

**Chairmanship: Belarus**

**1012th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

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

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 11.15 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Dapkiunas

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Current security situation in the OSCE area*: Belarus (FSC.DEL/223/22 Restr.) (FSC.DEL/224/22 Restr.), Poland, France (FSC.DEL/227/22 OSCE+), Russian Federation (Annex), France-European Union (FSC.DEL/225/22), Canada, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/221/22 OSCE+), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/226/22 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Matters of protocol*: Switzerland

(b) *Issues regarding technical services and interpretation at the Forum for Security Co-operation*: Russian Federation, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 8 June 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/1018

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Annex

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**1012th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1018, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

A former US president recently stated that Ukraine's mission was to "kill as many Russians as possible". This pronouncement explains quite succinctly why during all these years the "civilized" West remained deaf to our legitimate concerns over Ukraine being dragged into NATO, to the Ukrainian Government's public refusal to implement the Minsk agreements and United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, and to the constructive Russian proposals for legally enshrining the fundamental OSCE principle about not strengthening one's security at the expense of the security of others. We are dealing here with double standards, arrogance, a wholly unjustified sense of personal superiority and colonial mentality on the part of the collective West, which considers itself entitled to flagrantly flout a basic tenet of the Charter of the United Nations, namely the sovereign equality of States.

The member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance have on their hands the blood not only of the peoples of the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Libya but also of the civilian population of Donbas. Political practice shows that the deployment of troops and combat aircraft to suppress dissent is for them the norm – nay, the crowning glory of democracy and European values. If our colleagues want to try to convince us otherwise, they should first of all answer this question: why was Europe silent when during eight endless years after the anti-constitutional coup d'état of 2014 the Ukrainian Government massacred with impunity the Russian-speaking residents of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions? I shall venture to reply on their behalf: it is because Europe was busy equipping Ukrainian nationalists with weapons and military equipment in violation of OSCE politico-military commitments.

Today the last masks have been cast off. Billions of dollars from the State budgets of NATO member countries are being pumped into a "war by proxy" with Russia, in which Ukraine is merely a means to achieve the anti-Russian ends of the United States of America and its satellites. While the politicians of European and North American countries frenziedly devise ever new sanctions against Russia, their own citizens are forced to endure inflation and a record level of prices for essential goods. According to a public opinion poll conducted by Gallup, 83 per cent of US citizens are of the view that the US Government is not dealing with the things that matter to people, who simply do not have what they need to be able to

feed their infants. Ordinary people are having to pay the price for Western politicians' hatred of the Russian nation.

A few words about the issue of food security, which our colleagues have begun to actively raise at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), even though it goes far beyond the scope of the Forum's mandate. The alarming situation on the global food market was provoked, as it happens, by the West's anti-Russian sanctions, which have led to the disruption of global logistics and transport infrastructure networks. Russia has done everything possible to resolve the food problem. If the Ukrainian Government resolves the problem of mined ports, the Russian Navy will ensure that ships carrying grain can sail through unhindered into the Mediterranean.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation's special military operation is a preventive measure that we were forced to undertake in a context where the threats to the security of our country and of its allies had surged to an unacceptably high level. The operation is being conducted pursuant to an official request from the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) as sovereign States, and also in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which enshrines the right of individual or collective self-defence. Our objectives are as clear as can be, namely protection of the civilian population of Donbas; the demilitarization of Ukraine, which implies eliminating any weapons on its territory that threaten Russia and our allies; and also denazification, which is aimed at destroying the Nazi ideology that has penetrated so deep into the fabric of Ukrainian society.

The advance of the Donbas republics' troops, supported by the armed forces of the Russian Federation, is going smoothly and is on target. Since the start of the special operation almost the whole of the LPR, significant territories of the DPR, the entire Kherson region and substantial parts of the Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions have been liberated. Over the past week, Krasnyi Lyman, Svitlodarsk and Sievierodonetsk have come under the full control of the allied troops. The expulsion of the enemy from Toshkivka has opened up the road to Lysychansk, where a grouping of nationalists has essentially been encircled. A peaceful life is being established in the liberated territories, their economy and industry are being restored, infrastructure is being rebuilt, large-scale demining activities are under way.

We regularly hear claims by our colleagues at the FSC about the slowing down of the special operation and the failure of an alleged "plan A" of Russia's. We are obliged to disappoint them. The pace of the offensive in Ukraine has been slackened for two reasons: the announcement of ceasefires to guarantee a safe exit through humanitarian corridors for the inhabitants of encircled settlements and the preservation of civilian infrastructure. We are doing this consciously to avoid casualties among the civilian population.

At the same time, we are obliged to note that preserving civilian lives is not what interests the European Union and NATO countries. Their objectives have been stated very clearly, namely to inflict a defeat on Russia on the battlefield. And for that purpose it is necessary to prolong the fighting by pumping up the Ukrainian nationalists with weapons. According to available information, at the start of the special operation a group consisting of around a hundred military personnel from 30 different countries was assembled at a military base in Europe, its task being to monitor the Ukrainian Government's armaments needs and

to establish the best means of satisfying these. Some types of weapons intended for Ukraine were transferred under the guise of the large-scale NATO exercise “DEFENDER-Europe 2022”. And after all this the Western countries would have us believe that they are not interfering in the situation in Ukraine.

Since the end of February, the United States alone has delivered more than 23,000 tonnes of weapons and military equipment to Ukraine. But it would seem that the US Government has decided to up the ante even further. Our assessment of the new US military aid package (the 11th) for Ukraine, which includes HIMARS rocket systems, is a most negative one. We are not satisfied by the United States’ attempts to present the supply of these systems as comprising elements of “containment” or “self-restraint”. No matter how they try to justify them on the other side of the Atlantic, the transfers of such weapons are increasing the risks of a direct confrontation between Russia and the United States. In this regard, we note the following curious coincidence: on 24 May, as part of the “DEFENDER-Europe 2022” military exercise, the operation of the US-made M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) was tested on the Danish island of Bornholm. This system is capable of firing operational-tactical missiles with a range of up to 500 km and could potentially be used to strike targets in the Kaliningrad region. We firmly warn the United States and its satellites that any such step would be considered a military attack on our country and would inevitably lead to an unacceptable escalation of the conflict. We once again express the hope that they understand this over in Washington, D.C., and we would recommend that they refrain from supplying such systems to Ukraine and to its neighbouring States.

As we can see, the Ukrainian authorities and their Anglo-Saxon handlers have not abandoned their plans to capture Zmiinyi Island (Snake Island). It is quite possible that US-made long-range weapons may be used as part of a new operation. The Ukrainian Minister of Defence, Oleksii Reznikov, makes no secret of the fact that the Ukrainian Government is expecting to be supplied soon with Harpoon anti-ship missiles together with land-based missile launchers. The United States has already begun training Ukrainian military personnel in how to use them. We stress that any efforts to gain revenge on Snake Island will be ruthlessly quashed.

Mr. Chairperson,

Pumping up the Ukrainian Government with ever new arms shipments merely fosters its illusion that the problems in Russian-Ukrainian relations can be solved by exclusively military means, and is not conducive to establishing the political and diplomatic atmosphere that is so needed to de-escalate the situation in Ukraine. This fatal line of conduct will have extremely negative consequences for Europe itself. The realization of this is gradually dawning on the European capitals. Thus, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, has stated that the significant quantity of weapons and ammunition that will remain on Ukrainian territory after the fighting has ended could be clandestinely re-exported back into Europe and then used by criminal gangs in Sweden. The Executive Director of Europol, Catherine De Bolle, has also expressed concerns in this regard. The European Union and Europol are currently planning to adopt additional measures to prevent weapons from falling into the hands of criminals. In connection with this, we should like to advise our colleagues not to saw off the branch they are sitting on, as it were, by provoking colossal

threats as a result of the weapons and ammunition they are delivering to Ukraine ending up in illicit circulation.

The Russian troops are continuing to demilitarize the pro-NATO military “bridgehead” near our borders. Since the start of the special military operation, 184 airplanes, 128 helicopters, 1,070 unmanned aerial vehicles, 325 anti-aircraft missile systems, 3,342 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 454 multiple-launch rocket systems, 1,738 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 3,311 special operations tactical vehicles have been destroyed. Missile strikes against military infrastructure facilities are being intensified. High-precision weapons have been used to strike at critical elements of the logistic infrastructure of the Ukrainian armed forces in central and western regions of the country. The knocking out of equipment repair plants and fuel depots is depriving the Ukrainian troops’ Donbas battle group of the ability to offer resistance in the event of a large-scale offensive by units of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and DPR and LPR people’s militia units.

The encouragement of Ukrainian nationalism by Western sponsors is leading to radicalization of the militants fighting in Ukraine, among whom are thousands of foreign mercenaries. We would remind you that, in violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, Ukrainian embassies all over the world continue to recruit foreigners for subsequent deployment to the combat zone. These “wild geese” are being sent to a certain death, as US mercenaries who had been in Ukraine said in a recent interview with *The Washington Post*.

The Russian Investigative Committee is currently conducting an inquiry to establish the role of Ben Grant, who is related to a British parliamentarian, in combat operations in Ukraine: he reportedly led an attack on Russian military equipment by a group of Western mercenaries. In the DPR such “soldiers of fortune” as the Britons Shaun Pinner and Andrew Hill actually face being put on trial in accordance with wartime laws and possibly being sentenced to death. The crimes of mercenaries will not go unpunished. Don’t say afterwards that we didn’t warn you.

The morale and the psychological state of Ukrainian military personnel on the front line continue to deteriorate. Soldiers refuse to carry out combat tasks, complaining about the lack of food and the inhuman attitude of their commanders, who throw them in front of tanks like cannon fodder. Many are surrendering. Over the past few weeks alone, Ukrainian fighters have recorded no fewer than ten video appeals addressed to Volodymyr Zelenskyy. It is telling that instead of supporting their military personnel, the Ukrainian authorities have put behind bars the members of the 115th Brigade, whose lamentable state we mentioned last time. We once again repeat that the command of the Russian battle group in Ukraine are willing to facilitate the voluntary surrender of military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces, which includes the assurance that their lives will be spared and that they will be treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war.

Mr. Chairperson,

Amid a worsening operational situation in Donbas, the Kyiv authorities have shifted to a tactic of massive targeted provocations so as to induce the Western countries to intensify the pressure of sanctions on Russia. Despite the widespread public outcry initially elicited,

the series of gory provocations carried out by the Ukrainian authorities in the town of Bucha and the city of Kramatorsk with a view to accusing Russia of genocide against the Ukrainians were ultimately debunked by European journalists.

What is shocking is something else, namely the West's cynical disregard for the ongoing war crimes by Ukrainian neo-Nazis in Donbas.

In the Kherson region, Ukrainian fighters used Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems to shell the village of Novovoskresenske with 220 mm cluster munitions for remote mining. The unguided missiles carried more than 600 PFM-1S anti-personnel mines. And all this while the Ukrainian Government is trying to convince the international community of its humane attitude towards the civilian population. Well, the flaws in the approach chosen by the Ukrainian authorities are manifesting themselves more and more. They are taking liberties with the facts or, to put it more simply, all these lies are eventually being found out.

Over the past few days, the neo-Nazis have significantly intensified their shelling of DPR territory. Even those areas that were previously regarded as being "in the rear" and had suffered shelling only in 2014 have been under fire for several days. On 30 May, a couple of schools in the city of Donetsk came under shelling at the same time, namely schools Nos. 5 and 22. Six people were killed, including some educational establishment staff; 14 were wounded. According to eyewitness reports, the shelling took place when the children were sitting the Unified State Exam. Our colleagues can now see on the screens the crater produced by a 155 mm shell fired on 29 May from a British-made M777 self-propelled howitzer. The delegations of the United States and the United Kingdom can thus familiarize themselves with the results of the weapons they so kindly provided to the nationalists having been put to use.

Destruction of civilian infrastructure and of the civilian population is a well-known US scorched-earth tactic, where long-range artillery is used to carry out strikes deep behind enemy lines so as to shake the morale of the enemy's soldiers and make them anxious about their relatives and loved ones in the rear. That was the intention of the brutal provocation in Stakhanov on 30 May, when enemy forces opened fire on the area around school No. 9, killing two pregnant women and wounding 24 people, including eight children. Yesterday, a five-year-old child was killed during the shelling of Makiivka from a Grad multiple-launch rocket system. I want to focus my colleagues' attention on the fact that this is how people in Donbas have been living for eight years now.

We categorically condemn these barbarous war crimes against civilians. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation will take all necessary measures to establish which members of Ukrainian armed formations were involved in these crimes with a view to prosecuting them.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian delegation at the FSC has repeatedly stated that, in violation of Articles I and IV of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), military biological activities were carried out in biological laboratories on Ukrainian territory with the support of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the US Department of Defense and affiliated companies. Materials used by US instructors to train Ukrainian specialists in emergency

response to outbreaks of natural smallpox have been discovered in these biological laboratories. To us it is evident that if the causative agent of natural smallpox were to return, all mankind would be faced with a global catastrophe. This is due to the fact that natural smallpox is just as infectious as COVID-19 but ten times more lethal. Moreover, a project called “UP-4” was being implemented in Ukraine to study the possibility of spreading particularly dangerous infectious diseases through migratory birds; around one thousand biological samples had been collected under the project. We will circulate detailed materials on this topic. The Russian Federation is currently preparing a package of documents with a view to activating the mechanisms under Articles V and VI of the BTWC. Once the preparation of these materials has been completed, we will initiate, under the BWTC and at the United Nations Security Council, the procedures provided for by the aforementioned articles of the Convention. The relevant meetings will be open to the public.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Ukrainian Government’s Western handlers, who during all these years have been setting up a pro-NATO military “bridgehead” near the Russian Federation’s borders and who continue to pump lethal weapons into Ukraine, undoubtedly bear responsibility for the eruption and deepening of the crisis in Ukraine. After all, if a dog is set upon a neighbour by its master, it is the master who is to blame. More than one generation of Ukrainians have clearly been having to pay the price of such “pseudo-assistance”. The Russian Federation will continue to help in practice all those fleeing the constant shelling and abuses by Ukrainian nationalists, and it will accomplish the objectives set by President Putin for the special military operation to bring about peace and prosperity in the liberated territories of Ukraine and Donbas.

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