

Chairmanship: Azerbaijan

1005th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 12.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. F. Osmanov

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Russian war of aggression against Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/146/22) (FSC.DEL/146/22/Add.1), Canada, France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/144/22), United States of America (Annex 1), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/150/22 OSCE+), United Kingdom (Annex 2), Turkey (Annex 3), Georgia (Annex 4)
- (b) *Special military operation to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine*: Russian Federation (Annex 5) (FSC.DEL/154/22/Add.1), France-European Union, United States of America, Canada, Portugal (Annex 6), United Kingdom, Ukraine, Germany (Annex 7), Austria, Switzerland, Lithuania (Annex 8) (FSC.DEL/145/22), Finland (FSC.DEL/152/22), France, Chairperson

Point of order: United States of America, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 30 March 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video
teleconference



1005th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1011, Agenda item 1(a)

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We are taking the floor under the subject raised by Ukraine, “the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.”

The United States would like to highlight the International Court of Justice’s 17 March ruling in Ukraine’s case against Russia under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Court clearly ordered Russia to immediately suspend the military operations Russia commenced last month and further directed Russia to ensure that anyone subject to its direction, including military or irregular armed units, take no steps in furtherance of such military operations.

The Court – which plays a vital role in the peaceful settlement of disputes under the UN Charter – stressed the need for States to act in conformity with their obligations under international law, including the laws of war. The Court expressed deep concern about the extreme vulnerability of the civilian population of Ukraine and the numerous civilian deaths and injuries that have resulted from the Kremlin’s actions. The Court also observed that it did not possess any evidence substantiating Russia’s claims that “genocide” had been committed by Ukraine in the Donbas region.

We welcome the Court’s order and call on Russia to comply with the order, immediately cease its military operations, and establish unhindered humanitarian access in Ukraine. As United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said yesterday, “Continuing the war in Ukraine is morally unacceptable, politically indefensible, and militarily nonsensical.”

Tomorrow, we will mark a month since Russia launched its further invasion of Ukraine. It is long past time for Russia to stop its war of aggression. The human cost of this war grows day by day. A quarter of Ukraine’s population, 10 million people and counting, are refugees or internally displaced. With every day that passes, the toll of civilians, including children, killed and wounded, continues to climb. Every day, we see reports of new suffering caused by Russia’s armed forces:

- The destruction of a Mariupol theatre followed in quick succession by that of an art school earlier this week where hundreds of civilians were also sheltering;
- A nursing home shelled by Russian forces in the Luhansk region killing dozens of elderly residents;
- A shopping mall in Kyiv;
- A bread line in Chernihiv where an American, Mr. Jim Hill, was killed by shelling along with 10 others last week; this just days after two US journalists and their Ukrainian colleague were killed.

Russia's shelling, bombings, and missile attacks have struck civilians and civilian infrastructure across Ukraine. At last count, the World Health Organization documented 46 hospitals and medical facilities had been struck by Russian attacks. Earlier this week, Russia's bombing of an ammonia plant in Sumy marked a further dangerous development. We note that it occurred two days after the Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations circulated a letter addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General, which articulated a false narrative that Ukrainian nationalists had mined the plant in an effort to poison residents if Russian forces entered the city.

Military analysts speak of a "stalemate" on the ground as an agile Ukrainian resistance has repelled the Russian assault. Logistics failures and low morale among conscript forces have also apparently stymied Russia's offensive. Some analysts warn of a "quagmire" or "war of attrition." However, this remains an active battlefield and indications are Ukrainian forces are mounting counteroffensives.

Unable to make progress on the ground, Russia is increasingly relying on stand-off weapons, including long-range missiles launched from Russian territory against Ukrainian cities. Credible reports also document use of artillery, multiple-launch rocket systems, and cluster munitions against population centres. We have seen Russian troops escalate their violence, and we have seen widespread devastation. As Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin observed, Russian President Putin's campaign in Ukraine is "essentially stalled," which is why he has resorted to "disgusting" attacks against civilians. Secretary Blinken noted how "we've seen Russia use similar tactics before in Grozny and Aleppo. They stepped up their bombardment with the goal of breaking the will of the people."

The siege of Mariupol is the most heart-breaking example: at least 100,000 residents, if not more, remain trapped, starving, and without access to water and sanitation for weeks, 90 per cent of the buildings damaged or destroyed, gun battles in the city centre, and now naval bombardment. Russians should recall another apocalyptic siege, that of Leningrad. Yet, in Mariupol, there are no polar convoys to provide humanitarian relief. Instead, Russia cynically demanded the city's surrender earlier this week in exchange for allowing humanitarian corridors and the Mariupol City Council reports forcible deportation of residents by Russian forces to Russian territory. While the human tragedy in Mariupol unfolded, President Putin held a triumphalist rally in Moscow last week to celebrate his "special military operation for the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine."

As Secretary Blinken said in reference to Putin's war of choice: those responsible for war crimes committed in Ukraine will be held to account. We will work in conjunction with the international efforts to investigate and document war crimes and bring all those responsible to justice.

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States will continue to stand by the people of Ukraine and provide humanitarian, economic, and military assistance to its legitimate government. Allow me to read from Article 51 of the UN Charter in this regard: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations."

Ukrainian forces have used US security assistance to great effect, and the United States is helping Ukraine acquire additional air defence and anti-armour systems. Providing military assistance against an armed attack is not "pumping Ukraine with weapons" as our Russian colleagues allege, rather it is supporting the people of Ukraine in their fight for their country with the types of weapons they need to effectively defend themselves.

Russia's disinformation campaign lacks any credibility. The Russian delegation continues to circulate false information regarding an alleged biological weapons programme. I refer you to our statement last week regarding the Department of Defense's Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which as I noted conducted similar work in Russia until 2014, and OSCE projects on biological and chemical security in Ukraine.

We question why Russia continues to repeat these false claims after they have been fully and repeatedly debunked. We remain concerned Russia may seek to use biological weapons or chemical weapons in Ukraine. The Kremlin has a long track record of falsely accusing other countries of the very violations that Russia itself is planning or perpetrating. Should this be the case, rest assured, Russia should be made to pay a severe price if it uses biological or chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

We understand that Kremlin disinformation is often directed at the Russian people but that too is unsustainable. The truth is beginning to reach them through voices such as that of Ms. Marina Ovsyannikova and Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger who concluded his video appeal saying, "I urge the Russian people and the Russian soldiers in Ukraine to understand the propaganda and the disinformation that you are being told. I ask you to help me spread the truth."

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

Slava Ukraini.



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

FSC.JOUR/1011
23 March 2022
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1005th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1011, Agenda item 1(a)

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

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

Mr. Chairperson, it is with great regret that we have reached the appalling milestone that it is now a month since President Putin launched his unprovoked, premeditated and a barbaric attack on Ukraine. Throughout these terrible weeks we have seen the most reprehensible and horrific attacks conducted against Ukraine in which so many innocent people have lost their lives.

We have watched the biggest concentration of forces amassed since the Cold War roll into Ukraine where it has been frustrated by fierce Ukrainian resistance. The Russian invasion has largely stalled on all fronts. Russian forces have made minimal progress on land, sea or air in recent days and they continue to suffer heavy losses. Thousands of troops, hundreds of tanks, attack helicopters, and close air support have so far failed to yield results.

Mr. Chairperson, Russia has unleashed a horrendous amount of violence on the Ukrainian people. Russian naval forces continue to blockade the Ukrainian coast and to launch missile strikes on targets across Ukraine. The blockade of Ukraine's coast is effectively isolating Ukraine from international maritime trade and is contributing to the deteriorating humanitarian situation Russia has created by preventing vital supplies reaching the Ukrainian population. This is exacerbated further with the attacks on Ukrainian ports and port cities, including the atrocious and indiscriminate destruction of Mariupol.

Bogged down and making minimal progress, frustrated Russian military commanders are trying to break the unbreakable – Ukrainian spirit and resolve. They are doing this in the most cowardly way, attacking urban and residential centres indiscriminately from distance using: multi-launch rocket systems, Iskander ballistic missiles, artillery, cruise missiles, cluster munitions and thermobaric rockets.

This is not the art of war being conducted by an honourable and professional military of a great power. This is indiscriminate destruction. Those carrying out war crimes should know they cannot act with impunity. Indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians amount to war crimes, for which those who are complicit, must be held accountable. The world is quite literally watching.

Our Russian colleagues have the privileged position to watch uncensored news from around the world reporting the true horrors of President Putin's chosen path of bloodshed and destruction. But again and again, in the face of the overwhelming truth, they continue to peddle the Kremlin's blizzard of lies and disinformation. They have lost all credibility. It is shameful behaviour, disrespectful to this Forum, everyone in this room and the diplomatic profession.

Mr. Chairperson, one month in, and President Putin's so-called "special military operation" is certainly not going to plan. We can only imagine how angry he must be. How infuriating it is to be lied to. How devastating the consequences. Russian soldiers are paying a high price for this deceit – they are fighting and dying for a lie.

In contrast, the Ukrainian people are fighting for their homeland. United and defiant. The world is witnessing displays of courage, determination, and resolve that will go down in history.

The United Kingdom, along with many others, repeatedly warned that any Russian military incursion into Ukraine would be a massive strategic mistake and would come at a severe cost. Last week, we updated this Forum on our continued support to Ukraine, our friends, as they fight for the right to choose their own destiny.

This week, I would like to update that the UK Government has now taken the decision to donate Starstreak, a high velocity, man-portable anti-air missile to the armed forces of Ukraine. With the accompanying training package, this defensive weapon system will allow the armed forces of Ukraine to better defend their skies from Russian military aircraft.

I would reiterate, all of our support to the democratic sovereign nation of Ukraine is defensive in nature and will help them defend themselves against this Russian war of aggression.

We will make the Russian Government pay the price of its actions. The United Kingdom stands with the Ukrainian people in their fight for their homeland. We will work with our partners – for however long it takes – to ensure that the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the independence of Ukraine is restored.

Mr. Chairperson, finally, I would again urge our Russian colleagues, to take a moment – to listen to the overwhelming condemnation (141 countries at the United Nations General Assembly) and to listen to the truth. I urge them to consider their position, responsibilities and legacy as diplomats and citizens of Russia and stop their complicit propagation of President Putin's lies to their own people. Their actions and choices today will be ones they have to live with forever.

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



1005th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1011, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

It will soon be one month since the start of the Russian Federation's illegal and illegitimate attack against Ukraine – a clear violation of international law.

The humanitarian crisis is unfortunately intensifying.

More than 3.2 million refugees have been forced to flee Ukraine and millions are internally displaced within the country.

In addition to those who have had to flee, around 13 million people in the areas hardest hit by the war within Ukraine are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

The pace and magnitude of the internal displacement and refugee exodus from Ukraine will unfortunately continue to increase, as will the ensuing humanitarian needs.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, many people remain trapped in areas of escalating conflict and, owing to the disruption of essential services, are unable to meet their basic needs, including access to food, water and medicines. Children, in particular, are facing a dire situation.

As Mr. Raouf Mazou, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stressed at last week's Permanent Council meeting, this is also a "child protection crisis" and a human trafficking crisis for women. The dangers that all those women and children are facing right now cannot be justified on any grounds.

According to the World Health Organization, at least 24 health facilities have come under attack. This is completely unacceptable.

Ukrainian natural assets and movable and immovable cultural heritage in all its forms are also under threat, as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has emphasized. Cultural property needs to be protected. Turkey has supported the decisions taken within UNESCO in this regard.

On 3 March, 45 participating States invoked the OSCE Moscow Mechanism in order to “address the human rights and humanitarian impacts” of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. We will follow closely the future outcomes of this initiative.

We wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our strong and sincere call for the declaration of an urgent and permanent ceasefire. This tragic bloodshed must stop.

Allow me also to reiterate that we reject the ongoing assault, just as we rejected the Russian Federation’s decision to recognize the so-called breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, and as we rejected its 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.

Like many other countries, my country is tirelessly working with all parties to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this crisis.

There are no winners in wars and no losers in peace.

We hope that all the ongoing talks will pave the way for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

So far, 45 truckloads of humanitarian supplies have been delivered to Ukraine by the Turkish authorities. Five truckloads of humanitarian goods have been delivered to Moldova.

A team of 11 from Turkey’s Disaster and Emergency Management Authority is still stationed at the Porubnoe-Siret border crossing point (Ukraine-Romania border) in order to assess the increasing humanitarian needs in Ukraine and co-ordinate the ongoing aid operations.

Ten health workers from the Turkish Ministry of Health are also at this crossing point to provide medical assistance to those in need.

Similarly, food assistance is being provided at the Porubne-Siret border checkpoint by the Turkish Red Crescent.

Further assistance is being planned.

Mr. Chairperson,

My country wants peace, serenity and prosperity in its region. We will resolutely continue to press for peace and stand by international law. We are ready to facilitate any effort, in any format, that seeks to find a peaceful way out of this situation.

We kindly ask that our statement be attached to the journal of the day. Thank you.



1005th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1011, Agenda item 1(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered in connection with the issue raised by Ukraine.

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

It is now the 28th day of Ukraine's brave struggle to defend itself against Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression.

This aggression is having devastating consequences for the people of Ukraine, its infrastructure and environment. The repercussions of this war of choice have already reverberated across the European continent. According to the latest United Nations data, 10 million civilians have been forced to flee from their homes, of whom over 3.5 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

As we speak, the Russian occupying forces continue to carry out direct, massive and indiscriminate bombing and shelling of Ukrainian cities, towns and settlements, claiming hundreds of innocent lives. We once again condemn Russia's direct strikes on civilian infrastructure and attacks on journalists and medical staff; we are appalled by the reports of rape perpetrated by the Russian forces.

In any conflict, attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are a violation of international humanitarian law. These attacks must stop immediately.

As reported, the humanitarian situation in cities such as Mariupol, Kherson and Sumy, is extremely dire, with residents facing critical and potentially fatal shortages of food, water and medicine. Humanitarian corridors and delivery of aid must be guaranteed for every civilian – both for those who decide to stay and for those who are forced to leave.

We are closely following the reports regarding the mounting pressure by the occupying forces on civil activists, abductions of local democratically elected mayors and attacks on peaceful demonstrators. We share the concerns raised by the OSCE Office for

Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in its statement of 16 March, and call on Russia to uphold its commitments under international law.

We are also following the environmental, nuclear and radiation safety threats stemming from the Russian aggression with great alarm. In this context, we deplore the shelling of the territory of JSC “Sumykhimprom” by the Russian armed forces on 21 March, which reportedly resulted in an ammonia leak. Thankfully, the leak was contained. However, unless stopped, Russia’s irresponsible actions may result in irreparable harm.

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 for Ukraine’s navigational rights in its territorial waters.

We call on Russia to immediately, completely and without preconditions cease aggression and comply with the order of the International Court of Justice, to withdraw all its forces and armaments from the entire territory of Ukraine, and to allow all international humanitarian and human rights mechanisms to have immediate, safe and unfettered access throughout the country.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/1011
23 March 2022
Annex 5

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1005th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1011, Agenda item 1(b)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start with the following observation. Today, as at the last meeting, we have heard fiery statements that Europe is the “free world” and that it also has a “monopoly on the truth”. Well, our colleagues can indulge themselves in illusions as much as they like, especially when absolute “media totalitarianism” reigns in the European media, in which only the position of the Ukrainian Government is broadcast and alternative views are simply not allowed. It is also paradoxical that the actions attributed to Russian troops in the statements by our colleagues today are practically identical to those of the Ukrainian army during the current operation and over the past eight years in Donbas. Yet the OSCE participating States have consistently ignored the larger number of casualties and refugees on the militia side as a result of the eight-year conflict in south-eastern Ukraine, not to mention the avalanche-like migration crises caused by NATO wars.

This is not just double standards from the so-called “Western free world”. It is a truly primitive expression of Hottentot morality, where the opinion of the other side is automatically “cancelled”. What conclusion does the Russian side draw from this? There is a degeneration of the values of the collective West, a manifestation of discrimination and hatred towards those who are not prepared to march to its tune. We note all this and draw conclusions for the strategic outlook.

Mr. Chairperson,

The whole world is watching the United States of America and its allies wage an economic and information war against Russia, in which Ukraine is just a convenient tool in their “Great Game”. In addition, some 70 per cent of the NATO member countries have already been drawn into this reckless venture, which is being called a “proxy war” or “war by proxy”.

Almost every day there are reports from Western capitals of new deliveries of arms and military equipment to the Ukrainian Government: hundreds of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), anti-tank missile systems, small arms and tens of millions of rounds of ammunition. According to a White House spokesperson, US weapons are being sent to the Ukrainian Government almost every day. For our part, we warn that any military cargo on

Ukrainian territory will become a legitimate military target for Russian troops. One of the tasks of the special military operation is to eradicate any threat to the Russian Federation emanating from Ukrainian territory. This was part of our proposals on security guarantees in December 2021, but no one listened to us.

I believe that today Ukraine's overseas handlers understand exactly what they are getting into by pumping weapons into the country. The Kyiv authorities are distributing anti-tank missiles and MANPADS to ordinary citizens. Just as the Nazis handed out *Faustpatrone* to children in Berlin in 1945, today in Ukraine, German *Panzerfausts* are falling into "reliable" Nazi hands and are being used under Nazi flags. But no one in Berlin or other Western capitals is troubled by this.

For years, Ukraine's overseas handlers have been moulding the country into an "anti-Russia". After the bloody coup d'état in Kyiv in 2014, nationalism, encouraged by those who seized power, has taken the form of aggressive Russophobia and neo-Nazism. It is not surprising that the United States and Ukraine vote against the annual United Nations General Assembly resolution on combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia. The Ukrainian nationalists themselves make no secret of the fact that a "mutually beneficial symbiosis of the super-rich and neo-Nazi gangs has formed in the country and spread their ideology in all directions: from schools and universities to the high command of the Ukrainian armed forces."

To understand the essence of the present policy of the collective West towards Eastern Europe, one need only read the statement by Yevhen Karas, head of the far-right organization C14, during the "Bandera readings" in February 2022 (I quote): "The Maidan was not really about European integration. Ukraine's true purpose is to carry out the work of the West in waging war against Russia and obtain weapons for this, which can then be used against neighbouring countries." And quoting further: "They gave us so many weapons now, not because we are good, not because they want to do something good for us, but because we are carrying out the work of the West, because we are the only ones who are ready to carry it out, we are having fun, it's cool to kill and it's cool to fight" (end of quote). I think there is no need for any comment here.

It is also telling that in 2017 the US Congress adopted a Pentagon appropriations bill that prohibited funding of the Azov battalion (which had been integrated into the Ukrainian National Guard) because it is a neo-Nazi organization. For colleagues who deny the existence of neo-Nazism in Ukraine, I should like to point out in particular that the Azov insignia features the *Wolfsangel* (Wolf's Hook) and the occult black sun – both symbols of the SS. Nevertheless, US weapons have been falling into the hands of neo-Nazi battalions, including, of course, Azov, all these years in violation of the law. "Grateful" fighters eagerly posed for pictures with a NATO flag and a fascist swastika.

We are still astonished by the support provided by Western countries to the Ukrainian neo-Nazis and by the deployment of radical foreign mercenaries to Ukraine. Recently it became known that a neo-Nazi leader in Portugal, Mário Machado, who served 14 years in prison on charges of racial discrimination and unlawful possession of a weapon, had arrived in the Lviv region to fight on the side of the Ukrainian armed forces. There are many such examples. Russia has repeatedly warned that it will not treat "soldiers of fortune" with kid gloves.

Mr. Chairperson,

Denazification and demilitarization are the *sine qua non* for achieving the objectives set by President Putin for the special military operation by the armed forces of the Russian Federation, which is being carried out in accordance with Chapter VII, Article 51, of the Charter of the United Nations, with the approval of Russia's Federation Council and at the request of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR).

Since the start of the special operation 184 airplanes and helicopters, 246 unmanned aerial vehicles, 189 anti-aircraft missile systems, 1,558 tanks and other armoured vehicles, 156 multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS), 624 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 1,354 special operations tactical vehicles of the Ukrainian armed forces have been destroyed. All seized Ukrainian military equipment and Western weaponry, including Next Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapon (NLAW) and Javelin systems, are being handed over to people's militia units from the DPR and the LPR for combat use.

The systematic destruction of Ukrainian armed forces' military infrastructure continues. To this end, for the first time in combat conditions, the Kinzhal air-launched missile system with hypersonic aeroballistic missiles was successfully tested and hit secured storage facilities for Ukrainian aviation assets and warheads for Tochka-U missile systems (in the settlement of Deliatyn in the Ivano-Frankivsk region), along with large fuel depots (in the settlement of Kostiantynivka in the Mykolaiv region). On 19 and 20 March, workshops at the Nizhyn repair plant used to repair damaged armoured vehicles were disabled by sea-based Kalibr missiles. On 20 March, a battery of Ukrainian MLRS and a storage facility for their ammunition at a disused shopping centre on the outskirts of Kyiv were eliminated. In addition, a strike was launched against personnel training facilities (in the town of Ovruch in the Zhytomyr region and in the settlement of Nova Lyubomyrka in the Rivne region), where over 180 mercenaries and nationalists were killed. Over the past 24 hours, operational and tactical aviation and army aviation, along with Russian missile troops, hit 97 military infrastructure facilities in Ukraine, including three artillery reconnaissance stations produced by NATO countries.

The efforts of the armed forces of the Russian Federation to demilitarize Ukraine will continue.

Mr. Chairperson,

We strongly reject the false statements by the official representatives of Western countries and also the fake news in the media under their control that Russia could use chemical and biological weapons in Ukraine. We remember perfectly well how, following similar information planted with direct Western support, chemical provocations were carried out in Syria. Could it be that the United States is encouraging its Ukrainian protégés to engage in mindless provocation?

Once again, I emphasize that the armed forces of the Russian Federation have not planned and are not carrying out any strikes against Ukrainian chemical facilities. As I have said repeatedly, it is all the more absurd to make statements about the likelihood of the Russian side using chemical weapons. Our country completely destroyed all its stockpiles five years ago, as was confirmed by Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, in 2017. The United

States, on the other hand, has not fulfilled its obligations over the years. We are not talking about kilograms, but about hundreds of tonnes of undestroyed chemical weapons.

On 19 March, the Russian Ministry of Defence warned that Ukrainian nationalists had mined the Sumykhimprom plant (in the city of Sumy), where ammonia and chlorine storage facilities are located, with the aim of mass poisoning of residents of the Sumy region. There was an attempted provocation in the early hours of 21 March, but fortunately it was unsuccessful. According to the head of the Sumy city administration, there was indeed an ammonia leak, only “the air mass did not head towards the city”. Now it seems that the next provocation will be in Kotlyareve village (Mykolaiv region), where containers with toxic chemicals have already been delivered to the local primary school building, which will be detonated when Russian troop units approach. Let me repeat: the real threat to civilians is posed by Ukrainian nationalist battalions. Russian soldiers regularly find detailed maps of Ukrainian territory at decimated nationalist battalion positions indicating the co-ordinates of storage facilities for toxic substances. I emphasize: the nationalist regime in Kyiv will bear direct responsibility for any possible incidents involving Ukrainian storage facilities for toxic substances.

Russian specialists from the Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defence Forces are continuing their analysis of materials obtained during the special military operation on military biological activities carried out on the territory of Ukraine with the support of the United States. On the basis of documents from the National Scientific Centre “Institute of Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine” and a biological laboratory in Kharkiv, the Russian Ministry of Defence has reported on two areas of “co-operation” between Ukrainian and Western scientists: a secret project to study disease transmission to humans through bats, and a project to study wild birds as “carriers” of highly pathogenic avian influenza. The work assessed the conditions under which transmission could become unmanageable, causing economic damage and creating risks to food security. Clearly, an outbreak of such a pandemic could eclipse COVID-19 in scale and impact.

In addition, a “Plan of technical assistance to certain recipients of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine” has been discovered, implying that the US Government is funding the relevant laboratories in Kyiv, Odessa, Lviv and Kharkiv effectively in exchange for receiving unimpeded access to these facilities and conducting research on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, leptospirosis and hantavirus pathogens. We do not rule out the possibility that US military biologists are interested in these pathogens because they have natural foci both on Ukrainian territory and in Russia, and their use could be disguised as natural disease outbreaks.

The information obtained in Ukraine confirms the repeated claims made by Russia in the context of the implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) with regard to the military biological activities of the United States and its allies in the post-Soviet space. In the case of Ukraine, these are violations of Articles I and IV of that Convention.

No doubt our colleagues today will once again start branding the information we have presented as “lies” and “propaganda” – this is what they do whenever they hear something that puts them in an unflattering light. But first we should like to draw their attention to the fact that all the documents made public by the Russian Ministry of Defence have the

signatures of real US officials, notably Joanna Wintrol, head of the Defense Threat Reduction Office in Ukraine, who previously oversaw the destruction of chemical weapons in Libya.

Once again, we demand that the Ukrainian and US Governments provide all the information on the military biological activity at the laboratories on Ukrainian territory and take all the necessary steps to resolve this issue and implement the BTWC. We do not rule out the possibility of invoking the mechanisms of Articles V and VI of the BTWC, which require States to consult with one another in solving any problems that may arise in relation to the objective, or in the application, of the Convention, and also to co-operate in carrying out any investigations into alleged breaches of the BTWC.

Mr. Chairperson,

The special military operation has revealed many festering wounds in Ukraine that have yet to heal. The Western OSCE participating States, which mention international humanitarian law at every turn, do not want to see the atrocities Ukrainian nationalists have committed against the civilian population, but these crimes cannot be concealed – civilians who have escaped from towns held by nationalist fighters are making them public.

Nationalists across the country are tying people to lamp posts in broad daylight and wrapping adhesive tape around them, calling on citizens to deal with them using “improvised” methods. The slide shows photographic evidence of Roma refugees being abused in Lviv, all in keeping with the traditions of their forerunners in the SS Galicia Division. Do the Ukrainian Government’s Western handlers consider this to be the norm for twenty-first century Europe?

Radicals continue to place military equipment near residential buildings and civilian infrastructure facilities and to turn kindergartens, schools and hospitals into strongholds and firing positions. In the video you can see a civilian pointing to a battery of 122 mm howitzers near his house. Fighters confiscated food from people in Chernihiv, the authorities forcibly distributed incendiary mixtures in Zaporizhzhia, nationalists shelled a humanitarian aid distribution point in Kharkiv, and in Sievierodonetsk they forcibly placed civilians around residential buildings they were occupying and shot the people who refused to go out into the street. In Kherson a Ukrainian nationalist stronghold was also cynically disguised as an office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These incidents are just a drop in the ocean.

We have taken note of the shameful fake story about civilians allegedly killed by “Russian military personnel” while queuing “for bread” in Chernihiv. The Ukrainian radicals do not seem to understand that their attempts to justify themselves are being thwarted by a single fact – there are no Russian military personnel in Chernihiv, nor are there any traces of exploded ammunition or destruction at the location captured by the surveillance cameras where the tragedy took place. We emphasize: all materials are being carefully collected by the competent Russian authorities and will be used in the future against those nationalists who are actually behind these crimes.

Mr. Chairperson,

The humanitarian situation in a number of Ukrainian regions is becoming threatening. Despite humanitarian corridors being opened daily, Ukrainian neo-Nazis are holding more

than 4.5 million civilians and about 7,000 foreigner nationals from 25 countries hostage as “human shields”. At the same time, up to 235 people are killed by radicals every day. Yet Europe ignores these facts.

The Russian Federation addresses the Kyiv authorities, the United Nations, the OSCE, the ICRC and other international organizations on an almost daily basis with initiatives for humanitarian operations. On 20 March, we proposed that people be evacuated from Mariupol, where the humanitarian situation is the worst. However, the Ukrainian Government refused to carry out a humanitarian action. The radio intercepts of telephone conversations of neo-Nazis in Mariupol show that the use of the civilian population “to the full, as human shields” has been agreed upon with the Ukrainian leadership. Under these circumstances, Russia continues to unilaterally evacuate citizens from the city, and some 70,000 people are already in safety.

Those who escaped from Mariupol tell of massive atrocities and crimes by territorial defence battalions, the taunting of elderly people, women and children (I quote): “They shot up two buses, there were children there. People were screaming: ‘What are you doing?’ and they replied: ‘There are no children or old people in war’” (end of quote). A shocking incident took place on 20 March when Azov battalion terrorists killed the parents of two minor children and, using these children as a shield, tried to leave through the humanitarian corridor to Zaporizhzhia in the dead parents’ car, but were identified and promptly detained by Russian military personnel. The children are now safe.

On 22 March, humanitarian corridors opened in the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and Kharkiv areas, one to the Russian Federation and one to the western regions of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Government has generally refused to agree to humanitarian corridors to Russia. Without its involvement, we have evacuated more than 366,000 people in total and are providing those arriving with everything they need. Every day since 2 March, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Ministry of Defence of Russia have been delivering humanitarian aid to the liberated areas, the volume of which has reached 4,345 tonnes. This rigorous humanitarian work will continue.

Mr. Chairperson,

We regretfully note the indifference of the Western “civilized free” world, as it calls itself, towards the true state of affairs in Ukraine shown at all previous meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We recommend that you take a closer look at the actions of the Ukrainian nationalists and ascertain for yourselves the flagrant non-compliance by the Ukrainian Government with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land and the Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and its Additional Protocols. For our part, we will continue to shed light on the true nature of the ruling regime in Kyiv and its nationalist henchmen.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that the text of this statement be attached to the journal.



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

FSC.JOUR/1011
23 March 2022
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

1005th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1011, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL**

Mr. Chairperson,

Since Portugal was mentioned by the Russian Federation, I should like to exercise my right of reply.

Portugal condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal war launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine. The Portuguese people stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

We categorically reject the allegations raised by the Russian Federation that Portugal may be facilitating, in any way, by any means, the travel of Portuguese citizens into the territory of Ukraine. Owing to the dire security situation inflicted by Russia on its neighbour, the Portuguese Government has been discouraging all Portuguese citizens from travelling to Ukraine for more than a month now. Unfortunately, given the ongoing brutal aggression, that is still the case.

Mr. Machado's decision was entirely voluntary and the judicial authorities – which in Portugal are fully independent by virtue of their constitutional powers – did not see any grounds for preventing him from leaving the country. However, I would note that even the Ukrainian authorities have stated that his profile disqualifies him from possible enlistment.

We deplore any attempts by the Russian Federation to use the aforementioned case to justify its delusional and sickening narrative, which we refuse to give any resonance to.

We reiterate that the Russian military offensive constitutes a grave violation of international law, of the Charter of the United Nations and of our common agreed OSCE commitments. We call on Russia to immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine.

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

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/1011
23 March 2022
Annex 7

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1005th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1011, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. Since the Russian Federation mentioned Germany in its statement and once again made groundless assertions, I should like to exercise my right of reply.

As we have heard in the statement by the Russian delegation, Russia continues to attempt to manufacture its own reality so as to justify the action of the Russian Government and the brutal war of aggression against Ukraine. The tactic of reversing the victim-perpetrator role is particularly despicable. But I must dash the hope that such accounts and disinformation will have the desired effect: no one is fooled by this absurd narrative.

I should like once again to emphasize – echoing what my Canadian colleague has said – that there is a clear difference between facts and opinions. Everyone has the right to their own opinion, but no one has the right to their own facts.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have followed the reports last week of the Russian attack on the theatre in Mariupol, in which more than a thousand civilians had sought refuge, with dismay and horror. We have not the slightest indication that the theatre was used in any other way than as a civilian object and shelter for civilians. Photos made public also clearly show a sign indicating that there were children in the building. Sadly this attack is just the latest in a series of brutal Russian attacks on Mariupol – and other cities in Ukraine – in which schools, hospitals, residential buildings and civilian infrastructure have repeatedly been badly hit.

Allow me to state quite clearly that attacks on civilians or civilian objects violate humanitarian international law and may be war crimes. The same applies to attacks that make no distinction between military targets and civilian objects. Such attacks are not only alarming but also illegal. We call on Russia to fulfil its obligations under international law, including those of humanitarian international law.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian accusations regarding biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are groundless. Ukraine has never represented a danger to Russia or other neighbours in the past or present. In the light of the Russian disinformation campaigns in recent weeks, we are concerned rather that Russia is using propaganda in preparation for its own use of such weapons.

Our position is clear: there are no serious indications that weapons of mass destruction are being developed in Ukraine. We urgently appeal to Russia to cease the attack on Ukraine, to withdraw its troops and, as already mentioned, to strictly observe humanitarian international law, including in the first instance refraining from the use of biological or chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian delegate continues to maintain the myth of the “denazification” of Ukraine. Here, too, there is a huge discrepancy between reality and accusations. In view of the many victims of National Socialism – including many Russians – this narrative, used solely to justify the Russian war of aggression, is shameful.

In that context, one piece of news this week affected us particularly, the death of Borys Romanchenko, which my Ukrainian colleague also just mentioned. He survived the Holocaust and the horror of Buchenwald, Peenemünde, Mittelbau-Dora and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps and devoted his life to keeping alive the memory of the Nazi crimes. And now he has been killed at the age of 96 by a Russian attack on Kharkiv.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the basis of its inherent right to self-defence – our United States colleague cited the corresponding passage in the Charter of the United Nations – Ukraine is defending its right to sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence with great courage and resilience. Germany continues to stand firmly in solidarity with it. This includes the delivery of defensive weapons in line with our obligations under international law.

Thank you. Mr. Chairperson, I request that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

1005th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1011, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Everything that was just said by the Russian delegation is another pack of shameful lies. They keep lying to us, they keep lying to the international community at large, they keep lying to the people of Russia. In an environment where you (a Russian diplomat) lie and your colleagues (other Russian diplomats) also lie, where you are all busy lying to one another and to the outside world, how can you possibly manage to distinguish what is false from what is not?

But let me bring this delegation back to reality, down to earth. I would kindly ask all other delegations to spare a few minutes of their time and listen to the testimony of a real witness, a resident of the besieged and bombarded city of Mariupol, a Ukrainian woman whose name is Nadezhda Sukhorukova (Надежда Сухорукова).

I will read out a post that she published on her Facebook page in the evening of last Saturday, 19 March:
(https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2379969232310198&id=100008914326381).¹ Her last post on Facebook appeared last Sunday, at around noon, and I do not know whether she is still alive. I very much hope that she is.

“#mariupol #nadezhda [#hope] I go outside between air raids. I have to walk my dog. She whines constantly, trembling and hiding behind my legs. I just want to sleep all the time. My yard, surrounded by high-rises, is quiet and dead. I’m no longer afraid to look around.

In front of me, the entrance to apartment block number 105 is still burning. The flames have already devoured five floors and are slowly chewing through the sixth. In

1 During the meeting, this Facebook post was read in its original language (Russian). English translation taken from: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/odr/mariupol-ukraine-russia-diary-life-in-war/>. Additions are given inside square brackets.

one room, the fire is burning neatly, like in a fireplace. The black windows are charred ash. The glass is gone. Curtains gnawed by fire are flickering out of apartment windows like tongues. I look at it all, calm and resigned.

I am sure I will die soon – it's only a matter of days. Everyone in this city is constantly waiting for death. I only hope it won't be too awful. Three days ago, a friend of my eldest nephew came to see us and told us there'd been a direct hit on the fire station. Some of the firefighters were killed. One woman lost her arm, leg and head. I hope that, even after an aerial bomb explosion, my body remains in one piece.

I don't know why, but this seems important to me. On the other hand, I'm not going to be buried if I die while hostilities are still going on. That's what the police told us: we stopped them in the street and asked what to do with the dead grandmother of our friend. They advised us to move her to the balcony. I wonder how many dead bodies are lying on people's balconies?

Our house on Prospekt Mira [Peace Avenue] is the only one that hasn't taken a direct hit. Shells have fallen nearby a couple of times and blown the glass out of some of the windows, but there's very little damage and, compared to other buildings, ours looks pretty lucky.

Our courtyard is completely covered with layers of ash, glass, plastic and metal debris. I try not to look at the metallic monster that landed on the children's playground. I think it's a missile, or possibly a mine. I don't care; it's just unpleasant. I notice someone's face in a window on the third floor, and I flinch. I am now afraid of people who are alive, it seems.

My dog begins to whine and I understand that the shelling is going to start again. I stand on the street in the afternoon; there is a cemetery silence all round. Neither cars, nor voices, nor children, nor elderly ladies inside the stalls. Even the wind has died. But there are some people here after all. They are lying next to a building and inside a bus-stop shelter, covered by over garments. I don't want to look at them. I'm afraid of seeing someone I know.

Whatever life is left in the city is now smouldering in its basements, like the candle in our part of the basement. It takes nothing to put it out. Any small wind or vibration and darkness falls. I try to cry but I can't. I feel sorry for myself, my family, my husband, neighbours and friends. I return to the basement and sit there listening to the vile screech of metal. Only two weeks have passed, and already I don't believe that life has ever been different.

There are people still hiding in basements of Mariupol. Each day it is harder for them to get through than the one before. They have no water, no food, no electricity. They can't even go outside because of the constant shelling. The people of Mariupol must survive. Help them. Talk about them. Let everyone know that civilians are still being killed.”

This was the testimony of just one person in Mariupol. But there are hundreds of thousands of similar testimonies from the same city. There are millions of them across

Ukraine – in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, Mykolaiv, Sumy and many other Ukrainian cities, towns and villages.

Even villages and the homes of ordinary people in Ukraine cannot escape this war – there are numerous instances of entire villages having been bombarded and razed to the ground. How do such attacks on civilians and their homes fit in with the objectives of the Kremlin’s so-called “special military operation”? Are they acts of revenge on Ukrainian farmers for taking over Russia’s military equipment?

One day all this will be over. No madness, no aggression has ever lasted indefinitely. Sooner or later, this will end.

And once it is over, Russia, the aggressor, and its accomplice Belarus will be remembered as such – shame and even disgust will accompany the recollection of these aggressive actions by two authoritarian regimes for many years to come.

Ukraine, our heroic Ukraine, will always be remembered as a contemporary symbol of a nation’s fight for its freedom and independence.

Those who committed war crimes and crimes against humanity will have to assume their responsibility, including responsibility on a personal level. Russian and Belarusian diplomats who cover up or try to whitewash these heinous crimes will join the former on the bench of the accused.

The only possible way to escape from a future tribunal is to dissociate oneself from all these war crimes, to condemn them and to join in the efforts by the international community to stop this bloodshed.

Any attempts to hide behind the oaths that were given, or military orders that were received, or other excuses, will simply not work. Any threats against other delegations, not least at the Forum for Security Co-operation, will not work either.

I fully agree with the delegation of the United States of America and those of other OSCE participating States that the presentation given by the Russian delegation was absolutely inappropriate. That delegation also displayed a distorted map of Ukraine – and here I wish to reiterate once again that Crimea is Ukraine; the Donetsk and Luhansk regions are Ukraine; Mariupol is Ukraine; Kherson is Ukraine. The entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders is Ukraine.

The delegation of Ukraine asked a very pertinent question: how can we prove that someone at this particular meeting is lying? In everyday life, when law enforcement officers try to identify who is lying, they sometimes use a polygraph (also known as a “lie detector”). Of course, this is not a method that can be used in multilateral diplomacy. However, even if the head of the Russian delegation were here, he would definitely refuse to undergo any such test because he knows that he is lying. Since the start of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, he has simply refused to come to this meeting room. Why? Does he feel uneasy about spreading these lies in person, rather than online? Or is he simply afraid of showing up here because he knows that he is representing the aggressor State and that he will have to look into the eyes of the diplomats of Ukraine and the members of other delegations?

Lithuania remains unwavering in its support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We admire their unity and resolve in defending their homeland. Ukraine, a democratic and sovereign European State, is now exercising its right to self-defence against Russia's aggression under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. We have been rendering assistance of various kinds to Ukraine and will continue providing all necessary support to that end.

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

Thank you.

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