

**Chairmanship: Poland**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
(1361st Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Monday, 7 March 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)  
  
Opened: 3 p.m.  
Closed: 6.10 p.m.
  
2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński  
  
Russian Federation (Annex 1), Chairperson
  
3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:  
  
Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION’S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
  
Chairperson, Secretary General (SEC.GAL/38/22), Ukraine, Canada (Annex 2), France-European Union (Annex 3), Turkey (Annex 4), United Kingdom (Annex 5), Switzerland (PC.DEL/365/22 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/390/22), United States of America (Annex 6) (PC.DEL/359/22), Iceland (Annex 7), San Marino (Annex 8), Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/356/22), Norway (PC.DEL/363/22), Montenegro (Annex 9), Moldova (Annex 10), Belarus (PC.DEL/361/22 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/11/22 OSCE+)  
  
Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES  
  
Chairperson  
  
*Gross and continuous violations of humanitarian law by Ukraine and its support by Western community:* Russian Federation (Annex 11), Chairperson, Ukraine, France-European Union, France, United Kingdom, Latvia (Annex 12), Lithuania (PC.DEL/368/22 OSCE+), Canada (Annex 13), Norway, Germany

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 10 March 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/1361

7 March 2022

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are once again unable to support the agenda proposed by you for a special meeting of the Permanent Council. The first item as announced is categorically unacceptable and overtly confrontational. In violation of the Rules of Procedure, the Chairmanship is again arbitrarily – without duly consulting with all the participating States – establishing an individual agenda item that reflects the position of Ukraine and the countries from the Western community that are siding with the latter. In this way, dividing lines are being deepened, whereas what should be attempted in the current difficult circumstances is to work out compromise wording.

Agenda item 1 of the meeting is not grouped under “Current issues” but, rather, is being presented as a standing agenda item. We would remind you that, in accordance with paragraph IV.1(C)3 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, draft agendas of the meetings of the Permanent Council should be prepared in advance by the Chairmanship, with account taken of the views expressed by all the participating States of our Organization.

We once again urge the Polish Chairmanship to adhere strictly to the procedures agreed upon by all the participating States, to stop interpreting these at will, and to provide equitable, non-discriminatory opportunities for discussions at the Permanent Council.

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.



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

PC.JOUR/1361

7 March 2022

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you.

I would like to request at the outset that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to begin by thanking you for convening another special Permanent Council meeting on this critically important agenda item. I would also like to thank Poland, as well as other countries including Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova, for the compassionate and competent way in which you are receiving the refugees fleeing the devastating situation that Russia has wrought in Ukraine. And I would also like to thank the Secretary General and all Secretariat staff, and echo her thanks also to Turkey and Austria, in addition to neighbouring countries, for assisting in ensuring the safe evacuation of OSCE staff.

Mr. Chairperson,

Twelve days into President Putin's unprovoked and unjustified war against his democratic and peaceful neighbour, we all bear witness to the colossal impact of this act of aggression: the hardship, death, and destruction faced by Ukraine's civilian population.

We welcomed the agreement to establish a ceasefire over the weekend, to allow the people of Mariupol and Volnovakha to leave without threat of shelling or attack. But on 5 and 6 March, Russia failed to honour the ceasefire and continued to shell those cities. We can add this to the long list of Russia's broken commitments. For the past week, residents of Mariupol have been living under siege and are on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe, with no access to water, electricity, gas or medicine. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has confirmed over 360 civilian fatalities since Putin launched his attack on the Ukrainian people, while Ukraine's Ministry of Health has confirmed the deaths of 38 children as of 6 March. Of course, the true number for both categories is almost certainly much higher. In the meantime, over 1.5 million refugees have already left Ukraine, and their number continues to grow exponentially. As Ambassador Kinnunen warned us on Thursday –

there is an increasing risk of humanitarian disaster following the continued deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure.

Intentionally targeting civilian infrastructure is a war crime. We are also deeply concerned by continued allegations of Russia's use of cluster munitions in Kharkiv – whose unlawful use of will no doubt increase the number of civilian casualties. The World Health Organization has confirmed several attacks on health care facilities in Ukraine. 47 people reportedly died when invading forces hit Chernihiv's residential areas. And the regional children's hospital in Novopokrov, in Luhansk Oblast, continues to be targeted.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia's attacks on Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, are deplorable. Russia must meet its obligation to fully respect international humanitarian and human rights law. Its strategy cannot be to kill innocent civilians, attack cities, and destroy as much civilian infrastructure as possible. It is also of utmost importance to protect women and girls against sexual violence, as required by international humanitarian law, as well as trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

The world is gathering evidence for the International Criminal Court (ICC), following the largest referral in the history of the ICC. Here at the OSCE, an overwhelming number of participating States invoked the Moscow Mechanism to assess possible war crimes and crimes against humanity. In Geneva, the Human Rights Council has also created a Commission of Inquiry to monitor human rights violations stemming from Russian aggression in Ukraine. Canada also supports the use of other OSCE tools to reinforce these initiatives.

Mr. Chairperson,

The world knows the truth, and will continue to document it. Even so, the Kremlin is going to drastic and oppressive lengths to smother the truth with false narratives, and to keep Russian citizens in the dark: detaining protestors, restricting social media, and outlawing any objective news sources. According to (blocked) human rights monitoring service OVD Info, there have been over 10,000 detentions of anti-war protesters since the start of the war, while the offices of Memorial and Civic Assistance have been raided. Russia's new law on what the Kremlin deems to be "fake" news, and the resulting silencing of independent media, severely limits access to objective, accurate information, whether from domestic or international sources. The law threatens severe jail time and a 1.5 million rouble fine, and can only be seen as a draconian attempt to suppress the truth of Russia's brutal invasion, and to prevent Russians from seeing the images that the rest of the world is witnessing in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mariupol, Bucha, Irpin, Zhytomyr, and elsewhere in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia's attack on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant on 4 March was a dangerous new escalation, which could have put not only Ukraine, but great swaths of Europe, at heightened risk if a nuclear reactor had been hit, or if the accompanying blaze had not been swiftly and competently extinguished by Ukrainian authorities. Before this, on 24 February, Russian troops captured the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, in the Chornobyl exclusion zone,

whose radioactive dust, if disturbed, could spread across Europe, including deep into Russia. Indeed, high background radiation levels have been detected in the exclusion zone because of heavy armoured vehicles moving over contaminated soil, dispersing radioactive dust into the air. We call, with others, for United Nations safe zones around Ukrainian nuclear facilities, and remind Russia that an armed attack on or threat against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes can constitute a violation of international law.

Mr. Chairperson,

There is only one way to end this brutal war – diplomacy and dialogue, preceded by an immediate ceasefire. All Russian military forces must return to their own territory, and Ukraine’s complete sovereignty and territorial integrity must be reinstated. Slava Ukraini.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, 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:

Mr. Chairperson, we applaud your decision to convene this special meeting of the Permanent Council in order to discuss a particularly grave case of non-compliance with OSCE commitments, in line with existing rules and procedures. We are on day 12 of the biggest war of aggression in Europe since the Second World War, launched by President Putin against Ukraine. The European Union condemns in the strongest terms Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal invasion of an independent and sovereign State and we are appalled by its devastating consequences, which continue to unfold.

We express our steadfast solidarity with the Ukrainian people and our heartfelt sympathy for the victims of this senseless war and their families. The need for the establishment of humanitarian corridors, as well as protection and the safe passage for civilians through local ceasefires, is urgent. We strongly condemn that Russia, as the aggressor, is not only impeding the opening of such corridors but, deplorably, also violating agreements reached by continuing to shell Mariupol, Volnovakha, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and other Ukrainian cities and towns. Ukrainian and United Nations humanitarian agencies, the International Red Cross, medical personnel, and non-governmental assistance providers must be guaranteed safe, rapid and unimpeded access to people in need throughout the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders immediately. Women and children are particularly vulnerable in conflict situations and during situations of displacement. In this context, we underline the importance to ensure protection against sexual violence as well as trafficking and other forms of exploitation, as required by international humanitarian law.

Russia's continued shelling of civilian targets is shameful, reprehensible and totally unacceptable, and the humanitarian disaster it is causing is devastating. We condemn the Russian attacks on Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools, residential housing, hospitals as well as foreign diplomatic representations. We call on Russia to uphold its obligations under international humanitarian law, notably the Geneva Conventions, and international human rights law.

The European Union calls on Russia to implement the European Convention on Human Rights interim measures to refrain from military attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including emergency vehicles and other specially protected civilian objects, such as schools and hospitals, and ensure the safety of medical facilities. Despite the fact that the Russian Federation has had its Council of Europe membership suspended, it remains fully bound by the European Convention for Human Rights, and all Russian citizens are still under the protection of the Court. We welcome the International Criminal Court prosecutor's decision to launch an investigation into possible war crimes or crimes against humanity in Ukraine. Last week, 45 participating States, including all 27 European Union Member States, and with the support of Ukraine, invoked the OSCE Moscow Mechanism in light of our grave concerns regarding the human rights and humanitarian impacts of Russia's invasion and the possibility of war crimes and crimes against humanity. All those responsible will be held accountable.

President Putin's full-scale war against Ukraine is a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter, and undermines European and global security and stability. Last week's historic United Nations General Assembly resolution showed that the international community stands united against Russia's war of aggression. Russia, with the participation of the Lukashenko regime in Belarus as co-aggressor, bears full responsibility for the loss of life, injuries and destruction. The European Union demands that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters. Equally, Russia must stop its disinformation campaign and cyberattacks. We also reiterate our call on Belarus not to enable the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations. The European Union resolutely supports Ukraine's inherent right to self-defence, and the Ukrainian armed forces' efforts to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and population in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Russia's war in Ukraine has so far resulted in over 1.5 million people fleeing, with the majority going to European Union Member States and also to the Republic of Moldova. On 4 March, the European Union adopted a decision introducing temporary protection for those fleeing Russia's war in Ukraine. These rights include residence, access to the labour market and housing, medical assistance, and access to education for children. We would also like to convey our gratitude to the Republic of Moldova for all its efforts and solidarity in welcoming the Ukrainian people and underscore our readiness to provide continued support in this regard.

We strongly condemn Russia's extremely reckless and irresponsible attack on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the largest in Europe. This attack is not isolated: on 24 February, Russian forces entered the Chornobyl exclusion zone and held back and requisitioned the plant's operating team. Then, on 27 February, a loud explosion was recorded near a waste storage facility in Kyiv. We deplore Russia's deliberate targeting and forceful seizure of nuclear facilities in Ukraine, significantly raising the risk of a nuclear accident or incident. We are extremely concerned about the nuclear threats and the nuclear safety, security and safeguards risks on the ground that the Russian invasion is causing and the potential damage to any nuclear facility. Any armed attack on and threat against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a violation of the principles of international law. Russia must immediately cease its unlawful and dangerous activities.



President Putin's deliberate war against Ukraine has distinct dire consequences also for the Russian people. We stand in solidarity with the Russian people protesting against President Putin's war at high personal risk and condemn the violent crackdown on peaceful, anti-war protests as well as the widespread use of misinformation and disinformation by the Russian authorities and its affiliated media and proxies to justify its military aggression against Ukraine. The steady stream of fabricated claims aiming at creating a fake alternative reality makes it almost impossible for Russian citizens to hold their government to account.

Echoing the Representative on Freedom of the Media, we are extremely alarmed at the continuing denigration, stigmatization, intimidation and threats towards the media and journalists by the Russian public authorities. Access to several independent news outlets, including Meduza, Radio Liberty, Echo Moskvy, Deutsche Welle and BBC in Russian, has been restricted. We condemn Russia's newly-adopted law sanctioning those who express opinions deviating from the official government line on the war with high fines and up to 15 years imprisonment. Despite legislative steps to stifle any dissenting opinions on the Russian official version of the war, anti-war protests continue to be held in many cities across Russia, while the number of dissenting voices from a wide spectrum of Russian society continues to grow. We call on Russia to uphold its international obligations and OSCE commitments, including on freedom of the media, freedom of expression and the right of peaceful assembly, and to immediately and unconditionally release all those who have been arbitrarily arrested or convicted by politically motivated court decisions.

We join the three Chairperson-in-Office Personal Representatives on combating intolerance and discrimination in condemning the missile attack on the Babyn Yar Memorial, erected in the memory of 34,000 Jews murdered by the Nazis. This horrific act, committed under the pretext of "denazification", is a distortion and misuse of the history of the Holocaust, and an offense to the memory of all those who perished in the Second World War.

Mr. Chairperson, the European Union will continue to stand by the people of Ukraine and its democratically elected institutions. We will continue to stand in solidarity with all those who have the courage to oppose this war, despite the threats and brutal repression by Putin's and Lukashenko's regimes. In co-ordination with our international partners and allies, we will continue to support the Ukrainian Government and Ukrainian society, as well as the Russian and Belarusian independent media and non-governmental organizations in defence of democracy, rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our thanks to the OSCE Secretary General and her team for their tireless efforts, especially with regard to the evacuation and relocation of Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine personnel. In addition, we reiterate our strong support to all efforts of the Chairmanship and the OSCE autonomous institutions and executive structures in urgently undertaking concrete actions with regard to Russia's war against Ukraine in the context of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, including through the application of OSCE Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11 on elements of the conflict cycle to the largest possible extent. We urge Russia to abide by its OSCE commitments and to respect the OSCE institutions. Resorting to bullying and intimidation is undignified and totally unacceptable.

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

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, Georgia, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

---

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



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

PC.JOUR/1361

7 March 2022

Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation's ongoing, unprovoked and unjustified assault against Ukraine is illegal and illegitimate. It is a clear violation of international law.

The situation has created a humanitarian tragedy.

Civilians are being harmed. Mostly women and children have been forced to flee their homes. Civilian infrastructure is being demolished. No argument can justify the killing, sufferings and fear of the innocent children who are hiding in the bunkers.

We reject 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.

I would like to reiterate our sincere call: We want an urgent ceasefire. Military attacks and the bloodshed must be immediately stopped. And it must be done now.

We hope that the ongoing talks between the sides will be successful. Returning to dialogue and diplomacy is needed.

My country is tirelessly working with all parties to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this crisis.

On Saturday, President Erdoğan had a phone call with President Zelenskyy, followed by yesterday's phone call with President Putin. We reiterated our expectation for the immediate cessation of this assault and the urgent need for declaration of ceasefire.

We will continue to support the preservation of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders including its territorial waters.

Mr. Chairperson,

The neighbouring countries of Ukraine need our concrete and continued support and solidarity to overcome this heavy burden of refugee influx. We appreciate the quick humanitarian response so far.

Mr. Chairperson,

Temporary evacuation of all Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) international mission members is almost complete. SMM Chief Monitor Ambassador Çevik, Secretary General Helga Schmid and their teams have exerted tremendous efforts for these evacuations. We are grateful to them.

Though, this does not diminish the pain we are currently feeling for everyone in Ukraine, be it Ukrainians and other country nationals.

The bloodshed must be stopped at once and fall all.

My country wants peace, serenity and prosperity in its region.

We will continue to resolutely press for the peace and stand by international law.

Turkey is ready to facilitate any effort in any format in the direction of a peaceful way out of this situation.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1361  
7 March 2022  
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 1

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

It is almost two weeks since President Putin ordered Russia's forces to invade Ukraine – its sovereign neighbour.

We must never forget that Russia's assault was unprovoked, premeditated and an egregious violation of international law and its OSCE commitments.

Russia's leaders said they had no plan to invade Ukraine, but they lied. They lied to the world and to the Russian people.

In the days since, Russian forces have conducted barbaric attacks across Ukraine. Innocent people, including children, have been killed, and continue to be killed.

President Putin has blood on his hands. The blood of innocent Ukrainians killed defending their families, their homes and their country. And the blood of those soldiers he has needlessly sent to die.

Our thoughts are with all the victims and their families. And the United Kingdom stands united with our partners, and with people all over the world, in condemning the Russian Government's actions.

Since we last met, Ukraine has continued to suffer horrific attacks. Missiles and air strikes have torn through apartment blocks. Tanks have rolled into once peaceful cities.

President Putin's decision to indiscriminately shell civilian areas is having a devastating humanitarian toll.

The number of civilian casualties increases every hour. Between 24 February and 5 March, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported at least 1,123 civilian casualties, including 364 people killed. The real figure is likely to be much higher.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also estimate over 1.5 million people from Ukraine have crossed into neighbouring countries in ten days – the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War.

Under international humanitarian law, Russia must allow unimpeded access to humanitarian aid. Russia should also provide safe passage to civilians fleeing the violence. But it has not. Instead, ceasefires have been agreed and then repeatedly and immediately violated by Russian forces. The evacuation of Mariupol has failed twice.

Russia points the finger of blame elsewhere, but the Russian Government's track record of shelling innocent civilians as part of an illegal and brutal invasion, then lying about it through their blatant and immoral disinformation is plain for the world to see.

I reiterate the 27 February call that we, together with the Polish Chairmanship and 44 other participating States, made on the Russian Federation to implement an immediate ceasefire. International organizations, including Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) staff who remain in Ukraine, must also be provided safe passage. The Secretary General mentioned that the SMM's Mariupol Office was sadly hit.

We must hold Russia to account and ensure war crimes are investigated. That is why we invoked the Moscow Mechanism. And why we have made the largest ever joint State Party referral to the International Criminal Court.

We will also support those in greatest need. The United Kingdom has committed 220 million pounds in aid to support Ukraine, comprising 120 million pounds humanitarian assistance and 100 million pounds to bolster the Ukrainian economy. We have also announced today a further allocation of 100 million dollars (74 million pounds), directly to the Ukrainian Government budget to mitigate financial pressures created by Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion.

Mr. Chairperson, since we last met Russian forces have also attacked Europe's largest nuclear power station. This attack could have changed the course of history.

We are grateful to the Ukrainian authorities who got the fire under control. We are relieved that they have reported that no radioactive material was released and that the Zaporizhzhia's safety systems are unaffected.

This is the first time that any State has attacked a fuelled and functioning nuclear power plant in flagrant disregard of international law and the special protection for nuclear facilities. It must not happen again. And Russia must restore full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine to the competent Ukrainian authorities.

Mr. Chairperson, since we last met President Putin also stated that his war is going to plan.

Everyone here knows this is far from the truth. And the restrictions President Putin has placed on the freedoms of the Russian people, including their access to information, reveal he knows it too.

Over the weekend, President Putin passed laws which further restrict the freedoms of the Russian people and media. The Russian State is attempting to minimize coverage of the conflict and hide the impact of its invasion from the Russian people.

Russia's authorities also continue to persecute those brave Russians who oppose the war. More than 3,500 protestors were detained at protests across Russia yesterday, according to data provided by Russia's Interior Ministry. And we've seen examples of police intimidation, with images of one protestor in Yekaterinburg being beaten on the ground by police in riot gear.

Mr. Chairperson, we will make the Russian Government pay the price of its actions. The United Kingdom stands with the Ukrainian people. And we are joined in our outrage by friends and allies around the world. We will work with our partners – for however long it takes – to ensure that the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine is restored.



---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 1

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

Today is the 12th day of President Putin’s unprovoked war on Ukraine. The brutality of this war is both revolting and heartbreaking. Children have been killed, grandparents driven from their homes, families forced to flee their country in the face of relentless strikes on civilian infrastructure. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees announced on 6 March that the number of refugees is over 1.5 million and growing, and as of 5 March the number of internally displaced persons was also approaching 1.5 million.

The depravity of it all is mind-blowing. On Saturday and Sunday, Russia agreed to open a humanitarian corridor out of Volnovakha and Mariupol but then bombed the egress road just as civilians were in the process of fleeing. It is pure evil. Today, the Russian Federation has proposed – and this is the height of cynicism – that Ukrainians flee Russian aggression by going to Russia and Belarus.

Last Thursday a record total of 45 participating States launched the Moscow Mechanism to document and gather evidence of possible human rights abuses or violations, breaches of international humanitarian law, and possible war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russian forces, with the support of Belarus, on the territory of Ukraine. This mechanism will meticulously establish the facts and create a written report so that cases can be brought in other international institutions – including the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice – and so individuals at all levels are held to account. The United Nations Human Rights Council has also launched a commission of inquiry to pursue similar aims, and we will ensure that there is co-operation and complementarity between these accountability mechanisms.

Colleagues, we all have a moral responsibility to act now. Among the many early warning signs of mass atrocities is the use of rhetoric denying a nation’s right to exist. Humanity has witnessed this sort of rhetoric before, and shockingly we are seeing it again today. We have also witnessed the Russian Federation’s war propagandists – including some who sit in this very Council – twisting words into grotesque doublespeak. Again, we have seen this before. I ask Russia’s representative whether he thinks the children killed by Russia’s missiles are “terrorists”? Is the Jewish President of Ukraine a “Nazi”? Explain how Russia’s artillery strikes on civilian apartment buildings in Kharkiv, Kherson, and Kyiv are “liberating”? I ask him to explain the destruction of basic infrastructure plunging embattled cities like Mariupol into darkness, as civilian residents cower in makeshift bomb shelters



without food or water. Explain turning Europe's largest nuclear power plant into an active warzone. The Russian Government's actions were extraordinarily reckless and dangerous. They could have posed a profound threat to the safety of civilians in the region and beyond. Russia needs to stop this war, withdraw its forces immediately, and return to the diplomatic path.

Early on Sunday the Russian Government suddenly claimed, without providing a single shred of evidence, that the Ukrainian Government had plans to build a "dirty bomb" and that was the pretext for the Russian attacks on Ukraine's nuclear power plants. Really? Not one piece of evidence has been provided, and Russia thinks the world should believe them, because "they said so?" This ridiculous claim is merely the latest lie peddled by the Kremlin to try to justify its indefensible actions in Ukraine. The most authoritative international source of credible information on Ukraine's nuclear programme, the International Atomic Energy Agency, has repeatedly assured us it has uncovered no indication of any proliferation concern from Ukraine.

There are no credible explanations and no justifications for these actions. There is no "special military operation," only a naked war of aggression.

Mr. Chairperson, the Russian Federation representative's incendiary rhetoric, seeking to justify the unjustifiable, has no place in this Council. I'll repeat what I said last week: not one single solitary person in this chamber believes a word of his distorted rhetoric. I suspect his real reason for speaking here is not to try to convince anyone in this Council – because he can't – but rather to feed lies back into Russia through the country's network of State-controlled media. This Orwellian feedback loop spreads toxic lies by recycling the words of Kremlin propagandists, offering the citizens of Russia a steady stream of falsehoods and disinformation.

The great Czech dissident and late president Vaclav Havel – a personal hero of mine, by the way – once wrote that: "If the main pillar of the system is living a lie, then it is not surprising that the fundamental threat to it is living the truth. This is why [the truth] must be suppressed more severely than anything else." And indeed, this is precisely what we are witnessing. Russia's censorship agency has shuttered independent Russian media outlets, blocked social media, and restricted access to international news outlets. Vaunted independent voices like Ekho Moskvyy and TV Dozhd, and flagship international media like the BBC, and social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter are now shut out of Russia's information ecosystem. Under a new law, ordinary Russians who contradict the Kremlin's fictitious narrative about the invasion could face up to 15 years in prison. The war on Ukraine is also a war on truth.

Dear colleagues, as Foreign Minister Kuleba said recently: "Ukraine will win this war anyway, because this is the people's war for their land... The question is the price." He is right. The people of Ukraine will not be subjugated by a tyrannical regime. They will defend their homes, their neighbours, their cities, and their country against foreign tyranny. The resolve of the Western community has also never been stronger. We will continue to stand with Ukraine, accelerating our security and humanitarian assistance, halting commerce with Russia, and degrading Russia's military-industrial complex for years to come. We will gird ourselves for the long haul even as we act with urgency now.

Mr. Chairperson, the term “free world” has echoes of a bygone era, but make no mistake, Ukrainians are fighting for the free world, not just theirs, but also ours.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1361  
7 March 2022  
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

While Iceland aligns itself with the European Union statement please allow me to make a few additional remarks in my own capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,

As so many others, we have strongly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and expressed our full support to the Ukrainian people.

Not only is Russia's war in violation of the fundamental principle of sovereignty and self-determination of nations, but as we have seen so clearly in the past days, its conduct is also in grave violation of international humanitarian law.

The current situation is that Russia is targeting and killing civilians. Homes, schools, and health facilities are being attacked. Ukrainians wanting to flee to safer areas cannot safely do so – with Russia violating agreements granting safe passage.

And all of this is happening right before our eyes.

The Russian Government is fully conscious of its grave violations and has resorted to desperate measures to withhold information from their own citizens, doubling down on media freedom, freedom of peaceful assembly, and the freedom of opinion and expression.

Respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law is not optional. Civilians, humanitarian and medical workers can never be a target. Every precaution must be taken to ensure and guarantee their safety, including safe passage. Unhindered humanitarian access, including freedom of movement, must be guaranteed.

We are horrified by the humanitarian crisis already shaping the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and the ever-growing number of refugees and internally displaced Ukrainian people, forced to flee their homes to seek safety from bombing and Russian military aggression.

We call on the Russian Federation to respect international humanitarian law and cease immediately all targeting of civilians, civilian infrastructure and objects.

I also don't need to reiterate the extensive work and discussions here at the OSCE and elsewhere about the critical importance of the women, peace and security agenda in situations like these. This we must not forget.

Slava Ukraini.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

I thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1361

7 March 2022

Annex 8

ENGLISH

Original: ITALIAN

---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SAN MARINO**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of San Marino has aligned itself with the statement by the European Union, but we should like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

We are profoundly anguished at the humanitarian situation that has arisen in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

We are distressed by the continuous reports of civilian casualties coming from the battlefield.

At the same time, we must express our gratitude for the work currently being carried out by journalists and other professionals on the ground who are risking their lives to ensure that the grave violations of human rights taking place are documented.

San Marino is among the 45 countries that invoked the Moscow Mechanism last week, and it welcomes any initiative aimed at establishing the true scope of the ongoing violations.

Many countries have demonstrated great solidarity with the Ukrainian people and are taking in families fleeing the war.

San Marino, too, has already begun to take in people arriving from Ukraine, who have been reunited with relatives already living in our country. These people are guaranteed free access to medical assistance, social and health care, the right to education and other welfare services considered to be essential.

Reiterating its support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, San Marino once again appeals for an immediate end to the war and for negotiations to continue so that a solution can be found, without any further bloodshed.

I kindly ask you to attach our statement to the journal of today's meeting.



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

PC.JOUR/1361

7 March 2022

Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF MONTENEGRO**

Distinguished Mr. Chairperson,

Montenegro aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union (EU), but I would like to make following remarks.

Once again, let me emphasize that we strongly condemn the continued aggression and illegal and unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine. By its illegal military actions, Russia is blatantly violating international law, the principles of the rules-based international order and the UN Charter itself. We condemn Russia as well as the involvement of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine and call on them to abide by their international obligations.

The attack on Ukraine is, therefore, an attack on our European and global security and stability, and an attack on the core principles of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Russia's military attack against Ukraine has already caused an alarming number of deaths, injured, internally displaced persons and refugees, as well as large-scale damage and destruction of critical civilian infrastructure.

We are also gravely concerned by the documented harm to the enjoyment of a wide range of fundamental human rights resulting from Russia's continuing bombing and shelling in civilian population centres.

Recalling that international human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing, Montenegro calls on Russia and Russian-backed armed formations to fully comply with their pertinent obligations under international law. Indiscriminate attacks directed against civilians and civilian objects are in clear breach of international humanitarian law. In this regard, we further call on Russia to immediately cease the hostilities, unconditionally withdraw its military troops and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine and stop its disinformation campaign and cyberattacks.

The Montenegrin Government fully aligned itself with the EU sanctions imposed on Russia and joins all the efforts of allies and partners aimed at helping Ukraine resist acts of aggression endangering its independence and addressing Russia's violation of international law. As I mentioned in my statement last week, and as some of my colleagues here

mentioned today, the whole European security architecture and rules-based international order in danger.

This is not a Ukrainian crisis, neither solely a European security crisis, but goes far beyond.

Mr. Chairperson,

Montenegro has been a safe haven for those fleeing the wars in 1990s. At that time, we accepted more than 100,000 refugees and displaced persons, which was more than 20 per cent of our entire population. We find it difficult to understand and accept any other approach but solidarity and support for the most vulnerable. So today, as it was in 1990s, we are ready to share the humanitarian burden and host Ukrainian refugees. In that regard, we have already taken concrete steps in order to welcome them, and additional activities are also being planned. A small number of refugees have already reached the country and settled in the homes of relatives, since there are more than 5,300 Ukrainian citizens living in Montenegro.

In addition to this, Montenegro is joining a relief effort by supporting Ukraine financially, with the defence protective equipment – primarily protective vests and ballistic helmets, daily supplies and food.

Mr. Chairperson,

The people of Ukraine have fought and they are not going to give up because they believe in what they are fighting for. For freedom, democracy and their own ability to decide their future. We are hailing the Ukrainian courage to protect its independence, and due to our own history, we understand their struggle and determination very well.

Mr. Chairperson,

Montenegro reiterates unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its international recognized borders. We reiterate the call on the Russian Federation to allow and facilitate the rapid, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to those in need and to open humanitarian corridors and secure passages of civilians and remaining national Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine members.

We would like to express our most profound estimation to Poland and Moldova, as the most exposed countries. They are doing indispensable work to facilitate security assistance to Ukraine and respond to this crisis.

And last but not least, I would like to particularly outline and thank the Polish Chairmanship and the Secretary General for their tireless work during this last period.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Chairperson,

From the first hours of military actions, the Republic of Moldova has strongly condemned the act of war launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. This act constitutes a blatant breach of international law and a serious violation of the fundamental principles of our Organization. We urged the Russian Federation to immediately stop the use of military force. We will continue to call for dialogue and peaceful solutions as the only means for ensuring peace and stability on our continent.

The war in Ukraine is taking place right on the border of my country.

As a neutral country – a principle enshrined in our Constitution – Moldovan authorities have focused all efforts to help people who are directly affected by the armed attack on Ukraine and are seeking refuge.

More than 250,000 people have crossed our border since the beginning of the war. About half of them decided to remain in Moldova. This constitutes 4 per cent of our population. The absolute majority of them are women and children. State service employees: border and customs officers, doctors, social workers, local authorities, diplomats, but also many volunteers mobilized to help people fleeing the war. Thousands of ordinary people from all over the country have joined the effort, hosting Ukrainian nationals these days.

It is a significant effort for a country with a population of less than three million people. Despite the great challenges, we are determined to help them – and we will do so as long as will be necessary.

At the same time, the Republic of Moldova needs the immediate and significant support of the international community to deal with these challenges. We are receiving these days humanitarian aid from our partners, and we are very grateful for this.

Similarly, we would need help with redirecting the flow of refugees who want to go to other countries, that have a bigger capacity to receive them. Only with the joint, consistent and rapid efforts of all partners we can help Ukraine to cope with this major humanitarian crisis.



But first and foremost, urgent help and involvement of the international community is needed to end the military actions and restore peace. At this moment, this is what we all want. That's what everyone deserves – especially Ukrainians.

As you know apart from receiving refugees, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine personnel, including national staff was evacuated to Moldova. Around 500 persons have been accommodated on our territory and a part of them have been already repatriated.

In conclusion, we would like to express our full solidarity with Ukraine, its people and its democratically elected authorities. The Republic of Moldova reconfirms its strong and unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

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

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1361

7 March 2022

Annex 11

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

I cannot but express my profound disappointment at the statement to the press by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau, following his talks with the United States Secretary of State, Antony J. Blinken, on 5 March. Please explain to me how a country holding the OSCE Chairmanship can, as Mr. Rau put it, “co-ordinate actions” against one of the Organization’s participating States (“[O]ur meeting with Secretary, State Secretary Blinken, was devoted to coordinating actions in response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine [...] [W]e raised the most important issues ... both for Polish-American bilateral relations and for allied cooperation between NATO, as well as for the coordination of political activities in the OSCE”). This is an outrageous violation by Poland of the mandate of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office as approved at the Ministerial Council meeting in Porto in 2002, and also of Permanent Council Decision No. 485 on public statements. The very point of the Chairmanship’s work consists in resolving disagreements between the participating States and bringing about rapprochement – it has certainly nothing to do with stirring up confrontation even further through biased steps of its own, let alone leading anti-Russian efforts at the OSCE. We urge the representatives of the Chairmanship to stop wrecking the OSCE, which in the present circumstances remains almost the only platform where pan-European dialogue is possible. Reflect on the historical consequences of your actions that seek to destroy the foundations for co-operation in the interests of all countries’ security.

Instead of making extremely confrontational statements, the Chairmanship – in accordance with one of its priorities, namely to help conflict-affected civilian populations – should immediately provide political support for the safe evacuation of the civilian population from the areas of hostilities.

Despite the constant efforts by the armed forces of the Russian Federation, which are doing everything possible to protect civilians during the special military operation, the humanitarian situation in Ukraine has reached a critical point owing to the criminal actions of the Kyiv regime and the nationalist armed formations. The Ukrainian Government is not taking effective steps to evacuate people and refuses to bring its influence to bear on the nationalists, who continue to use the population as “human shields”. Curfews have been

imposed in Ukrainian cities; in many of them, bridges that were used by civilians have been blown up, roads leading out of them have been mined, and civilians are threatened with physical reprisals.

The humanitarian situation is most dire in Kyiv and its environs, Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, Volnovakha and Mariupol. The Kyiv regime has almost lost the ability to govern the administrations in charge of the country's regions and districts; the local authorities are unable to resolve basic social problems concerned with everyday life.

Nationalist so-called "territorial defence" battalions – essentially criminal gangs – are committing excesses in most Ukrainian cities. Incidentally, these were created in complicity with and under the leadership of so-called military advisers and instructors from NATO. Tens of thousands of people, including foreigners, have been turned into hostages; officials are afraid of the radicals and are not helping with the organization of humanitarian corridors. For example, more than 6,000 young people, including foreign students, are being held at the Kharkiv railway station. Nationalists in Kherson are trying to thwart the handing out of humanitarian aid from Russia by intimidating the local population.

On 5 March, a ceasefire was established in Mariupol and Volnovakha, and humanitarian corridors were opened for the evacuation of civilians. However, people were unable to use these corridors: just a few hundred managed to make their way out as shooting went on around them, even though the International Red Cross had been expecting up to 200,000 evacuees. The situation did not improve on 6 March. Not only are the nationalists not releasing civilians, whom they force to sit cowering in cellars: they are exploiting the ceasefire to strengthen their positions. Moreover, they have repeatedly violated the ceasefire in the humanitarian corridor zones. We note the statements by the Ukrainian authorities to the effect that, despite the disruption of the evacuation from Mariupol, they are preparing humanitarian corridors out of Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson and the suburbs of Kyiv. Such a statement was made by Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk. In reality, though, the situation is quite different. The Ukrainian side is categorically refusing to co-operate in evacuations from Kharkiv and Sumy, where thousands of people are being held. It is misinforming the inhabitants of Mariupol regarding a postponement of the evacuation. In order to demoralize civilians and foreigners, reports are appearing in the Ukrainian media about the establishment of camps by the Ukrainian Government to intern those who do not support the regime.

As from 10 a.m. today, 7 March, Russia has again opened humanitarian corridors. There are six of them: one from Kyiv to Homiel; two from Mariupol, respectively to Zaporizhzhia and Rostov-on-Don; one from Kharkiv to Belgorod; and two from Sumy, respectively to Belgorod and Poltava. We are puzzled by Ms. Vereshchuk's remarks against the opening of corridors to allow people to leave for Russia. Indeed, the Ukrainian authorities subsequently emphasized that, for their part, they refused to establish the humanitarian corridors proposed by Russia.

According to available information, the Ukrainian Security Service is preparing, together with fighters from the Azov battalion, a provocation potentially involving radioactive contamination of the area around Kharkiv by blowing up the reactor at the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology and then accusing the Russian armed forces of

having struck it with a missile. Foreign journalists arrived in Kharkiv already on 6 March to record this mythical missile strike.

Of great concern are the reports about fighters from the nationalist Azov battalion mining residential buildings in the central streets of Mariupol, near the car parking areas on Moskovskaya Street and Victory Avenue. The nationalists have laid approximately 10,000 PFM-1 “Lepestok” anti-personnel mines. An 80-year-old pensioner, Vladimir Karpov, managed to leave Mariupol on foot on 6 March. He said that the inhabitants of that city were being wiped out. Moreover, apart from the Ukrainian side, there was no one else there who could be responsible for all the shooting at people and buildings, including international offices. The pensioner’s account was corroborated shortly afterwards, when Azov fighters fired upon a column of civilians trying to leave Mariupol via a humanitarian corridor along the M23 highway in the direction of Novoazovsk.

According to the information available, two civilians were killed and four were wounded. At the same time, military personnel from the Donetsk People’s Republic and the Russian armed forces ensured that around 150 people were able to leave the city safely. No less horrifying is the inhumane treatment of captured and detained Russian military personnel by Ukrainian armed formations.

To this day, thousands of foreigners are being held hostage in localities across Ukraine. Instances of racial discrimination have multiplied; radical nationalists are preventing the evacuation of foreigners, especially those with a dark skin colour, but also citizens of India, Israel, Indonesia, Pakistan and Egypt. At the railway station in Kharkiv, Ukrainian Nazis opened fire on a group of Indian citizens. More than 1,000 Indian students trying to make their way independently to Russia are stuck in PISOCHYN, in the environs of Kharkiv. In Sumy, neo-Nazis opened fire on a hostel housing Indian students: five were injured, while the fate of an additional 11 students is unclear. When attempting to leave that city and independently make their way to the border crossing point at Sudzha, a group of students from Pakistan (up to twenty strong) were beaten up by “territorial defence” nationalists and taken back to their hostel. There is information to the effect that Ukrainian nationalists intend to kill nine citizens of Iraq held in Sumy and to pin the blame on the Russian military. Reports are coming in of ethnic cleansing by radicals who are taking away to an unknown destination all people without a Ukrainian passport.

The OSCE cannot stay aloof from this intolerable situation in which civilians are being held hostage as “human shields”. We urge the Polish Chairmanship and the Secretary General to exert, without delay, as much pressure as possible on the Kyiv regime and get it to end this criminal practice whereby international humanitarian law is being trampled underfoot. It is necessary to ensure that Ukrainian armed formations, including nationalists, stop using the civilian population as cover, and that civilians can be evacuated safely via the humanitarian corridors that are being established. The use of targeted fire against civilians with the intention to kill them needs to be condemned immediately and in the most categorical terms.

Russia, for its part, continues to do everything possible to help alleviate the plight of the civilian population. As from 5 March, in accordance with a Decree of the President of Russia, foreign nationals and stateless people may enter Russia from the Donetsk People’s

Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and Ukraine, and subsequently depart for their countries using valid identity documents without the need for a visa to be issued.

Additionally, Russian government agencies are undertaking extensive efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Donbas and Ukraine. An inter-agency co-ordination headquarters in charge of the humanitarian response is operating. As at 6 March, over 800 tonnes of humanitarian supplies had been delivered from Russia to Ukraine and 110 humanitarian campaigns had been conducted in 123 localities. More than 168,000 people, including over 43,000 children, have been evacuated from the areas in which the special operation is taking place. Furthermore, Russia provided assistance with the evacuation of the international staff of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). The staff of three of the SMM's regional teams of monitors were able to make their way safely and securely to the territory of the Russian Federation and are travelling onward to their home countries. At present, all international SMM personnel have left the territory of Ukraine; monitoring functions are not being carried out physically by the Mission's monitors.

Mr. Chairperson,

On 6 March, in the course of the special military operation, evidence was discovered of the Kyiv regime having urgently removed traces of the military biological programme being implemented in Ukraine with funding from the US Department of Defense. Staff from Ukrainian biological laboratories provided information about the urgent destruction, on 24 February, of particularly dangerous pathogens causing plague, anthrax, tularaemia, cholera and other fatal diseases. They were disposed of in a rush at the behest of senior officials of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, evidently with a view to concealing evidence of secret biological experiments performed on the territory of Ukraine. By destroying these dangerous pathogens, the Kyiv regime and its foreign handlers were obviously seeking to prevent evidence from coming to light of the violation of Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction by the United States of America and Ukraine. The documents obtained confirm that components of biological weapons were being developed in close proximity to the territory of Russia. It has also been established that laboratories of the Central Directorate of Health and Epidemiology of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence were involved in the US military biological programme. The findings from analysis of the documents obtained will be presented to the public in the very near future.

Western countries have begun making massive shipments of Stinger man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), other man-portable systems, and Javelin, NLAW (Next Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapon) and Carl-Gustaf anti-tank missile systems. The organizers of these shipments must surely be aware of the growing risk that these high-precision weapons may end up in the hands of terrorist elements and criminal gangs not only in Ukraine but in Europe as a whole. MANPADS pose a huge threat to civil aviation, while anti-tank missile systems are equally dangerous to railway transport and to infrastructure facilities.

Moreover, officials in the Western capitals are blatantly disregarding a number of international agreements aimed at minimizing the risk of MANPADS falling into the hands of terrorist and criminal elements. These include United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/40 from 2007 on the prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to

and use of MANPADS and the Elements for Export Controls of MANPADS from 2003, which were adopted under the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

The aforementioned instruments stipulate the adoption of strict controls at the national level on the export of MANPADS, the exchange of information on the status of stockpiles and on the export of MANPADS, the secure storage of this type of high-tech weapon, and the destruction of MANPADS stocks exceeding the level required to ensure national security.

In the early 2000s, colossal efforts were invested in destroying MANPADS surpluses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Montenegro, Macedonia, Cambodia and Nicaragua – an endeavour initiated under the Partnership for Peace programme. In Ukraine alone, around 3,000 surplus MANPADS were destroyed at the time. It is also worth noting the programme run by the US Department of Defense for many years to buy back from mujahidin, Al-Qaida fighters and fighters from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan Stinger MANPADS that the United States had previously supplied to Afghanistan.

At the instigation of the collective West, a massive worldwide proliferation of highly dangerous weapons is under way. We once again call on the European Union and NATO countries to stop recklessly beefing up the Kyiv regime with the latest weapons systems, and thus avoid colossal risks for international civil aviation and other transport linkages not only in Europe but also beyond.

In closing, I should like to confirm Russia's willingness to engage in dialogue, not least with our foreign partners, with a view to resolving the crisis in Ukraine. Having said that, we draw attention to the futility of any attempts at dragging out the negotiation process, which the Ukrainian military and nationalist battalions would use to regroup and strengthen their positions. As part of the Russian-Ukrainian contacts in Belarus on 27 February and 3 March, issues were discussed that had to do with resolving the current situation, notably the establishment of humanitarian corridors to enable civilians to leave. We anticipate that the latest round of contacts with Ukrainian representatives, which began today, will prove fruitful and make it possible to bring peace closer in Donbas and to return Ukraine itself to stabilization, with due account taken of Russia's well-known demands.

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

Thank you for your attention.



---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

The distinguished Russian ambassador mentioned that there has been practice to interpret the OSCE Rules of Procedure differently.

There has also been practice not to attack other States.

The Russian ambassador once again called for professional diplomacy.

To me professional diplomacy means seeking for a diplomatic solution and not defending war criminals or justifying war crimes which is what you are doing now.

The Russian ambassador also claimed Russia stands ready for a dialogue.

Russia has a very interesting interpretation of “dialogue”. I suggest you change the dictionary you use for the definition of “dialogue”.

The Russian ambassador talked about “anti-Russian” sentiment.

Well, I don’t know about an “anti-Russian” sentiment. I know about anti-Putin and anti-Kremlin sentiment. But if you feel there is an anti-Russian sentiment – do you ever wonder why? Do you ever wonder why the Ukrainian refugees are fleeing to the West and refusing to flee to Russia or Belarus?

The Russian ambassador also said “think about the historical consequences of your actions.”

Indeed.

As the Russian prisoner of war captured by Ukraine’s armed forces said yesterday in his interview – he would understand if Russia was never forgiven.

I would add – as if we didn’t have enough to forgive Russia about the twentieth century already.

The Russian ambassador also used words “ethnic cleansing”.

I suggest Russia only uses these words when confessing in The Hague.

It is a pity, indeed, that Russia did not attend the hearings in the International Court of Justice that opened today in Ukraine’s case against Russia and Russia’s seat there was empty.

Also because, firstly, The Hague is practically the only remaining Western city Russians can travel to. And, secondly, this is one of your last opportunities to breathe a fresh air of freedom. Not for long, though, but still.

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



---

**1361st Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1361, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

It is beyond patronizing for our Russian colleague to try to claim the moral high ground by calling on everyone else in the room to engage in civilized dialogue when he has just rattled off an egregious and insulting list of lies. Lies are not part of civilized dialogue. Russian claims that we have just heard – that it is not committing atrocious acts against Ukrainian civilians, that Ukraine is attacking its own population, that Russia has found chemical weapons near its border – are a complete fabrication. These are fabrications designed by the Russian Government and peddled by our Russian colleague as part of a disinformation campaign, starting with Russia's attempts to propagate a false pretext for Russia's illegal and unjustified war against the Ukrainian people, and continuing with denials today of their own actions in Ukraine and fabrications of supposed actions by the Ukrainian Government. And all this is aimed, as my UK colleague just said, at desperately trying to justify the unjustifiable: Russia's unjustifiable and unprovoked invasion and attack on the people of Ukraine.

But the people in this room know the truth. The whole world knows the truth. And frankly, despite the aggressive crackdown on free media in Russia that we've seen accelerate in the past 12 days, much of the Russian population is protesting this war. You cannot hide from the truth.

It is the height of cynicism to suggest that civilians should flee this conflict through Russia. If people felt safe doing that, then surely they would be. But they're not. A handful have exited through Russia, compared to the 1.5 million that have fled so far through Poland, Romania, Moldova, Hungary and Slovakia. This is because Russia is the aggressor, Russia has attacked civilians and civilian infrastructure, and people are terrified of Russia. And everyone knows this, most of all the people fleeing this conflict.

As for the claim of chemical weapons found in the hands of the Ukrainian Government near the Russian border – this is a fabrication that many have been expecting Russia to make. Do you know what country has a long history of illegally and immorally using and supplying chemical weapons? Let's recall: Viktor Yushchenko, Alexander Litvinienko, Alexey Navalny, Sergei Skripal. That's right: Russia. You have no

credibility whatsoever. As our Ukrainian colleague just said, if you claim to have evidence, take it to the courts.

Aside from the war that Russia has launched, it faces another problem: it has lied to the world repeatedly. And here at the OSCE, the Russian and Belarusian delegations face the same problem: they have lied to this Council repeatedly. Now they are trying to convince us of more lies, but we have no basis on which to believe them. No evidence, and unfortunately also no shred of credibility based on any past truthfulness. And sadly, this is not just the problem of Russia, but also of this Council, which must somehow try to continue discussions in this context.

I want to take up your mention of anti-Russian sentiment prevailing in this Council, or in the world maybe. Let me be clear. I am a friend of the Russian people. Canada is a friend of the Russian people. However, we are vehemently opposed to the criminal actions taken by President Putin and the Kremlin in launching this war against Ukraine, and will do everything in our power to shine light on their crimes and hold them accountable. In other words, to quote our Latvian colleague last week, we will do everything in our power to uphold our duty under the international law principle of *erga omnes*, by which the international community has a duty and obligation to stop breaches of peremptory norms, such as those Russia has made.

Ambassador Lukashevich has just said we need to find a way out of this situation. There is a way out of this situation: Russia withdraws its troops, returns them to its own territory – not to Belarus, not to Crimea – and ceases its terrorizing acts against Ukrainian civilians. This would solve the problem. Then we could focus on helping Ukrainian civilians recover from the terror they have been subjected to by Russia over the past 12 days.

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