

**Chairmanship: Poland**

**1362nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 10 March 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 3 p.m.  
Suspended: 6.15 p.m.  
Resumed: 10 a.m. (Friday, 11 March 2022)  
Closed: 11 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński

Chairperson, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Gender, Russian Federation (Annex 1) (Annex 2)

Point of order: Ukraine

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

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (Annex 3), United Kingdom (Annex 4), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 5), United States of America (Annex 6), Canada (Annex 7), Switzerland (PC.DEL/376/22 OSCE+), Turkey (Annex 8), Permanent Representative of Ireland (also on behalf of the Permanent Representatives of Albania, Andorra, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Moldova, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and the European Union) (Annex 9), Georgia (Annex 10), Norway (Annex 11), Iceland

(Annex 12), Sweden (PC.DEL/389/22 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/371/22 OSCE+), North Macedonia (PC.DEL/394/22 OSCE+), France-European Union, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/12/22 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters: Armenia (Annex 13)*
- (b) *Ongoing crimes by Ukraine with the support of a number of OSCE participating States: Russian Federation (Annex 14) (PC.DEL/379/22/Add.1/Rev.1), Switzerland*
- (c) *Follow-up to the high-level meetings of 14 December 2021 and 4 February 2022: France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/380/22), Canada (PC.DEL/382/22 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/378/22), Armenia, Azerbaijan (Annex 15), Chairperson*
- (d) *Necessity of full implementation of the trilateral statements of 9 November 2020, 11 January 2021 and 26 November 2021 as key elements of the settlement: Russian Federation (Annex 16), Armenia*
- (e) *Post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration efforts in Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan (Annex 17), Turkey (PC.DEL/388/22 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 3: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Activities of the Chairman-in-Office with regard to the ongoing aggression against Ukraine and humanitarian assistance, including meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, H.E. Mr. B. Aurescu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, H.E. Mr. G. Landsbergis, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, H.E. Ms. L. Truss, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, H.E. Ms. A. Huitfelt, the Secretary of State of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. A. Blinken, the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, H.E. Ms. S. Wilmès, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. D. Kuleba, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr. D. Beasley, phone talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, H.E. Mr. M. Çavuşoğlu and with the Secretary of State of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. A. Blinken: Chairperson*
- (b) *Visit by the Chairman-in-Office to New York to address the United Nations Security Council on 14 March 2022: Chairperson*

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

None

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 17 March 2022, in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1362  
10 March 2022  
Annex 1

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We once again reiterate our rejection of the first agenda item announced by the Chairmanship for today's meeting of the Permanent Council. Russia cannot accept attempts to unilaterally entrench the proposed topic, which is of an overtly confrontational nature, and it considers such steps by the Chairmanship to be contrary to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3).

We once again urge the Polish Chairmanship to adhere strictly to the procedures agreed upon by all the participating States, to stop interpreting these at will, and to provide equitable, non-discriminatory opportunities for discussions at the Permanent Council.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1362  
10 March 2022  
Annex 2

ENGLISH  
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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In 2006, Rules of Procedure were adopted at the OSCE. These did not constitute a definitive text at the time: there remained lacunae admitting of various possible interpretations. We proposed back then to supplement the Rules of Procedure with an official document that would eliminate any possibility of rules approved by the Foreign Ministers at the Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels being subject to interpretation. Several delegations were unable – again, out of political considerations – to consider that document together with the adopted Rules of Procedure.

In our view, therefore, the item set down by you is neither a “general statement” nor a “current issue”, nor does it fall under “any other business”, to use the designations from the first paragraph of the relevant section of the Rules of Procedure. It is being arbitrarily introduced by the Chairmanship as a so-called “standing item” – something that is not provided for by these Rules.

General statements – again, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure – are applicable only to the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation. The same is true of the Security Dialogue-related agenda item. There are no such agenda items at the Permanent Council and there never have been.

If there is a desire to understand the Rules of Procedure more broadly, it is necessary to sit down and discuss them. That is what we have repeatedly tried to do from 2008 onwards. Any attempts to open up the “Blue Book” have met with categorical rejection. In the interpretative statement by Russia attached to the Ministerial Council decision on the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, it was clearly stated that this was merely a first step towards the institutionalization of the legal status of our conference or meeting – a regional arrangement, if you will – since rules of procedure with their legally fixed interpretations are a requirement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations that concerns the activities of regional organizations, not arrangements. Within the meaning of said Chapter VIII, our meeting or, as we call it, organization does not have the right to exist. From a conference it should have been formalized into an organization, thereby acquiring a fully fledged international legal status that would have established it in line with the requirements

of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. If anyone wishes to argue with me, I am ready.

So there you have a reply to your remarks, Mr. Chairperson.

You must surely see that over all these decades there have been no such items single-handedly introduced by the Chairmanship-in-Office. The situation is currently such that you are taking advantage of your rights and introducing this item without having agreed on it with everyone. That is why some have an uncomfortable feeling. Such a sub-item, if you recall, was established by the Ukrainian delegation under the agenda item "Review of current issues". Accordingly, we would reply under that item raising a separate issue for review. The "architecture" has now been altered through your unilateral actions. You have put forward this issue as the first agenda item, but in accordance with the procedures it is not clear what this first item is supposed to mean. That is why we ask you each time to clarify what this agenda item means.

I request that this additional response be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

Today is day 15 of a new stage of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

The war is continuing to reap its bloody harvest.

Russia is subjecting cities to indiscriminate shelling. It is deliberately shelling civilians during evacuation from the besieged Ukrainian cities.

Russia is forcing civilians to flee their homes and providing corridors leading only to its own territory.

Russia is manipulating the mechanism of the humanitarian corridor in order to vilify Ukraine for not wanting to evacuate its people.

But the time for games is over.

To mention just one city, Russia is holding over four hundred thousand people hostage in Mariupol, blocking humanitarian aid and evacuation.

Almost three thousand newborn babies in Mariupol lack medicine and food.

Just yesterday, Russia bombarded a maternity and children's hospital in Mariupol.

They dropped Avia bombs on the building housing pregnant women and newborns.

It seems that Russia lost its humanity long ago.

I would like to ask the Russians: Was it a NATO base or a "secret lab"?

Or are you maybe waiting for instructions from Moscow with a new conspiracy version of how to defend your country's aggression?

But it is time to admit the truth.

All Russia can do is to wage a barbaric war on civilians and babies. And to cover all this with heinous lies.

It is now crystal clear that Russian diplomacy has totally turned into an instrument of Russian propaganda.

Recent comments by Maria Zakharova calling the maternity house in Mariupol destroyed by Russian bombs a “stronghold of Ukrainian nationalists” leave us with no reasonable doubt about this fact.

And I want to warn the Russian diplomats – don’t even try to deny that your troops shell civilians and residential areas. Enough is enough.

The Russian people live in an Orwellian world, but you know the real state of play very well.

Don’t cover up for war criminals.

Russian prisoners of war have already started confirming that they had orders to shoot at and kill civilians.

But can the Russian delegation tell us how many confessions we should expect in coming days?

Just a few days ago, when addressing Russian women, Vladimir Putin swore that no conscripts had been sent to Ukraine.

Yesterday, however, the Russian defence ministry acknowledged “with regret” that this was not in fact true.

So, was the Russian president lying? As he did about precise strikes and protection of civilians?

Or is the defence ministry lying to him about the war campaign, for example about the casualties the Russian army is suffering in Ukraine?

Maybe Russian diplomats could report what is actually going on to Moscow? This would perhaps help to bring these bloody atrocities to an end.

At the same time we are intercepting more and more phone conversations between Russian soldiers and their wives and relatives.

Soldiers are bravely reporting how they have executed civilians by shooting and how they have looted houses and stores in Ukraine.

This is the world’s second strongest army at its finest.

It is shameful.



Getting a new brand of TV or a powerful blender is not worth committing a war crime for.

Nor is the situation better in the southern areas, where Russia is trying to impose its regime of occupation.

Having faced popular resistance, what is Russia doing?

Of course, they are conduct a campaign of repression and punishment in order to break the resistance.

As has been reported, more than four hundred civilians were illegally detained in Kherson.

The Kremlin believes that it can build a new repressive regime in Ukraine, as it has done in Russia. How naive it is.

The cruel beating of peaceful protestors across the Russian Federation vividly shows what kind of “liberation” the Kremlin has prepared for Ukraine.

It seems that Russia also wants to liberate Ukraine from diplomatic missions.

Two days ago, Russian missiles and bombings damaged the building of the Greek Consulate General and the office of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in Mariupol.

The esteemed consulates of Slovenia, Azerbaijan and Albania in Kharkiv were also destroyed.

And just three days ago we met to discuss acts of nuclear terrorism committed by Russia.

But yesterday Russia reminded us once again how dangerous its war is and how irresponsible Russia’s actions are.

Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant was cut off from its entire supply of electricity.

The only electrical grid supplying Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant and all its nuclear facilities was damaged.

Such a situation is extremely dangerous.

Putin’s barbaric war puts the whole of Europe in danger. He must be stopped.

Distinguished colleagues,

When we last met, the Russian representative said that inability to defend one’s position with documents and evidence is a display of weakness.

I cannot but agree.

Maybe that is why Russia's seat was empty when the International Court of Justice was conducting hearings in the case related to genocide earlier this week.

To put it simply, because all Russia's allegations were fabricated from the very beginning merely to justify its war against Ukraine.

In a few minutes the Russian delegation will once again deliver a blend of propaganda and falsification.

As I mentioned last time, if you believe that you have evidence, take it to the court and stop talking nonsense.

But I have strong doubts that Russia will co-operate with the International Court of Justice, or with the International Criminal Court, or with the European Court of Human Rights.

Or with the OSCE experts within the Moscow Mechanism which has been invoked by 45 OSCE participating States.

Or with the commission of inquiry which was established by the United Nations Human Rights Council. By the way, although Russia is a member of the Council, it has no moral right to have a seat there.

Because Russia's position is a position of weakness and despair. And it is in a trap created with its own hands.

That's why it needs to continue fabricating new excuses for its aggressive war. Not for us. But for its own population. For the survival of the Kremlin regime.

And I am afraid that in a few days Russia would even be ready to say that it was Ukraine that started the war.

But to survive, Russia just needs to stop its war, withdraw its troops, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea, and, of course, accept responsibility for all the crimes committed against the Ukrainian people and provide assurance that the aggression will not be repeated.

Distinguished colleagues,

Back in the nineteenth century, the Russian writer Fedir Dostoyevskiy complained that the Russians were considered as a people who roamed across Europe in search of things to destroy and obliterate, purely for their own gratification.

In the light of the ongoing atrocities, this reference is more than relevant.

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

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1362  
10 March 2022  
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Your Excellencies, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the United Kingdom today. And in doing so talk about Russia's flagrant disregard for their commitments to the OSCE and its principles.

The unprovoked, premeditated and illegal invasion of Ukraine is, simply put, a disgrace.

In particular, I would like to focus on the people affected by President Putin's war. His war of choice.

Mr. Chairperson, we have been following, all of us, with growing horror, the news from Mariupol. The air strike by Russia on a maternity hospital was abhorrent. It was reckless. It was appalling. It underscores the terrible toll this war is exacting on Ukrainian families. While Russia's representatives spout fiction about threats from Ukraine, it is the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that has reported that at least 37 children have been killed, 50 injured.

This follows evidence of Russian forces targeting evacuation corridors earlier this week, with whole families cut down as they attempted to run for safety.

Russia's use of indiscriminate force against innocent civilians, against children, is clear for all to see. It is right that it must, it must be investigated and those responsible must be held to account.

And that is why the United Kingdom joined 37 other countries in referring these atrocities to the International Criminal Court.

It is also why we joined 44 other countries in launching the Moscow Mechanism to investigate Russia's human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine.

And as we have just heard from Martin Griffiths, as he has outlined today, the conflict is having a terrible humanitarian impact.

Many towns and cities in Ukraine have faced over a week of persistent shelling. Thousands upon thousands of people are without water, heat or electricity. There are critical shortages of food, shortages of medicine. The World Health Organization has reported 18 attacks on healthcare providers. This must stop.

Two million people have fled Ukraine so far. Hundreds of thousands more are displaced within the country.

Russia's actions have a massive human cost, and I am grateful to Liliana Palihovici for rightly drawing attention to this.

Sadly, we can expect a disproportionately severe impact on women, girls and the most vulnerable and excluded.

We must protect them from sexual violence and other forms of exploitation, as a central requirement of international humanitarian law.

The United Kingdom is committed to supporting Ukrainian women and girls, recognizing the critical contribution women are making on the frontline and in communities affected directly by Russia's aggression.

The determination shown by Ukrainians in the face of such adversity is, simply put, incredible. From the inspirational leadership of President Zelenskyy and his ministerial team, to the courage of the Ukrainian armed forces and others defending their homeland in any way they can, and of course to the unity, the unity of Ukrainian society rallying to support those in need.

Their bravery, in the face of Russia's relentless onslaught, is quite humbling. They fight to defend the values, the very values we all share.

Mr. Chairperson, we also commend the bravery of those Russian people demonstrating against President Putin's appalling war. And to those people in Russia I would say, we know that this is not done in your name.

We are deeply concerned at the arrest of thousands of peaceful protesters and the crackdown on the independent media as Mr. Putin tries to hide the reality of his actions from his people.

We know too that many people in Belarus do not support Mr. Lukashenko's complicity in this illegal war.

We condemn Belarus' facilitation of the Russian invasion by hosting Russian military forces and assets and providing access through its territory.

And today, on this day, I would like to draw the Russian Ambassador's attention to the opening words of the UN Charter:

“We the peoples of the United Nations, determine to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for...treaties and...international law can be maintained”.

I understand that not so long ago these were the very words he expressed Russia’s commitment to that Charter in this very hall.

May I suggest he might draw the attention of his government to it once again.

Its principles have inspired millions around the world. Even now in Minsk and Moscow, people gather to demonstrate their support for Ukraine and their opposition to this war.

One hundred and forty-one countries from all over the globe voted in favour of a United Nations resolution condemning the Russian Government’s actions.

The demands are simple – Mr. Putin, stop the attacks on civilians. Stop this war of choice. Stop this war now. Pull out your troops from Ukraine and respect international law.

And, Mr. Chairperson, he would be wise to listen. President Putin has badly misjudged the strength, the unity, the resilience of the Ukrainian people.

By continuing his so-called “special operation” all President Putin achieves is more bloodshed and more suffering – not only amongst Ukrainians, but also amongst the Russian people.

For our part, the United Kingdom will continue providing humanitarian aid and defensive military equipment. We are ratcheting up our sanctions to tighten the economic vice and cut funding to Mr. Putin’s war machine.

We will continue to call out Russia’s actions in every multilateral forum. We, the United Kingdom, will stand by Ukraine, in the determined support of their sovereignty, will stand with Ukraine for their unity, will stand with Ukraine for their independence and territorial integrity, today, tomorrow, and for as long as it takes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson and I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

**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, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, today entering its third week, is causing an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, including for the country's 7.5 million children who are exposed to the horrors of war. Just to name a few examples, in recent days, we have witnessed appalling scenes, including a Russian military strike in Irpin which killed a family with two children and other civilians fleeing the Russian invasion. Twenty-one people, including two children, were killed in air strikes on the besieged city of Sumy. Two days ago, the settlement of Malyn was shelled leaving five people, including two one-year-old children, dead. We have seen peaceful protesters in Kherson being shot by Russian forces and journalists being attacked near Kyiv. Heartbreaking reports are coming from Mariupol, which has been under siege for ten days; Russian artillery and air strikes have decimated entire parts of the city, and Russian forces have destroyed almost all the infrastructure which provides basic services to the local population, including water, electricity and heating. Civilians are stuck without access to food, water and medication. Hospitals are overcrowded with the injured. Yesterday, Russia carried out an air strike on a children's hospital and maternity house during an agreed ceasefire period that was meant to allow the evacuation of civilians. This is a despicable and heinous war crime. We condemn President Putin's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal invasion of an independent and sovereign State in the strongest possible terms.

Thanking the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender, Liliana Palihovici, for her remarks, we express our solidarity with the Ukrainian women. They are showing resilience and courage, in uniform and in civilian roles, defending their country and democracy in the face of the brutal and unjustifiable military attack by Russia. The current situation puts the lives and safety of all civilians at risk. However, as in all conflict situations or situations of displacement, women and children are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses. Hence, it is of utmost importance to protect them against sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and other forms of exploitation, as required by international humanitarian law, a duty that falls in particular on the occupation forces. Furthermore, women journalists' safety needs to be ensured, both online and offline, as the Representative on Freedom of the Media rightly pointed out in her recent statement.

Hand in hand with Ukraine and together with our partners and countries from all parts of the world, we demand that Russia immediately end the aggression and its military activities. We underscore that abiding by international humanitarian law, notably the Geneva Conventions, is not optional. Civilians and civilian infrastructure must never be targeted and the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons, particularly in densely populated urban areas, should never occur under any circumstance. Furthermore, the widely reported use of cluster munition and thermobaric bombs by the Russian armed forces targeting residential areas is deeply worrying and absolutely condemnable. The resolutions adopted last week in the United Nations General Assembly and by the Human Rights Council (HRC), by an overwhelming majority, send strong messages from the international community condemning Russia's aggression. In addition, by establishing a Commission of Inquiry, the HRC has taken a further practical step in the fight against impunity. Last week's invocation of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism by 45 participating States, including all EU Member States, furthers this aim. We also welcome the opening of an investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor into possible war crimes or crimes against humanity in Ukraine after referrals by 39 ICC States Parties, including all EU Member States. Those who violate international humanitarian law will be held accountable.

We thank UN Under-Secretary-General, Martin Griffiths, for his remarks and join him in underlining the importance of setting up safe pathways and the necessity of urgently suspending all fighting in order to deliver relief without delay to all people in need. We strongly condemn that Russia is not only impeding safe passage but, deplorably, also violating agreements reached by continuing to deliberately shell these areas and mine the roads. We also categorically reject Russia's cynical approach that the evacuation of Ukrainian civilians should be to the Russian Federation, despite the fact that it is Russia that has launched the military attack. Moreover, humanitarian assistance in line with humanitarian principles must be respected at all times, relief items allowed to be delivered without delay and the protection and safe passage of civilians guaranteed, whether they wish to stay or evacuate. We commend the efforts undertaken by the Government of Ukraine to facilitate humanitarian operations, ensuring the free movement of humanitarian workers and convoys as well as facilitating imports of relief items, and offer our support to further improve the delivery of assistance.

The European Union and its Member States are working at all levels, also together with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, to ensure a safe arrival of those who flee Russia's aggression. The European Union will also ensure that a prompt and concrete response to the needs of children and their families are provided for, with special attention to unaccompanied children.

We thank the OSCE Secretary General and her team for their tireless efforts, including with regard to evacuation and relocation of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) staff. We call for the safe evacuation of all those inside the SMM premises in Mariupol, including the SMM local staff and the Greek Consul General. We stand ready to support all efforts of the Chairmanship and the OSCE executive structures and autonomous institutions in order to assist the people of Ukraine, including through the co-ordination and facilitation of humanitarian assistance, and the assessment of the human rights and humanitarian impacts of Russia's invasion.

We deeply regret that Russia's external aggression on a neighbouring State is accompanied by an internal repression of the Russian people. In this vein, we condemn the newly introduced blanket media censorship designed to curtail access to independent information sources about President Putin's war in Ukraine, as well as the Russian authorities' violent crackdown on peaceful anti-war protests.

Mr. Chairperson, this is a moment of truth for Europe. This is a clash between the rule of law and the rule of the gun, between democracies and autocracies, between a rules-based order and a world of naked aggression. The Ukrainian people have made the brave and free choice of liberty, democracy and the rule of law. Russia, with the participation of the Lukashenka regime in Belarus as co-aggressor, bears full responsibility for the loss of life, injuries and destruction. The European Union demands that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters. Equally, Russia must stop its disinformation campaign and cyberattacks. We also reiterate our call on Belarus to stop enabling the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations. The European Union resolutely supports 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 stand with Ukraine.

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

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, Georgia, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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





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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

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

I would like to thank Under-Secretary General Griffiths and Special Representative Palihovici for their very powerful presentations.

Today is the 15th day of President Putin's brutal, unprovoked and unconscionable war against Ukraine. Even as the Russian military advance has stalled and, in some cases, been repelled on the outskirts of several major Ukrainian cities, we have witnessed Russia resort to ever more barbaric tactics, targeting cities and civilians – schools, hospitals, apartment buildings. The resulting scenes of death and devastation in cities and towns across Ukraine – Hostomel, Kharkiv, Kherson and so many others – are haunting. Yesterday was surely one of the saddest days of the war after Russia bombed a children's and maternity hospital in Mariupol. I simply have no words to describe this vile wickedness. And incredibly, speaking earlier today, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov confirmed Russia deliberately struck the hospital, regarding it as a legitimate target. Incredible.

But it is far from unique. Amnesty International reports that a Russian airstrike on Chernihiv killed at least 47 civilians on 3 March with "no legitimate military target at, or close to, the scene of the strike." At the Irpin bridge on the outskirts of Kyiv, elderly residents and children came under fire as they tried to evacuate the area on foot. The Mayor of Irpin reported that a mother and her two children were killed on the spot when Russian forces opened fire.

Unfortunately, the situation is likely to get significantly worse in the coming days. Yesterday we learned that Russia's targeting of civilian infrastructure had cut electricity supply to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. The sanctity of human life clearly does not register in the Kremlin. And now Russia is feverishly spreading disinformation about biological weapons: I shudder to think what they are planning next.

The images of terror, shock and grief on the faces of the civilians fleeing Russia's aggression will forever haunt us, and forever stain the reputation of the Russian military. I hope these images remain indelibly seared in the minds of the Russian representatives sitting in this room today. Before they take the floor, let them bow their heads in a minute of silence for every victim of Russia's brutal aggression.

Russia's repulsive tactics are exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation around Ukraine. Russia's aggression has deprived so many towns and cities of running water, electricity and heating fuel. As the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said recently, we are now facing the fastest-growing refugee crisis since the Second World War, with two million refugees already documented and many more likely to flee in the next week. This massive outflow of people – including many women and children – will stretch national resources to the limit. And as always, the crisis will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable among them.

Through its siege warfare actions, Russia is also preventing civilians from fleeing and blocking supplies from getting in. In Mariupol, Kharkiv, Sumy, Mykolaiv and elsewhere, millions of civilians are bombarded and cut off. Civilians need full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, and they need it immediately. Beginning with these priority areas, Russian forces must honour Ukrainian proposals for safe passage of civilians and supplies. They must let civilians out, and they must let aid in.

Among these horrors, we are so, so grateful for the incredible hospitality and compassion of Ukraine's neighbours in sheltering, feeding and comforting the refugees from Ukraine. We thank especially Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. The United States is also committed to doing our share. Yesterday the United States Congress moved ahead with a 13.6 billion dollar supplemental funding bill to support the needs of the Ukrainian people. Regrettably, not all of Ukraine's neighbours have leaders who stand on the right side of history. We condemn the Lukashenka regime's support for Russia's premeditated attack on its peaceful neighbour.

Mr. Chairperson, Russia must end this war of conquest. It must end it now. It will never succeed in establishing the sphere of influence its leader so desperately craves. Its continued prosecution of this war will only cause more suffering in Ukraine, and it will bring ruin to Russia.

Mr. Chairperson, I would also like to spend a few minutes discussing what a possible Russian occupation or seizure of Ukraine would look like. Because, in fact, we know exactly what it would look like. Russia has done this before. Since 2014, there have been scores, if not hundreds of reports documenting atrocities by Russia and its proxies in Russian-controlled parts of the Donbas and in Crimea. There are credible reports of enforced disappearances and abductions of dissidents, members of religious and ethnic minority groups and others who dare to voice dissatisfaction with Russia's criminal rule. Systematic repression of religious and ethnic minority groups, torture and arbitrary imprisonment are commonplace.

What I am about to say is rather graphic, but I am afraid it needs to be said. At prisons and unofficial places of detention in the so-called "DNR" and "LNR", even before Russia's further invasion, Russian-led forces routinely beat and physically and psychologically tortured detainees, conducted mock executions, committed sexual violence, deprived detainees of food, water and medical care, and required forced labour. Also, according to the United Nations, women and men are victims of sexual violence, including rape, threats of rape, threats of castration, intentional damage to genitalia, threats of sexual violence against family members, sexual harassment, coercion to watch sexual violence against others, forced prostitution and humiliation. Again, I am quoting the United Nations.

Russia's proxies in the Donbas and occupation forces in Crimea have also restricted freedom of expression on the street, in the media and on the internet. They have actively obstructed international organizations attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to the local population in a cynical effort to malign Ukraine.

So, we do not have to guess what Russia will do if it occupies Ukraine; we have been watching it play out for eight straight years. Colleagues, Russia's propagandists tried hard to convince the world that the armed groups in Donbas were just "separatists" – but we all know they were acting on Moscow's orders.

We cannot allow Russia to extinguish a democratic, independent, sovereign Ukraine. We are called upon to stand by the founding principles of this Organization. That means we must also stand by the people of Ukraine as they defend their homes, their neighbourhoods, their cities and their country. And their freedom.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I request that this statement be appended to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you.

I would like to request at the outset that my statement be added to the journal of the day.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Griffiths and Special Representative Palihovici for their very powerful, fact-based presentations.

There is nothing normal about this situation. We have seen nothing like it in Europe in decades. There is nothing normal about a country launching an invasion against a neighbour whose people it calls brothers. There is nothing normal about attacking the schools and hospitals, the kitchens and living rooms, of innocent Ukrainians living hundreds of kilometres from Donbas and calling it a “special military operation in Donbas.” There is nothing normal about creating ever new, increasingly far-fetched, so-called “justifications” for the invasion after the fact. There is nothing normal about bombing a maternity hospital and hundreds of other civilian infrastructure buildings. And I assure you, Mr. Chairperson, there is nothing normal about a colleague who uses this Council to push fabrications and disinformation that he must know to be false. All of these things are repugnant.

In trying to justify this unjustifiable war we first heard arguments about the indivisibility of security, and then about a supposed genocide, and the need for the “de-nazification” of a government headed by a Jewish president. This was then linked to demands for Ukrainian “demilitarization” and neutrality, and a need for the current democratically elected government to be replaced to suit the Kremlin’s preferences. More recently, we have also heard the invasion was being carried out because Ukraine was preparing, alternately, (a) a nuclear attack, (b) a chemical or biological weapons attack, or (c) as per Mr. Gavrillov yesterday at the Forum for Security Co-operation, an offensive operation on the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk “Peoples’ Republics.” It is said that propaganda is hard when the past keeps changing, and so I ask what will today’s justification for Russia’s supposed “special military operation in Donbas” be? Rest assured that this Council will give it the same credence it has given to every other post factum justification thus far.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the face of President Putin's aggressive and erratic behaviour, Ukrainians have risen to defend their homes, demonstrating the most admirable courage, dignity, and resolve to push back against the foreign invader. And at its core, what is more admirable and justifiable than human beings protecting their homes, their families, and their way of life? We salute and honour the profound resolve of the men and women of Ukraine's armed forces, of its self-defence groups, and of all those who are assisting in the efforts to defend their homeland. In light of International Women's Day earlier this week, I would also like to recognize the contribution of the women of Ukraine's armed forces, as well as the contributions of those women not in the military, who are also helping in the ways they are able to defend Ukraine and protect its people.

I would like to use my statement to honour one woman, Olena Stokoz, Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, whose courage in the face of such destruction has been both heart-rending and inspiring, exemplifying the spirit of Ukrainian women. Olena had to flee her home near Kyiv after shelling destroyed the village neighbouring hers. She was unable to eat or sleep, while praying every night she would survive until the morning. Eight months pregnant, Olena is thankful to have gotten out with her family alive, and is now continuing her work from a shelter in the centre of the country. She is dedicated to providing people with water, food, and other basic necessities, especially those who suffer most from the ongoing violence. These are people, she said, "with disabilities, people with medical conditions, wounded people, and people who are sitting in basements and cannot get out because as soon as they get out of their basements, they will be killed immediately by the aggressor." Intentional attacks against a civilian population not taking direct part in hostilities and the killing of innocent people are against international humanitarian law. In spite of that, the shelling of Ukrainian cities and the deaths of innocent civilians continue. The Russian Federation will be held accountable for their actions.

Mr. Chairperson,

I noted my thanks to Under-Secretary-General Griffiths. As he noted, Mariupol, a city of 430,000 people, continues to be under siege and its electricity, communications, and water supply has been out for many days already, precipitating a humanitarian catastrophe. Despite an agreement to establish humanitarian corridors, attempts to evacuate civilians and deliver desperately needed food, water, and medicine continue to be prevented by Russian forces. Yesterday, as Under-Secretary-General Griffiths just described to us, a maternity hospital in Mariupol was completely destroyed, including its children's wing. There can be no justification for such an atrocity. And yet, as my US colleague has just referenced, when asked about the bombing of this maternity hospital, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov did not respond with empathy or concern. Instead, he dismissed "pathetic outcries" about "so-called atrocities". Russia must meet its obligations to fully respect international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to abide by the Geneva Conventions.

I must also reiterate Canada's condemnation and gravest concern over Russia's attacks on Ukrainian nuclear facilities, including the Zaporizhzhia and Chernobyl nuclear power plants. We are deeply concerned that four of the seven pillars for maintaining nuclear safety, as described by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General,

have now been breached as a result of Russian military actions. These actions significantly increase the likelihood of a nuclear incident which could have devastating effects on Ukraine and the entire region. Canada is monitoring this situation intently.

Mr. Chairperson,

As my colleague from San Marino said recently, “War does not bring any solutions: it brings only suffering for the populations affected, tragedy, and devastation.” There is only one way to end this brutal, senseless war – an immediate ceasefire, followed by diplomacy and dialogue to agree to a lasting solution. We call on Russia immediately to return all of its military forces to its own territory. We call for the full and unconditional respect for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We stand with Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

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Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful for the comprehensive presentations of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Martin Griffiths, and of the Special Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender, Ms. Liliana Palihovici.

My country is working tirelessly with all parties to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this crisis, including bilateral meetings in Turkey.

Today, Minister H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov and Minister H.E. Mr. Dmytro Kuleba met on the margins of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

We hope that this meeting as well as other ongoing talks will pave the way of returning to dialogue and diplomacy.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate our strong call for an urgent and permanent declaration of ceasefire.

The Russian Federation's ongoing, unprovoked and unjustified military attack against Ukraine is illegal and illegitimate. It is a clear violation of international law. It poses a serious threat to regional and international security.

These attacks and the bloodshed must be stopped immediately.

The situation has created a humanitarian tragedy. As the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported, two million people have fled Ukraine. Two million lives uprooted. Two million people left everything behind.

We will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and the neighbouring countries.

Sixteen trucks containing humanitarian assistance have already been sent from Turkey to the Ukrainian Red Cross, including mobile catering equipment and food supplies.

Two additional trucks of medicines and medical equipment as well as ten health personnel have been sent by the Ministry of Health.

Subsequently, five trucks of tents, beds, pillows and, blankets as well as 11 personnel have been sent by the relevant Turkish authorities.

In addition, 16 more trucks full of humanitarian aid are on their way. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Bulgaria, Romania, Poland and Moldova for their co-operation while we are transferring this humanitarian aid from Turkey.

Mr. Chairperson,

We reject the ongoing assault, as we rejected the decision to recognize the so-called breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, and as we rejected the illegal annexation of Crimea.

We strongly support the preservation of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters.

My country wants peace, serenity and prosperity in its region.

We will continue to resolutely press for peace and stand by the international law.

Turkey is ready to facilitate any effort in any format in the direction of a peaceful way out of this situation.

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

Thank you.





**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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10 March 2022  
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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND  
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES  
OF ALBANIA, ANDORRA, BULGARIA, CANADA, CYPRUS, FRANCE,  
GEORGIA, GERMANY, ICELAND, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN,  
MALTA, MOLDOVA, NORWAY, SAN MARINO, SERBIA,  
SLOVENIA, SWEDEN, TURKEY AND  
THE EUROPEAN UNION)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the women ambassadors and representatives of the OSCE – Albania, Andorra, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Moldova, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and the European Union delegation.

We represent diverse countries of different sizes, from east to west and north to south of Vienna, all with our own national positions but with a common purpose. Today and every day we stand united in our call for inclusive security and for gender equality.

Given the current circumstances, our contribution today will not be focusing on the International Women’s Day theme for 2022 which is “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”. This is a maxim with which we concur but given the fragility of the current circumstances, today we will focus on women and conflict.

The women ambassadors and representatives deplore in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of article 2(4) of the UN Charter. We also echo the call from the United Nations General Assembly resolution demanding the Russian Federation to immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. This act of aggression in the heart of Europe is not only an attack against Ukraine, but on the entire European and global security order.

Women are active agents of peace in armed conflict, yet their role as key players and change agents of peace has been largely unrecognized. We acknowledge and are committed to integrating the different understanding, and experiences, of women into all aspects of

OSCE efforts. This approach is essential to successfully enable comprehensive security and sustaining peace. That is why this Organization needs to continue implementing the women, peace, and security agenda. It is more relevant than ever, in light of the hostilities in Ukraine.

It is well known that violent conflict carries a different set of risks affecting women and girls and intensifies pre-existing gender inequalities and discrimination. Women and children, especially those displaced, are also particularly vulnerable during situations of displacement. The need for the establishment of humanitarian corridors, as well as protection and the safe passage for civilians through local ceasefires is urgent.

Women are always at risk of gender-based violence perpetrated by armed groups. Although gender-based violence has not so far appeared to be systematically or widely used as a weapon of war in the ongoing aggression against Ukraine, we must follow this issue closely, especially since instances of gender-based violence are often underreported.

We are deeply disturbed by the rising number of reports about the use of rape as a weapon and means of controlling the civilian population used by Russian soldiers in Ukraine. These accusations must be properly investigated, women's and girls' rights upheld at all times, and accountability for any violation or abuse of rights guaranteed.

We observe large numbers of people leaving Ukraine but also fleeing within the country. Women and girls living in conflict zones, as well as internally displaced persons, are under severe risk of resorting to "survival sex" as a means of providing basic needs for their families increasing the risk of being exposed to sexual violence and trafficking.

Human trafficking, including trafficking of women for sexual exploitation, is endemic and has been exacerbated by the conflict in and around Ukraine. It increased after 2014, and we should expect that this pattern will continue. Ukrainian victims have been subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour. Already last week there were repeated reports of locally organized gangs on the Ukrainian borders trying to entice women with children to join trafficking. We cannot stand by and watch while this war results in exploitation of women, by forcing them into prostitution and other devastating destinies.

We reiterate our commitment to the OSCE core principles and values, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Istanbul Document. Translating these commitments into action is not an easy task, but it is the basis for accomplishing comprehensive security. Ensuring the implementation of these documents must remain central on the agenda of the OSCE and continues to be a key objective.

Mr. Chairperson,

To realize the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security we must include women and women's perspective on security.

To this end, the women ambassadors and representatives call for the following:

1. An immediate ceasefire, cessation of all hostilities, and adherence to international humanitarian law;

2. As soon as possible, initiation of a peace process which ensures the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, youth, and other historically marginalized communities at all stages of negotiations;
3. Accountability for human rights violations through gender-responsive monitoring and accountability mechanisms led by international actors, including the OSCE; and
4. Integration of key provisions of the women, peace, and security resolutions into all programmes and security initiatives in response to the conflict in Ukraine.

The OSCE and all of us have a role and responsibility to contribute to bringing an end to the human suffering that we see in our region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would request to have this statement attached to the journal of the day.



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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Two weeks have passed since the beginning of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in brazen breach of international law and OSCE commitments.

According to the United Nations, over two million Ukrainians have been uprooted and forced to flee to the neighbouring countries in search of shelter and safety following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This is the largest exodus of people in Europe since the Second World War.

As we speak, Ukrainian cities and settlements are being subjected to massive and indiscriminate bombing and shelling that is claiming lives of innocent children, women and the elderly; there are also reports of rape.

We are appalled by the reports of Russian forces making direct strikes on civilian infrastructure and attacking journalists and medical staff. What we saw yesterday – barbaric bombardments of a maternity and children's hospital – is just inconceivable. Shockingly, the occupying forces continued shelling during the temporary truce agreed earlier. This must stop immediately. International humanitarian law must be upheld.

It is essential that Ukrainians receive life-saving humanitarian aid immediately and are provided with safe corridors, as the people currently trapped in Mariupol and other cities encircled by the Russian forces are facing a dire humanitarian crisis.

We have been following the developments around Ukraine's nuclear power plants with great alarm. We reiterate our call on Russia to immediately cease military actions around nuclear sites, withdraw all its troops and allow the Ukrainian side unimpeded control of its facilities. Georgia supports the IAEA's efforts to stabilize the situation and avert a nuclear accident that would bring catastrophic consequences for the entire continent.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the context of International Women's Day, our attention is especially on the women and girls who are directly affected by the war, as reflected in the statement by the Women Ambassadors of the OSCE that I also signed up to. While in these unprecedented times we barely have any reason to celebrate, I nonetheless wish to commend the bravery and resilience of the women of Ukraine and with them all women in the world facing war and conflict. We join our voice to all calls for action, including action by the OSCE, to address their urgent needs and provide continuous support.

In the same context, let me express my appreciation of the remarks of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender, Liliana Palihovici, and indeed my thanks to United Nations Under-Secretary-General Martin Griffiths for his report, which time and again demonstrated the mounting gravity of the humanitarian crisis.

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.

Georgia spares no effort to support Ukraine here at the OSCE and within all other relevant international organizations and bodies.

We call on Russia to cease aggression immediately, completely and without preconditions, to 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  
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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway stands aligned with the statement made by the European Union, but I would like to add a few points in my national capacity.

Let me start by thanking the special guests of the Chairperson, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, and Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender, Liliana Palihovici, for your introductions to our meeting.

Let me also reiterate that Norway strongly condemns Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, which now has been going on for two full weeks. We also condemn Belarus for facilitating the attack.

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine is becoming progressively worse as we speak. Civilians and civilian infrastructure are being targeted by Russian military forces. Yesterday's attack on a maternity hospital in Mariupol is only one among many horrifying incidents.

The permanent representative of Ireland just made a statement on behalf of the Women Ambassadors and Representatives of the OSCE about the consequences this war is having on women; about how women and children are particularly vulnerable during situations of displacement; about the danger of sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated by armed groups; about the danger of rape as a weapon; about the danger of human trafficking. Norway is aligned with the statement and subscribes to the content.

Nevertheless, war, by its very nature, is cruel and affects all in a negative way, regardless of whether you are a woman or a man, girl or boy, gay or straight, Orthodox, Catholic or atheist. Men are also disproportionately affected, among other things by having to leave their families and take up arms against an aggressor. Everybody is affected, but not necessarily equally. This has to be properly addressed when meeting the present consequences of this irresponsible war.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are gravely concerned about the serious threat that Russia's military activities pose to nuclear facilities in Ukraine. Seizing control of nuclear facilities by force and other violent actions is highly irresponsible. Russian forces are staying on in Chernobyl and have also taken control over the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant by force. Furthermore, as a result of shelling, substantial damages at the neutron source in Kharkiv have been identified. These actions are unacceptable and constitute clear violations of commitments voluntarily adopted by the Russian Federation.

The ongoing war has disrupted direct communication lines between nuclear facilities and the Ukrainian regulator. The staff operating the facilities is under psychological and physical stress. They are at the mercy of an invading force. This is not conducive to the rational and safe operation of nuclear facilities, which we all rely on for our safety.

We call on Russia to immediately cease all hostilities in the vicinity of Ukrainian nuclear facilities, to exercise maximum restraint to avoid any action that could jeopardize or disrupt their safe and secure operation. This would restore Ukraine's ability to ensure safe and secure operations, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to fully resume its safeguards verification activities.

In conclusion, we urge the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukraine's territory within internationally recognized borders and cease all threats and military actions. International law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, must be respected, not least in the midst of war.

Thank you.



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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

While Iceland aligns herself with the European Union statement as well as ours the women ambassadors, I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Two weeks have now passed since Russian authorities launched a brutal military attack on Ukraine, with the support of Belarus.

The humanitarian crisis that has since unfolded before our eyes is simply horrifying. Over two million people have already fled Ukraine, while hundreds of thousands are unable to move safely from besieged areas.

Innocent people, including children, are dying because of indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets. People are without water, electricity, medicine, and basic supplies.

The most vulnerable of the population – the elderly, children, and people with disabilities – are especially at risk. Women and girls are also exposed to the horrors of trafficking as well as gender-based and sexual violence.

We are extremely grateful for how individual countries demonstrate their solidarity and for the hospitality shown to Ukrainian refugees arriving in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova and elsewhere. Iceland stands in solidarity with Ukraine and is firmly committed to playing its part in responding to the urgent requests and needs expressed by Ukraine, as well as welcoming Ukrainians in search of safety from Russian military aggression.

Mr. Chairperson,

Respect for international humanitarian law is not optional.

Targeting civilians and civilian objects is unacceptable and a fundamental violation of international law. Safe and orderly passage must be granted for those wanting to leave. The delivery of humanitarian assistance cannot be compromised.



Since the start of this war, the position of the Russian authorities is that they are in full right to invade a sovereign country. We have had to listen to arrogant statements and false arguments – including here from the Russian delegation at the OSCE – arguments that are utterly removed from reality and completely void of any remorse or empathy.

This is deplorable.

Mr. Chairperson,

The only way to end this brutal war is through diplomatic efforts.

We call on Russia to withdraw its troops immediately and to stop inflicting further death, suffering and destruction in Ukraine.

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

I thank you.



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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 2(a)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Colleagues,

Against the backdrop of a profound security crisis in Europe, when the situation in Ukraine understandably commands the primary attention of the OSCE participating States, the delegation of Armenia is compelled to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the recent provocative actions by the armed forces of Azerbaijan both on the border with Armenia and on the line of contact in Artsakh.

Such provocative actions clearly indicate that the politico-military leadership of Azerbaijan has decided to exploit the current security environment to escalate the fragile situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, once again resorting to the use and threat of force against Artsakh and Armenia and a new wave of intimidation tactics.

In particular, on 7 March, at around 12.40 p.m., units of the Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire at Armenian military positions located to the west of the Armenian-Azerbaijani State border, as a result of which two servicemen of the armed forces of Armenia received gunshot wounds. One of them, Sergeant Hrach Manasaryan, died on the way to hospital.

The situation on the line of contact in Artsakh is no better. For several weeks now, the residents of the villages of Khramort and Norshen in Artsakh have been subjected to terror and intimidation.

Using loudspeakers, the Azerbaijani armed forces demanded that the residents of the villages leave, otherwise they would be forced to do so under the threat of arms. These announcements were followed by the sound of *azan* (call to Muslim prayer) directed towards the Armenian settlements. Given that there is no Azerbaijani population in this region, these actions are clear cases of the threat or use of force, intimidation tactics and also psychological warfare.

When these actions failed to yield results, the Azerbaijani armed forces reverted to the use of arms. The Azerbaijani armed forces were actively firing from various-calibre weapons, including mortars, which interrupted all agricultural activities. Azerbaijani armed forces

targeted not only the villages but also the cemeteries, as well as intercommunal roads in the Askeran and Martuni regions of Artsakh, thus obstructing the free movement of residents.

In particular, on 8 March the village of Khramort was heavily shelled with mortars. From 9 March, the fire and attacks intensified. On March 9, between 2 and 2.30 p.m., two shells were fired from 60 mm mortars in the direction of the area adjacent to Khnushinak village, Martuni region, Artsakh, and shelling continued from 3.50 p.m. to 5.40 a.m. on 10 March, when the Azerbaijani armed forces fired 23 shells from 60 mm mortars in an eastern direction near the village of Khramort.

The ceasefire was regularly violated by the Azerbaijani armed forces throughout the night as well. This morning, Suren Baghryan, born in 1971, a resident of the same community, Artsakh, received shrapnel wounds from a grenade launcher.

There are reports that heavy armaments are being amassed in the close vicinity of the village of Khramort, which can only mean that Azerbaijan is preparing to launch a large-scale attack.

Furthermore, another worrying development is the use of religion by Azerbaijan as part of the intimidation tactics and psychological warfare employed against the civilian population of Artsakh. Instrumentalizing religion as a means of harassment and intimidation is deplorable in any universal belief. The fact that Azerbaijan does not shy away from using religion for its malicious intentions is outrageous and shows that all the talk about religious tolerance in Azerbaijan is merely propaganda trickery.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ever since the establishment of the ceasefire following the 9 November 2020 trilateral statement, the Azerbaijani authorities have employed a wide array of intimidation tactics against the people of Artsakh, ranging from psychological pressure through military attacks to imposing harsh living conditions. The Armenian delegation has continuously expressed its concern about these actions of Azerbaijan and has denounced them as policies aimed at pressurizing people to leave their homes and land.

On 8 March, the gas supply was completely cut off throughout Artsakh owing to damage caused to the gas pipeline in the area controlled by the armed forces of Azerbaijan.

For three days now, the Azerbaijani military, without providing any explanation, has been refusing to allow the repair works on the pipeline necessary in order to restore gas supply, thus depriving the whole population of Artsakh of gas. This action is even more abhorrent given the harsh weather conditions, with temperatures at night going down to below freezing point. This deliberate disruption of gas supply and obstruction of repair work may lead to a humanitarian crisis.

These actions on the part of Azerbaijan are a clear manifestation of hatred and intolerance and fit perfectly within the general pattern of its policy aimed at cleansing Artsakh of its Armenian population.

Mr. Chairperson,

We strongly condemn Azerbaijan's recent provocations and ceasefire violations, which resulted in, *inter alia*, the killing of contract serviceman Hrach Manasaryan in the western section of the Armenia-Azerbaijani border.

We call on Azerbaijan to comply with its obligations under international law and the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020 and the statement of 26 November 2021, and to stop attempts to intimidate the people of Artsakh by measures such as disrupting vital supplies. We also call on the OSCE, in particular the Chairmanship and the participating States, to resolutely condemn such aggressive actions by Azerbaijan without double standards or attention to political, geographical or other preferences and considerations.

Such incidents combine with the recurring ceasefire violations to demonstrate once again the urgency and relevance of a mirror withdrawal of troops from the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the deployment of a border observation mission.

Dear colleagues,

We would like to once again raise the issue of Armenian prisoners of war and other captives still held in captivity by Azerbaijan. In this connection, Azerbaijan continues to mount mock trials of Armenian prisoners of war, in clear defiance of international humanitarian law and in violation of the 9 November trilateral statement.

On 5 March, as part of a series of mock trials on trumped-up charges, the Armenian military servicemen Ishkhan Sargsyan and Vladimir Raphaelyan, who were captured on the sovereign territory of Armenia on 26 May following the 12 May 2021 incursion of the Azerbaijani armed forces, were sentenced to 19 and 18 years in prison, respectively.

With this the Azerbaijani authorities continue their blatant defiance of international humanitarian law and the 9 November 2020 trilateral ceasefire statement, which provides for the release of all prisoners of war and other captives.

Unfortunately, almost 18 months later, Azerbaijan has yet to repatriate all the Armenian prisoners of war, captives and other detained persons, thus violating its obligations under the Geneva Convention and the trilateral statement itself, and disregarding the constant calls of the international community.

According to the data confirmed by Azerbaijan, 38 people, including three civilians, are still being kept hostage by the Azerbaijani authorities. The freedom of these hostages is being used as a bargaining tool, with new conditions regularly being put forward for their release.

There are two dozen well-documented cases of enforced disappearances. In these cases we are in possession of indisputable, recorded facts relating to the capture of the Armenians concerned, but Azerbaijan has neither confirmed their being in captivity nor accorded them any other status.

Azerbaijan's refusal to provide accurate information about the Armenian captives is deeply alarming. Cases of enforced disappearance, torture and inhuman treatment of Armenian prisoners of war and civilian hostages are also a matter of grave concern.

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, none of these issues has received a proper reaction from the OSCE and its participating States. These blatant violations and provocative actions on Azerbaijan's part must be given adequate assessment by, among others, the OSCE and its leadership.

In this context we value the conference organized by the Swedish Chairmanship on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which provided an opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its various aspects.

But above all, we firmly believe that the OSCE and its participating States should clearly, unequivocally and without any caveats denounce the threat or use of force as a means of resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They should make it abundantly clear to the would-be aggressor that such actions will no longer be tolerated and that in the case of aggression on its part, it will promptly suffer consequences.

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite Azerbaijan's derogatory rhetoric and aggressive actions, Armenia continues to firmly believe that there is no alternative to a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Armenia reiterates its readiness to continue the dialogue under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, building on the meetings held in New York and Paris. It is high time to resume work on finding a lasting, just and sustainable solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We echo the statements made by the Co-Chairs on the need for unhindered international humanitarian access to Nagorno-Karabakh and we call on Azerbaijan to stop politicizing this purely humanitarian issue. All humanitarian organizations and specialized agencies must be granted full and unhindered access to Nagorno-Karabakh to carry out their tasks without undue hindrance and restrictions. Armenia is ready to welcome the Co-Chairs in Armenia at any time and is looking forward to their fully fledged and long overdue visit to the region to assess the situation on the ground. We once again urge the Co-Chairs to redouble their efforts to carry out a fully fledged visit to the region and perform their mandated work. We also expect the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office to visit the mission area, including Stepanakert, to carry out his mandated work without undue delay.

The Government of Armenia is committed to all efforts to bring peace and prosperity to the region. To this end, it has adopted a strategy of opening an era of peaceful development for the region and is resolutely undertaking necessary steps in that direction. Reaching a lasting and durable peace in the region is one of the priorities of the Government of Armenia. However, no matter how hard we try, peace will remain just a distant dream until the Azerbaijani authorities show themselves ready to support this peace agenda by abandoning their aggressive and hostile actions and genuinely engaging in the negotiation process under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1362  
10 March 2022  
Annex 14

ENGLISH  
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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 2(b)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, I will comment on some aspects of the statements delivered today by Mr. Martin Griffiths, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, and Ms. Liliana Palihovici, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender.

We traditionally set great store by the efforts of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to alleviate the plight of civilian populations affected by hostilities. Our detailed assessments of the OCHA's work in relation to Ukraine were provided a few days ago in New York during the discussion of Mr. Griffiths's briefing at the United Nations Security Council. There is no need to repeat what Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said – those wishing to acquaint themselves with his statement can do so separately. We will talk a little later about the current situation as regards humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians from areas of fighting and the attempts by fighters from nationalist formations to prevent the safe evacuation of people. Since Mr. Griffiths is not currently following the discussion under this agenda item, we promise to acquaint him with our statement, which we will send, via our colleagues from the Russian Permanent Mission in New York, to the Office that he heads.

Let me say a few words about Ms. Palihovici's remarks. An OSCE official appointed by the Chairmanship to deal with a specific topic, Ms. Palihovici allows herself to make assessments and statements that go beyond the scope of the issues with which she has been entrusted and that are not in line with her mandate. In particular, we have in mind the Special Representative's assessment of Russia's special military operation.

On 8 March, Ms. Palihovici issued a press release in which she outlined in detail her work with refugee women and minors from Ukraine who are in the Republic of Moldova. That document raises many questions. For example, how ever did she manage in just a few days to visit shelters across the Republic of Moldova and meet "thousands of women and children"? And all this after just two weeks. Moreover, this so intensive engagement by the Special Representative with the matter in hand stands in stark contrast to the attitudes to the events of the past few years in eastern Ukraine. Why did Ms. Palihovici not see fit to hold a meeting with the thousands of women and children of Donbas who for eight years have been

subjected to daily shelling by Ukrainian artillery? Where was the reaction when the authorities of one OSCE participating State, namely Ukraine, systematically violated the rights of women and children, including the inalienable right to life? Is the Special Representative's Office aware of, for example, the Alley of Angels in Donetsk, erected to commemorate the young children killed by Ukrainian attacks? We exhort Ms. Palihovici to ensure that the issues with which she has been entrusted are not politicized.

Now let us move on directly to the situation in Ukraine. As you know, the Russian Federation has been conducting a special military operation there since 24 February to protect Donbas. The dismal situation that arose in eastern Ukraine over the past few years through the fault of the post-Maidan authorities bore all the hallmarks of genocide. The ongoing special operation is aimed at ending the protracted conflict as soon as possible and ensuring that conditions are in place for the peaceful, demilitarized evolution of Ukrainian society and the Ukrainian State.

I must once again say outright that no missile, air or artillery strikes are targeting civilian objects or the civilian population. High-precision weapons are being used to incapacitate military infrastructure facilities – since the start of the operation, 2,814 such facilities have already been disabled. The positions of military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces who have laid down their arms are not being attacked. We stress that the special operation is being carried out by professional military personnel.

Building on three rounds of consultations with the Ukrainian side that have taken place in Belarus, the Russian Federation has for several days in a row, including today, been guaranteeing the opening of humanitarian corridors so that the civilian population can leave Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Mariupol and several other localities. Yet, it would seem that the actions of representatives of the Kyiv regime are at present aimed at thwarting the unhindered evacuation of the civilian population from the area of active hostilities to the Russian Federation in particular. Most of the humanitarian corridors proposed by Russia are not operating fully owing to the lack of reciprocal steps by the Ukrainian side.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk, in particular, rejected the opportunity to evacuate people to Russia by refusing to facilitate the organization of such corridors. Inhumane remarks were made in public by the senior officials in charge of the Sumy region and the city of Sumy, Dmytro Zhyvytskyi and Oleksandr Lysenko, who threatened to shoot civilians trying to use the humanitarian corridors leading to Russia. In this connection, we note a statement made a few days ago by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, pointing to “reports of beatings of people considered to be pro-Russian” in territories controlled by the Ukrainian Government.

Assertions that there is almost no one wishing to be evacuated to Russian territory are downright lies. In the past 24 hours alone, 48,543 Ukrainian citizens and foreigners submitted relevant applications. All in all, the inter-agency co-ordination headquarters established in Russia for the humanitarian response in Ukraine has already received more than 2.5 million requests from inhabitants of Ukraine asking for assistance in organizing such an evacuation. I would remind you that, overall, Russia has evacuated, without any involvement by the Ukrainian authorities, over 179,000 civilians, including more than 45,000 children, since the start of the special operation. Additionally, hundreds of tonnes of humanitarian aid have been



delivered to the inhabitants of southern and eastern Ukraine by the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations.

In these circumstances, the Russian armed forces have sent an official request to the International Committee of the Red Cross asking it to take urgent steps to induce the authorities in Kyiv to evacuate civilians. Today, talks took place in Turkey between the Foreign Ministers of Russia and Ukraine, during which this and other issues pertaining to the crisis in Ukraine were brought up.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the Ukrainian Government has lost control over many nationalist paramilitary units in the east of the country, which are carrying out armed provocations and using the civilian population as cover during hostilities. For example, the building of a children's hospital in Sumy is being used as a stronghold by a unit of the "territorial defence forces". The situation in Mariupol is revealing: fighters there are not only not allowing the civilian population to leave for Novoazovsk via a humanitarian corridor but are also setting up firing positions in the courtyards and on the rooftops of public facilities, including children's institutions and medical facilities.

We have been hearing many lamentations today about the situation regarding a maternity hospital in Mariupol. However, no one has stopped to consider what exactly armed members of the Azov nationalist battalion and the 36th Marine Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces were doing inside that building and on its rooftops, or why they previously drove out all the staff and patients from the hospital and set up a stronghold there including firing positions. One of the city's kindergartens was completely destroyed by them. According to reports, as a result of the neutralization of that stronghold of the Ukrainian formations, the number of killed and wounded from among their ranks totalled more than sixty. Pray, does all this have anything to do with "women in labour"? The Russian Ministry of Defence has published photographic and audiovisual evidence of how this facility was being used for military purposes. We recommend you to study that evidence.

On 6 March, Azov battalion fighters opened fire on civilians making their way out of Mariupol. The next day, during clashes with forces from the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) on the city's Victory Avenue, the Azov fighters forced 150 civilians into the space in front of them as "human shields", leading to four people being killed and 15 wounded. It is worth noting that the members of the Azov battalion and Ukrainian military stationed in Donbas managed to complete training programmes on urban warfare under the supervision of NATO "instructors" at training centres in southern and western Ukraine, as we have repeatedly pointed out in this room.

Video material published today from the recently routed Aidar nationalist battalion, which back in 2014 achieved notoriety for its unprecedentedly cruel treatment of the civilian population of Donbas, has yielded details that are no less interesting. These have all been captured on video, and it is possible to give the names of specific individuals. Military instructors from the United States of America, Canada, Lithuania and other countries came directly to the line of contact to pay "visits" to the Aidar neo-Nazis. They trained their "hosts" in combat tactics used by terrorist groups in Syria fighting against the government troops there. Incidentally, a large number of videos from Syria were discovered in the possession of the Aidar fighters.

In one of the headquarters of another nationalist paramilitary formation, Right Sector, a laptop bearing a NATO serial number was recently discovered: it had been used for secure communications via the NATO network. The laptop was demonstrated in public in Donetsk on 6 March. It contained intelligence data and also a detailed map of the area on which the positions of DPR units had been marked. Additionally, Right Sector was found to have been in possession of a map of the region of the Russian Federation contiguous with Ukraine, including a tactical representation of operations by Ukrainian formations to carry out an incursion into that area. The incursion had been scheduled for 8 March, that is, just a couple of days ago. All this is direct proof of how NATO was providing assistance to paramilitary nationalists in Ukraine at the same time as the leadership of the North Atlantic Alliance were repeatedly stating that their military bloc had no forces present on Ukrainian territory.

Much light has also been shed by documents published by the Russian Ministry of Defence that were discovered a few days ago in the former positions of the Fourth Rapid Response Brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine. One of the documents published was an incoming cryptogram from the brigade's command, designated as "confidential" and dated 28 January of this year, which ordered combat training to be conducted in early March and preparations to be made for the subsequent implementation of (special forces) combat missions in Donbas. The brigade had been reinforced with sniper teams and sabotage and reconnaissance groups (such activities, by the way, were categorically banned under the ceasefire-strengthening measures of 22 July 2020, which were still in force at the time).

Incidentally, fighters from private military companies, mainly from the United States and the United Kingdom, continue to arrive in Ukraine. Among the companies that are known to have sent or recruited fighters are Academi, Cubic, the Dean Corporation, Silent Professionals and Professional Overseas Contractors. According to the Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, up to 20,000 mercenaries from several countries are currently set to arrive in Ukraine. A so-called "foreign legion" is being established; visa restrictions have been waived for those coming to Ukraine to join the former and fight in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces or alongside Ukrainian nationalists. The embassies of Ukraine in European countries are openly exhorting the citizens of those countries to sign up as mercenaries.

The NATO countries continue to flood Ukraine with weapons which it is becoming impossible to control. These shipments, including thousands of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), are being carried out in violation of existing measures to restrict their proliferation – in particular, the OSCE Principles for Export Controls of MANPADS, which were adopted by the Ministerial Council in Sofia in 2004 and updated by Decision No. 5/08 of the Forum for Security Co-operation. Do people in the West realize that these lethal weapons can not only end up in the hands of Ukrainian neo-Nazis but also spread throughout Europe?

On 9 March, President Zelenskyy signed Act No. 2114-IX into law, allowing civilians to use combat weapons without any controls on such use. Convicts had previously been released from custody, while weapons were handed out freely in the streets of cities (records were not even kept of these weapons transfers) – relevant audiovisual evidence has been published by the media. Such steps risk leading to a surge in criminality in Ukraine. Armed gangs of robbers acting in the guise of so-called "territorial defence forces" are already terrorizing the civilian population and breaking into houses.

We are alarmed by reports of increasingly frequent provocations by Ukrainian armed formations at critical infrastructure facilities. For example, they carried out a strike on an electrical substation serving the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP) and on adjacent overhead power lines. The attackers prevented repair work from being performed. Russian specialists took rapid action to provide backup power sources. No increases have been recorded in the levels of background radiation that are characteristic of that area.

Last week, the situation regarding the Zaporizhzhia NPP was at the centre of attention: a Ukrainian sabotage party provoked a firefight near the training and administrative premises and then set fire to them when withdrawing. The plant is currently operating in regular mode; detachments of Russian troops are guarding it securely. Rotation of staff is ensured and the radiation situation is normal. We emphasize that the operation of Ukraine's nuclear facilities should not become the subject of political speculation and that the facilities themselves should not be exposed to armed provocations by Ukrainian formations. In our view, it is advisable to use a specialized platform to deal with all technical aspects related to the normal functioning of such facilities, namely the International Atomic Energy Agency.

According to available information from the Russian Ministry of Defence, Ukrainian armed formations are actively preparing a provocation involving the use of toxic substances so as to be able to accuse Russia of having allegedly deployed chemical weapons. Thus, in the early hours of 9 March, Ukrainian nationalists transported around 80 tonnes of ammonia to the settlement of Zolochiv, to the north-west of Kharkiv. Moreover, reports are coming in on possible acts of sabotage targeting facilities that are part of Ukraine's gas transmission system.

One further point. We draw your attention to evidence of dangerous activities carried out by the United States in Ukraine, where for a number of years more than thirty laboratories in various cities have been engaging in secret military biological work on behalf of the US Department of Defense. Several such laboratories were operating right next to Russia's borders. The US authorities sponsored the work performed at all these laboratories to the tune of more than 200 million dollars.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the US Department of Defense was the client behind the work being carried out there. Companies affiliated with the Department of Defense took part in the implementation of the programmes, above all Black & Veatch. One of the programmes' objectives was the conduct of scientific research on potential biological warfare agents that were specific to the region in question.

According to hard documentary evidence<sup>1</sup>, an urgent winding down of biological programmes has been under way since 24 February. Documents obtained from Ukrainian specialists confirm that the Ministry of Health of Ukraine ordered that the biological agents kept at these laboratories be completely destroyed. The catalogue of pathogens and the abundant amounts involved point to work carried out under military biological programmes. All this raises questions as to possible violations of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention of 1972 by the United States and Ukraine. It is not surprising that the United

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1 Material held by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation; see <https://mil.ru/>.

States has been doing everything possible to avoid verification activities aimed at checking whether the provisions of the Convention are being implemented in good faith.

It is highly telling that United States Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, testifying before the Senate at a hearing on 8 March, expressed the hope that data on US military biological activities in Ukraine would not fall into the hands of the Russian military. We are perfectly aware that the activities of the US Department of Defense in Ukraine have nothing whatsoever to do with the conduct of scientific research in the interests of peace and development.

In fact, Ms. Nuland did not even try to hide that: at the aforementioned hearing she pointed out that the key task of the US administration in Ukraine was to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia. As may be seen, it is not at all about defending so-called “democratic values”. Just as that was never the case when Ukraine was being intensively fashioned into an “anti-Russia”, when the rights of its population were being curtailed, when the country was being forced to change its identity, and when nationalists were being armed who had announced their hostile intentions with regard to everything Russian both within Ukraine and abroad. You have only to recall how they dreamed out loud about “driving a tank around Red Square” or holding military parades in the capitals of neighbouring States. We sincerely regret that it is precisely this frenzied militarism of the “hotheads” in Kyiv that has met and is meeting with support from many OSCE participating States.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 2(c)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

A brief response to the delegation of Armenia – no amount of allegations and outright lies can alter the basic reality.

We took note of the statement made by the delegation of France on behalf of the European Union. However, we are surprised by such a current issue, since the topic was already raised by the delegation of the European Union and discussed at the 1354th meeting of the Permanent Council. Nothing substantial has happened since then that would require discussing the same topic.

Nevertheless, given the interest of some delegations to the issues discussed at the meetings between the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the President of France as chair of the European Union Emmanuel Macron, the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, we would like to remind the Council on the topics discussed in their entirety.

The meeting on 4 February was a continuation of the Brussels peace agenda. During the meeting, the issues pertaining to the normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations were discussed in detail. In this regard, in accordance with the predetermined agenda of the event, the sides exchanged views on various aspects of relations between the two countries, including humanitarian issues, confidence-building measures, the problem of landmines that Azerbaijan is facing, the opening of communications and the delimitation and demarcation of borders.

One of the main issues on the agenda of the meeting held on 4 February was the humanitarian issue. In this regard, the President of Azerbaijan brought to attention the importance of providing information on the fate of a total of 3,890 Azerbaijani citizens, including 71 children, 267 women and 326 elderly people, during the first Armenia-Azerbaijan war, and clarifying the issue by Armenia regarding the location of mass graves where they were buried. This issue was supported by the Presidents of France and the Council of the European Union.

Furthermore, during the discussions on 4 February, President Ilham Aliyev drew particular attention to the urgent need to enhance international support for Azerbaijan in the process of demining the liberated territories. President Ilham Aliyev noted that since the end of the patriotic war, 36 Azerbaijani citizens have been killed and 165 injured in mine explosions.

The issue of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s mission to Azerbaijan and Armenia was also discussed at the meeting. The sides agreed that a mission would be sent to both countries.

The issue of UNESCO's mission to both Azerbaijan and Armenia, which was omitted in the statement delivered by the European Union, is an important one, since Azerbaijani cultural heritage was destroyed not only in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, but also on the territory of Armenia.

As to the call to engage in intense diplomatic negotiations, this call should be first and foremost addressed to Armenia, which has not yet reciprocated on the offer of Azerbaijan to normalize bilateral relations on the basis of mutual recognition and respect to each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders. Armenia is also yet to reciprocate on the readiness of Azerbaijan to start working on delimitation and demarcation of the international border. So far, Armenia only puts forward preconditions, which will only delay the process.

And, finally, when the delegation of the European Union raises the current issue on the meeting involving Azerbaijan it should make sure that it comments only on the topics under consideration. As I said earlier, the above-mentioned meetings had a predetermined agenda and included issues related to the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, humanitarian issues, confidence-building measures, the problem of landmines and missing persons that Azerbaijan is facing, the opening of communications and the delimitation and demarcation of borders. I am not aware of any ongoing so-called "mediation efforts under the auspices of the OSCE", to which the delegation of the European Union was expressing its support.

Repeating obsolete narratives and perceptions by anyone will be counterproductive, will only sustain the revanchist attitudes prevailing in Armenia and will be irrelevant for us. The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to reiterate that the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 by Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation put an end to the three-decades-long armed conflict. Azerbaijan has restored its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis were ensured. Now that the conflict has been resolved, the Government of Azerbaijan has already initiated practical steps aimed at eliminating the consequences of the decades-long occupation followed by massive destruction. All efforts should be directed at consolidating peace in the region on the basis of the post-conflict realities that offer a unique opportunity and real prospects for peace, security and stability in the region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 2(d)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

It is the firm understanding of Russia that it is essential to continue with the strict implementation of the trilateral agreements enshrined in the statements by the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia of 9 November 2020, 11 January 2021 and 26 November 2021. Achieving progress in the areas covered by the aforementioned documents – notably with regard to unblocking transport links and economic ties, and launching the process for delimitation and demarcation of the Azerbaijani-Armenian border – will enable significant advances to be made in normalizing relations between the Azerbaijani and Armenian Governments and further improving the situation in the region as a whole.

Russia is consistently undertaking efforts to resolve the situation on the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia, where from time to time there unfortunately occur incidents involving the use of weapons. All these instances are being recorded by the Russian peacekeeping contingent deployed along the line of contact in accordance with the statement of 9 November 2020, which continues to fulfil the task of monitoring the ceasefire in its area of responsibility. When isolated incidents arise, exhaustive measures are taken to stabilize the situation and prevent it from escalating.

We emphasize that to guarantee that incidents do not repeat themselves, it is necessary that the parties should unconditionally implement all the provisions of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, confirmed their commitment to this in Sochi on 26 November 2021.

Russia, for its part, stands ready to continue providing all necessary assistance in the interests of improving Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, establishing an atmosphere of trust between the peoples of the two countries, and promoting peace and stability in the region.

Generally speaking, we welcome the aspirations of any party wishing to become involved in the settlement process and in ensuring stability and security in the South Caucasus, but only as long as such efforts are not undertaken according to the principle of a zero-sum game, do not duplicate known and tested formats, and do not imply an element of

geopolitical competition, but, rather, are informed by the interests of the parties and fully take into account the trilateral agreements of the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.





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**1362nd Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1362, Agenda item 2(e)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Today, we would like to bring to the attention of the Permanent Council the recent developments in the region following the signing of the trilateral statements and post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in the region.

The trilateral statement signed on 10 November 2020 between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia has put an end to the conflict and set agreed parameters for establishing durable peace in the region. Now that the war is over and the conflict has been resolved, the priorities of Azerbaijan at the current post-conflict stage have been stated unambiguously, including at the highest political level. These are the soonest and most effective post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration and normalization of inter-State relations.

The Government of Azerbaijan has already initiated practical steps aiming at eliminating the consequences of the decades-old occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia accompanied by massive destruction. Large-scale construction work is being carried out in the liberated territories. Azerbaijan is building new cities and towns from scratch by applying modern urban planning and utilizing the concepts of “smart city” and “smart village”. All this work is being conducted with Azerbaijan’s own financial resources. To that end, 1.3 billion US dollars has been allocated from the State budget in 2021. Almost the same amount is envisaged in the State budget for this year.

Since the signing of the trilateral statements, we are not in a position to report to the Permanent Council full implementation of these agreements. Armenia still refuses to withdraw its illegal armed formations fully from the territories of Azerbaijan, where the peacekeepers are temporarily deployed to, and keeps using the Lachin road for military purposes in contravention of the provisions of the trilateral statement, which envisage the use of this road only for citizens, vehicles and goods.

Likewise, Armenia must implement fully Article 9 of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement, which envisages restoration of all economic and transport links in the region supplemented by another trilateral statement signed on 11 January 2021. This is one of the areas that can serve the cause of peace and co-operation in the region. In this context, the Zangazur corridor connecting mainland Azerbaijan with its inseparable part – the

Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic – and Turkey and will create new opportunities for the whole region.

In line with its obligations, Armenia has also to co-operate in order to address the threat of mines and other explosive devices that it planted on a massive scale in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. This is one of the major impediments to the realization of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction plans, the return of internally displaced persons to their homes, thus enabling the return to normal life. Since the signing of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, around 36 Azerbaijani citizens were killed, while 165 citizens were wounded. Azerbaijan is among the most heavily mined countries in the world. The accuracy level of the maps of the minefields, which Armenia was forced to release under pressure, is only 25 per cent. The international community must force Armenia to co-operate fully with Azerbaijan and to provide information on the minefields in all liberated territories.

Furthermore, Armenia has yet to implement its obligations with regard to identifying the whereabouts of close to 4,000 Azerbaijanis missing since the armed hostilities in the beginning of the 1990s. We would like to inform the Council that most recently, as a result of a search operation and investigative measures, new mass graves have been identified in the Edilli village of the Khojavend district and in the territory of Fuzuli city of Azerbaijan. Detailed information on these gruesome atrocities committed by Armenia will be distributed by our delegation. It is of urgent necessity to ensure that their fates are finally established and all those who committed war crimes against these Azerbaijanis are brought to justice. This is important for healing the wounds of the former conflict.

Azerbaijan supported and offered to Armenia to launch the process of delimitation and demarcation of the entire State border between the two countries. However, Armenia keeps evading from starting this process. Armenia's recent provocations support the view that this country is not interested in it. It must further be added that Armenia still refuses to implement its commitment to return to Azerbaijan eight exclaves along the border, which are still under the unlawful occupation of Armenia.

Azerbaijan has offered to Armenia to work on normalization of inter-State relations on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders. There is no alternative to this. However, we have not yet seen any positive reaction from Armenia regarding our proposal.

On the contrary, recent provocations vividly demonstrate that Armenia has not abandoned its futile attempts to undermine the fragile peace. It is not surprising that Armenia has yet again resorted to military provocations in the territory of Azerbaijan. The recent actions of Armenia represent an attempt to drag Azerbaijan into provocations by taking advantage of the aggravation of the situation in another part of the OSCE area.

Thus, since the beginning of March of this year the illegal Armenian armed detachments in the territory of Azerbaijan, where the Russian peacekeepers are temporarily deployed to, using various calibre weapons subjected to fire the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in various directions in the Aghdam, Khojaly, Goranboy, Tartar, Kalbajar and Tovuz regions of Azerbaijan. The Armenian armed forces also subjected to fire the positions

of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in the direction of the Ordubad region of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan on the State border.

The units of Azerbaijan's armed forces stationed in the above-mentioned directions took adequate measures in order to respond to these provocations of Armenia. The armed forces of Azerbaijan do not target civilian infrastructure, but only the positions of the illegal Armenian armed detachments.

In fact, by resorting to these most recent provocations Armenia follows the usual pattern of its behaviour of escalating the situation by taking advantage of turmoil elsewhere. We urge Armenia not to fish in troubled waters and focus instead on the implementation in good faith of its international obligations, including the provisions of the trilateral statements.

No amount of distortions of international law principles and outright lies and fake "current issues" can alter the basic reality. Who was the aggressor and who was the aggrieved is a well-established fact as evidenced by the realities accepted and embraced by the international community. The delegation of Armenia must realize this once and for all.

The most recent provocations testify to the highly revanchist attitude prevalent in Armenia in the post-conflict period. Armenia attempts to destabilize the situation and jeopardize the prospects for establishing durable peace in the region by resorting to provocations being committed by the leftovers of its armed forces in the territory of Azerbaijan, as well as on the State border between the two countries.

These provocations fit well into the pattern of Armenia's irresponsible military adventurism. It is a dangerous exercise with unpredictable consequences which by no means contributes to the consolidation of peace in the region. We stress that the main responsibility for this lies directly with Armenia's politico-military leadership.

It is highly alarming that Armenia still fails to draw lessons from the most recent past and its defeat on the battlefield. We reiterate that it is essential for Armenia to soberly assess the new realities and not to rely on miscalculations or false expectations that could undermine peace and stability in the region. Instead, Armenia should reciprocate on the constructive offer of Azerbaijan and seize the historic window of opportunity to normalize relations with neighbouring countries based on the fundamental OSCE principles, which will open up immense opportunities for this country and the broader region.

It is also essential for the international community, including the OSCE, to send the right messages to Armenia and urge this country to focus on the implementation of its obligations instead of engaging in the acts of politico-military adventurism and opportunism, which proved counterproductive for this country on so many occasions before. At the current critical juncture in our region, joint efforts must be undertaken in order to consolidate the fragile peace and stability which emerged with the end of the armed conflict and the signing of the trilateral statements.

In closing, we stress once again that the armed forces of Azerbaijan will continue taking appropriate resolute measures in order to repel any provocations by Armenia and ensure the protection of Azerbaijan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of

its internationally recognized borders. Armenia bears full responsibility for aggravating the situation.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.