



Chairmanship: Poland

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1370th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Friday, 22 April 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński

Chairperson, Russian Federation (Annex 1)

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

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

Chairperson, Ukraine (Annex 2), United States of America (Annex 3), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 4), Turkey (Annex 5), United Kingdom (Annex 6), Canada (Annex 7), Norway (Annex 8), Switzerland (PC.DEL/596/22/Rev.1 OSCE+), Georgia (Annex 9), Iceland (Annex 10), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/20/22 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

On ongoing crimes by Ukraine against the civilian population with the support of a Western alliance of OSCE participating States: Russian Federation (Annex 11) (PC.DEL/603/22), France-European Union, Ukraine, Switzerland, Secretary General, United Kingdom, France, Chairperson

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 28 April 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1370
22 April 2022
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1370th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1370, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again, we strongly disagree with the first agenda item of this special meeting of the Permanent Council proposed by the Chairmanship. The obstinate refusal to take into account the interests of all participating States and to proceed on the basis of this particular logic is bewildering and disappointing.

And yet, this is this approach that you, as Chairperson of the Permanent Council, are required to take, in line with the provisions of the Porto Ministerial Council decision (paragraph 2(b)) and the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3). The confrontation fostered by the Polish Chairmanship is unacceptable and contrary to the nature of our Organization. We demand the assurance of a non-discriminatory framework for discussions.

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

Thank you for your attention.



1370th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

“Why is this happening?”

This question was asked by 91-year-old Vanda Obiedkova when she was freezing and dying from exhaustion in a basement in Mariupol.

When she was 10 years old, Vanda Obiedkova survived the Nazi invasion by hiding in a basement in Mariupol.

But 81 years later, the Holocaust survivor died in a Mariupol basement as a victim of Russian invaders.

She was killed just as was Borys Romanchenko, a survivor of four Nazi concentration camps, when he died after Russian forces shelled his apartment building in Kharkiv a month ago.

“I was asking God to let me die fast.” This is how 17-year-old Mariia, who managed to flee from Mariupol with her family, describes her feeling about hunger, hiding in a basement, and passing through a filtration camp.

Her father almost lost his sight after he was beaten by Russian invaders in the filtration camp. Now he needs long-term treatment.

In the meantime, little children are asking their parents if they can go somewhere where Russians cannot throw bombs from the sky.

I believe the same question was asked by 3-year-old Myron when his parents were fleeing with him from Kharkiv to Lviv.

However, he could not escape Russia’s missiles, which hit Lviv on 18 April.

Russia’s missile attack on Lviv left seven people killed. Eleven people were injured, including 3-year-old Myron.

There are a lot of such testimonies reflecting the pain and suffering caused by Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine.

We should not have discussions on subjects like Russia's war and its consequences on the Orthodox Good Friday.

But Russia and its diplomats once again showed their true face when at the United Nations Security Council meeting a few days ago they rejected the call made by the Secretary General for an Orthodox Holy Week humanitarian pause to the war.

There could be no better time for Christian sympathy and for organizing humanitarian corridors in order to save lives and end this unfair war.

However, the Russian side has made its choice.

And what could we expect from a country where even the Russian Church backs war on Ukraine?

Distinguished colleagues,

These days, Mariupol, Avdiivka, Maryinka, Krasnohorivka, Toretsk, Velyka Novosilka, Zolote, Popasna, Izyum, Kharkiv, Hulyaipole, Mykolaiv, Vysokopillya, Snihurivka and dozens and dozens of other cities and other communities of the east and south of Ukraine are under Russian attack.

These are the places where the fate of our people and our freedom are being decided.

The intensity of fire by Russian troops in the Kharkiv direction, in Donbas and in the Dnipropetrovsk region has increased significantly.

Yesterday two missiles hit Zaporizhzhya.

The Russians are targeting cities, critical infrastructure and residential neighbourhoods to make our people feel insecure. Russia is acting like – and in fact as – a terrorist State.

History will remember the Russian so-called army as the most barbaric and inhuman army in the world.

At the same time, the Russian Federation is undertaking steps aimed at consolidating its control over newly occupied territories.

Reportedly, Russia is preparing for a sham referendum at the end of April or beginning of May in order to legitimize the occupation of the Kherson region.

However, having no popular support, Russian soldiers continue to abduct and representatives of local authorities.

According to the Kherson prosecutor's office, the Russian armed forces are keeping 137 people hostage, including four journalists.

By doing so, Russians are following a model tested and put into practice in Crimea, where they persecute every dissenting voice.

Even just recently, on 19 April, a Russian so-called "court" decided to imprison the Ukrainian citizen Emil Ziyadinov for 17 years.

These repressive campaigns against the Crimean Tatars are aimed at destroying the identity of the Crimean Tatar people – in violation of the order of the International Court of Justice, which was adopted precisely five years before that sentence, on 19 April 2017.

We are also especially concerned about a growing number of cases of illegal detention and persecution of the national personnel of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) who are currently residing in areas occupied by the Russian Federation.

In fact, a certain participating State is terrorizing personnel of the OSCE, our own organization.

This not only challenges the security and safety of the SMM national personnel but also undermines the concept of OSCE field missions in general.

We have to carefully investigate the role played in this process by Russian personnel in the Secretariat and in the SMM and by Russian diplomats.

If we remain silent or timid in our demands now, Russia will take it as a blank cheque to continue treating personnel of the OSCE and other international organizations in the same way. And not only in Ukraine.

Distinguished colleagues,

Yesterday Vladimir Putin claimed victory in Mariupol.

So, I have a question. Why is the Russian military continuing to attack Azovstal despite their president's clear order to stop shelling?

Does it mean that the Russian president has lost control over his own army? Or did Putin just want to play a trick on us, as he usually does, in order to distract our attention?

Regardless of the Kremlin's calculations, the Ukrainian army keeps fighting in the besieged city of Mariupol, which has now been reduced to ruins by Russia's heavy bombardment.

Vladimir Putin also described Russia's actions in Mariupol as "successes".

This "success" means a city razed to the ground and thousands of citizens killed and tortured. Just yesterday, according to satellite images, a 300-metre-long mass grave was discovered in Mangush, a suburb of Mariupol.

Let me also ask you to compare two pictures.

Donetsk, which according to the lie of Russian diplomats was “shelled” for eight years.

And Mariupol, the city which was totally destroyed by the so-called Russian army in eight weeks.

There is a clear difference.

Vladimir Putin also described Russian military who killed thousands of innocent civilians and destroyed a peaceful city as “heroes” and suggested that they be decorated.

I have a question to those emissaries who represent here Putin’s regime – who do you want to decorate?

Did Putin mean Lieutenant General Sergei Ivanovich Kobilash, commander of the Russian air force? It was under his leadership that Russian pilots bombarded densely populated areas of Mariupol.

Or do you want to decorate those pilots who dropped bombs on the theatre, children’s hospital and maternity hospital in Mariupol?

Were they “outstanding and exemplary” enough to be decorated, as Shoigu was instructed by your leader?

Moreover, this week Vladimir Putin granted honorary “Guards” status to the 64th Motor Rifle Brigade of the Russian army. This is the infamous brigade which was stationed in Bucha, where Russian soldiers slaughtered civilians.

While Ukraine is seeking justice for victims, Putin thanked the 64th “Guards” Motor Rifle Brigade for their “mass heroism protecting the fatherland, Russia’s sovereignty, and its national interests”. Shame on him and on them!

In fact, Putin is giving a green light for further mass killings by his army.

And this is another reason why Russia must be stopped from committing new war crimes.

Moscow must face consequences in the form of tightened sanctions and further isolation if we want to save Ukrainian cities, especially Mariupol, where hundreds of civilians, children and injured Ukrainian defenders are trapped in shelters.

Distinguished colleagues,

When Russia’s flagship *Moscow* sank after being hit by Ukraine’s “Neptune” missiles, many noticed that the length of this warship was comparable with that typical of another Russian fleet, namely, the yachts of Putin’s cronies.

And this uncontrolled access to luxury is characteristic of the main pillars of Putin's regime – among other things, absence of checks, absence of accountability, and loyalty to one man.

However, a key lesson we learnt from the Second World War is that the main features common to all warmongers are the dismantling of democracy, the destruction of parliamentarianism and the violation of fundamental freedoms.

All this gives uncontrolled power to one man.

And today, unfortunately, history is repeating itself.

We missed the point when the glorification of Soviet criminals and the Soviet past became a new religion in Russia.

We missed the point when Russia started to use its participation in the OSCE only in order to justify its aggressive foreign course and repressive domestic policies.

And we missed the point when Putin's regime crossed the red line and brought a war to Europe.

We have to rectify these mistakes – for the future of our common home and the OSCE itself.

And Russians must face the truth and acknowledge their responsibility for what they have done to Ukraine. And for what they have done to their own country by letting the current regime turn into a platform for a totalitarian and aggressive ideology.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1370th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

When Russia launched its unprovoked war against Ukraine, its deluded and lawless objective was to destroy Ukraine's sovereignty and independence, to subjugate Ukraine to its will. Two months later, President Zelenskyy and his government not only remain in power; they have repelled Russia's onslaught against Kyiv and Kharkiv and, in doing so, exposed widespread atrocities committed by Russian forces.

The Kremlin's attempted takeover of Ukraine is a failure on every level. Russia could – today – acknowledge this obvious truth and end the war it started. The Kremlin could – today – acknowledge the obvious truth that they will never overcome the Ukrainian people's indomitable strength and unity in defending their country's independence, sovereignty, and democracy against subjugation by an autocratic dictatorship. Russia could – today – begin the process of taking responsibility for the war crimes that members of its forces have committed in Ukraine and for the immense humanitarian crisis its bombardment of Ukraine's cities and critical infrastructure has caused. Russia has done none of these things.

Instead of ending its unprovoked and brutal war – instead of sparing not only the people of Ukraine, but also Russia's own forces more needless deaths – the Kremlin this week launched a fresh offensive in eastern Ukraine. Russia has continued its barbaric destruction of Mariupol and bombarded hundreds of targets across Ukraine, including in Lviv, where a Russian missile struck a car garage hundreds of miles from any fighting, killing seven civilians who had gathered to enjoy coffee before work. And instead of calling commanders to account for war crimes, President Putin has bestowed military honours on the brigade responsible for the killing spree in Bucha.

Today, some 100,000 civilians remain trapped in Mariupol without access to food, water, or medicine. Despite this, on 18 April Russian supersonic bombers were used to drop unguided bombs on the city. Russia has refused pleas from Ukraine's forces at the Azovstal factory to establish a humanitarian corridor to evacuate civilians, just as Russia's forces in Mariupol and elsewhere have repeatedly refused to agree to terms on humanitarian corridors. On Tuesday, Russia additionally rejected the United Nations Secretary-General's call for a ceasefire to allow for civilian evacuations.

As many as 22,000 trapped civilians have died so far in Russia's siege of Mariupol, according to the head of the regional military administration. Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko reports that Russia's forces have forcibly deported as many as 40,000 civilians to Russia. According to the mayor's office, Russia's forces have funnelled many of those it has deported through four so-called filtration camps established all around the city. Local authorities estimate as many as 27,000 people are being held in these camps. The mayor's office additionally reports that Russia's forces plan to run all remaining residents through a filtration process and move those who pass a screening test to the Russian-controlled part of Donetsk, where some would be forcibly conscripted. The mayor's office reports that of those Mariupol residents Russia has "filtered" so far, 5 to 10 per cent have failed the screening, and their fate is unknown.

The Kremlin has openly declared its intention to conquer eastern Ukraine, and developments on the ground leave little doubt we are witnessing the beginning stages of a massive offensive by Russia's forces in the Donbas. All indications are that the battlefield dynamics will soon shift from closer-range combat to longer-range fires where artillery and multiple-launch rocket systems are critical.

Dear colleagues, Ukraine desperately needs modern weapons and ammunition to defend itself in this new and deadly phase of the conflict. It needs these weapons and ammunition now, as quickly as we can possibly get them there. Not long-term negotiated contracts to purchase weapons, but the immediate provision of advanced capabilities to protect its civilians from the horrors of this war. If ever there was a time to energize our support for Ukraine, it is now.

Yesterday, President Biden announced yet another 800 million US dollars of security assistance tailored to meet critical Ukrainian needs, including heavy weapons like howitzers. The United States has now committed more than 4 billion US dollars in security assistance to Ukraine since the beginning of the Biden Administration, including approximately 3.4 billion US dollars since the beginning of Russia's unprovoked invasion on 24 February. The United States also continues to work with its allies and partners to identify and provide Ukraine with additional capabilities. We must move swiftly, together, to immediately provide Ukraine with capabilities to protect its civilians from the horrors of this war – from atrocities like those in Bucha, Hostomel, and Borodyanka.

This is a war for sovereignty against subjugation, for independence against imperialism, for the principles of international law against the brute force of a predatory power. The task before us is to rise to the moment and provide Ukraine with the capabilities it requires. The stakes are high for Ukraine and for us all. I call upon all of us here today to urge our own governments to step up and deliver. There is no time to lose.

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



1370th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of France, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

The European Union thanks the Polish Chairmanship for convening this special Permanent Council meeting against the backdrop of Russia's continued brutal aggression against Ukraine in blatant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and fundamental OSCE principles. It is deeply regrettable that despite all the condemnations from the international community and calls on Russia to end the war, Russia is renewing its aggression.

Ukraine is currently being struck by the most intensive missile attacks by the Russian Federation in weeks and a series of land offensives have been launched in eastern and southern Ukraine. This includes particularly brutal attacks on cities including Severodonetsk, Lysychansk and Popasna where the Russian armed forces are striking civilians and civilian infrastructure with heavy artillery, multiple-launch rocket systems and missiles. Kharkiv and its suburbs are under constant shelling and there are reports on the use of cluster munitions against the city. Missile strikes are reported in Odesa, Mykolaiv and Ternopil, apparently also targeting civilian objects and infrastructure, as well as fuel storages and industry. Attacks on Lviv and other cities in western Ukraine show that no part of the country is being spared. Attacks are ongoing in the Zaporizhia region and Mariupol remains besieged, with constant heavy fighting and shelling and more than 100,000 people remaining in the city. We recall with horror the bombing of the Kramatorsk railway station, claiming over 50 civilian lives including five children, and the horrifying massacre that the Russian armed forces have committed in Bucha, Borodianka, Irpin, Hostomel and other places. Yet, Putin's awarding of an honorary title to the Russian brigade accused of committing the atrocities in Bucha shows that torturing, raping and killing innocent civilians, including children, is a deliberate aim of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Such crimes must never be repeated. International humanitarian and human rights law must be fully respected.

The European Union condemns Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. We demand that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, including the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula. We also reiterate our call on the co-aggressor, Belarus, to stop enabling the

Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations. We strongly urge Russia to urgently facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians and to provide safe pathways, first and foremost in Mariupol, but also in other cities of Ukraine, both for civilians to evacuate to other parts of Ukraine.

The European Union supports efforts by international bodies, including the OSCE and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the gathering of evidence and documentation of the atrocities of the war, and we welcome the tireless efforts and contributions of civil society and human rights defenders to this end. We appreciated the report presented to the Permanent Council under the Moscow Mechanism last week. The report depicted the appalling and devastating reality of clear patterns of violations of international humanitarian law and gross and systematic violations of human rights by the Russian armed forces. Human rights including the right to life, prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, have been blatantly violated in a widespread or systematic way in the areas under the effective control of Russia or entities under overall control of Russia. According to the report, such violations are likely to qualify as crimes against humanity. Let us be clear: we will spare no effort to hold those responsible for these violations of international law, as well as their executors on the ground, accountable for their actions.

We strongly condemn Russia's attempts to set up illegitimate alternative administrative structures in Kherson, Mariupol and in other towns in Ukraine. This follows a clear pattern from its illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula in 2014 and its recognition of the illegal entities in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. Any attempts by Russia to conduct so-called "referenda" at the barrel of a gun in order to proclaim new "people's republics" are illegal and futile and we will not recognize them. We urge Russia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all its neighbours within their internationally recognized borders and territorial waters.

Furthermore, Russia is trying to occupy the information space by flooding it with disinformation in order to deflect the blame for atrocities committed against peaceful civilians and blurring evidence of possible Russian war crimes. Russian state-controlled news agencies as well as a co-ordinated network of Russian propaganda channels are working hard trying to put the blame on Ukraine. In this context, we also condemn Russia's internal repression against those independent voices speaking the truth about Putin's war against Ukraine. This must stop. Russia must immediately release all those arrested in peaceful protests, as well as those imprisoned on politically motivated charges, including all media actors.

The European Union commends the Ukrainian people's admirable strength, courage and resistance to withstand Russia's unlawful war and stands with them in firm solidarity. Ukraine, as any sovereign State, has the inherent right to choose its own future and destiny. The European Union and its Member States are providing assistance to Ukraine, including humanitarian, medical and financial aid and shelter for those fleeing the war. We stand by the people of Ukraine as well as the representatives of its democratically elected institutions in these dark hours. As the President of the European Council Charles Michel underlined during his visit to Kyiv earlier this week, we will do everything possible to support Ukraine and to make sure that Ukraine will win the war.

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

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1370
22 April 2022
Annex 5

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1370th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, the devastating war that has broken out at the heart of the European continent still continues despite all the efforts to stop the bloodshed. This war once again reminds us that peace cannot be taken for granted and its preservation requires active endeavours and engagement.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has caused death and devastation across the country with wide-ranging repercussions over the entire globe.

We witness the humanitarian costs of the war increasing day by day and mainly Ukrainian civilians are suffering from its effects. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 11 million people, 90 per cent of whom are children and women, have been displaced either within Ukraine or abroad as refugees, which constitute around a quarter of the population. Five million have left for neighbouring countries, while another 6.5 million are thought to be displaced inside the war-torn country itself. In total, more than 13 million people are estimated to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance across the country.

It is of significance that a concerted effort should be ensured to prevent the abuse and violations of the rights of all those refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

We have to grasp that these are not just figures, as they reflect the pain and agony of the Ukrainian people, especially the children. This is unacceptable. We share the pain of the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Chairperson,

There is an urgent need for a permanent ceasefire in Ukraine as well as a political solution to the ongoing humanitarian tragedy.

Russia's recent attacks against Ukraine complicate the prospects for a diplomatic solution. However, even under these difficult conditions, no one should abandon the

negotiation table. The alternative to a negotiated solution is a protracted war, which will increasingly become more difficult to contain.

With this understanding, we have been actively engaging in facilitating diplomatic talks and alleviating the tragic humanitarian consequences of this war. Therefore, we repeat our call for the continuation of the ongoing negotiations. The meaningful momentum of the Istanbul meeting should be sustained and efforts towards a peaceful settlement have to be maximized. In this regard, my country will sustain providing any kind of assistance for the immediate establishment of a ceasefire which will pave the way for a durable peace.

Mr. Chairperson,

The humanitarian situation is a top priority for us. Ensuring a humanitarian ceasefire and establishing humanitarian corridors carry utmost importance. In addition, we attach high significance to the evacuation of civilians and the delivery of humanitarian aid. Mariupol is the most urgent case.

We continue to do our part in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson,

We repeat to emphasize the significance of acting with common sense and maintaining dialogue.

Let me also reiterate that we reject the ongoing assault against Ukraine. We strongly support the preservation of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters.

We will continue to contribute sincerely to any endeavour in any format in the direction of a peaceful way out of this situation. Our objective has always been to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in this region. We will use every asset to open the way for peace by mobilizing all channels.

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



1370th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Since 24 February, the world has witnessed the devastation stemming from President Putin's war throughout Ukraine. Thousands of civilians have been killed. Millions have been left in need of humanitarian assistance. Twenty-five per cent of Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes. Hospitals, schools and other critical infrastructure have been bombed, targeting the most vulnerable.

As Russia begins a new offensive in eastern Ukraine, civilians will continue to suffer. This includes in Mariupol which, prior to the invasion, had a population of over 400,000 – hundreds of thousands of whom were Russian speakers – and was a centre for Ukraine's grain trade and heavy engineering. Russia's efforts to capture the city have already come at horrifying costs to its residents. The Mayor of Mariupol has estimated that more than 20,000 civilians may have been killed in the city since the start of the invasion, whilst large areas of infrastructure have been destroyed. Many Ukrainians have been forcibly deported – against their will – to Russia or to Russian-controlled regions of Ukraine. And there are shocking accounts of civilians – men, women and children – deprived of access to food, water and medical supplies. How can Russia attempt to justify this? The United Kingdom joins the call for an urgent humanitarian pause to allow assistance to reach civilians in the hardest-hit areas and for civilians to be allowed to evacuate safely and freely.

In the face of this enormous suffering, the Russian Government has continued to perpetuate their blatant lies and to deny responsibility for these deaths. They repeatedly said they would not target civilian infrastructure, but they have remorselessly attacked residential areas, schools and hospitals. They said they would not harm civilians. Yet we are seeing strong evidence that war crimes against the civilian population may have been committed, including as documented in the OSCE Moscow Mechanism report which we discussed in this Council last week.

Not content with spreading disinformation, the Russian Government has also attempted to tamper with the efforts of those who report the truth, including through their refusal to extend the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). And now we have received alarming reports that Russia's proxies in Donbas are threatening Mission staff, equipment and premises and that Russian forces have taken SMM staff

members captive. We condemn these threats to this Mission and its dedicated personnel in the strongest possible terms. We call for the release of SMM staff members, as well as all Ukrainians detained by Russia.

Let us be clear: the world sees through the Kremlin's lies. The true extent of Russia's actions in Mariupol, and in the rest of Ukraine, is yet to be revealed, but there should be no doubt that justice will be sought for these and for future violations of Russia's obligations under the international laws that they freely signed up to, including the Helsinki Final Act. Those guilty of atrocities must be held to account. The Kremlin must be held responsible for its actions. The Moscow Mechanism report, as the first independent report under the auspices of an international organization, was important in confirming our fears. We will make every effort to support the International Criminal Court investigation into potential war crimes in Ukraine currently under way, as well as other international investigations as appropriate.

Mr. Chairperson,

We will continue to use all the tools available to ensure that President Putin fails in his unprovoked, premediated and unjustified war. Yesterday we announced new sanctions on key leaders in Russia's army – targeting those commanding the front line to commit heinous acts – and individuals outside of Putin's military who are actively supporting his illegal invasion of Ukraine. On 13 April, we announced sanctions on 178 individuals – in co-ordination with the European Union – targeting those who prop up Russian-backed illegal breakaway regions of Ukraine. In addition, on 14 April the United Kingdom banned the export of key oil refining equipment and catalysts, degrading Russia's ability to extract and export oil products.

We will also continue to help Ukraine to defend itself. The United Kingdom has increased military support of lethal and non-lethal aid, bringing the total so far to 450 million pounds. We will continue to provide more defensive equipment, in response to requests from the Ukrainian Government to defend their sovereignty, including providing training when it is required on the equipment that we have provided to the Ukrainian armed forces.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine is fighting for the right of its citizens to live peacefully in its own territory. The United Kingdom stands with Ukraine and will always defend the Ukrainian people's right to choose their own destiny. We are working with our international partners to find a long-term security solution so that Ukraine could never be attacked in this way again. Ukraine deserves peace.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. And I kindly request that you attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1370
22 April 2022
Annex 7

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1370th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

As we witness intensified military operations by Russian forces against the people of Donetsk, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhya, and unrelenting missile attacks and shelling on Lviv, Kharkiv, and Mykolaiv, Canada calls on the Russian Federation to end its illegal targeting of civilians and civilian objects and to take concrete measures to end its clear patterns of international humanitarian law violations identified in the Moscow Mechanism report.

We urge Russia to accept Ukraine's call to negotiate and ensure safe passage of civilians from the besieged Mariupol through humanitarian corridors, where the situation remains critical. Russia is obligated to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need.

Mr. Chairperson,

The illegal and unjustifiable war that Putin is waging in Ukraine is cruel and in contravention of Russia's international legal obligations. Canada is increasingly alarmed by the allegations and reports that sexual and gender-based violence – rape – is being used as a weapon of war in this crisis.

The Moscow Mechanism report documented allegations of rape, including gang rapes, committed by Russian soldiers in many regions in Ukraine.

We have also heard a number of other accounts from credible sources alleging sexual violence perpetrated by the Russian forces against Ukrainian women and girls at an alarming scale. UN Women has called for an independent investigation into these claims to ensure justice and accountability. Canada will support all efforts to investigate, record, and prosecute these alleged crimes.

We further call on the Russian Federation, a Permanent Member of the Security Council, to issue immediate orders through its military chain of command to cease the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence, with concrete, time-bound preventive measures as explicitly outlined in Security Council resolutions 2106 and 2467 on conflict-related sexual violence. Russia must respect international humanitarian and human rights law, which

categorically prohibit rape and all forms of sexual violence and inhumane treatment. There can be no impunity for these crimes.

As the war continues and as Russian atrocities are uncovered, the International Criminal Court is gathering evidence. Those responsible for these atrocities must be held to account.

Mr. Chairperson,

In an effort to suppress the truth about the war, Russia is discrediting human rights organizations, and arresting and imprisoning anyone who speaks out against the war. This includes human rights activists such as Vladimir Kara-Murza, who was jailed this month after a CNN interview in which he condemned Moscow's war on Ukraine. Canada urges Russian authorities to immediately release him and release all prisoners of conscience who are detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and of assembly. Canada is also concerned about reports of Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine national personnel being illegally detained.

Mr. Chairperson,

At any point, Russia can choose to end this senseless bloodshed and engage in dialogue and diplomacy – options for this are on the table.

Canada calls on Russia to implement an immediate ceasefire and completely halt its attacks on Ukrainian cities and civilians. We reiterate our call for Russia to comply immediately with the legally-binding order of the International Court of Justice to suspend its military operations in Ukraine. Further, we urge Russia to respect its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and to immediately remove its armed forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

Canada stands with Ukraine.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1370
22 April 2022
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

1370th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Thank you.

Norway is aligned with the statement made by the European Union, but allow me some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

We continue to be appalled by Russia's warfare in Ukraine. The brutality is shocking and seems to be increasing.

There are numerous credible reports that civilians are being attacked and injured or killed even as they try to flee to safety. Many have been arrested, deported or abducted, including, as we have heard, employees of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. Homes, schools, and hospitals are being bombed, damaged and destroyed.

Russia is waging a war of choice and has chosen to cause the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Second World War.

The reports we hear from Mariupol are particularly alarming. Civilians have been trapped in cellars for weeks without food, water, electricity, medicines and other basic necessities. The Russian forces have killed and maimed civilians and have destroyed civilian objects indiscriminately. The remaining population is left with almost no shelter or means of survival. A beautiful harbour city has been reduced to ruins. I have visited Mariupol several times in the past, and it is difficult to grasp that the pictures we now see are of the same city that I saw. It is even more difficult to imagine the suffering and traumas of the population there.

In the last few days, larger parts of eastern and southern Ukraine have been increasingly targeted by Russian aggression, including intensive missile attacks. We are witnessing a brutal new Russian offensive, for instance in places such as Severodonetsk, Lysychansk and Popasna.

At the same time, Russia has carried out missile attacks on cities such as Kyiv and Lviv. The strategy is obviously to make sure that nobody feels safe in any part of Ukraine.

The atrocities being committed by the Russian forces will be documented and investigated. Those responsible – at all levels – for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be brought to justice.

The Moscow Mechanism report presented by Mr. Benedek, Ms. Bílková and Mr. Sassòli on 13 April is important in this respect and constitutes part of a broader international effort to seek justice and accountability.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia has started this war, and Russia can choose to stop this war.

We urge the Russian leadership to make the right choice, and to immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw its forces.

Let me also reiterate Norway's support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1370
22 April 2022
Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

1370th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has entered a second phase with a new assault campaign in the Ukrainian region of Donbas, causing additional casualties among civilians and inflicting irreparable damage on Ukrainian towns.

The situation in Mariupol, which has been practically levelled to the ground, remains the most critical. Its residents are trapped without water, food and medical supplies under constant bombing and shelling; civilian evacuations are hampered and humanitarian access remains barred. As pointed out in the Moscow Mechanism report published last week, intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare constitutes a war crime, as does wilfully impeding relief supplies. It is essential that humanitarian assistance and safe corridors be provided to the residents of Mariupol.

Georgia joins others in supporting the United Nations Secretary-General's call for a humanitarian truce during the Orthodox Easter holiday and has taken note that the Ukrainian side, to its credit, has agreed to this proposal.

Mr. Chairperson,

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate. According to the International Organization for Migration, about five million people have fled to safety in neighbouring States and seven million Ukrainians have been displaced inside the country. As Russian aggression continues, these numbers will become even higher.

New reports are emerging daily on massive human rights violations, including illegal detentions and ill treatment of civilians including journalists and local officials, targeted killings, rape, enforced disappearances, deportations and other grave abuses. No one is safe in Ukraine now, not even the most essential workers; news has come out that at least two aid workers of the humanitarian organization Caritas were killed earlier this month during the reported Russian tank attack on the besieged city of Mariupol. This is another tragic example

of how, in brazen violation of international humanitarian law, the occupying forces are continuing direct and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian objects. As established by the Moscow Mechanism report, there is credible evidence suggesting that violations concerning even the most fundamental human rights have been committed.

We spare no effort, together with the international community, to ensure through all available international legal mechanisms that the perpetrators of these atrocities are brought to justice.

Mr. Chairperson,

We call on Russia to immediately stop its aggression, comply with the order of the International Court of Justice, and withdraw all its forces and armaments from Ukraine.

Georgia reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas, and for Ukraine's navigational rights in its territorial waters.

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
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1370
22 April 2022
Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

1370th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Iceland aligns with the statement of the European Union yet I wish to add a few remarks in my national capacity. I also ask at the outset that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

The unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war by the Russian authorities against Ukraine has entered a new phase of destruction, atrocities and human suffering.

Last week we were presented with a report on the situation in Ukraine by Mr. Benedek, Ms. Bílková and Mr. Sassòli which confirmed serious breaches and violations of international law and clear patterns of international humanitarian law violations by the Russian forces in their conduct of hostilities.

Russia, under the leadership of President Putin, needs to know that the international community will establish the facts and circumstances of possible cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including cases of deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure. Furthermore, evidence can and will be used to hold Russia accountable and likewise Belarus as co-aggressor.

The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate and needs are dire. The devastating reports of human rights violations, sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, extrajudicial killings, arrests, abductions, enforced disappearances and deportations are bringing echoes of the last century.

Mr. Chairperson,
Colleagues,

This war remains a war of choice. The decision to launch it was premeditated by President Putin in full knowledge of its violation of international law and commitments, and of what the catastrophic impact on Ukraine and its people would be.

Putin and the Russian authorities have also chosen to sacrifice the lives of thousands of young Russian men and to harm and bring suffering and shame upon their own people.

The global impact of the war and Russia's military action is undermining and will continue to undermine food security, driving up the cost of energy, fertilizers and staple foods in countless nations around the world, the most vulnerable being hit the hardest. The safety of nuclear power plants is being jeopardized and at the same time the security and stability not only of our region but also of the whole world.

We reiterate the call on Russia to withdraw its troops and to end this unprovoked war against Ukraine. Save lives. Stop the bloodshed and destruction. Open a window for a diplomatic dialogue and for peace.

Let me also express our deep, unwavering and full support to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1370

22 April 2022

Annex 11

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1370th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1370, Agenda item 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukrainian armed formations continue to commit crimes on a large scale against the civilian population on the direct orders of the leadership in Kyiv and its Western sponsors. We stress once again that all responsibility for the grave situation and in some areas, such as Mykolaiv, humanitarian and epidemiological situation in the combat zones lies with the Ukrainian right-wing nationalist battalions, which use the civilian population as a human shield. The Ukrainian leadership continues to sabotage the system of open humanitarian corridors regularly provided by the Russian military. Convoys of refugees come under intense fire, literally every day, from Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist battalions.

Evidence of atrocities against civilians by Ukrainian armed formations is mounting. An inspection of Mariupol hospital No. 4 revealed traces of crimes against civilians: the bodies of 26 civilians killed as a result of shelling by the Ukrainian Azov nationalist battalion were found. Russian military personnel discovered the headquarters of a territorial defence unit inside a school in Kherson. The children's school was used as a stronghold by the unit's fighters. The school itself and the basement were littered with boxes of ammunition, weapons and military equipment. On 13 April, Russian military personnel demined the grounds of a kindergarten in one of the villages in the Kherson region, where a Ukrainian marine corps unit had been stationed. The Ukrainian armed forces and nationalists set up firing positions inside hospitals in Sloviansk (Donetsk People's Republic) and Lysychansk (Luhansk People's Republic).

The cynical provocation in Bucha is obviously not enough for the Ukrainian authorities. There is credible information that further monstrous staged events are being planned. The lives of the civilians in them will be nothing more than a bargaining chip for the authorities in Kyiv.

Plans for similar provocations involving civilians have been completed in Konotop and Trostyanets in the Sumy region, and in Borodyanka and Katyuzhanka in the Kyiv region. The Kyiv regime, backed by a number of Western countries, is also planning elaborate provocations with numerous victims on the eve of Orthodox Easter in the Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Sumy and Kharkiv regions. For this purpose, more than 70 mobile groups

in trucks and off-road vehicles equipped with mortars (so-called “wandering” mortars) have been formed from among the nationalist battalions with the task of shelling Orthodox churches and temples on Holy Saturday night (23–24 April).

It has been established that the Ukrainian Security Service is planning a new brutal provocation in the Odessa region with massive civilian fatalities so as to be able to accuse Russian Federation military personnel of “war crimes”. The plan is to disguise one of the Ukrainian Security Service units in Russian military uniforms and to carry out a demonstrative shooting of local residents. They are counting on photos and videos of these actions being published by Ukrainian and Western news agencies for the next fake news campaigns. We have issued warnings to the OSCE previously about planned provocations (SEC.DEL/171/22 and SEC.DEL/175/22 of 19 April 2022). We hope the necessary signals have been sent to Kyiv.

Ukrainian nationalists shelled the town of Derhachi in the Kharkiv region and filmed the destruction and “numerous deaths” for the Western media with a view to passing off the civilian deaths as the result of Russian military action. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, representatives of Western news agencies took part in the action. The 72nd Centre for Information and Psychological Operations of the Ukrainian army was in charge, and civilian participants in the production were paid 25 US dollars each.

The Ukrainian military is also planning provocations similar to the recent strike on Kramatorsk. A scenario is being prepared involving a Tochka-U attack on a crowd of refugees at the railway station in Lozova. An attempt by Ukraine to knock out the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant on the morning of 15 April was thwarted. A division of the 19th Separate Missile Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces launched a strike against it with two Tochka-U missiles, which were shot down. Damage to the power plant could have led to water from the Dnieper being released uncontrollably and settlements in the Kherson region being flooded. As a more recent example, on the evening of 20 April, a Ukrainian missile, the same Tochka-U, exploded in mid-air over the town of Shakhtarsk, ejecting submunitions. A six-year-old girl was killed and five people were injured, including a 12-year-old child.

Provocations of this kind already committed or being planned by the Ukrainian authorities demonstrate their inhuman attitude to the fate of Ukrainian civilians and show complete disregard for all ethical standards and norms of international humanitarian law. Be warned that the Russian Federation has considerable evidence of further crimes planned by the Kyiv regime.

The Ukrainian authorities do not seem to have a “sentimental” attitude to their own armed formations either. According to President Zelenskyy, “Kyiv will refuse to negotiate with Russia if the Ukrainian soldiers remaining in the Mariupol industrial zone are wiped out”. But the Ukrainian leadership has done nothing to save them. The Russian armed forces have repeatedly – virtually every day over the past few days – opened a humanitarian corridor for evacuees from the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol and invited members of the Ukrainian armed forces, fighters from nationalist battalions and foreign mercenaries to lay down their weapons and voluntarily surrender. We are forced to note that this humanitarian operation has been cynically thwarted by the authorities in Kyiv, and no one has taken advantage of the corridor in question. The commanders of the nationalist battalions have also refused to take the opportunity of saving themselves and the lives of their subordinates. The

authorities in Kyiv are displaying an inhuman attitude to Ukrainian military personnel and are not giving them the only correct order – to stop pointless resistance and lay down their arms.

As for the Azov nationalist battalion's video statement to the international community asking for "green corridors" – it was addressed to the wrong audience. The Russian armed forces have done everything to save these people's lives. They should have appealed directly to the leadership of Ukraine, which long ago betrayed them. Moreover, Russia has guaranteed the lives, safety and medical care of all those who have voluntarily laid down their arms. On 21 April, the President of Russia explicitly confirmed that Mariupol had been fully liberated, and as for the nationalists remaining at the Azovstal plant, the Russian army would simply block off the plant to avoid unnecessary casualties.

While this is happening, the West is preoccupied with maintaining a consistent high level of military confrontation in Ukraine, which it needs to justify putting ever-increasing pressure on Russia. To this end, arms deliveries to Kyiv are being stepped up. And it is no longer a question of rifles and ammunition – heavy weaponry is being prepared for shipment.

On 13 April, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby announced details of another 800 million US dollar military package to be "pumped" into Ukraine, which for the first time includes armoured vehicles and artillery. Specifically, Ukraine is to receive 200 M113 armoured personnel carriers, 18 155 mm howitzers, 40,000 shells for them, 11 Russian or Soviet-made Mi-17 helicopters, 100 armoured jeeps, 500 Javelin missiles and "thousands" of other anti-tank systems. The US Department of Defense held a meeting of top US arms manufacturers to discuss the industry's ability to help arm Ukraine – "even if the Russian military operation lasts a full two years". Total military aid since 24 February has already amounted to about 2.6 billion US dollars.

Other NATO countries, following in the footsteps of their "sovereign", are also increasingly "stoking the fires of war". This is something they are apparently not "skimping" on. The Czech Republic was the first to openly supply heavy weapons to Ukraine. On 1 April, the German Minister of Defence Christine Lambrecht approved the delivery to Ukraine by the Czech Republic of 58 BMP-1s from the former army of the German Democratic Republic, which are owned by the private Czech company Czechoslovak Group. Poland has not officially reported sending heavy armoured vehicles to Ukraine, but the 12 April edition of *Visegrad 24* reported on the disappearance of around one hundred T-72M1 tanks from a storage base in Lublin. On 10 April, the Slovak Minister of Defence Jaroslav Nad' said that a shipment to Kyiv of the 155 mm Zuzana-2 or Zuzana-2000 wheeled self-propelled howitzers was under discussion. On 8 April, British Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace said that the United Kingdom would send Mastiff armoured vehicles to Ukraine as part of a new military aid package worth 100 million pounds announced by the Prime Minister. According to Reuters, Norway has sent Ukraine 100 Mistral anti-aircraft missile systems.

Since the start of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the European Union has approved a total of 1.5 billion euros for arms and equipment purchases for the Ukrainian Government under the European Peace Facility. At the same time, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen explicitly stated in an interview with *Bild* on 17 April that she makes no distinction between heavy and light weapons. As a former minister of defence, she cannot be unaware of the destructive power of heavy weapons.

Western countries continue to stoke confrontation in Ukraine, not only by supplying weapons but also through direct military training of Ukrainian armed formations by their instructors. Foreign mercenaries are directly involved in the fighting. *The Times* newspaper has written that British special forces have returned to Ukraine and resumed training Ukrainian troops in and around Kyiv. There are reportedly NATO soldiers among those captured in Ukraine. The Russian Investigative Committee said that it was investigating the presence of French Foreign Legion combatants in the ranks of the Ukrainian army. Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki indirectly confirmed the involvement of Polish mercenaries in Ukraine, stating that "Ukrainian soldiers of Polish origin who were wounded as a result of the fighting in Ukraine are currently being treated in (Polish) hospitals". And the two captured British mercenaries, Aiden Aslin and Sean Pinner, have appealed to the British Government to bring them home.

Reports of the unsavoury circumstances surrounding the involvement of staff and assets of the former OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) in the military confrontation are of great concern. I recall that at the end of February, Azov fighters seized eight SMM service vehicles with OSCE insignia. One of the vehicles had clearly participated in military activities. It was seen five kilometres from the Mission's office near Kirov market in Mariupol with signs of involvement in the fighting. The vehicles were never returned to the OSCE. Why do the Secretariat and the Chairmanship continue to remain silent on this matter?

Moreover, we are extremely concerned by information about the possible involvement of a number of SMM staff in espionage for Ukraine. The investigative authorities in the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics have launched an investigation in that regard. The Russian Investigative Committee will also carry out corresponding checks. If the facts are confirmed, it would constitute a flagrant breach of the Mission's mandate. The credibility of the entire OSCE would be severely damaged.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian military is receiving an increasing amount of information concerning the dangerous activities of biological laboratories in Ukraine, directly supervised by the Pentagon. There is multiple evidence of violations of the Biological Weapons Convention. Information has emerged on project 3007 "Monitoring of the epidemiological and environmental situation with respect to dangerous aquatic diseases in Ukraine". Major Ukrainian rivers have been studied to determine the presence of specific hazardous pathogens, including cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and E pathogens, so as to evaluate how they spread by water. From 2019 to 2021, US scientists from a laboratory in Merefa (Kharkiv region) tested potentially hazardous bioproducts on patients at regional clinical psychiatric hospital No. 3 in Kharkiv.

On 9 March, three drones with 30-litre containers and chemical-spraying equipment were found in the Kherson region. In January this year, Ukraine reportedly purchased more than 50 such devices through intermediaries, which can be used to spray biological formulations and toxic chemicals.

It is already known that the Ukrainian Science and Technology Centre (USTC) distributed grants for research of interest to the Pentagon. In recent years, more than 350 million US dollars have been spent by the US Government on its projects. The US supervisors were primarily interested in dual-use research, such as project 6166, “Development of technologies for modelling, evaluating and predicting the impact of conflicts and threats of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”. Or project 9601 “Transfer of Ukrainian technologies for the production of complex dual-use materials to the European Union”. Many of them are aimed at studying potential biological weapons (plague, tularaemia) and pathogens of economic importance (pathogenic avian influenza, African swine fever).

We would point out that the results of the work carried out by the USTC could be used to create adverse biological conditions not only in the Russian Federation, but also in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, and also in Eastern European countries – Belarus, Moldova and Poland.

Mr. Chairperson,

The many facts established by us represent only the tip of the iceberg of the enormous array of crimes committed by the Kyiv regime and the security threats it has created for the people of Ukraine itself and for neighbouring countries. Russia’s special military operation is aimed precisely at protecting the civilian population and addressing such threats. Its mission will be completed in full.

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

Thank you for your attention.