending their homeland. They are now exercising their inherent right to self-defence, and we will continue providing all the necessary support to that end.

Слава Україні! Тримай, Україно! Разом до перемоги!
(Glory to Ukraine! Hold out, Ukraine! Together to victory!)

Thank you.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1009
9 March 2022
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

1003rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Latvia fully aligns itself with the European Union statement. Allow me, however, to add a few remarks in my national capacity and in exercise of our right of reply to the statement delivered earlier by the delegation of the Russian Federation.

Dear colleagues,

It is really disgusting that Russian diplomats are spreading such disinformation about the war in Ukraine and, what is more, very sad that they are choosing to believe these lies. After all, they are privileged in comparison with the rest of Russia's population in that they are living in the free world and are thus in a position to choose between lies and the truth.

Since last Friday, Russia has clamped down harder on the media and on free speech than at any time in Putin's 22 years in power, blocking access to Facebook and major foreign news outlets, and enacting a law to punish anyone spreading "false information" about its invasion of Ukraine with up to 15 years in prison. Let me comment. This step on the part of Russia's president proves that he is afraid of debate with the people of Russia, and clearly understands that he would fail in any free argument. Putin is afraid of the truth.

The truth is that 24 February 2022 will go down in history as the dark day when Russia cynically and brutally attacked its neighbouring State Ukraine. We will remember this day as we remember 22 June 1941, when Ukraine was attacked in a similar way by Nazi Germany. Unprovoked. Unjustified.

In fact, Russia's President Putin has brought the biggest catastrophe of the twenty-first century upon his own country, on his own and upon his own nation. The glory of 9 May 1945 has now been replaced by the shame of 24 February 2022. It will never fade away.

With the help of the world, Ukrainians will rebuild their ruined cities, towns and villages. Ruined by the Russian forces. And Putin's Russia will never again find its place among civilized nations.

President Putin is conducting two wars at the same time – against Ukraine and against the people of Russia. He has deprived Russia of its economy, its relations with the world and its hope for the future. However, President Putin is not the whole of Russia.

Ukraine has a right to sovereignty and territorial integrity. It has a right to self-defence. The Ukrainian people have a right to live in peace. Russia is the only perpetrator of this war.

Let me restate that at this difficult moment Latvia stands united with Ukraine and is continuing to provide political, military and humanitarian support. Latvia reiterates its strongest support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Russia will one day run out of rockets, but the Ukrainians will not run out of their desire to live freely and courage to pursue that goal.

Dear colleagues,

Finally, let me stress that it is absolutely unacceptable for Russian representatives to use the term “denazification” to justify Russia’s war against Ukraine. Last week, following the rocket attack near Babyn Yar in Kyiv by the Russian military on 1 March 2022, the Chief Rabbi of Ukraine addressed the rabbis of Russia, Jews in Russia and all Russians. Rabbi Moshe Reuven Azman recalled that two hundred thousand Jews had perished there during the Second World War in 1941. He condemned the attack on the Holocaust memorial and called on Russia to stop its aggression against Ukraine.

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.

I thank you for your attention.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1009

9 March 2022

Annex 8

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

1003rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

Since my Russian colleague mentioned Germany in his remarks, I should like to exercise my right of reply.

The Russian Ambassador himself said at the Permanent Council on 7 March 2022 that “only facts matter”.

I therefore ask the representative of the Russian Federation to restrict himself to facts in his remarks and not to make any untenable assertions.

It is a fact that the Government of the Russian Federation is waging an unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. There is no mincing the matter. Despite having repeatedly been exhorted in this forum to provide transparency regarding the massing of Russian troops on the Ukrainian border, Russia failed to fulfil that obligation for months on end.

Instead, Mr. Putin decided to make a sudden cold-blooded attack on his peaceful neighbour, who did not pose any threat whatsoever, without any scruples or consideration for the grave humanitarian consequences and immeasurable suffering that he has thereby been inflicting on so many people for almost two weeks now. Russia is now trying to justify this ruthless behaviour in violation of international law by constantly invoking new lies and absurd distortions of reality. However, you must understand that no one is going to fall for that.

For it is a fact that Russia has marched its troops into Ukraine and is thereby creating a new reality over which it is itself trying to draw a veil. Russia is bombarding densely populated cities and attacking hospitals and civilian infrastructure. Russia is blithely letting tanks roll through the Chernobyl exclusion zone and is firing on the largest nuclear power plant in Europe in order to advance its military goals. The sad upshot is that, owing to the Russian invasion, over 400 civilians have already lost their lives; many more have been injured and traumatized; and millions are fleeing, including many women and children.

These actions amount to a grave violation of international law that we condemn in the strongest terms. Russia is thereby destroying the European security order that we had built up together over almost fifty years since the Helsinki Final Act. In this context, Ukraine is merely exercising its right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations in order to protect its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. That right, together with the entire Charter of the United Nations and the obligations under international law and OSCE principles, constitutes the basis for our peaceful coexistence in this world, which we will continue to defend alongside democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

Russia alone bears responsibility for ensuring that this senseless war is ended. None of these crimes will go unpunished. The international community has sent out a clear signal at the United Nations General Assembly indicating that Russia's course of action is unacceptable. Heed that call and withdraw your troops immediately and unconditionally!

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine marks a watershed for Germany as regards its foreign and security policy. This war is a grave violation of the Charter of the United Nations, which for us is an irrefutable basis for the coexistence of all States and which we uphold. Germany is acting within the framework of international law: we are providing emergency assistance for a State that has been attacked and is invoking its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. We continue to stand firmly in solidarity with Ukraine and on the side of international law.

Mr. Chairperson,

I emphatically reject the Russian allegations regarding a purported genocide. There is nothing to suggest that a genocide is taking place or has taken place in Donbas. This is also the view of a good number of independent observers. As my Swiss colleague has already pointed out, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has not found anything that would suggest otherwise. International human rights organizations, too, have investigated such allegations in the past and none of them has concluded that there might be evidence for a genocide. Given the historical responsibility for the genocide that Nazi Germany perpetrated through the Holocaust after engulfing Europe with its wars of aggression, I must insist here on that term being used with especial care. It should not be used lightly.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1009

9 March 2022

Annex 9

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1003rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1009, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, I should like to express my profound regret at the fact that a number of participating States are continuing to turn the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) into a platform for the stirring up of confrontation. We categorically reject that approach. It is understandable that our political assessments of what is happening should diverge. However, fixating on this is quite simply dangerous, especially when what matters is the need to evacuate civilians from cities whose departure is being blocked by Ukrainian nationalists. At the OSCE we have already seen how, for eight years, the Western participating States shut their eyes to the Ukrainian Government's non-implementation of the Minsk agreements and to the shelling of the civilians of Donbas, and also how they pandered to the surge of nationalism and neo-Nazism in Ukraine. The catastrophic consequences of this political short-sightedness are well known. Our message is as clear as can be: it is time to abandon the opportunistic application of double standards, especially when human lives are at stake.

As is known, in the European Union countries and the United States of America all kinds of attempts are being made to shut down any media and information channels from Russia reporting on what is happening in Ukraine, on how the special military operation is unfolding, and on how the Ukrainian army and Ukrainian neo-Nazi battalions are conducting themselves in relation to civilians. Today we shall break through the information vacuum in which our colleagues are dwelling. We intend to have a professional conversation based on facts, and not on conjectures.

Today is the 14th day of the Russian military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine, which is being carried out in accordance with Chapter VII, Article 51, of the Charter of the United Nations, with the approval of Russia's Federation Council, and in implementation of the treaties on friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance concluded with the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) that were ratified by the Federal Assembly on 22 February. Its objective was publicly announced, namely to prevent genocide against the civilian population of Donbas. We knew for certain that the Kyiv regime was preparing an offensive operation in Donbas to take place in March this year. This is also evident from confidential documents of commanding officers of the National Guard of Ukraine discovered in the course of the special operation. Thus, an order

issued on 22 January by the Commander of the National Guard, Colonel-General Mykola Balan, which our colleagues can now see on the screen, sets out in detail a plan for the preparation of offensive operations in the area of the so-called “Joint Forces Operation” in Donbas. According to that document, the Deputy Commander of the National Guard was tasked with organizing combat training for a battalion task force from the National Guard together with the 80th Separate Air Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces from 7 to 28 February. I would emphasize, in particular, that the latter formation has since 2016 been trained in Lviv by US and British instructors under training programmes in line with NATO standards. The Russian military operation launched on 24 February thwarted the Kyiv regime’s plans to attack the DPR and the LPR. Nevertheless, the question remains open as to how closely the United States and other NATO countries were involved in the planning and preparation of an assault on Donbas by a Ukrainian interservice grouping of troops.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the course of the special operation, high-precision weapons are being used to incapacitate exclusively military infrastructure facilities, which were set up for the purposes of militarizing Ukraine and conducting a brutal punitive operation against the civilian population of Donbas. So far, 2,581 Ukrainian military infrastructure facilities have been destroyed, including 90 command posts and signal centres of the armed forces, 123 S-300, Buk M-1 and Osa anti-aircraft missile systems, and 81 radar stations. A total of 897 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 95 multiple-launch rocket systems, 336 field artillery pieces and mortars, 662 special operations tactical vehicles and 84 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have been disabled.

Contrary to the anti-Russian mantras of our Western partners about threats to Ukraine, the real danger to the country and its people is currently posed by neo-Nazi military formations, which are perpetrating numerous war crimes and using terrorist methods. Moreover, the Ukrainian Government is not fulfilling its promises to stop these barbarities; it is releasing criminals from prison and arming these individuals, who then organize themselves into marauding gangs that commit atrocities throughout the territory of Ukraine.

As they retreat from Donbas, the nationalist units that had been set up in the Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions are inflicting colossal damage on critical social infrastructure and public facilities. Water supply and energy systems are the worst damaged. The objective of these actions is to plunge Donbas into a humanitarian catastrophe.

Military personnel from the DPR continue to tighten the noose around Mariupol, in which fighters from the Azov nationalist battalion mined the shop floors of the Azovstal factory at night. Residents of the city continue working on its premises as before, even though the nationalists are preparing to blow up the factory with people inside if the city’s defences are penetrated. Units of the people’s militia entering Mariupol are fired at by fighters from the Azov and Aidar nationalist battalions who have set up positions in schools, hospitals, maternity clinics and kindergartens. According to civilians who have managed to escape from Mariupol, the situation in this nationalist-occupied city is dire. People are hiding in basements. The nationalists open fire on all civilians trying to leave their homes. Using a terrorist tactic, they set up firing points in buildings bearing the inscription: “Don’t shoot – there are children inside!”

This is the hallmark of Ukrainian radicals, one which they picked up not without help from the NATO partners. The close ties between the Alliance and special-forces formations of radical nationalists are borne out by the discovery of a laptop with a NATO marking containing reconnaissance data on Donbas and Crimea in the headquarters of Right Sector (an organization recognized as extremist and prohibited in Russia). We also remember perfectly well how over all these past years, Ukrainians have been trained, under the supervision of overseas instructors, at the Yavoriv military training ground in urban warfare tactics involving the use of Western methods and the “Kill House” simulator. Upon interrogation, Ukrainian military personnel do not conceal that they are deliberately setting up Grad rocket launchers next to residential buildings and using civilians as cover; they are being instructed in this by specialists from the NATO countries. So that is what a “harmless defensive alliance” looks like – one which in fact is complicit in the war crimes of Ukrainian nationalists.

Mr. Chairperson,

At present, the Kyiv regime has almost completely lost the ability to govern the administrations in charge of the country’s regions and districts; the local authorities are denied the right to take independent decisions concerning the civilian population and are unable to resolve basic social problems concerned with everyday life, given that nationalist battalions, Nazis and foreign mercenaries who have attached themselves to them are on the rampage in the overwhelming majority of cities.

With increasing frequency, Russian military personnel are recording the presence of mercenaries from third countries, including Albania and Croatia, of Kosovo fighters and even jihadists with combat experience from Syria (it is not surprising that the use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices has become widespread among Ukrainian nationalist battalions). Last week alone, around 200 mercenaries from Croatia arrived via Poland: they joined the ranks of one of the nationalist battalions in south-eastern Ukraine. According to Ukraine’s Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, approximately 20,000 additional mercenaries from 52 States are currently making their way to the country. Visa-free travel is officially being introduced for them. Simultaneously, US military intelligence has launched a large-scale recruitment campaign to enlist contractors from private military companies for deployment to Ukraine. It is primarily employees of the US private military companies Academi, Cubic and the Dean Corporation who are being recruited.

We must issue a warning: all mercenaries sent by the West to help the nationalist Kyiv regime are not combatants under international humanitarian law and are not entitled to prisoner-of-war status. Prosecution is the least of the complications that they may encounter if they are captured.

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation, the Western countries continue to pump weapons into Ukraine. This year, before the start of the special military operation, around 50 military transport aircraft arrived in that country from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Poland and Lithuania. All in all, they delivered at least 2,000 tonnes of modern weapons, ammunition and protective equipment.

As we can see, the United States and its allies, catering to Russophobic sentiment and seeking to stir up confrontation with the Russian Government, have once again blithely brushed aside not only their international obligations but also their national legislative norms in the field of export control. Suffice it to recall how the US administration, in record time, gave permission to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to transfer US-made man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and other weapons to the Ukrainian Government. As you also know, a first shipment comprising 200 Stinger MANPADS has already been delivered to Ukraine from the United States. It is highly revealing that Germany is becoming one of the leading suppliers of arms to the Ukrainian Government: thus, it intends to dispatch more than 2,000 Strela-2 MANPADS and 500 Stinger MANPADS. The Netherlands and, it seems, Italy also deserve to be mentioned in this respect.

However, the Western countries, which are assiduously setting themselves up as “saints”, fail to mention that they are blatantly disregarding United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/40 from 2007 on the prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of MANPADS, the Elements for Export Controls of MANPADS from 2003 adopted under the Wassenaar Arrangement, and the OSCE Principles for Export Controls of MANPADS, which were adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia in 2004 and updated by FSC Decision No. 5/08. We remember perfectly well how, not so long ago, our US colleagues dashed around the world to promote their idea of minimizing MANPADS exports as a matter of principle and registering each unit transferred abroad. What has become of the constructive zeal of our US colleagues, who were overseeing the process of updating the OSCE best practice guide on MANPADS and who for two years in a row insisted on passages about the need for reliable control of such weapon systems to be included in draft Ministerial Council decisions on small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA)? Naturally, the United States and its allies could now hardly care less whether these MANPADS will be used in situ by Ukrainian radicals or whether they will find their way to other hotspots.

By the way, with regard to SALW and SCA: massive SALW shipments to Ukraine are planned from the Czech Republic (4,000 mortars, 30,000 pistols, 5,000 assault rifles, 5,000 machine guns, and sniper rifles), Poland (100 mortars and 1,500 rounds of ammunition for them), Canada (machine guns and small arms) and Finland (2,500 rifles and ammunition for them). The United States could not remain on the sidelines either. Being as it is the principal sponsor of the Kyiv regime, it is providing a “supplementary” aid package worth 350 million US dollars to enable Ukraine to acquire anti-tank weapons and small arms. Fuel has been promised by Germany, Belgium and Latvia.

We would emphasize that participating States that provide military-technical assistance in any form to the Ukrainian Government share responsibility with the Ukrainian radicals for the casualties among the civilian population. Moreover, their actions constitute a gross violation of Section II, paragraph 4, of the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (1993) and Section III(A) of the OSCE Document on SALW (2000), which caution participating States against supplying weapons to countries with an unstable internal situation. The dispatch of military supplies to the Ukrainian Government is also not compatible with Western countries’ obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty and the EU Common Position providing for a ban on the export of weapons to regions where this may

lead to the violation of international humanitarian law and contribute to the aggravation of domestic armed conflicts.

The continuation of arms supplies is creating unacceptable risks for pan-European security. I am referring to the creation of a major breeding ground for the illicit proliferation of arms and ammunition in Europe and beyond. Additionally, weapons are military targets and by definition it cannot be guaranteed that they will remain unscathed. The organization of arms convoys is extremely dangerous and could lead to a confrontation between Russia and the NATO countries, with the most serious consequences.

We call on the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre to give a resolute assessment of the egregious instances where the Western participating States have violated their OSCE commitments on the secure storage of SALW, SCA and MANPADS and on preventing these from falling into the wrong hands.

Mr. Chairperson,

The nuclear and bacteriological security situation in Ukraine remains a major focus of the international community.

Despite the insinuations proffered by the media, the situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP) is stable. Russian and Ukrainian military personnel are jointly ensuring its protection and monitoring the radiation situation. We are not creating obstacles to the rotation of staff; it is our understanding that the Ukrainian side is responsible for fulfilling that task.

In the early hours of 4 March, Ukrainian nationalists committed a dangerous provocation at the Zaporizhzhia NPP, which was promptly thwarted by Russian military personnel. The International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed that the safety systems of the Zaporizhzhia NPP were not affected and that there was no release of radiation. Volodymyr Zelenskyy's assertions about an alleged threat to that NPP and his talks with the US and UK Governments leave no room for doubt that the objective of the Kyiv regime's provocation at the site of a nuclear facility was to attempt to accuse Russia of creating a source of radioactive contamination. All this points to Mr. Zelenskyy's criminal intentions or to his having completely lost control over the actions of Ukrainian sabotage groups involving foreign mercenaries.

Information at our disposal indicates that research and development work was being carried out in Ukraine to create a nuclear explosive device that could subsequently be used in the design of nuclear warheads. Moreover, this work involved both uranium and plutonium. A key role in the creation of a nuclear explosive device had been assigned to the National Science Centre "Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology". In this respect it is not surprising that the Ukrainian Security Service and fighters from the Azov battalion mined the reactor at the experimental nuclear facility located in the Institute so as to prepare a provocation potentially involving radioactive contamination of the area around Kharkiv. We urge them to come to their senses and avert a catastrophe.

During the conduct of the special military operation, evidence was discovered of the Kyiv regime having urgently removed traces of the military biological programme being implemented in Ukraine with funding from the US Department of Defense. Russian military

personnel received documentation from the staff of Ukrainian biological laboratories attesting to the urgent destruction, on 24 February, of particularly dangerous pathogens causing plague, anthrax, tularaemia, cholera and other fatal diseases. In other words, components of biological weapons were being developed in close proximity to the territory of Russia. The client that ordered this work is the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the US Department of Defense. The work was carried out first and foremost for the purposes of monitoring the biological situation in potential areas of deployment of military contingents from States belonging to the NATO bloc. In order to prevent evidence from coming to light of the violation of Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (“Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention”) by the United States and Ukraine, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health transmitted an order to all biological laboratories instructing them to urgently eliminate any stocks of dangerous pathogens that they were storing. Our colleagues can see part of this evidence on the slides, including the order from the Ukrainian Ministry of Health about the destruction of pathogens and records of such destruction carried out at biological laboratories in Poltava and Kharkiv. Analysis of the destruction records points to the performance of work on pathogens causing plague, anthrax and brucellosis at a biological laboratory in Lviv and of work on pathogens causing diphtheria, salmonella and dysentery at laboratories in Kharkiv and Poltava. We believe that there is a long-overdue need for comprehensive steps to ensure the verifiable implementation by the States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention of their obligations so that the military biological activities of the United States and its allies in the post-Soviet space are placed under rigorous international control.

Mr. Chairperson,

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine is acquiring the dimensions of a disaster. Ukrainian neo-Nazis and radicals are holding 4.5 million people hostage, including some 2,000 foreigners, using them as “human shields” and not allowing them to be evacuated. The Kyiv regime is doing everything it can to prevent civilians and foreigners wishing to leave for Russia from doing so, since it is afraid that if these people make it to freedom, they will tell the truth about the Ukrainian radicals’ actions. Moreover, the ceasefires announced by the Russian side are being exploited by the nationalists to strengthen their positions and redeploy military equipment, as indicated by imagery from UAVs.

We stress that using the civilian population as “human shields” and disrupting the evacuation of civilians via humanitarian corridors directly violate the norms of international humanitarian law, including Articles 57 and 58 of Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Neither the Western countries nor the United Nations nor the OSCE have as yet given appropriate assessments of what is happening. For how long must the civilians of Ukraine and thousands of foreigners remain in fear and in humiliating conditions before the civilized world opens its eyes?

Taking into account the exceptional importance of the humanitarian component of the special military operation being conducted in Ukraine, our country’s leadership has decided to establish within the Russian Ministry of Defence, specifically at the National Defence Management Centre of the Russian Federation, an inter-agency co-ordination headquarters for the humanitarian response, which has commenced work on a round-the-clock basis. We

have already received 2.5 million requests from Ukrainian citizens and foreigners asking to be evacuated to Russia.

I should like to emphasize, in particular, that detailed information about the humanitarian corridors is relayed in advance to the Ukrainian side, to representatives of the embassies of foreign States, and to structures of the United Nations, the OSCE and the International Committee of the Red Cross. On 4 and 7 March, despite the parameters for humanitarian corridors out of Kyiv, Mariupol, Sumy and Kharkiv having been agreed on with Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk, the evacuation of people from these cities was disrupted by radicals. Those who decided to leave Mariupol at their own risk and peril on 4 March came under fire from Ukrainian Nazis as they set off from the checkpoints. On 7 March, Ms. Vereshchuk called the opening of humanitarian corridors leading to Russia “absurd and unacceptable”. This situation was commented on at the United Nations in the sense that civilians should have the opportunity to be evacuated “in the direction of their choosing”.

What is more, the Ukrainian authorities are using Internet resources and television to actively misinform the residents of Mariupol about the evacuation having been postponed, allegedly owing to the Russian side’s failure to comply with the promised ceasefires. In this context, an adviser to the Ukrainian President’s Office, Oleksii Arestovych, addressing Ukrainian citizens, told them to “stop whining”, thereby making it understood that they had been left to sink or swim. That is a complete deception and betrayal of one’s own people.

In the early hours of 8 March, our country set about conducting yet another humanitarian operation. Unfortunately, out of the ten routes proposed to the Ukrainian side, the Ukrainian Government confirmed only one, namely from the city of Sumy via Poltava. Thanks to the unprecedented safety measures taken by the armed forces of the Russian Federation, 723 people, including foreigners, were evacuated via that route.

Despite the Ukrainian side’s constant disruptions of the measures to establish humanitarian corridors, our country today announced a ceasefire as from 10 a.m. (Moscow time) and confirmed its willingness to reach agreement with the Ukrainian side on establishing humanitarian corridors out of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Mariupol and other localities. My colleagues can study the urgent statement by the Russian Joint Co-ordination Headquarters for the Humanitarian Response in Ukraine on the official website of the Ministry of Defence.

The claims about it being impossible to be evacuated to Russia are false. More than 174,000 people, including 44,187 children, have been taken in by our country, without any involvement by the Ukrainian side, from the zone where the special military operation is being conducted. The total figure includes 5,550 people in the last 24 hours, of whom 740 are children. We are setting up temporary accommodation facilities. We are providing humanitarian aid in areas under the Russian military’s control (946 tonnes having been delivered already), where the population continues to live in peace and is supplied with everything that it needs.

We call on the Western OSCE participating States to bring their influence to bear on the Kyiv regime so that it undertakes efforts in good faith to establish humanitarian corridors

and ensure that these are safe, thereby making it possible for all people wishing to be evacuated to set off in the direction that they prefer. That is the most pressing task now.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, by way of response to the blustering anti-Russian statements by Western delegations, I should like to recall that a few days ago, the Russian Government officially expanded its list of unfriendly countries. In addition to the United States and the Czech Republic, the list now includes all the EU countries, the United Kingdom and several others. Their own rules of the game will be applied to them. These countries kept on trying to impose their conditions as part of a “rules-based order”. They will henceforth have to play by our rules until they recognize the generally established ones.

I cannot fail to touch on the Western policy of sanctions against Russia. These are painful for our people, but we will hold out. Russia has already begun to formulate a response to the unfriendly States. What you are currently seeing in the world markets is just a prelude. Unless you come to your senses, the bulk of the sanctions against you still lie ahead.

Thank you for your attention. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.