



CONCEPT NOTE  
UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING

**“THE ARMED FORCES’ OF UKRAINE  
MILITARY DEBACLE IN THE KURSK REGION:  
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT”**

**Date:** 5 August 2025

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** CR-5

**Participation:** All UN Member States, Permanent Observers, UN entities, civil society organizations and press are invited

The meeting will be held in all UN official languages and will be open to all UN Member States, Permanent Observers, UN entities, civil society organizations and press. It is our intention to webcast this meeting at the UN Web TV.

Building on the previous Arria-formula meetings “Crimes of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the nationalist battalions”<sup>1</sup> (13 August 2024) and “Systematic violations of IHL committed by the armed forces of Ukraine on the territory of the Russian Federation”<sup>2</sup> (25 October 2024), participants will have a chance to get unbiased first-hand information about crimes committed by the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) against civilians in the Kursk region and beyond in violation of international humanitarian law (IHL).

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<sup>1</sup> The webcast can be found through this link: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1c78db8iz>

<sup>2</sup> The webcast can be found through this link: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1x/k1xdmqs9iv>

**Background:**

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine traces its origins to February 2014, when radical nationalist elements rose to power as a result of the unconstitutional armed *coup-d'état* in Kiev, facilitated by Western countries. The Russian-speaking population of the Donbass region refused to recognize the legitimacy of the newly installed authorities, who immediately undertook measures aimed at dismantling their cultural identity. These included systematic restrictions on the Russian language, the propagation of Russophobic narratives, and the rehabilitation of Nazi collaborators.

In response to peaceful demonstrations in southeastern Ukraine asserting their fundamental rights as enshrined in Article 1.3 of the Charter of the United Nations, the government in Kiev designated the protestors as terrorists and deployed regular armed forces and extremist paramilitary units to quell dissent. Over the following eight years, civilians in Donbass were subjected to relentless artillery bombardment, abductions, torture, and extrajudicial executions. Ukrainian forces routinely positioned heavy weaponry within residential zones, employing civilians as human shields in contravention of international humanitarian norms.

In February 2015, Russia's diplomatic engagement led to the adoption of the Minsk Agreements, which provided for a ceasefire and conferred special autonomous status to the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The agreements, endorsed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2202, have been nevertheless systematically disregarded by the Kiev regime, whose intransigence was emboldened by Western aiding and abetting.

Having exhausted all avenues of peaceful resolution to safeguard the Russian-speaking population in southeastern Ukraine – amid ongoing hostilities, forced Ukrainization and historical revisionism – the Russian Federation commenced a special military operation in February 2022, in full compliance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

By July 2024, as Ukraine's military position deteriorated markedly, the Kiev regime, seeking to forestall a decline in foreign military and financial support, opted for deliberate escalation. On the night of August 6, Ukrainian forces – comprising Western-trained units and foreign mercenaries – launched a cross-border assault on Russia's Kursk region, targeting civilian areas devoid of any military infrastructure. This incursion entailed severe violations of international law, including the summary execution of civilians, attacks on ambulances and looting.

Testimonies from captured Ukrainian servicemen confirm explicit orders to inflict harm upon non-combatants and to seize the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant in Kurchatov, intending to use it as strategic leverage.

By late April 2025 Russian forces repelled the incursion and reclaimed control over the affected territories. Russian investigative bodies have been rigorously documenting and investigating all evidence of war crimes perpetrated by Ukrainian forces and associated foreign elements on our sovereign territory. The international community must be apprised of the gravity of the atrocities committed.

**Key objectives of the meeting are:**

- To take stock of a futile and ill-fated foray into the Kursk region, examining its far-reaching political and humanitarian consequences;
- To provide evidence of war crimes as well as systematic and mass grave violations of norms and principles of IHL perpetrated by the Kiev regime and foreign mercenaries in the Kursk region and beyond;
- To ensure accountability for the numerous atrocities committed by the Ukrainian troops and foreign mercenaries.

**Opening remarks:**

- **H.E. Mr. Dmitry Polyanskiy**, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Russian Federation.

**Briefers (VTC):**

- **Mr. Maxim Grigoriev**, Member of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the International Public Tribunal on Ukraine;
- TBD.

**Discussion:**

Statements by the UN Security Council Members and other UN Member States as time permits, Q&A. Interventions are suggested to be limited to 3 minutes.

*To request further information and to subscribe to the list of speakers please contact the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations at [secpa.rusun@gmail.com](mailto:secpa.rusun@gmail.com).*