

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 28 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the concept note for the Arria-formula meeting circulated on the initiative of the delegation of Albania as a document of the Security Council of the United Nations, we are conveying herewith a concept note for the Arria-formula meeting to be organized by our Permanent Mission on 6 May 2022 (see annex) on the subject “Systematic and mass grave violations of international humanitarian law as well as other war crimes committed by the Ukrainian military personnel and militia and discovered in the course of the ongoing Special Military Operation of the Russian Armed Forces”.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**



Annex to the letter dated 28 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Concept note for the Arria-formula meeting on the subject “Systematic and mass grave violations of international humanitarian law as well as other war crimes committed by the Ukrainian military personnel and militia and discovered in the course of the ongoing Special Military Operation of the Russian Armed Forces”, to be held on 6 May, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Economic and Social Council Chamber

All Member States, Permanent Observers, United Nations entities, civil society organizations and press are invited. The meeting will be held in English and webcast on United Nations WebTV.

Background

1. In 2014, the legitimate president of Ukraine was ousted from power as a result of a coup d'état in Kiev, which was committed by radical elements with the use of force and with foreign assistance of the United States and the European Union.
2. Since 2014, the new government of Ukraine has conducted a policy of subversion of the interests of the ethnic Russians living on its territory, notably through the suppression of the Russian language in all spheres of life defining the Russian identity (starting with the bill abolishing the use of the Russian language adopted by the parliament of Ukraine in February 2014), the incitement of hate speech directed at members of ethnic minorities and other acts of ethnic hatred, together with the persecution of the Ukrainian orthodox church. Ukraine has been overwhelmed by politically and racially motivated crimes.
3. The south-eastern regions of Ukraine, which were predominantly Russian-speaking, did not accept the new order in Kiev. They demanded the federalization of Ukraine and sought autonomy, in particular to protect their cultural identity. The Kiev regime responded with a full-fledged war against the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic. The people of Donetsk and Lugansk faced cruelty by the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist battalions, which became part of the Ukrainian armed forces over time. The civilian population endured daily shelling of residential areas, tortures, threats and kidnappings. This situation was knowingly ignored by the Western countries, which de facto ensured carte blanche for the suppression of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic by force and a crackdown on the rights of Russian-speaking residents in Ukraine, by blocking reactions to these crimes in international organizations.
4. The government of Ukraine continued to violate the Minsk agreements and Security Council resolution [2202 \(2015\)](#) over seven years, which led, in particular, to numerous civilian casualties. The Western countries, in particular members of the Security Council, blocked any reaction to these breaches of the ceasefire agreement on the part of Kiev. Moreover, they started providing armaments and instructors in order to fuel the conflict. They emboldened Ukraine to finally resolve the conflict with the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic by force, which Kiev embarked on in February 2022. The Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic sought assistance from Russia.
5. The Special Military Operation conducted by Russia in the territory of Ukraine is based on Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, as communicated on

24 February 2022 to the Security Council by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

6. The Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist paramilitary battalions have not abided by any norms of international humanitarian law over eight years and now, in the course of the Special Military Operation of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

7. Ukrainian fighters turn to medieval barbarism, and nationalists routinely use their own civilian population as human shields. Placement of heavy artillery and rocket systems in residential areas has become a widespread practice, evidence of war crimes by the Kiev regime against prisoners of war is multiplying. Ukraine is violating even the most fundamental guarantees related to prohibition of murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture (article 3 of 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War). It should be stressed that, under article 130 of the Convention, such acts constitute grave breaches – in other words, war crimes. Finally, the systematic and widespread character of such violations clearly points to the fact that Kiev is hardly doing anything to prevent such horrendous acts from reoccurring.

8. The whole situation is aggravated by an unprecedented disinformation campaign against Russia promoted by the Western media, fake news and the manipulation of public opinion.

Objectives

9. The key objectives of the meeting are the following:

(a) To provide an opportunity to listen to voices of independent journalists located in the eastern regions of Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict

(b) To display proofs of the immense sufferings of civilians, including those most vulnerable, and detainees, as well as cases of torture of Russian military servicemen

(c) To provide undisputable evidence of grave violations of basic norms of international humanitarian law by the Ukrainian authorities.

Guiding questions

10. The guiding questions will be the following:

1. What is the reason for systematic “whitewashing” and “selective blindness” of the Western mainstream media towards gruesome and barbaric violations committed by the Ukrainian military and paramilitary formations?
2. How does such a shameful attitude correlate with the “values”, promoted elsewhere by the Western countries?
3. Can the selective blindness fuel the impunity and reoccurrence of such violations?

Opening remarks

11. Opening remarks will be delivered by:

- Mr. Vassily Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations
- Briefers (to be confirmed)

Discussion

12. Statements will be delivered by members of the Security Council, followed by interventions of other Member States and by questions and answers. Interventions are requested to be limited to three minutes.

Closing remarks

13. Closing remarks will be delivered by:

- Mr. Vassily Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.
- Briefers

14. To subscribe to the list of speakers, kindly send an email to russianprun@gmail.com, indicating “Arria formula meeting on 6 May 2022” in the subject line.
