

Chairmanship: Azerbaijan

1004th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 16 March 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 12.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Sadigbayli

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Special military operation to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine*: Russian Federation (Annex 1)

Point of order: United States of America, Russian Federation

- (b) *Russian war of aggression against Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/131/22), 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/128/22), United States of America (Annex 2), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/127/22 OSCE+), Canada (Annex 3), United Kingdom (Annex 4), Georgia (Annex 5), Turkey (Annex 6), Germany (Annex 7), Austria, Latvia (Annex 8), Lithuania (Annex 9) (FSC.DEL/140/22), Greece, Russian Federation, France-European Union, Belarus (FSC.DEL/129/22 OSCE+)
- (c) *Recent military provocations by Armenia*: Azerbaijan (Annex 10), Armenia (Annex 11)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Report by the Chairperson of the closing session of the 32nd Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM), held in Vienna and via videoconference on 1 and 2 March 2022: Uzbekistan (Annex 12)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 23 March 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/1010

16 March 2022

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1004th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Chairperson,

The special military operation by the armed forces of the Russian Federation is continuing in Ukraine. It is being carried out in accordance with Chapter VII, Article 51, of the Charter of the United Nations, with the approval of Russia's Federation Council, and in implementation of the treaties on friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance concluded by the Russian Federation with the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) and ratified by the Federal Assembly on 22 February.

The operation is a necessary one. It was the consequence of eight years of aggression against Donbas by the Kyiv regime, which, with the encouragement of NATO member countries, has imposed Russophobic policies and created a breeding ground for neo-Nazism on our borders. All this has occurred against the backdrop of a catastrophic degeneration of European and global security brought about by the actions of the United States of America and the North Atlantic Alliance.

Since 2014, Ukraine and the Western countries, which proclaim themselves "the civilized world", have been turning a blind eye to the suffering of the civilian population in Donbas, who have been subjected to an economic, social and transport blockade. The OSCE participating States have ignored international humanitarian law. And this despite the fact that the massive loss of civilian life, unceasing violations of human rights, and instances of abuse and torture by the Ukrainian military have all been recorded in reports by authoritative international organizations.

The repercussions of the Ukrainian security forces' war crimes are still being felt in Donbas. Regular shelling of settlements with the indiscriminate use of lethal weapons has resulted in the death and injury of thousands of Russian-speaking civilians. The intention to annihilate or commit genocide against the inhabitants of Donbas is obvious. Makeshift unmarked mass graves, which had to be dug outside the specially designated sites, testify to this. Between August and October 2021, five such mass graves were discovered near the city of Pervomaisk (in the LPR), from which the remains of at least 295 civilians who had died as a result of shelling by the Ukrainian security forces in 2014 were exhumed. It is already known that among the remains are the bodies of women of various ages. We are talking about

the cruel treatment of the civilian population and the use in the armed conflict of means and methods prohibited by international humanitarian law.

We have still not heard the Western “civilized” community give a direct assessment of these war crimes. I believe that our colleagues are well aware that in this way they are giving the nationalist regime in Kyiv a free hand to continue the armed violence against the people of Donetsk and Luhansk. It did not take long for the consequences to be felt.

On 14 March, a Tochka-U tactical missile struck a residential area of the city of Donetsk. Twenty civilians were killed. A further 28 people were seriously injured. The fact that the warhead was filled with cluster munitions proves that the purpose of the nationalists’ strike on the city was to kill as many civilians as possible. The shelling was carried out from a north-westerly direction, from the area of Krasnoarmiisk, which is controlled by Ukrainian units. I emphasize: the use of cluster munitions against a residential area of a city where there are no firing positions is a war crime, and this type of weapon is prohibited under international agreements. Yet again, neither the OSCE Chairmanship nor any of the participating States have condemned this act of aggression. It seems to us that, according to our Western colleagues, people are divided into those worthy of protection and those who, for some reason, are not. So that is what “civilized” behaviour and “commitment” to international humanitarian law looks like.

The cynicism of the organizers of this act of State terrorism was also manifested in the fact that two days prior to the attack, the Ukrainian side started appealing to DPR mothers on social media to come to the Donetsk city administration to learn the fate of their sons. It was precisely at the place and time indicated in these appeals that the despicable attack was carried out. What do those who urge us to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 have to say about that?

Mr. Chairperson,

The objectives of the Russian special military operation have been made public – to protect the inhabitants of the DPR and the LPR, to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine, and to eliminate the military threat to our country emanating from Ukrainian territory owing to its assimilation by NATO countries and the pumping of weapons into it.

As stated by the Russian leadership, the special operation is proceeding strictly as planned. On 15 March, the armed forces of the Russian Federation took complete control of the entire territory of the Kherson region. They have broken through the Donetsk front near Horlivka, which will finally put an end to the eight-year-long shelling of Donbas. Fighting continues in the direction of Luhansk for the cities of Sievierodonetsk and Rubizhne. Advances are being made in the direction of Kryvyi Rih and Kurakhove and also in the area of Zaporizhzhia-Orikhove.

The Russian army has destroyed some 4,000 military infrastructure facilities in 21 days, including the Yavoriv military training ground in the Lviv region, where NATO instructors had been training Ukrainian military personnel in the “art of war” all these years. A total of 111 Ukrainian airplanes, 68 helicopters, 160 unmanned aerial vehicles, 159 anti-aircraft missile systems, 1,353 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles,

129 multiple-launch rocket systems, 493 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 1,096 special operations tactical vehicles have been disabled.

Paying no heed to international norms and their own rules, NATO and European Union countries are currently supplying lethal weapons to Ukraine and sending mercenaries to kill Russian military personnel. In these circumstances, the seizure of foreign weapons and elimination of foreign mercenaries arriving in Ukraine will continue. All responsibility for the deaths of this category of foreign nationals in Ukraine lies solely with the leadership of the countries that sent them.

On the evening of 14 March, Russian airborne troops captured a nationalist and foreign mercenary stronghold near the settlement of Huta-Mezhyhirska. Our forces seized ten US-made Javelin anti-tank missile systems and a number of other weapons supplied by Western countries to Ukraine. Like other foreign weapons captured during the special operation, these systems were handed over to people's militia units from the DPR and the LPR.

In the course of demilitarizing Ukrainian nationalists, Russian military personnel have also captured a large number of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) of various types. Iгла MANPADS have again been seized in the Kherson region. The serial numbers of these systems are currently being verified to identify the supplier country from Eastern Europe. It is well known that OSCE participating States continue to supply MANPADS on a massive scale to the zone of hostilities. This is a gross violation of the OSCE politico-military commitments, to which they themselves have subscribed, namely the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (1993), Section III(A) of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000) and the OSCE Principles for Export Controls of MANPADS (2008).

We have already repeatedly warned about the enormous risks posed by putting MANPADS in the hands of Ukrainian radicals. Today these systems are in effect circulating freely on Ukrainian territory. As they withdraw hurriedly from their positions, the nationalists abandon them in crates together with other weapons and ammunition. In addition, the Kyiv regime continues its uncontrolled delivery of MANPADS received from European countries and the United States to the so-called "territorial defence forces", which creates a long-term threat of terrorist attacks on civilian aircraft in Ukraine and throughout Europe. The responsibility for this will fall on the supplier countries. Russian military personnel will continue to search for and seize MANPADS abandoned by the nationalists to prevent these lethal weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists and being taken out of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have recently heard provocative statements in the West, in particular from NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, about Russia's plans to use chemical weapons in Ukraine. We hasten to disillusion you. Our country has destroyed all its stockpiles of chemical weapons, while the United States remains the only country party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 13 January 1993 (CWC) that still possesses them and patents various inventions related to the use of fully fledged chemical warfare agents, including nerve agents.

As recently as last year, we learned that Ukrainian radical groups under the supervision of representatives of the US intelligence services were preparing to carry out dangerous provocations using toxic chemicals. The Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, Sergei Shoigu, spoke of this in particular during the open part of the expanded meeting of the Russian Defence Ministry Board on 21 December 2021. The purpose of the aforementioned actions was to accuse Russia of using chemical weapons against the civilian population and violating its obligations under the CWC.

Against this backdrop, some interesting facts are emerging. Last week, it was reported that around 80 tonnes of ammonia had been transported by Ukrainian nationalists to the settlement of Zolochiv near Kharkiv on 9 March. Locals who had managed to leave Zolochiv claim that the nationalists had been instructing people on how to deal with a chemical attack. Another dangerous provocation is evidently being prepared.

In that connection, we have circulated a national document within the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and at the United Nations describing various sabotage scenarios planned by Ukrainian radicals with the support of their overseas handlers. The first is the mining of ammonia tanks at the facilities of the Sievierodonetsk Azot Association (in the city of Sievierodonetsk) and the Odessa Port Plant (in the city of Odessa). The second is the detonation of tanks containing toxic chemicals in densely populated areas. In particular, it has been reliably established that on 8 and 9 December 2021, Ukrainian radicals delivered 200-litre metal barrels with foreign markings to the territory of the Donetsk region. The delivery and storage of this dangerous cargo was co-ordinated by employees of the US private military company Forward Observation Group (based in Nevada). It is known that four Ukrainian military personnel received serious chemical burns and suffered poisoning during the unloading of this cargo.

We call on the Ukrainian nationalist regime and its handlers to come to their senses and avert a catastrophe.

Our long-standing fears regarding the development by the United States of corresponding military-grade biological materials on Ukrainian territory under the auspices of the US intelligence services have been recently confirmed. The extreme agitation of US administration officials in connection with the discovery of their weapons-grade biological developments on Ukrainian territory is also telling. In particular, United States Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland stated directly that the US side was making every effort to ensure that the results of these laboratories' activities would not fall into the hands of the armed forces of the Russian Federation. The instructions to laboratory officials that we have seen indicate that the order for the liquidation of collections was intended to ensure that they were destroyed without trace. What is the United States hiding in these military biological laboratories in Ukraine?

The Russian Ministry of Defence has in its possession documents confirming that a network of at least 30 biological laboratories had been established in Ukraine, where highly dangerous experiments are conducted to enhance the pathogenic properties of plague, anthrax, tularaemia, cholera and other deadly diseases using synthetic biology. Research results were sent to US military biological centres, including the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, the

US Naval Medical Research Center and the military laboratories at Fort Detrick, previously key sites for the US biological weapons programme.

At the last meeting, the US delegation said that these laboratories were aimed at improving the health of the Ukrainian population. In practice, however, the so-called “reform” programme of the Ukrainian healthcare system that is being implemented by the United States has led to an increase in the incidence of particularly dangerous infections, including German measles, diphtheria and tuberculosis, among Ukrainians. The incidence of measles has increased more than 100-fold. Our colleagues at the United Nations also cited evidence that in Kharkiv, where one of these laboratories is located, 20 Ukrainian soldiers died of swine flu in January 2016 and a further 200 were hospitalized. By March of the same year, some 370 people had died of swine flu in Ukraine. An outbreak of a disease similar in symptoms to plague was reported in 2019. It is highly likely that one of the objectives of the United States and its allies in Ukraine was to create biological agents capable of selectively targeting different ethnic groups.

This information confirms our repeated claims in the context of the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BTWC) with regard to the military biological activities of the United States and its allies in the post-Soviet space. We do not rule out the possibility of invoking the mechanisms of Articles V and VI of the BTWC to put a stop to these activities. We are convinced that decisive measures are required to strengthen the regime so as to prevent military biological activities being carried out in contravention of the Convention. We also call for the establishment under the BTWC of an open-ended group to resume work on a legally binding Protocol to the Convention with an effective verification mechanism, which has been blocked since 2001 by the United States. This is in the interests of the vast majority of States Parties to the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

Contrary to the anti-Russian mantras of our Western partners about threats to Ukraine, the real danger to the country and its people is currently posed by the neo-Nazi armed formations, which are committing innumerable war crimes and using terrorist methods. They continue to mine residential areas, wreck bridges and roads, and destroy public facilities. Civilians are forced to put up with inhumane conditions without heat, electricity, water, food and medicine.

Another provocation was documented on 11 March in Kharkiv, where territorial defence battalion fighters blew up a building at the Institute of Physics and Technology in order to conceal nuclear research work. As many as 50 employees of the Institute may have been injured. Furthermore, it was reported that the bodies of civilians killed in a punitive operation against opponents of the criminal Kyiv regime were hidden in the basement of an art school on Yesenina Street in Kharkiv. In Sumy, nationalists conduct raids on private households, during which, under threats of physical violence and murder, they forcibly seize food, equipment and private cars from people.

The tactics of the Azov nationalist battalion fighters demonstrate that the Ukrainian underlings have diligently assimilated the experience of their Western teachers. On 6 March, they opened fire on civilians travelling along a humanitarian corridor out of the city of

Mariupol. The next day, during clashes with forces from the DPR on the city's Victory Avenue, the Azov fighters forced 150 civilians to act as "human shields" in front of them. In addition, we have established that the nationalists seized buses, including school buses, along with other vehicles intended for the evacuation of refugees for use as mobile firing points. This begs the question: does nobody in the West see this either?

We regret that, instead of contributing to the normalization of the humanitarian situation, the Kyiv regime is touting provocative information in the world media about the alleged "strike" by Russian aircraft on Hospital No. 3 in Mariupol. It should be pointed out first of all that on 9 March the Russian Ministry of Defence declared a ceasefire for the safe evacuation of the city's civilians. Russian aircraft did not carry out any missions aimed at targets on the ground in the Mariupol area. The alleged "air strike" is nothing but an orchestrated provocation to maintain anti-Russian hysteria among the Western audience. Otherwise, how else could the images from the so-called scene of the incident have been released in the world media with such lightning speed? For some reason, the bloody attack by the Ukrainian security forces on Donetsk did not cause such an uproar.

The Russian side has repeatedly stated that medical facilities in Mariupol, including Hospital No. 3, ceased operations as early as the end of February. All staff and patients were driven out by the nationalists. The hospital building was converted into an Azov nationalist battalion strongpoint. Photographs of the hospital grounds contain evidence of two separate staged explosions nearby. Experts know that high-explosive air-delivered munitions, even low-powered ones, would have completely destroyed the building's outer walls. We strongly condemn any endeavours by the Ukrainian nationalists to mislead the international community in an attempt to wash their hands of their own crimes. They will not succeed.

Mr. Chairperson,

Around 7,000 citizens from 16 countries continue to be held hostage by the Ukrainian neo-Nazis as "human shields", as do the crews of more than 50 foreign vessels that are trapped in seaports because of the extreme threat of mines created by Ukraine in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. These are citizens of Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, India, Jamaica, Lebanon, the Philippines, Syria, Turkey and several other countries.

The humanitarian situation in Mariupol is extremely difficult. Hundreds of thousands of people, including foreign nationals, have been forcibly detained by the nationalists, who threaten physical reprisals against anyone who attempts to leave the city. According to our information, the Greek Consul Manolis Androulakis was confined for several weeks in the basement of house No. 25 on Primorsky Boulevard, which is occupied by the OSCE Mission. A few days ago, it was reported that he had run out of food and water. He managed to contact representatives of the Greek Foreign Ministry, but Azov fighters restricted his ability to use the phone. He was also not allowed to pass through the humanitarian corridors established by Russia. Despite the Greek Foreign Ministry's demand that he be released and that journalists be allowed in, no decisions were taken.

Progress was made yesterday in the direction of Mariupol. As a result of effective action by DPR forces with the support of Russian armed forces units, there has been targeted destruction of almost all the firing positions set up in the suburbs of Mariupol. The main neo-Nazi forces in residential areas on the outskirts of the city have been eliminated. The

operation to break through to Mariupol made it possible to open humanitarian corridors and begin an unprecedented evacuation of its residents.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation continues to adhere fully to its humanitarian commitments. Yesterday, for the twelfth time, we provided humanitarian corridors in the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and Kharkiv areas with the possibility for civilians to travel both to the western regions of the country and to Russian territory. The ceasefires that we have introduced are being strictly observed. We note with regret, however, that these pauses are being used by Ukrainian units and neo-Nazi battalions to regroup and reinforce their positions. In addition, we regularly experience difficulties in reaching agreement on the routes of the humanitarian corridors. For example, yesterday the Kyiv authorities once again approved only three of the ten routes we proposed, and none of them to Russia.

The Ukrainian Government continues cynically to claim that there are no civilians or foreign nationals wishing to travel to the Russian Federation. But the daily increase in the number of requests received through various communication channels from Ukrainian citizens and also from foreign nationals for evacuation indicates otherwise. Today, their number exceeds 2.6 million people from almost 2,000 settlements in Ukraine.

We are dismayed to report that since we first made these statistics public, Ukrainian Security Service units have been instructed to carry out mass detentions, arrests, searches and interrogations day and night. Since 9 March, the Ukrainian authorities have authorized the nationalists to use weapons against persons attempting to evacuate to the Russian Federation, threatening to kill their relatives who remain in Ukrainian territory. The public threats by the mayor of Sumy, Oleksandr Lysenko, and the head of the Sumy regional administration, Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, to shoot civilians trying to use the humanitarian corridors to reach Russia are inhumane. For our part, we once again address the question to participants at this meeting: where is the reaction of the West? Or does the self-proclaimed “civilized community” not see that either?

Unfortunately, all our requests to international organizations, above all to the International Committee of the Red Cross, to take effective measures to induce the mayors of Ukrainian towns and cities and the Ukrainian Government to carry out the full range of measures to prepare for the evacuation of the civilian population, to notify them of the assembly points, the opening of humanitarian corridors and the formation of humanitarian columns remain unheeded for now.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, let me remind you that the task of the special military operation is neither to occupy Ukraine nor to destroy its statehood. The special operation – and I stress this – is not directed against the civilian population. Our message is as clear as can be: we do not want the building in a neighbouring country of a neo-Nazi State with traditions whereby battalions with SS insignia parade in front of the President of Ukraine. In that context, the objectives of demilitarization, denazification and a return to Ukraine’s original sovereignty, as enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, which proclaimed its neutral status and co-operation with Russia, will be fulfilled.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that the text of this statement, along with the additional material to be distributed after the plenary meeting, be attached to the journal.

FSC.JOUR/1010

16 March 2022

Annex 1

Attachment

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

ON THE MILITARY BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE TERRITORY OF UKRAINE

With the financial and organizational support of the United States of America, a network of more than 30 biological laboratories was established on the territory of Ukraine from 2014 onwards to conduct scientific research into deadly diseases, especially dangerous pathogens and viruses. The client that ordered this work is the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the US Department of Defense.

The work proceeded along three main tracks:

The biological environment was monitored, as the Pentagon says, in possible areas of deployment for military contingents from NATO member countries.

Dangerous microorganism strains were collected and transferred to the United States on a regular basis.

Scientific research was conducted into potential region-specific biological warfare agents that have natural foci and could be transmitted to humans.

In the course of the special operation by the armed forces of the Russian Federation, civic-minded and patriotic employees of these laboratories handed over to the Russian side documentary evidence indicating urgent measures by the United States to remove the traces of the military biological programme being implemented in Ukraine with funding from the US Department of Defense. Thus, it has become known that, as from 24 February of this year, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine ordered that the biological agents kept at these laboratories be completely destroyed. This fact confirms that the US and Ukrainian Governments had serious fears that Russian experts would get their hands on irrefutable evidence of the practical work being carried out to enhance the pathogenic properties of microorganisms using synthetic biology techniques. This would in turn point to a systematic violation of the international Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention by Ukraine and the United States, about which the Russian Government has warned repeatedly.

Of greatest interest in this respect is the project code-named UP-4. The purpose of this research was to identify avian diseases that pose the greatest risk to humans and have the greatest potential to destabilize the epidemiological situation in a given region within an extremely short period of time. Another task was to study bird migration routes in order to determine those that pass through the territory of Russia and least affect European countries. The deliberate catching of birds on Russian territory, their subsequent transportation to Ukraine and the tracking of their return journey support this theory. Furthermore, in the

course of their work, scientists have been identifying places with the greatest concentration of birds, where it would be possible to infect an entire flock with an especially dangerous pathogen.

These studies may indicate that US and Ukrainian military biologists intended to use birds as a means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction. Such an approach is one of the most reckless, inhumane and highly irresponsible methods of warfare. The fact is that, after launching such a “living weapon”, its creators would inevitably lose control over it and, within a matter of days, the epidemic could spread throughout the post-Soviet space and also engulf Western Europe. It is particularly alarming that experiments similar to project UP-4 are being conducted near densely populated areas of European countries which consider themselves allies of the United States, but whose security is clearly being disregarded by their US “partners”.

Other documents that have been obtained by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation show that Ukrainian scientists regularly sent biomaterial samples to interested individuals and organizations abroad. The samples sent included not only disease vectors (fleas, etc.) but also blood serum from members of the Slav ethnic group. This would indicate that specialists from the US biological laboratories in Ukraine have been conducting research into the impact of pathogens on people as a function of racial and ethnic factors. This may indicate the Pentagon’s interest in developing selective biological weapons aimed at certain ethnic groups (“ethnic weapons”).

Furthermore, the documents confirm that Germany is implementing its own military biological programme in Ukraine. Its purpose is to study the potential of deadly diseases such as Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever in an Eastern European context.

For example, as part of this work, in a joint project organized by Germany’s Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine with the Public Health Centre of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the Ukrainian side undertook to supply blood samples from people of Slav ethnicity from different regions of the country. In addition, German specialists visited Ukrainian hospitals in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa and Lviv on a regular basis to learn first-hand about disease patterns among the local population. The project was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and the Bundeswehr.

Germany’s activities, previously unknown to the general public, pose the same threat as the US biological experiments and require detailed scrutiny.

The disclosure of documents on the activities of the US biological laboratories in Ukraine has had a “bombshell” effect in the international information space. At congressional hearings, United States Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland was forced to admit the existence of US biological laboratories in Ukraine, but denied accusations that they were developing prohibited weapons of mass destruction. Against this backdrop, the representative of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wangi Yi expressed serious concern about the inhumane nature of the US military biological programme and demanded that the US Government disclose information on the programme’s purpose, objectives and content, and also proposed an initiative to organize international inspections of US military biological facilities. Conservative US media are demanding the immediate closure of all US biological

laboratories abroad. At the United Nations Security Council, the Russian delegation has raised the question of the utility of an international investigation into the US military biological programme.

The published documents clearly show that the United States is developing a new type of biological weapon at Ukrainian laboratories.

The military biological activities of the United States in Ukraine violate the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and pose a direct threat to the biological security not only of Russia but also of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.



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

FSC.JOUR/1010
16 March 2022
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1004th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(b)

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

First of all, I would like to say that I am speaking under the subject raised by Ukraine. And I reject the incendiary false and wholly inappropriate title that the Russian delegation raised earlier.

Allow me to begin by reflecting on the tragic deaths of two US journalists killed in Ukraine, Brent Renaud earlier this week and Fox News cameraman Pierre Zakrzewski, killed along with his Ukrainian colleague in the line of duty yesterday. Benjamin Hall, also of Fox News, was grievously injured. They were fulfilling their crucial role as journalists providing objective coverage of Russia's war against Ukraine.

We regret that the Russian delegation continues to exploit this Forum as a platform for disinformation as it seeks to justify its war of aggression. The Kremlin's outright lies strain credulity. When one hears Foreign Minister Lavrov's false claims, such as, "we didn't attack Ukraine in the first place," it calls into question the veracity of all Kremlin statements that follow. Putin's war is no "special military operation." It is a brutal assault on the Ukrainian people. For this, the world has condemned Russia, as the aggressor State, for violating international law. Belarus has allowed its territory to be used as a massive staging ground to enable the Russian invasion.

The fact is that Putin has badly miscalculated. Moscow did not anticipate the skill or will of the Ukrainian armed forces and the Ukrainian people to fight in defence of their homeland. Russia has not met its military objectives on the ground with 100 per cent of its assembled force inside Ukraine and the skies remain contested. So, Putin is now turning to a strategy of laying waste to population centres.

Russian forces have launched more than 900 missiles at targets inside Ukraine, including massive barrages by long-range-fires directed at population centres. There is a sustained military effort to subdue and encircle Ukrainian cities. Civilian deaths mount by the day. Russian forces have also attacked water and sanitation facilities, and endangered nuclear power plants. Russian attacks have hit schools, orphanages, television towers and hospitals – the World Health Organization reported 31 health facilities have come under attack as of

14 March. Yesterday, we saw reports of 400 patients and medical staff trapped by Russian forces in a Mariupol intensive care hospital. The International Committee of the Red Cross has warned that Mariupol is facing a “worst-case scenario” with hundreds of thousands of people there lacking access to food, water, and medicine and sheltering in unheated basements. We are gratified that 20,000 Mariupol residents managed to escape yesterday making the dangerous journey on their own but tens of thousands more remain, and humanitarian access has not been possible due to the Russian siege.

Mr. Chairperson,

Evidence of violations of international humanitarian law is being carefully documented and preserved. The United States supports efforts to hold those responsible to account. The world is watching. And let me add that I thank the European Union for reminding us all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

We join calls by the international community for an immediate ceasefire and safe corridors for humanitarian assistance and evacuations of the civilian population. Putin has already created the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War. More than three million refugees have left Ukraine and at least another two million Ukrainians are internally displaced. It is a disgrace.

Russia’s cruel tactics are only fortifying the resolve of the Ukrainian military and its people against Russia. We are seeing this already in cities and towns across Ukraine: protesters waiving Ukrainian flags in Kherson, rejecting the establishment of a so-called People’s Republic; ordinary citizens demanding the return of the kidnapped mayor in Melitopol and rejecting the installation of a puppet mayor. The Ukrainian people will not be subjugated by invaders.

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States will continue to support Ukraine’s sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. We stand by Ukraine as we have done since Russia’s illegitimate seizure of Crimea eight years ago. We will continue to provide Ukraine with support, including security assistance, to bolster Ukraine’s legitimate right to self-defence. This military assistance is provided in compliance with the conventional arms transfer policy, as well as with our international obligations and commitments.

The United States continues to reposition US forces and capabilities to enhance defence and deterrence along NATO’s eastern flank. As President Biden has underscored, we and our allies are committed to defend every inch of NATO territory.

Right of reply on alleged “bioweapons”

We regret the Kremlin again this week repeated its false narrative regarding the Department of Defense’s Cooperative Threat Reduction’s (CTR) disease surveillance, biosafety, and biosecurity work in Ukraine. Allow me to once again to set the record straight. The CTR programme supported 30 Ministry of Health laboratories and diagnostic facilities and 16 Ministry of Agriculture facilities in Ukraine. It has invested approximately 200 million US dollars in advancing public and veterinary health in Ukraine since 2005. The

World Health Organization has overseen an external assessment of Ukraine's facilities in support of transparency.

The Department of Defense's CTR programme began its biological work with Ukraine to secure illegal biological weapons left in the Soviet successor States after the USSR fell. The CTR programme provides training and equipment on biosafety and security to reduce biological threats and support public and veterinary health to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. Russia accepted Department of Defense CTR support for many years until 2014. Let me emphasize that fact once again: the Russian Federation accepted support from the United States for the same types of training and equipment Ukraine received. Russia's disinformation campaigns against Department of Defense CTR started only after the United States Government stopped funding projects in Russia. Russia apparently did not even bother to do any research on its own past co-operation with CTR before manufacturing this shameful lie about Ukraine.

I would also like to note the OSCE's work in biological and chemical security in Ukraine in furtherance of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 implementation, which the European Union has also sided. Beginning in 2015, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in Kyiv developed an integrated chemical safety and security programme in Ukraine, which included biosafety and security. Since 2018, Ukraine has also implemented a series of measures through three inter-related OSCE biosafety and biosecurity projects for Ukraine. The chemical and biological safety and security programmes funded by the European Union and the United States from 2017 to 2021 were successfully implemented. Partners from several countries provided concrete assistance to strengthen Ukraine's non-proliferation efforts to reduce chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. Perhaps Russia will find a way now to accuse the OSCE of manufacturing bioweapons for Ukraine to use. It would hardly be a surprise.

There is absolutely no truth to Russia's accusations regarding an alleged bioweapons programme in Ukraine. It is Russia, in fact, not Ukraine, that has long maintained a biological weapons programme in violation of the Biological Weapons Convention. And it is Russia that has a well-documented history of using chemical weapons in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We remain concerned that 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 perpetrating. One would think that after being exposed so many times, the Kremlin would think up a new trick, but they stick with the same ploy. As National Security Adviser Sullivan noted, levying such false accusations is what poker players call a "tell." But this is no game. As stated by President Biden last Friday, "Russia would pay a severe price" should it use biological or chemical weapons.

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



1004th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

As Russia's unjust war against Ukraine is now in its third week, it is important to reflect on how we got here. Following months of denial and, frankly outright lies, on the morning of the 24 February, less than a day after assuring OSCE participating States that they had no intention to invade Ukraine, the Russian Federation launched the largest land war in Europe since the Second World War.

This was a deliberate and premeditated attack on a neighbouring country, with the stated intent of destroying a neighbouring State, denying its right to exist. We all wondered when the lies would stop and the answer, as we now know, never. Despite irreparable damage to its credibility both here and around the world, Russia continues to pursue an aggressive propaganda campaign, full of fabricated pretexts, fictional events and blatant misinformation designed to instil fear in its own population as a justification for its violent and illegal military action.

By imposing draconian responses against anti-war protests in Russian cities, detaining thousands, and threatening any media that reports anything that has not been sanctioned by the Kremlin, Russia affirms its fear that its citizens will discover they have been sold a lie. A wise man once said: "Delusions, errors and lies are like huge, gaudy vessels, the rafters of which are rotten and worm-eaten, and those who embark in them are fated to be shipwrecked."

Ordinary Russians will see through the fabrications and lies. They will learn the truth.

Russia continues to wage the largest war in Europe in generations. Using almost the entire spectrum of its conventional capabilities, including mechanized ground forces, theatre-launched missile systems, heavy bombers, naval bombardment, amphibious assault ships and troops, airborne assault troops, and special operations forces. Combat activity is occurring across several fronts and Russia has conducted air attacks on regions as far west as Lviv Oblast.

All the while, Russia continues to attempt to convince us that they are not targeting civilians in its "special military operation", but we should be very clear. This is not some

limited military activity, it is war. Facing a skilled and determined Ukrainian resistance, Russia this week continued that age-old Russian military tactic of indiscriminate artillery and multiple-launch rocket system shelling, reminiscent of actions in Syria and Chechnya. This indiscriminate targeting of urban residential areas continues to cause increasing civilian deaths and unnecessary destruction of people's homes, in particular as Russian forces laid siege to Mariupol.

Despite the chorus of voices both here and around the world calling for an end to bombing, an end to the artillery strikes, an end to the violence against civilians, and an end to this war, the Russian Federation continues to double-down on its lies and misinformation, making even more outlandish claims in an effort to generate a pretext for their next violent act of escalation. This past week Russia continued to push the outrageous claim that they had uncovered evidence Ukraine was engaged in biological/chemical weapons development. A complete fabrication. We have also heard the claims that Russia had proof that Ukraine was developing some sort of nuclear weapon, another complete fabrication. This is Russia's playbook. We have seen this before and we will not be fooled. Nobody believes these ridiculous claims any more than they believed that the 200,000 troops amassed along the border with Ukraine were on 'exercises' and not positioned for an invasion of Ukraine.

The facts of the matter remain, Ukraine and its people have done nothing to provoke or instigate this conflict. Ukraine is not the aggressor. Quite the contrary. There was no threat to the people of Donbas, Russia manufactured it. Russia created a fake threat, a fake refugee crisis, and a fake need to "intervene". Russia continues to propagate new and more inventive false pretexts in an effort to support this ill-gotten military adventure against their sovereign neighbour. When will they recognize that wars built on lies are doomed to fail? When will they recognize that this strategic blunder must stop now.

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have, and will be, along with our allies and partners continuing to forcefully and collectively respond to these reckless and dangerous acts. Canada is continuing to step up its military support for Ukraine. To this end, the Canadian armed forces and the Department of National Defence are working hard to deliver new tranches of military equipment as quickly as possible. We will leave no stone unturned as we support Ukraine in the hours, days and weeks to come.

In the face of this unimaginable adversity, the Ukrainian people are demonstrating tremendous courage, remaining resolute in their desire to be a free and democratic country, in control of their own destiny. We join the chorus of nations all around the world in reiterating that we stand with Ukraine. Slava Ukraini!



1004th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(b)

**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 now nearly three weeks since President Putin launched his premeditated and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and, as we have heard today, our Russian colleagues persist in playing the role of the Kremlin's storytellers, peddling their lies in an attempt to justify Russia's military action against Ukraine.

In February, during the run up to the invasion, more than one hundred different stories promoting unfounded claims around pretexts for invasion were identified as being disseminated by Kremlin-controlled media. Accompanied by baseless rhetoric and disinformation, our Russian colleagues blindly attempted to falsely cast Ukraine as a threat – but they fooled no one.

And here and now, our Russian colleagues continue to lie in transparent attempts at disinformation to provide continued pretexts for military action. Last week, along with my Ukrainian and US colleagues, we exposed Russia's absurd accusations and lies surrounding the false notion that Ukraine sought to pursue offensive biological and nuclear weapons capabilities. That my Russian colleague's public reaction to delegations speaking the truth was "amazement" says it all.

Mr. Chairperson, I would urge our Russian colleagues, who have a unique position in Vienna to see uncensored news from around the world reporting the truth, to take a moment. 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.

Whilst these lies continue, the Kremlin's war machine lumbers on. Frustrated by staunch Ukrainian resistance, the Russian military has increasingly resorted to attacking indiscriminately from distance using: multiple-launch rocket systems, Iskander ballistic missiles, artillery, air-to-ground attack and cruise missiles to attack all major Ukrainian cities, critical national civilian infrastructure, including sea ports, residential areas, and even hospitals. Russia is using cluster munitions and thermobaric rockets, weapons designed to inflict maximum damage wherever they are deployed.

Mr. Chairperson, we heard my Russian colleague's ridiculous claims that Ukraine was responsible for the impact on commercial shipping in the region. I would note that it is Russian naval forces that have established a distant blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea coast, effectively isolating Ukraine from international maritime trade. And, it is Russia that has targeted several foreign flagged commercial vessels over the past weeks. Russian naval forces are also continuing to conduct missile strikes against targets throughout Ukraine.

Russia has unleashed a horrendous amount of violence on the Ukrainian people. In particular, the atrocious and indiscriminate destruction of Mariupol and the resulting civilian casualties is unforgivable. It should sit heavily on all of us in this room (including our Russian colleagues) as humans, diplomats, and military advisers. The United Kingdom has offered technical support to the International Criminal Court in bringing those responsible for war crimes in Ukraine to justice – including support in the immediate priority of gathering and preserving evidence. Russian commanders carrying out war crimes should know they cannot act with impunity. The world is watching, and their actions risk landing them in a jail cell. Nobody is forgotten, and nothing is forgotten.

Mr. Chairperson, my Russian colleague again insisted that the so-called “special military operation” is going to plan. But it is not. For the first time this week, Russia has finally admitted so. The Chief of Russia's National Guard, Viktor Zolotov, announced it should my Russian colleague need the reference. Russia is paying a high price for each advance as the Ukrainian armed forces continue to offer staunch resistance across the country.

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

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. In this regard, we continue to support Ukraine, our friends, in their fight for their homeland.

We have so far provided Ukraine with nearly 4,000 light, anti-armour defensive weapons systems or NLAWs, and we will shortly begin delivery of a small consignment of anti-tank Javelin missiles as well. These help Ukraine defend against the armoured forces threat it faces.

The UK Government has also taken the decision to explore the donation of Starstreak, high velocity, man-portable anti-air missiles. This defensive weapon system would allow the armed forces of Ukraine to better defend their skies.

Mr. Chairperson, 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.

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



1004th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered under the agenda item 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.

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

According to the latest United Nations data, over 3 million Ukrainians have been uprooted and forced to seek shelter and safety in neighbouring countries as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The 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 condemn Russia's direct strikes on civilian infrastructure and attacks on journalists and medical staff; we are appalled by the reports of rape, abductions and executions. International humanitarian law is explicit in its prohibition of attacks on civilians or civilian objects. These attacks must stop immediately. Safe passage through humanitarian corridors and the delivery of aid must be guaranteed for every civilian – both for those who decide to stay and for those who choose to leave.

We are following the environmental, nuclear and radiation safety threats stemming from the Russian aggression with great alarm. We reiterate our call on Russia to immediately cease military action around the nuclear sites, withdraw all its troops and allow the Ukrainians to have unimpeded control over their facilities.

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.

Georgia stands with Ukraine, both here at the OSCE and within all other relevant international organizations and bodies.

We call on Russia to immediately, completely and without preconditions cease aggression, to withdraw all its forces and armaments from the whole 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/1010

16 March 2022

Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

1004th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the last Permanent Council meeting, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr. Martin Griffiths presented the humanitarian situation on the ground in Ukraine. Unfortunately, the humanitarian tragedy has only increased since that meeting.

As reported by the UNHCR, more than 2.8 million people have fled Ukraine so far. 2.8 million lives uprooted. 2.8 million people who have left everything behind. Moreover, there are now at least two million internally displaced people. An additional 12.6 million have been directly affected. They are contending with freezing temperatures and hunger.

According to the estimates of UNICEF, 60 per cent of all refugees are children who have fled with their elderly relatives. There are at present 91,000 children in care houses in Ukraine, most of them disabled. Among these refugee and IDP children, the risk of diseases such as polio and many others is increasing.

These are grim and sorrowing figures. The innocent civilians, especially children, are facing the cruel face of the unprovoked and unjustified military attack of the Russian Federation.

This assault is illegal and illegitimate. It constitutes a clear violation of international law. It poses a serious threat to regional and international security.

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.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our strong and sincere call for the urgent and permanent declaration of a ceasefire. The bloodshed must be stopped.

My country is tirelessly working with all parties to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this crisis, including facilitating last week's high-level trilateral meeting in the margins of Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

As a follow up, our Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu is in Moscow today and is expected to arrive in Ukraine tomorrow.

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

To turn to another field of response, Ukraine and Moldova have requested humanitarian assistance from Turkey.

So far, 21 truckloads of humanitarian assistance have been delivered to Ukraine by our authorities. Twelve more trucks are on their way.

Three truckloads of humanitarian assistance have been delivered to Moldova.

A team of 11 from Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority is 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 health services for those in need.

Food assistance is also being provided by the Turkish Red Crescent at the Porubnoe-Siret border checkpoint.

Planning for further assistance is ongoing.

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 in the direction of a peaceful way out of this situation.

We kindly ask that our 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/1010
16 March 2022
Annex 7

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1004th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

Germany fully endorses the statement by the European Union.

The Russian Federation has made assertions in its statement that I cannot leave unanswered. In addition to the EU statement, I should therefore like to speak as well in a national capacity, also explicitly under the agenda item raised by Ukraine.

Again and again, Russia puts on an astounding spectacle here. With outrageous assertions and depictions that are a distortion of reality, our Russian colleagues are attempting to justify the actions of the Putin regime and the brutal war of aggression against Ukraine. There is no justification for a war of aggression. I assure you once again that nothing in the assertions is credible, even if you put the hashtag “fake news” on confirmed facts and objective reporting.

If you are interested in a meaningful discussion and a peaceful solution – because there is no other – I urge you to return to the realm of facts. Groundless assertions and an absurd twisting of the reality in which the victim – Ukraine – is presented as the perpetrator is contemptuous.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the last meeting, my colleague – along with other participating States that have also already spoken today – firmly rejected the Russian accusations of an alleged genocide and pointed to their inappropriateness. The fact that the Russian representative is once again recklessly bandying this term about is evidence of a loss of reality and absence of historical sensitivity. I repeat again that there is nothing – absolutely nothing – to suggest that a genocide is taking place or has taken place in Donbas. This is also the view of a good number of independent observers. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has not found anything that would indicate otherwise. International human rights organizations, too, have investigated such allegations in the past, and none of them have concluded that there might be evidence for a genocide. The term “denazification” is also entirely baseless and completely

out of place in view of the historical context. I therefore urge that neither of these terms be used in future.

We also strongly condemn the false Russian assertions of alleged research in Ukraine by Western States into biological weapons and the false Russian assertions of “provocations” with chemical substances and weapons supposedly planned by Ukraine. Such completely baseless propaganda claims against Ukraine, which fulfils all its commitments as a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention – including the regular inspection of its chemical industry by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – serve solely to justify the war of aggression against Ukraine in violation of international law. We are far more concerned about reports that Russia is planning covert operations with chemical substances with the blame for them being laid on Ukraine. Such action would only be to Russia’s detriment.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have been witnesses for 20 days now to the unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine by Russia and its accomplice Belarus. Every day this senseless war claims more victims, including many civilians. Russia bears full responsibility for the grave humanitarian consequences and the immeasurable suffering of people in Ukraine.

My Turkish colleague has also already addressed this. The people who are seeking refuge in Europe – now already almost three million, including many women and children – are the direct testimony to this tragedy. Russia bears responsibility for enabling civilians to reach safety and for humanitarian assistance to be provided. To present a solution that is not a solution is cynical and delays the urgently needed protection of the civilian population.

This could not be clearer. The brutal and inhumane reality newly created by Russia in Ukraine must not be ignored. And I assure you that no one is turning a blind eye to it, and we and the rest of the world are in fact watching very closely. The attempts by Russia to obscure this reality, also from its own population, are risible and doomed to failure.

The unspeakable attack on a maternity hospital in Mariupol shows the full extent of the unscrupulousness of the Russian aggressor: an attack on pregnant women is an attack on life itself. And then to pass this off as a Ukrainian drama is more than despicable. The threats to attack important convoys with support for Ukraine and humanitarian goods are also shameful for a country whose own population already paid a very high price in earlier wars. The civilian population must be provided with supplies, and possibilities for their evacuation must be created without delay.

The Russian war of aggression against a sovereign Ukraine is a serious violation of international law that we most vigorously condemn. In that context, Ukraine is merely exercising its right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations in order to protect its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This war of aggression marks a watershed for Germany’s foreign and security policy. It is a grave violation of the Charter of the United Nations, which we defend as an irrefutable basis for the coexistence of all States. In the present situation, it is our duty to support Ukraine to the full in defending itself against Vladimir Putin’s invading army. Germany

stands firmly in solidarity with Ukraine – this also includes the delivery of defensive weapons, a decision that was weighed up very carefully beforehand by the Federal Government. In doing so, Germany is evidently acting on the basis of international law: we are providing emergency assistance for a State that has been attacked and is invoking its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. And let me tell you once again quite clearly: all this would not have been necessary if Russia had not started a war of aggression without any justification whatsoever and in violation of international law.

In a lightning attack without regard for the losses, Russia has shattered the European security order that we have painstakingly developed and built up together for almost half a century since the Helsinki Final Act. Russia's disregard for and violation of this order, the Charter of the United Nations, obligations under international law and OSCE principles is shaking our common foundations for a peaceful coexistence to the core. Russia is making itself a pariah within the international community and bears sole responsibility for the violence and atrocities it is inflicting on its neighbouring country. You can rest assured that none of these crimes will go unpunished.

It is up to Russia to end this senseless and bloody war and to withdraw its troops immediately and unconditionally. Every day, Russia is destroying more human lives – the plan to subjugate Ukraine will not succeed.

We stand unwaveringly at Ukraine's side.

Thank you.

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



1004th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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

Dear colleagues,

It looks as if our Russian colleagues, even though they are living here in the free world, are cut off from free and unbiased information. If this is the case, Russian colleagues, please listen to what other free nations are telling you here at the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Russophobia is a convenient excuse invented by the Kremlin to intimidate its own people and to force them into misery and isolation.

We applaud those brave Russians who listen to their conscience and heart and have the courage to protest against Putin's vile war. Around 15,000 Russians have been arrested in 112 cities for nothing more than protesting against Putin's war in Ukraine. However, despite Putin's intimidation and the threat of arrest, people continue to take part in the protests. On Sunday, there were protests in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan, Novosibirsk, Khabarovsk, Irkutsk and several other cities of the Russian Federation.

Many brave Russians, notably the Hero of the Russian Federation, pilot and aviation colonel Gennady Isaakovich Stern, have appealed to Russian military pilots to immediately stop the destruction of peaceful Ukrainian cities, towns and villages.

Another brave Russian, Marina Ovsyannikova, an editor at the State-controlled TV station Channel 1, ran onto the set of the Channel 1 transmission on Monday holding an anti-war sign. The sign, clearly visible for a few seconds, read: "No war, stop the war, don't believe the propaganda, they are lying to you here." It happened live on Russia's main nightly news programme, Vremya, which is watched by millions. Before the incident she recorded a video in which she called events in Ukraine a "crime" and said she was ashamed of having worked for Kremlin propaganda. As she herself explained, "I'm ashamed that I

allowed myself to tell lies from the television screen. Ashamed that I allowed Russians to be turned into zombies. We just silently watched this inhumane regime.”

We stand in solidarity with those who are bravely opposing Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Russian writer Boris Akunin has put it as follows, in a statement addressed to all Russian people: “We all have a feeling that the world has gone insane these days. That it is collapsing before our eyes. That the attack is directed not only at Ukraine, but at all of us. Ukraine is under attack. And we are all under attack. Because from a global perspective, the words ‘Russia’ and ‘Russian’ are now tainted. They are shamed! Throughout its history, Russia has never been as isolated as it is now.”

It is Putin who has become the greatest enemy of the Russian people. The war started by the Kremlin has no geopolitical or economic benefits. Only losses. Shame. Poverty. Putin’s regime would do better to focus on living conditions in its own country, which are becoming increasingly intolerable on account of his Putin’s policies.

The Russian people should understand what kind of war Putin has started on its behalf, and the historical shame that he has inflicted on the Russian people.

Dear colleagues,

In conclusion, despite Russia’s attempts to terrify us and make us stop our support to Ukraine, Latvia supports and will continue to support Ukraine, not only diplomatically and politically, but also by strengthening Ukraine’s self-defence capabilities to defend itself against Russia’s unprovoked and irresponsible aggression.

Russia may try to occupy Ukraine, but it will not defeat the Ukrainians.

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

I thank you for your attention.



1004th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1010, 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.

At our meeting last week, we debunked, together with other delegations, the extensive lies and propaganda so assiduously spread by Russian officials, including those in Russia's delegation to the Forum for Security Co-operation, who try to justify Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine. I do not intend to do so again.

However, despite our tireless efforts, it seems that the Russian delegation continues repeating the same lies like a broken record, as the saying goes. However, what is self-evident remains self-evident. What is unjustifiable cannot be justified. No matter what. Хватит лжи и пропаганды войны и насилия! Пора менять пластинку! (Enough lies and propaganda of war and violence! It's time to change the record!)

During our meeting last week, we stressed the individual accountability of those who are responsible for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russia, with the support of Belarus, in Ukraine.

Once captured by the defenders of Ukraine, Russian soldiers and pilots start confessing. They call their mothers, wives and other loved ones; they also publicly address their comrades, asking them to stop this war, to stop all these killings of innocent people.

Many of them regret having been accomplices in these heinous war crimes and crimes against humanity. Many of them try to absolve themselves of personal responsibility by saying that they were merely obeying orders ("выполняли приказы") or that they were working on the basis of co-ordinates that they had been given ("работали по координатам"). They regret not having stopped earlier, before it was too late to evade personal responsibility.

However, they had the choice to disobey illegal orders. The EU delegation referred in its statement to the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The same notion of individual responsibility also applies to Russian and Belarusian diplomats. Our UK colleague just called on them to consider their position, responsibilities and legacy as diplomats and citizens of their countries.

Let me once again emphasize that any attempt by them to cover up and to justify all these heinous war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by their countries' militaries will be interpreted in the same vein – namely, as evidence of their complicity.

No one will escape his or her personal responsibility – whether the masterminds of these horrific crimes, military commanders, regular soldiers, factory workers who make bombs to be dropped on Ukrainian cities, train drivers who bring all these munitions and Russian military units to the border of Ukraine, propagandists, or diplomats.

In this regard, one historical fact worth remembering is that at the Nuremberg trial, diplomats were sentenced together with Nazi officers. And the death sentence of Joachim von Ribbentrop, Foreign Minister of the Third Reich, was, unless I am mistaken, the first to be carried out.

The war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russia, with the support of Belarus, in Ukraine are now being carefully registered and documented by the relevant international bodies. The OSCE is also doing its bit – earlier this month, 45 participating States, supported by Ukraine, triggered the OSCE Moscow Mechanism. Three independent experts have already been appointed and have started their important work on collecting relevant evidence.

Therefore, here is yet another appeal from us to Russian and Belarusian diplomats: dissociate yourselves from all these war crimes, condemn them, join the international community in stopping this bloodshed. Do not be accomplices in it.

There are various good examples to be followed. In addition to the ones I already mentioned last week (an open letter by students at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and the appeal to Russian diplomats by Andrei Kozyrev, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia), I can also refer to Natalia Khvastova, Consul of the Consulate General of the Republic of Belarus in Munich, who handed in her resignation on 2 March 2022 in protest at the participation of Belarus in this war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine, or Marina Ovsyannikova, a journalist at Russia's main State television channel, Pervyi Kanal, who found the strength to admit that she had been wrong, and to say that she wanted to be on the right side of history.

In closing, let me once again express our unwavering support for and solidarity with the courageous people of Ukraine – all those millions of Ukrainian men and women who are doing their utmost to defend their homeland and repel Russia's war of aggression, in line with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Their struggle is the best proof of how the number of troops and equipment is no guarantee of an advantage on the battlefield. What matters most is the fighting spirit – the determination to defend your land, your people, your freedom and your country's independence.

Ukraine will not surrender. Ukrainians will not surrender. They have too many and too sad historical experiences for it to be otherwise. If anyone still doubts this, I would suggest that they simply listen to the national anthem of Ukraine, whose lyrics read:

The glory and freedom of Ukraine have not yet perished.
Luck will still smile on us, brother-Ukrainians.
Our enemies will die, as the dew does in the sunshine,
And we, too, brothers, we will live happily in our land.

We will not spare either our souls or bodies to win freedom,
and we will prove that we brothers are of Cossack ancestry.

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.



1004th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan in its national capacity would like to draw the attention of the Forum to recent military provocations committed by Armenian armed formations illegally stationed in the territory of Azerbaijan where peacekeepers are temporarily deployed to. We will also reflect on developments in the region following the signing of the trilateral statements and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts, with the focus on politico-military matters.

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. Moreover, Azerbaijan's armed forces were subjected to fire 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 by Armenia. The armed forces of Azerbaijan do not target civilian infrastructure, but only the positions of the illegally stationed Armenian armed detachments.

The recent provocations testify to a highly revanchist attitude prevalent in Armenia in the post-conflict period. Armenia attempts to destabilize the situation and jeopardize the prospects for building a durable peace in the region. These actions also fit well into the pattern of Armenia's irresponsible military adventurism and represent an attempt to drag Azerbaijan into provocations, by taking advantage of the aggravation of the situation in another part of the OSCE area. It is a dangerous exercise with unpredictable consequences which by no means serves the cause of consolidation of peace in the region. We stress that the main responsibility for this lies directly with Armenia's politico-military leadership.

As it is known, the trilateral statement signed on 10 November 2020 put an end to the armed conflict and set agreed parameters for establishing a durable peace in the region. The priorities of Azerbaijan at the post-conflict stage are the soonest and effective post-conflict

rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration, as well as normalization of inter-State relations with Armenia.

The Government of Azerbaijan has already initiated practical steps aimed at eliminating the consequences of the decades-old occupation of its territories by Armenia accompanied by massive destruction. At the same time, challenges persist. Since the signing of the trilateral statements, we are not in a position to report to the Forum the full implementation of these agreements, including their politico-military aspects.

Thus, Armenia still refuses to fully withdraw the leftovers of its illegal armed formations from the territory of Azerbaijan, where the peacekeepers are temporarily deployed to, as envisaged by the Article 4 of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement, Armenia's international obligations and fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, in particular the principle of "host-nation consent".

Armenia keeps misusing the Lachin road for military purposes in contravention of the provisions of the trilateral statement, which provide for the use of this road only for citizens, vehicles and goods. Armenia continues to transport its military servicemen and weapons by this road, which represents a blatant violation of the fundamental OSCE principles underlying the letter and spirit of all applicable arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) regimes.

Let us remind the Forum that Armenia for the last nearly three decades egregiously violated its politico-military commitments in the area of arms control and CSBMs by taking advantage of the fragmentation of the zone of application of these regimes and evading from all existing military transparency mechanisms within the OSCE. This included refusal to share accurate and complete information about its armed forces illegally stationed in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, unbridled military build-up through massive diversion of weapons and military equipment to these territories, and holding of countless military exercises therein. The magnitude of these violations was vividly demonstrated in the course of the 44-day war of 2020 in our region, as a result of which Azerbaijan restored its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

It is regrettable that after the end of the armed conflict, Armenia for the last two years in a row does not exchange its military information pursuant to the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, thus further undermining military transparency and concealing the practice of illegal military build-up.

Under the current post-conflict circumstances, Armenia must finally draw lessons from its recent defeat on the battlefield and realize the futility of its approach aimed at violating Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We urge Armenia, instead of illegally re-installing military fortifications and resorting to military provocations, to focus on the implementation in good faith of its international obligations, fundamental OSCE principles and provisions of the trilateral statements. This is essential for contributing to the post-conflict rehabilitation efforts and bringing about sustainable peace in the region.

First, Armenia must finally ensure the full withdrawal of its illegal armed formations from the remaining territory of Azerbaijan.

Second, instead of misusing the Lachin road for military purposes, Armenia must in good faith combat illicit trafficking of weapons in all its aspects, including their transfer and diversion to unauthorized recipients, in fulfilment of the relevant politico-military commitments.

Third, in line with its obligations under customary international law, Armenia has to provide assistance in addressing the threat of mines and other explosive devices that it planted on a massive scale in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Persistent mines laid by Armenia continue claiming the lives of civilians, create additional obstacles for the return of internally displaced persons, seriously impede rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and undermine the overall process of post-conflict normalization and reconciliation. Since the signing of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, 36 Azerbaijani citizens were killed, while 165 citizens were wounded due to explosion of mines. Presently 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 international pressure is only 25 per cent. Thus, the international community must exert additional pressure on Armenia to co-operate fully with Azerbaijan and to provide information on the minefields in all liberated territories. Within the Forum for Security Co-operation in particular, Armenia must not impede but facilitate the realization of practical assistance project requested by Azerbaijan in this area.

Furthermore, Armenia must stop shooting at civilians who carry out repair works in the liberated territories in order to facilitate the return to normal life. We recall numerous cases of such shootings, including the recent one when employees of a telecommunications company were attacked, one of them seriously wounded. It is these continued shootings at civilians that obstruct the repair of infrastructure and other reconstruction works.

Fourth, Armenia must engage in good faith in the process of delimitation and demarcation of the State border with Azerbaijan. We remind the Forum that Azerbaijan supported and offered to Armenia to launch this process. However, Armenia keeps evading from it by putting forward preconditions. Armenia's recent provocations support the view that this country is not interested in such a process. It must further be added that Armenia refuses to implement its commitment to return to Azerbaijan eight exclaves along the border, which are still under the unlawful occupation of Armenia.

Fifth and most important, Azerbaijan has offered to Armenia on a number of occasions 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. We have not seen any positive reaction from Armenia regarding this proposal over the past period.

Most lately, as a next step, Azerbaijan presented the basic principles for the establishment of relations between the two countries. The detailed information on this proposal was distributed by our delegation under the reference number SEC.DEL/103/22 dated 15 March 2022. Armenia is yet to positively respond to this offer of Azerbaijan.

It is highly alarming that Armenia still fails to draw lessons from the most recent past. 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 and engage in post-conflict peace-building efforts 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 counter-productive 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 fragile peace and stability which emerged with the end of the armed conflict.

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 inviolability of its internationally recognized borders.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1004th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 1(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Dear colleagues,

The delegation of Azerbaijan, true to its best traditions, tries to justify the provocations and wrongdoing of Azerbaijan by means of unfounded allegations against Armenia. While rejecting all the allegations made by the delegation of Azerbaijan, I should like to take this opportunity to inform the Forum for Security Co-operation about the recent provocative actions by the Azerbaijani armed forces both on the border with Armenia and on the line of contact in Artsakh.

Specifically, on 7 March, at around 12.40 p.m., units of the Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire on the Armenian military positions located in the western part of the Armenian-Azerbaijani State border, as a result of which two members of the Armenian armed forces sustained gunshot wounds. One of them, Sergeant Hrach Manasaryan, died on the way to hospital.

The situation along the line of contact in Artsakh is no better. For several weeks now, the residents of the villages in the Askeran and Martuni regions of Artsakh have been subjected to terror and intimidation. The Azerbaijani armed forces have been actively firing from weapons of various calibres, including mortars, thereby forcing the suspension of all agricultural activities. In particular, between 2 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. on 9 March, two shells were fired from 60 mm mortars in the direction of the area adjacent to the village of Khnushinak, in the Martuni region of Artsakh, and from 3.50 p.m. on 10 March to 5.40 a.m. on 11 March the Azerbaijani armed forces fired 23 shells from 60 mm mortars in an easterly direction, causing a total of 23 mines to explode near the village of Khamort.

Since 8 March, the Azerbaijani military, without providing any explanation, has been refusing to allow repair works to be carried out on the gas pipeline in the area under its control. The pipeline was completely cut off, thus depriving the whole population of Artsakh of gas. This action is even more egregious considering the harsh weather conditions, particularly the freezing temperatures at night. This deliberate disruption of the gas supply and the obstruction of repair works have already led to a humanitarian crisis. Hospitals, schools, kindergartens and bread factories have been left without gas and electricity.

These provocations 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 launching a new spate of acts of intimidation.

The Government of Armenia is committed to all efforts to bring peace and prosperity to the region. Accordingly, it has adopted a strategy of opening an era of peaceful development in the region and is resolutely undertaking necessary steps to that end. Reaching a lasting and durable peace in the region is one of the Armenian Government's priorities. The position of the Republic of Armenia on the normalization of relations was also presented by the delegation of Armenia in a note verbale distributed on 15 March 2022 under the reference number SEC.DEL/104/22. However, no matter how hard we try, peace will remain an elusive dream until the Azerbaijani authorities demonstrate their willingness to support this peace agenda by abandoning their aggressive and hostile actions and genuinely engaging in the negotiation process under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

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



1004th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1010, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UZBEKISTAN**

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Allow me to deliver, in our capacity as the Chairmanship of the closing session of the 32nd Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM), a brief report on the meeting, which was held in a blended format in Vienna and via video teleconference on 1 and 2 March. The summary report of the AIAM is in the process of being consolidated and will in due course be distributed by the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The AIAM was organized under the Azerbaijani FSC Chairmanship in accordance with FSC Decision No. 6/21 and the annotated agenda issued under reference number FSC.AIAM/1/21/Rev.1. The meeting was co-chaired by Norway and Uzbekistan and consisted of an opening session, three working sessions and a closing session.

Azerbaijan as the holder of the FSC Chairmanship and Norway, tasked with chairing the opening and working sessions, opened the AIAM.

In its opening remarks, the Azerbaijani FSC Chairmanship noted that the implementation of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) could make a significant contribution to peace, security and stability in the OSCE area, and that the primary purpose of arms control and CSBM regimes should be to give effect and expression to our foundational OSCE principles and commitments.

Norway in its opening statement pointed out that the AIAM was taking place against the backdrop of a rapidly deteriorating security situation in Europe. A representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) then provided a brief overview of the implementation of the agreed commitments under the Vienna Document and of the outcome of the discussions held during the 15th Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres in December 2021.

Referring to the current security situation, many delegations took the floor during the opening session to emphasize that they saw no place for “business as usual” in such a situation while reaffirming their full commitment and adherence to the Vienna Document, which was the core instrument for transparency and predictability in Europe. Given the

gravity of the situation, many participating States announced that they would not be participating in the working sessions of the AIAM.

Working session 1, on the implementation of the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI) and of Chapters I to III of the Vienna Document 2011, raised the following topics:

- The move to a fully electronic format for both GEMI and the annual exchange of military information (AEMI) was highlighted. The idea of including more detailed information on foreign troop locations under GEMI was brought up. Furthermore, the moderator asked the participants for their views on tasking the CPC with uploading AEMI and GEMI submissions to the DelWeb website as part of the automated-data workshop. The electronic exchanges in 2020 and 2021 were described as having been successful;
- The CPC supported the session with an overview of GEMI and AEMI submissions and the use of the Information Management and Reporting System (iMARS), highlighting the increased accuracy achieved through validation of data during the information exchanges. The possibility of accessing iMARS via the OSCE Communications Network was discussed, which was helpful in terms of mobility as long as an adequate level of data security could be maintained;
- Existing and new notification formats were explored, as was a new one-off exchange of data on major weapon and equipment systems;
- With regard to defence planning, expenditures and budgets, it was noted that the rate of submissions in 2021 had been low. Furthermore, the question was asked whether greater use could be made of paragraphs 15.5–15.10 of the Vienna Document 2011 (on clarification and additional information) to ensure that the information exchanges were used more effectively. The CPC pointed out that the deadlines for GEMI and AEMI submissions were hard to determine;
- As for risk reduction, the CPC provided an overview of past instances of invocation of the relevant mechanisms. The moderator outlined the application of the mechanisms in the 1990s, noting that the mechanism for co-operation as regards hazardous incidents of a military nature had never been invoked. In that connection, use of the Points of Contact was discussed. The question was also asked whether a linkage could be established between incidents at sea (INCSEA) agreements and the mechanisms under Chapter III of the Vienna Document.

Working session 2, on the implementation of Chapters IV to XII of the Vienna Document 2011, offered an opportunity for discussions on contacts, military activities, compliance and verification, regional measures and the OSCE Communications Network. There was one statement on compliance and verification in which the participating State in question explained its views on which units/formations and troops were covered by the Vienna Document provisions and on which of those provisions were applicable to the prior notification and observation of military activities.

No statements were made during working session 3, which dealt with possible further improvements to agreed CSBMs.

Dear colleagues,

Let me take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Azerbaijani FSC Chairmanship, to Norway, the OSCE Secretariat and the moderators and rapporteurs of the working sessions for the preparation and conduct of this meeting in the challenging circumstances of the current security situation.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's FSC meeting.

Thank you.