



CONCEPT NOTE

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA FORMULA MEETING **“THE SYSTEMATIC WAR OF UKRAINE** **AGAINST THE RESIDENTS OF DONBASS: 2014 AND ONWARDS”**

Date: 20 January 2023

Time: 10 am – 1 pm

Venue: ECOSOC Chamber

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 webcast on UN WebTV (*subject to non-objection by UNSC Members*).

Background:

In February 2014, the president of Ukraine was ousted from power by radical elements in breach of Ukrainian constitution as a result of coup d’etat in Kiev which was committed with clear collusion with the USA and several European Union members.

From the outset, the Kiev regime started promoting Russophobia curbing the basic rights of Russian-speakers. This resulted in acts of violence and intimidation and provoked Crimea’s reunification with Russia as well as bloody conflict against the residents of Donetsk and Lugansk regions who did not accept the new order in Kiev which posed an existential threat to them. They demanded federalization of Ukraine and sought autonomy, in particular to protect their cultural identity.

The Kiev regime responded with full-fledged war against Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. Residents of Donbass faced cruelty of the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist battalions. For 8 years, the civilian population endured daily shelling of residential areas, tortures, threats and kidnappings. According to OHCHR, in total 13,000 to 14,000 people died because of the conflict from 2014 to the end of 2021.

This situation was knowingly ignored by the Western countries, who de-facto issued a blank cheque to the Kiev regime for suppression of the will of Donetsk and Lugansk residents by force and crack-down on the rights of Russian speaking people in Ukraine in general. Not only they encouraged Kiev to violate Minsk agreements, but also blocked any reaction to these crimes in international organizations and provided vast amounts of arms and ammunition to Kiev. This line of action was not only repeatedly demonstrated by Ukrainian leadership, but also acknowledged by the co-signatories of Minsk agreements German Chancellor Angela Merkel¹ and French President Francois Hollande².

The government of Ukraine continued to violate Minsk agreements and UNSC resolution 2202(2015) over seven years and finally decided to resolve the conflict by force intensifying its hostile activities against peaceful population of Donbass in February 2022. Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics sought assistance from Russia.

This situation triggered the Special Military Operation of the Russian Armed Forces. Large areas of the republics were liberated, however due to the massive supplies of arms to Kiev regime by the West the complete liberation is yet to be achieved.

Having received US, French and other long-range artillery and rocket systems by the end of 2022 Kiev intensified targeted shelling of civilian infrastructure and residential areas which led to numerous deaths and injuries of non-combatants including many children. Independent investigators and journalists are collecting vast amounts of evidence of systematic war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law committed by the Ukrainian military personnel.

Objective:

The Arria Formula meeting is aimed at providing the participants with comprehensive analysis of the background, root causes, course and the present state of the systematic war of the Kiev regime against people of Donbass.

While Western media promote a distorted picture marked by disinformation and fake news, participants will hear the views of political scientists, journalists and Donbass natives who directly faced the cruel reality of the lives of peaceful population in Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, studied their true motives and aspirations.

Getting acquainted with the root-causes of the conflict through the first-hand analysis is key to understanding the reasons for and objectives of the Special Military Operation by the Russian Federation.

¹ "[Hatten Sie gedacht, ich komme mit Pferdeschwanz?](https://www.zeit.de/2022/51/angela-merkel-russland-fluechtlingskrise-bundeskanzler)", Tina Hildebrandt und Giovanni di Lorenzo, *Die Zeit*, 7. Dezember 2022. URL: <https://www.zeit.de/2022/51/angela-merkel-russland-fluechtlingskrise-bundeskanzler>

² «[Hollande: 'There will only be a way out of the conflict when Russia fails on the ground'](https://www.voltairenet.org/article218584.html)», Theo Prouvost, *Kyiv Independent*, December 28, 2022. URL: <https://www.voltairenet.org/article218584.html>

Program:

Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Vassily Nebenzia**, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Panel presentations:

- **Mr. Arnaud Develay (France)**, attorney at law;
- **Mr. Enrique Refoyo (Spain)**, political scientist, journalist, co-founder of “El Espía Digital”;
- **Ms. Maya Pirogova**, social activist from Donetsk.

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 5 minutes.

Closing remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Vassily Nebenzia.**