

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/731/22
20 May 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1374th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 May 2022

On the activities of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Decaux,

We have listened carefully to the information about the work of the Court and its plans for the future and we have taken note of it. The legal basis for the work of the body headed by you is the Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration within the CSCE, which was concluded in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. We note that the political realities in the OSCE area have changed dramatically since then. Respect for the norms of international law and trust in the impartiality of the judicial mechanisms established to uphold it, also on the basis of decisions of the United Nations Security Council, have been largely undermined.

And this did not happen overnight, although your address implies that the situation changed dramatically literally “during the preparation” of this report. Western countries forgot about the principles of international law as early as 1999, when a number of States present in this room, in flagrant violation of their OSCE commitments, committed aggression against the sovereign State Yugoslavia. Among them were those who at that time had already ratified the aforementioned Convention, in particular France, Italy and Germany. But that did not stop them from violating the spirit and the letter of its preamble, which contains the “solemn commitment” to settle disputes through peaceful means.

It seems quite logical that such “champions of the peaceful resolution of conflicts” often like to talk about a kind of “rules-based world order”. After all, it is they who have done and continue to do everything in their power to replace genuine, universal norms of international law with such “rules”. And they have taken for themselves the privilege of determining what complies with those “rules” and what does not. No conventions, principles or commitments to which they are signatories are taken into account. And examples of this disregard for generally accepted legal norms are not limited to the OSCE area. Just look at the development of the situation in the Middle East and North Africa over the past 20 years and there is no doubt that the international legal instruments previously created by the world community have degraded. Hypocrisy and duplicity are the basis of the “new wonderful rules-based world”. For those who promote this concept, there is only one rule – the rule of the strongest. And they are unashamedly employing this rule for all it is worth.

Is it any wonder that, since its establishment in 1994, the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration has not heard a single case within its jurisdiction? If the Court is not called upon by the parties themselves, what can be said of all those who have not ratified the Convention and who are in no way subject to its jurisdiction?

Let me repeat: it did not just become clear today that the legal mechanisms and principles, both of the United Nations and of the OSCE, to which you have just referred, Mr. Decaux, are being applied by a group of countries “to the west of Vienna” either selectively or not at all. This state of affairs was obvious to everyone as far back as 23 years ago. I am surprised that you have not noticed this until now.

Thank you for your attention.