

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
121st Meeting
Geneva, 3 March 2022 and 24 March 2022 (resumed session)

EXCOM/CONCLU/121

CHAIR'S CONCLUSIONS

FORMAL SEGMENT

Item 1 – Adoption of the agenda.

1. The Chair informed EXCOM that she had received a request to include an item titled “Latest developments in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe” in the agenda, for consideration after Item 3.
2. The representative of Ukraine informed EXCOM that the Permanent Representative of Ukraine had sent a letter on 25 February 2022 to the Chair of UNECE to request this inclusion, to be considered during the formal portion of the EXCOM meeting. Recent developments in Europe were grave and would have long-lasting detrimental consequences, including on economic development and well-being in the European continent and beyond. UNECE’s objective was to promote sustainable development and economic prosperity in the region. Therefore, he believed EXCOM needed to urgently discuss the ongoing situation and take immediate appropriate decisions.
3. The Executive Secretary inquired if the proposed item could be considered after Item 6.
4. The representative of the Russian Federation objected to the proposal by the representative of Ukraine.
5. The representative of the United States invoked Rule 31 of the UNECE Rules of Procedure (RoP) and called for a vote by roll call on the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda as introduced by Ukraine.
6. The representative of Belarus suggested to avoid a vote, recalling that any delegation had the right to bring up any matter it wished.
7. The representative of the European Union and its member States also invoked Rule 31, requesting a closure of debate and an immediate vote.
8. The representative of the United Kingdom supported the request for a vote.
9. The Chair recalled the RoP relevant to a vote by roll call and noted that the meeting had a quorum with more than one third of the members of EXCOM present. Subsequently, the agenda of the meeting was adopted including the additional item as proposed by the representative of Ukraine by a recorded vote of 34 to 2, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America

Against:

Belarus, Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Turkmenistan

Item 2 – Chair’s conclusions from the last meeting.

10. The conclusions from the 120th meeting of EXCOM (EXCOM/CONCLU/120) were adopted.

Item 3 - Update on Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period

11. The Secretary of the Commission informed that, since the last meeting of EXCOM, four silence procedures had been concluded related to formal meetings with remote participation, namely the 85th session of the Working Party on Pollution and Energy, the 12th session of the Working Party on Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles, the 39th session of the ADN Safety Committee and the 75th session of the Working Party on Noise and Tyres. The silence had not been broken for these procedures. One silent procedure for the 60th session of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation was underway. Full details were available on the UNECE website.

Item 3bis - Latest developments in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

12. The representative of Ukraine recalled that the armed forces of the Russian Federation had begun to launch strikes on Ukrainian cities on 21 February 2022, causing significant loss of life and infrastructure. This constituted an act of aggression on the sovereignty of Ukraine, a violation of the UN Charter and the norms and principles of international law. He called for a minute of silence to commemorate the victims of the Russian aggression in Ukraine. (See Annex for full statement)

13. The representative of the Russian Federation took the position that this minute of silence related to Donetsk and Lugansk residents who had lost their lives in the past 8 years.

14. The representative of Belarus shared the position of the representative of the Russian Federation and asked delegations to adhere to agreed UN terminology in their statements.

15. On the proposal of the Chair, a minute of silence was observed to commemorate all victims in affected areas.

16. Recalling the General Assembly resolution A/ES-11/1, the representative of Ukraine urged EXCOM to act immediately to stop the Russian aggression that was supported by Belarus. He called for a decision on an immediate review of UNECE activities financed by those involved in undermining the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, as well as of participation by the Russian Federation in the bureaux of UNECE subsidiary bodies and in UNECE events. (See Annex for full statement)

17. The representative of the European Union and its member States said that Ukraine, as well as Montenegro, Albania and Georgia aligned with his statement. The EU condemned in the strongest possible terms the military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the involvement therein by Belarus and called for its immediate cessation. The European Union and its member States requested detailed information from the secretariat on the sources of funding from the Russian Federation of ongoing extrabudgetary projects and on the recipients of funds from UNECE in the Russian Federation and Belarus. They also wished to limit the involvement of the Russian Federation in the UNECE's activities, committees and governing bodies, and stated namely that speakers or representatives from sanctioned organizations should not be invited to UNECE events. (See Annex for full statement)

18. The representative of the United States said the American government, together with international partners, was applying various measures to impose severe economic consequences on the Russian Federation in the face of the aggression. He supported A/ES-11/L.1 and echoed the plea of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for an immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine.

19. The representative of Georgia aligned with the statement made by the representative of the European Union and its member States. She condemned the military aggression and called on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw from the internationally recognized territorial borders of Ukraine.

20. The representative of the United Kingdom supported the statements made by the representatives of the European Union and its member States and the United States. She called on UNECE members to recall that the role of the Commission is to promote economic cooperation for peace, and called on the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops from Ukraine. (See Annex for full statement)

21. The representative of Switzerland condemned in the strongest possible terms the military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the involvement therein by Belarus. He called on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw from the territory of Ukraine and referred to the statement made by the President of Switzerland at the opening of the 49th session of the Human Rights Council.

22. The representative of Turkey considered the ongoing aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine unacceptable and applauded A/ES-11/L.1. She called on the Russian Federation to immediately stop its military operations, withdraw from all Ukrainian territories, including Crimea, and return to diplomacy and dialogue. Turkey stood ready to facilitate efforts for peaceful resolution.

23. The representative of Albania aligned with the statement made by the representative of the European Union and its member States. He strongly condemned the military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the involvement therein by Belarus. He called on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw from the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine.

24. The representative of the Russian Federation said that UNECE was a forum exclusively for depoliticised and professional discussion and that to use it for dissemination of

disinformation and the exercise of political pressure on member States would be destructive. The Russian Federation had clarified its position on the events in Ukraine at bodies empowered to consider such matters, for example the UN Security Council and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. He found the proposal to review Russian financing of UNECE activities (which came from the federal budget of the Russian Federation) arbitrary and unacceptable, and called for an assessment and conformity with the UNECE Terms of Reference of the decisions presented. The Russian Federation intended to continue cooperating with UNECE and contributing funds. The blocking of such funds on political grounds would impede economic cooperation and development in the region. The Russian Federation would likewise continue its participation in the subsidiary bodies of UNECE. The grounds for blocking this participation did not exist. He opposed measures attempting to influence the secretariat in this context. (See Annex for full statement)

25. The representative of Belarus categorically disagreed with the statements made about Belarus and said his government had also clarified its position at meetings of relevant UN bodies. Belarus had always advocated for strengthening the pragmatic and practical historical mandate of the Commission and would continue to do so. He rejected the politicization of UNECE and attempts to limit the participation of any UN Member State in its work, noting that this would paralyze UNECE sectoral platforms.

26. The representative of Ukraine introduced a draft decision for the consideration of EXCOM (*which at his request was projected in the room in English*).

27. Invoking Rule 3 of the RoP of EXCOM, the representative of the Russian Federation said there were no procedural grounds for considering the proposed decision.

28. The representative of the United States said that Rule 3 pertained to the provisional, rather than the adopted, agenda, and that it therefore did not apply in this situation.

29. The representative of the European Union and its member States requested a closure of debate and an immediate vote by roll call on the draft decision proposed by the representative of Ukraine.

30. Noting that many delegations in the room had not seen the proposed text prior to the meeting, the representative of Belarus suggested to work according to the RoP.

31. The representative of the Russian Federation supported the proposal by the representative of Belarus.

32. The representative of the United Kingdom supported the proposal by the representative of the European Union and its member States.

33. Noting that he had to report to both his Permanent Mission and to his capital, the representative of Armenia requested the secretariat to clarify the relevant procedural aspects and highlighted their importance for the decision-making process and for seeking instructions from capitals.

34. The representative of the United States recalled that EXCOM had taken decisions on texts presented on the day of the meeting many times in the past. He seconded the request by the representative of the European Union and its member States for an immediate vote under

Rule 31. He also noted that, according to the same rule, no more than two delegations may be permitted to speak after the closure of the debate.

35. The representative of the Russian Federation said he was not prolonging the debate but seeking clarification on the procedure.

36. The representative of the European Union and its member States also recalled that EXCOM had taken decisions on texts presented on the day of the meeting many times in the past, invoked Rule 31 again and requested an immediate vote following clarifications on the relevant RoP by the secretariat.

37. The Secretary of the Commission stated that the rules of procedure contained references to documentation and language provisions in rule 3 and rule 20. She further noted that in its past practice, EXCOM had exercised some flexibility in this regard, for example when considering items in the informal part of its meetings. EXCOM did not have past practice on arrangements related to matters being put to a vote.

38. In the presence of differing opinions, the representative of Belarus suggested to strictly adhere to the RoP, including to the provisions about documentation in all working languages.

39. The representative of Ukraine said that the provision of documentation 10 working days in advance applied to documentation and not to the decision itself, which had been read in the room and interpreted into all working languages. He therefore invoked again Rule 31 and called for an immediate vote.

40. The representative of the United States endorsed the comments made by representative of Ukraine. He cited Rule 20 of the EXCOM RoP which stipulated that “documentation for decision shall be available in all ECE working languages” and noted that it did not specify this documentation needed to be provided in advance of the meeting. He said the draft decision could be provided in all languages after the meeting and was in any case being interpreted at the meeting.

41. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the situation constituted a violation of the EXCOM RoP and requested a clear ruling from the secretariat to ensure that the RoP were correctly applied. Should the secretariat not be able to provide such a ruling, he requested that the Office of Legal Affairs at UN Headquarters be consulted.

42. The representative of Belarus said that legal experts should be consulted given the differing opinions present.

43. The Chair recalled that UNECE normally works by consensus. As this was not the case now, and in light of differing interpretations of the RoP, she recommended to proceed with the utmost prudence. Thus, she proposed that the secretariat be requested to process the draft decision for translation and circulation, with the EXCOM reconvening at least 10 working days after that to consider the draft decision.

44. The representative of the United Kingdom highlighted that Rule 3 of the EXCOM RoP referred to the provisional agenda. As EXCOM had adopted the agenda of the meeting, Rule 3 could not apply.

45. The representative of the European Union and its member States recalled once again that EXCOM had taken decisions on the spot at previous meetings without prior documentation. She also drew attention to the deadline of 18 March 2022 contained in the decision, which was fast approaching.

46. The representative of Switzerland supported the proposal by the Chair.

47. The representative of the Russian Federation said he had a different interpretation of the RoP than the representative of the United Kingdom. In response to the representative of the European Union and its member States, he noted that prior decisions taken on the spot had always been on the basis of consensus and that there was no precedent for adoption of decisions in the absence of consensus. The current situation should not create such a precedent. He supported the proposal by the Chair.

48. The representative of the United States, who was also a member of the Steering Committee of the Forum of Mayors, said that the Steering Committee had received a letter from Ukraine requesting that any and all invitations to city officials from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus be rescinded. He proposed that the Mayor of Kharkiv be denoted the keynote speaker for the 2022 Forum of Mayors. He introduced a draft decision for adoption under Item 3bis (*which at his request, was projected in the room in English*).

49. The representative of the Russian Federation inquired why the representative of the United States was addressing the Forum of Mayors, as the topic was slated to be discussed later in the agenda, in the informal segment.

50. The representative of the European Union and its member States requested to adjourn the meeting immediately.

51. The representative of the United Kingdom seconded the request by the representative of the European Union and its member States.

52. Without taking a position on the substance of the draft decision proposed by the representative of the United States, and in his capacity as co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Forum of Mayors, the representative of Switzerland clarified that the Steering Committee only helped the secretariat identify the cities to be invited to the event and that the invitations were sent by the secretariat.

53. Saying that she would obtain legal advice and convene a resumed session as soon as possible, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

54. Resuming the meeting on 24 March 2022, the Chair said that draft decisions ECE/EX/2022/L.6 and ECE/EX/2022/L.7, submitted by Ukraine and the United States respectively, had been translated and circulated 10 working days ago, thereby fulfilling the point of order raised by the representative of the Russian Federation before the adjournment of the meeting. She recalled that the representative of the European Union and its member States, supported by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States, had invoked rule 31 and asked for a closure of the debate and immediate move to a vote on the decision as presented by Ukraine in its entirety by roll call. She also noted that ECE/EX/2022/L.6 contained slight modifications from the draft decision originally presented by the representative of Ukraine on 3 March. She asked if the request for a vote stood given these modifications.

55. Raising a point of order about the conduct of business in accordance with Rule 29 of the RoP, the representative of the Russian Federation pointed out that the first paragraph of the UNECE Terms of Reference (ToR) stated “the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country” and that the same wording was contained in the General Assembly Resolution 36(IV) on the establishment of UNECE. Furthermore, Article 8 of the UN Charter stated “The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs.” Both draft decisions related to restricting the work of one or more countries in the work of UNECE and thus ran counter to the above-mentioned tenets, violating the mandate of the Commission. The Russian Federation therefore opposed both decisions, urged the Chair to immediately withdraw them from the agenda and to immediately state her ruling. (See Annex for full statement)

56. The representative of Belarus likewise believed that the two draft decisions violated the RoP and requested their removal from the agenda.

57. The representative of Ukraine repeated his request from 3 March to put an end to attempts to use political propaganda by the Russian Federation at UNECE.

58. The Chair requested to discuss substantive comments only once the point of order had been resolved.

59. The representative of the European Union and its member States pointed out that the first paragraph of the UNECE ToR exhaustively defined the word “action” in its subparagraphs 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) as consisting of measures and programmes that UNECE would roll out in a country. ECE/EX/2022/L.6 pertained to internal UNECE matters and requested the secretariat to screen extrabudgetary funding. EXCOM was competent to deal with all matters related to extrabudgetary funding as per paragraph 3(f) of its ToR. The first two paragraphs of ECE/EX/2022/L.6 therefore corresponded to the mandate of EXCOM. Its last paragraph, meanwhile, was purely advisory and did not constitute a decision on an action. ECE/EX/2022/L.7 likewise did not relate to taking action with respect to a country as defined in the first paragraph of the UNECE ToR. The European Union and its member States therefore requested the Chair to rule on the point of order and then an immediate move to a vote by roll call on the two decisions.

60. The Chair recalled that Rule 29 of the UNECE RoP called for the Chair to immediately make a ruling on a point of order. However, as EXCOM had no prior history on related matters, she exceptionally requested an expression of views from delegations, as foreseen in the RoP of the General Assembly.

61. The representative of the European Union and its member States said that the decisions did not constitute taking an action with respect to a country without its agreement and invited the Chair to rule against the point of order.

62. The representatives of the Netherlands, the United States, the United Kingdom and Ukraine agreed with the representative of the European Union and its member States.

63. The representative of the Russian Federation supported the point of order and said that EXCOM did not have the prerogative to violate the ToR and RoP of UNECE.

64. The representative of Belarus supported the point of order.

65. The Chair explained that she had been informed by the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) that it could only provide legal advice in response to requests emanating from UN bodies, not from individual member States. In the absence of such a request, if ambiguities were found in the RoP, member States had to decide on how to interpret them. She confirmed that the meeting had a quorum with more than one third of the membership present. The Chair asked EXCOM to vote on whether ECE/EX/2022/L.6 and ECE/EX/2022/L.7 were within the mandate of UNECE. By a recorded vote of 41 to 2, with 5 abstentions, ECE/EX/2022/L.6 and ECE/EX/2022/L.7 were considered within the mandate of UNECE. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America

Against:

Belarus, Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Turkmenistan

66. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed dismay that EXCOM had voted that it had the right to violate the mandate of UNECE.

67. The representative of the European Union and its member States said that, the point of order having been satisfied via the vote, she was calling for a closure of debate and a vote by roll call on the adoption of ECE/EX/2022/L.6 and ECE/EX/2022/L.7.

68. The Chair asked if EXCOM could adopt ECE/EX/2022/L.6.

69. The representatives of the Russian Federation and Belarus objected.

70. In the absence of consensus, the Chair requested the secretariat to administer a vote on the adoption of ECE/EX/2022/L.6.

71. Prior to the vote, the representative of the Russian Federation explained his position that his government had not given its agreement to the draft decision and that, as per Rule 40 of the UNECE RoP, there were no grounds for the draft decision. He would vote against it and called on other delegations to do likewise.

72. ECE/EX/2022/L.6 was adopted by a recorded vote of 40 to 2, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America

Against:

Belarus, Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

73. The representative of Belarus expressed regret regarding this result. He noted that the Belarusian side categorically disagreed with the proposed draft and, in line with Rule 40 of the UNECE RoP, did not give an agreement to take any action with regard to Belarus in terms of practical implementation of the decision as a whole or in part.

74. The Chair opened the floor for consideration of ECE/EX/2022/L.7.

75. The representative of the United States clarified that this draft decision aimed to limit the participation of experts at the 2022 Forum of Mayors but not of accredited delegations from the Russian Federation and Belarus.

76. The representative of the European Union and its member States noted that mayors did not represent member States as accredited delegations according to the UNECE RoP and the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for UNECE Bodies, which was clear from the following two documents: (1) the invitation to the mayors, which explained that they were identified and invited by the steering committee, and (2) the list of participants in the Forum of Mayors in 2020 where the mayors are clearly separated from official delegations of member States.

77. The representative of the Russian Federation objected to the decision.

78. The representative of Belarus noted that, in line with Rule 40 of the UNECE RoP, the Belarusian side did not give an agreement to take any action with regard to Belarus in terms of practical implementation of the decision as a whole or in part.

79. In the absence of consensus, the Chair requested the secretariat to administer a vote on ECE/EX/2022/L.7. The decision was adopted by a recorded vote of 39 to 2, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland,

Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America

Against:

Belarus, Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Armenia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

80. Wishing to explain his vote, the representative of Switzerland said that 24 March 2022 marked the 50th anniversary of Switzerland joining UNECE and that the country greatly valued the work of the organization. Switzerland was proud to host UNECE in Geneva, and had abstained from the vote on ECE/EX/2022/L.7 given its special role as host of UNECE and the fact that Switzerland financed the extrabudgetary project related to the Forum of Mayors.

81. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that he did not give his agreement for action under ECE/EX/2022/L.7 to be applied to his country, further to Rule 40 of the UNECE RoP. He rejected both decisions and stated that they had been adopted in violation of the ToRs and the RoPs of the Commission. He regretted attempts by certain delegations to politicize the work of UNECE and noted that attempts to block the work of ECE or artificially restrict member States from participating in it, would undermine regional cooperation and efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. He called on the secretariat to be guided not by these decisions but by the existing practice and procedures for cooperation which had stood the test of time and were based on the mandate of UNECE as a platform for technical, non-politicized cooperation. The Russian Federation would carry out a legal analysis of these decisions. (See Annex for full statement)

82. The representative of the European Union and its member States drew attention to article 1 of the ToRs that stipulates that the Commission is acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and specifically the UN General Assembly. Referencing the recent General Assembly resolution, he stated that all draft decisions were fully within the mandate of UNECE and that there could be no procedural obstacles. None of the rules prevented the interpretation that had been offered several times.

Item 4 - Matters relating to the Committee on Environmental Policy: Meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy:

83. The Chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), Ms Elisabete Quintas da Silva, made a presentation to EXCOM on the achievements of CEP over the past year and its plans for the future.

84. The representative of the European Union and its member States expressed full commitment to the upcoming 9th Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference and

highlighted the importance of achieving meaningful outcomes at this event, including a commitment on a long-term regional approach to sustainable infrastructure including the basis for common goals, targets and criteria for policymaking, performance monitoring and replication of best practices that best suit domestic and transboundary needs. The European Union and its member States were committed to promoting sustainable tourism and expect UNECE to acknowledge the importance of and commit to the transformation of the tourism sector by applying circularity across tourism value chains, including more sustainable production and consumption. The European Union and its member States will support commitments to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and improve water sanitation and waste management in the tourism sector. They requested that the findings of the 7th Pan-European Environmental Assessment produced by UNECE and UN Environment be taken into consideration in the drafting of the ministerial declaration, as regular review was essential to promoting sustainable development and a green and circular economy. They also hoped to hear from regional environmental centres about their activities and progress since the last meeting.

85. The representative of Switzerland expressed satisfaction with the results achieved by CEP. Each UNECE environmental legal instrument, programme and partnership was relevant and made positive contributions to the region and beyond. He assured of future Swiss support, including for the Efe Ministerial.

86. The Chair concluded that EXCOM thanks the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy for the comprehensive report. EXCOM appreciates being informed about the activities and achievements of the Committee and being kept aware of future directions of its work.

Item 5 - Matters relating to the Standing Working Group on Ageing:

a) Meeting with the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing

87. The Chair of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA), Mr. Edmundo Martinho, made a presentation to EXCOM on the achievements of SWGA over the past year, as well as on the Standing Working Group's plans for the future. He invited EXCOM to approve the programme of work of the Population component of the subprogramme on Housing, Land Management and Population for 2022.

88. The representative of the European Union and its member States appreciated the support by the SWGA to the preparation of national review reports by UNECE member States and the guidance notes for policymakers and civil society actors on meaningful participation of older persons and civils society in policymaking. The European Union and its member States looked forward to the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing 2022 and expected meaningful outcomes related to its themes. She supported the decision tabled for EXCOM approval.

89. The representative of Switzerland noted that population ageing was a significant problem in the region, especially in countries with economies in transition that had fewer resources to address relevant challenges. Follow-up to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing would allow for improvements and the support of the EU in this context was welcome. He said it was important for the SWGA to focus on key topics.

b) Decisions on matters relating to the Standing Working Group on Ageing

90. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the programme of work of the Population component of the subprogramme on Housing, Land Management and Population for 2022 as contained in the document ECE/WG.1/2021/5.

Item 6 - Decisions on matters relating to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

91. The representative of the European Union and its member States appreciated the steps taken to re-establish the Advisory Board for swift operationalization of the UN/LOCODE database. In order to avoid problems in the future, the European Union and its member States requested that all communications concerning intersessional decision-making procedures as well as key information and documents be sent to the Geneva-based Permanent Missions at the same time as to the UN/CEFACT Heads of Delegation.

92. The representative of the United States noted that businesses across the region appreciated the work of UN/CEFACT. As outlined in the draft decision he had submitted (ECE/EX/2022/L.8) for EXCOM approval, he wished to establish more regular communication between Geneva-based Permanent Missions and UN/CEFACT.

93. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the mandate and terms of reference of the Advisory Group on the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE), established under UN/CEFACT, as contained in ECE/EX/2022/L.5, for the period 2022–2023. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the decision contained in ECE/EX/2022/L.8

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INFORMAL SEGMENT

Item 7 - Preparations for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Economic Commission for Europe

94. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM that the plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the organization were on hold.

95. The representative of the European Union its member States said that the preparations should be suspended at this point in time and called on all member States to use the 75th anniversary as an opportunity to reflect on the promotion of peace across the region.

96. The representative of the United Kingdom agreed that the anniversary should be used to reflect on the importance of peace in the region above all. He thought it would be appropriate for the secretariat and the member States to consider how best to mark the 75th anniversary of the organization in this context.

Item 8 – Preparations for the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2022.

97. The Executive Secretary recalled that the secretariat had circulated a written update on the status of preparations for the 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) as well as the latest preliminary programme. Preparations were proceeding as planned and a

mailing with the latest participants list would be sent out shortly. She encouraged all delegations to inscribe on the speakers list as soon as possible.

98. In light of the adoption of ECE/EX/2022/L.6 under Item 3bis, the representative of the European Union and its member States requested the exclusion from the RFSD of expert speakers from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.

99. The representative of the United Kingdom seconded the request made by representative of the European Union and its member States.

100. The representative of the Russian Federation objected to the request of the representative of the European Union and its member States.

101. The representative of Ukraine seconded the position made by the representative of the European Union and its member States.

102. The Chair said that the secretariat had taken note of the comments made under this agenda item.

Item 9 – Preparations for the Forum of Mayors 2022.

103. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM about the current state of preparations for the upcoming Forum of Mayors.

104. Upon invitation of the Chair, the representative of Switzerland, in his capacity of co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Forum of Mayors, indicated that preparations were well underway and that he looked forward to a successful event.

105. The representative of the European Union and its member States intended to participate actively in the event following the implementation of ECE/EX/2022/L.7.

106. The representative of Ukraine said the mayor of Kharkiv had confirmed his participation in the event and felt that the views of the latter on urban resilience and sustainable development would be of interest. He recalled that he had supported ECE/EX/2022/L.7 and aligned with the representative of the European Union and its member States.

107. The representative of the Russian Federation recalled that the Russian Federation had initiated the Forum of Mayors. He had opposed ECE/EX/2022/L.7 and did not recognize it as being in line with Rule 40 of the UNECE RoP. He called upon the leadership to move back to the previous procedures for participation in events.

Item 10 – Extrabudgetary projects (for approval).

108. Regarding the extrabudgetary project contained in informal document 2022/12, the representative of the European Union and its member States was ready to approve it but said that its implementation should be suspended until that of ECE/EX/2022/L.6 had been completed and EXCOM had decided to move forward with the project.

109. The representative of the Russian Federation recalled that he had voted against

ECE/EX/2022/L.6. He said that the latter should apply to all projects currently tabled for EXCOM approval.

110. The Chair concluded that EXCOM approves the extrabudgetary projects contained in informal documents 2022/11 and 2022/12 on the understanding that they would be part of the review stipulated in ECE/EX/2022/L.6.

Item 11 - Briefing by the Executive Secretary: Important new developments and key upcoming events.

111. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM about the outcomes of the 84th plenary session of the Inland Transport Committee and about her mission to Dakar for the 9th World Water Forum.

112. The Executive Secretary informed EXCOM that the UNECE Resource Management Week 2022, including the 13th session of the Expert Group on Resource Management, would take place on 25-29 April in Geneva.

Item 12 – Any other business

113. The representative of Ukraine said that, during the Russian Federation-sponsored side event on Euro-Asian Transport Links on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee, a speaker from the Russian Federation had used a map showing the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as part of the Russian Federation. This constituted a violation of the General Assembly resolutions on Ukraine, including A/RES/68/262. Ukraine rejected attempts to legitimize the illegal occupation of Crimea and the eastern part of Ukraine on the UNECE platform. He urged the secretariat to exercise due diligence prior to meetings to avoid such incidents in the future and to take Ukrainian consent into account.

114. The representative of the Russian Federation called to avoid such statements at EXCOM and said that Crimea was part of the Russian Federation.

115. The Executive Secretary said that the UNECE secretariat was fully aligned with all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including A/RES/68/262. She further informed that she was a member of the Global Crisis Response Group recently established by the Secretary-General. She noted the disquieting situation in the region, the humanitarian catastrophe, the migration crisis and the impact on food and energy security, disrupted supply chains, broken financial systems and menacing inflation. The situation, coupled with the devastating effects of COVID-19, had exacerbated the risk of failing to attain the 2030 Agenda. The number of SDG targets for which progress needed to accelerate or trends reversed had increased since the previous year. She invited all countries to work together on achieving the 2030 Agenda in full respect of the relevant rules, procedures and General Assembly resolutions. She aligned herself with all the statements of the UN Secretary-General.

116. The Chair informed delegations that the date for the next EXCOM meeting would be communicated in due time and closed the meeting.

Annex - Statements made by delegations under Item 3bis (in chronological order)

Ukraine

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was established seventy-five years ago with the mandate to help rebuild post-war Europe, develop economic activity, and strengthen economic relations between European countries.

Seventy-five years after the Europe again at war!

On 24th February, the Russian Federation began new wave of aggression against Ukraine.

As we speak, the Russian Armed Forces continuing to launch strikes on peaceful Ukrainian cities from different directions, including from the territory of the temporary occupied Donbas and Crimea, as well as from South-East region.

This is an act of aggression, an attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, a brutal violation of the UN Charter and basic norms and principles of the international law.

The consequences of this brutal, unhuman, and unprovoked military attack are grave and beyond comprehension. Thousands of residential homes have been damaged or destroyed, hundreds of thousands peaceful citizens were left without electricity or water. Critical infrastructure, roads, bridges, energy facilities and industrial enterprises are damaged on an unprecedented scale or totally destroyed.

But most terrifying – these attacks are causing human losses.

Millions of Ukrainian citizens are forced into hiding and live in constant fear for their lives and the well-being of their loved ones.

Two thousand of them have already lost their lives, dozens of them - children.

Distinguished delegates,

Let us commemorate the victims of the Russian aggression in Ukraine and observe a minute of silence.

Thank you!

Ukraine calls on the international community and this Committee to act immediately. These actions by Russia, supported by the Republic of Belarus, will have a long-lasting detrimental effect, including in the sphere of purview of this Committee.

Lives, security, and well-being of Ukrainian citizens are at stake, but also security of citizens of the entire Europe and the future of the world depend on our joint and unified response as well. Only united and decisive actions can stop Kremlin's aggression against Ukraine.

Time to action came and it is now!

The United Nations General Assembly yesterday adopted by overwhelming majority of 141 member States the resolution in which international community deplors in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Member States imposed severe sanctions We are grateful to our allies and partners, who stand shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine today.

My delegation calls upon this Committee to act without delay. We are calling to put an end to the attempts of using political propaganda by the Russian Federation at the UNECE, take a decision on immediate review of the financing activities within the UNECE by those involved in actions undermining the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, do not to elect their representatives to the membership of the respective Bureaux of the UNECE committees and subsidiary bodies and do not invite them to attend the UNECE events.

We count on further support of the members of this Committee to stop the Russian aggression.

European Union

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member states.

Ukraine, the Candidate Countries Montenegro[1] and Albania[1] align themselves with this statement.

In this dark time for Europe, this international organisation and the entire world, the European Union and its Member States condemn in the strongest possible terms Russian Federation's unprovoked, unjustified and premeditated military aggression against Ukraine. The EU also condemns the involvement of Belarus in this aggression.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe was created to help Europe, devastated by war, to recover and to build its future on peace and mutual cooperation going forward. The UN Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine – an independent and sovereign State – is grossly violating international law and the core principles on which the international rules-based order is built, the principles of the UN Charter. It is therefore against the core principles of this international organization, however technical its core mission may be.

The Government of the Russian Federation has chosen war and destruction as opposed to peace and cooperation that the UNECE has been promoting in the region for the past 75 years. The EU and its Member States stand with the people of Ukraine and its democratically elected institutions and representatives; we applaud and support their formidable resistance and defence against invading Russian military forces.

We will hold both the Government of Russian Federation and Belarus accountable for this aggression and for any violations of international humanitarian law and liable for the casualties and destruction.

The EU and its Member States together with transatlantic and like-minded partners have been united in making unprecedented efforts to achieve a diplomatic solution to the security crisis caused by the Russian Federation. We have made clear from the outset and at the highest political level that any further military aggression against Ukraine will have massive consequences and severe costs.

Without further repeating our clear demands made towards Russia, the EU and its MS wish to recall that Geneva is also the capital of human rights and humanitarian action. The EU and its MS therefore recall the legal obligation and moral duty of the Russian Federation and Russia-backed armed formations to guarantee human rights, respect international humanitarian law, to stop their disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks, and to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to all persons in need.

The EU and its MS, as well as other UNECE members, have agreed on restrictive measures that will impose massive and severe consequences on Russian Federation for its actions.

The EU and its MS therefore request to receive detailed information from the secretariat on the sources of funding from the Russian Federation, of ongoing XB projects. We additionally request information about the recipients of funds from UNECE in the Russian Federation and Belarus.

The EU and its Member States will do what it takes to contain the aggressor's political propaganda at all UNECE meetings. The EU and its MS therefore wish to limit the involvement of Russian

Federation in the UNECE's activities, committees and governing bodies. We therefore refuse any speakers or representatives from sanctioned organisations to be invited to UNECE events, whether or not organized at the initiative of the Secretariat.

Finally, the EU and its MS call on the UNECE membership as well as the broader international community to demand from the Russian Federation the immediate end of this aggression, which endangers international peace and security at a global scale.

[1] Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stands in solidarity with Ukraine. We fully support the position of the European Union and its member states and candidate countries, as well as the position of the United States.

- The UK calls upon all members of this organisation to recall that the role of the Economic Commission for Europe is, first and foremost, to promote economic cooperation for peace. Today, that peace, which we have worked so hard to preserve and to strengthen through our dialogue in UNECE's many technical committees, has been shattered by the actions of one member.
- Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state.
- As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, Russia has a particular responsibility to uphold international peace and security. Instead, it is violating the borders of another country and its actions are causing widespread suffering.
- As the UN Secretary-General has said, such unilateral measures conflict directly with the United Nations Charter...the use of force by one country against another is the repudiation of the principles that every country has committed to uphold.
- Russia must urgently de-escalate and withdraw its troops. It must be held accountable and stop undermining democracy, global stability, and international law.
- The UK and our international partners stand united in condemning the Russian government's reprehensible actions. The overwhelming majority in last night's UN General Assembly resolution condemning Russian aggression against Ukraine sends a clear signal that Russia must withdraw.
- If we are to uphold the integrity and purpose of this organisation, we must send a clear message that such actions are unacceptable.

Russian Federation

Уважаемая г-жа Председатель!

Россия категорически отвергает прозвучавшие обвинения. Попытки использовать трибуну ЕЭК ООН для распространения дезинформации и оказания политического давления на страны-члены будут иметь разрушительные последствия для Комиссии, которая может функционировать исключительно как форум для деполитизированного профессионального диалога.

Обсуждать происходящие сейчас на Украине события на площадке ЕЭК ООН бессмысленно и контрпродуктивно. Понимая это, мы воздержимся от развёрнутых комментариев. Российская позиция была подробнейшим образом изложена в заявлениях руководства нашей страны и Министерства иностранных дел, а также в выступлениях российской делегации на заседаниях Совета Безопасности ООН, Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН, Совета ООН по правам человека, ОБСЕ и других международных структур, уполномоченных рассматривать соответствующие вопросы. Вместе с тем при необходимости готовы и сейчас ещё раз в деталях разъяснить природу кризиса, цели и задачи проводимой Россией спецоперации, направленной на то, чтобы защитить людей, которые на протяжении восьми лет подвергаются издевательствам и геноциду со стороны киевского режима. Неизбирательные, бессмысленные обстрелы городов и населённых пунктов Донбасса продолжаются до настоящего времени, гибнут мирные граждане. Продолжим разоблачать крайне негативную роль США и стран ЕС, которые всё это время подзуживали Украину, накачивали её вооружениями, направляли инструкторов, фактически подталкивая украинцев к кровавой агрессии Донбасса.

Но сейчас речь о другом. Наблюдаем неприкрытое стремление группы стран ограничить участие России в работе ЕЭК ООН, в т.ч. путём волонтаристского пересмотра ранее принятых решений, а также фактического запрета на оказание финансовой поддержки работе Комиссии. Такие возмутительные и недопустимые действия должны получить правовую

оценку. Налицо пренебрежение правилами Процедуры и злоупотребление численным доминированием. Сила, однако, не в количестве голосов. Сила – в правде. А правда состоит в том, что ЕЭК ООН – это наше общее достояние и мы никому не позволим его узурпировать.

В конкретном плане заявляем о следующем:

Мы не собираемся отказываться от права и прерогатив страны-члена применительно к взаимодействию с ЕЭК ООН.

Одна из этих прерогатив - добровольное целевое финансирование проектов Комиссии. Мы продолжим его в интересах и во взаимодействии с заинтересованными странами. Блокирование наших проектов по политическим мотивам станет показателем стремления тех стран, которые будут это делать к отказу от экономического сотрудничества и взаимодействия в целях развития региона. И, соответственно, к роли ЕЭК ООН в таком сотрудничестве.

Мы продолжим выдвигать своих специалистов - профессионалов и преданных своему делу людей - в профильные и экспертные органы ЕЭК ООН. Россияне продолжают работать на тех позициях, на которые были избраны. Оснований для наложения Исполсоветом запрета на их работу не имеется. Их обструкция по политическим мотивам будет говорить сама за себя и подтверждать курс тех, кто это будет делать, на разрушение ЕЭК и её экспертного аппарата.

Мы продолжим выполнять обязательства в рамках Конвенций, обслуживаемых ЕЭК, сторонами которых Россия является в рамках механизмов и в соответствии с процедурами, установленным этими конвенциями. Не видим оснований для изменения модальностей нашего участия простым решением Исполкома.

Мы продолжим активно, открыто и конструктивно участвовать во всех руководящих органах Комиссии.

Мы в полной мере сохраним контакты с Секретариатом. Попытки на всех уровнях уклоняться и саботировать свою работу без реакции не останутся.

Любое изменение формата, объёма и охвата работы ЕЭК будет сопровождаться мерами по приведению в соответствие с ними бюджета и штатного расписания Секретариата.

В целом, озвученные рядом стран предложения не приведут к поступательному укреплению ЕЭК. Наоборот, чреваты стать курком, который запустит процесс её разрушения. Вы подрываете саму природу и основания для существования Комиссии, заложенные нашими предшественниками и позволившие ЕЭК ООН работать в непростых условиях геополитического противостояния в прошлом.

ЕЭК - не карательная организация. Она объединяет. На основании общих решений, договоренностей, консенсуса. Иного смысла у неё нет. Если Вы думаете, что размер вашей группы позволяет вам распоряжаться организацией - иллюзия.

Превращение ЕЭК ООН во вспомогательный орган Евросоюза полностью дискредитирует Комиссию и обесмыслит её дальнейшее функционирование. Комиссия, лишённая смысла существования, являющаяся придатком Брюсселя, санкционным хлыстом, очевидно, не будет нужна. Уверен, что это очень быстро поймут многие. В условиях ограниченных ресурсов ООН - применение им найдётся.

Во многополярном мире доминирование Запада все более становится иллюзией этого Запада, Вектор движения мира диаметрально противоположен. И если вы, коллеги, обрекаете ЕЭК ООН на управление группой развитых стран, вы обрекаете ЕЭК на маргинализацию. Мы сделаем всё, чтобы этого не допустить.

Russian Federation

Российская делегация взяла слово и выступает по порядку ведения заседания в соответствии с Правилom 29 Правил процедуры.

Хотим напомнить, Вам, госпожа Председатель и всем членам Исполкома, что в ходе предыдущего заседания 3 марта отдельные делегации внесли предложение о прекращении прений (closure of the debate) в соответствии с Правилom 31 Правил процедуры. Это предложение не встретило иного решения Председателя и последовавшая дискуссия велась исключительно вокруг процедурных вопросов. Иных выступлений по данному пункту повестки дня не предусмотрено. Россия, повторяю, выступает по порядку ведения.

В связи с представленными проектами решений L.6 и L.7 Российская Федерация считает необходимым заявить следующее.

Пункт 1(а) круга ведения ЕЭК ООН гласит, что "Комиссия не предпринимает никаких действий в отношении какой-либо страны без согласия правительства этой страны". Данный пункт является ключевым и фактически определяет мандат ЕЭК ООН. Аналогичная формулировка, как известно, содержится в постановляющем пункте А 1 "уставной" резолюции Генассамблеи ООН об учреждении ЕЭК номер 36(IV), принятой практически 75 лет назад 28 марта 1947 года. Оба проекта решений, недвусмысленно нацеленные на ограничения участия одной или нескольких стран в работе Комиссии, противоречат этому пункту. Разночтений здесь быть не может: Круг ведения ЕЭК ООН не предусматривают каких-либо действий в отношении участия какого-либо государства-члена. Все рассуждения о возможности различных "толкования" этого принципа не имеют под собой никаких оснований и призваны покрыть тот факт, что основополагающий принцип работы ЕЭК, служивший краеугольным камнем для работы Комиссии в течение всего периода её существования, сегодня откровенно попирается. Это не приемлемо. Кроме того, статья 8 Устава ООН гласит, что

«Организация Объединенных Наций не должна налагать никаких ограничений на право мужчин и женщин участвовать в любом качестве и на условиях равенства в её главных и вспомогательных органах». Все вышеизложенное однозначно подтверждает, что оба проекта решений, представленные Украиной и США, нарушают мандат Комиссии и не могут быть приняты. Российская Федерация выступает против обоих проектов решений. Призываем все государства-члены ЕЭК ООН сделать то же самое. Мы ожидаем, что Председатель будет служить беспристрастным хранителем Круга ведения ЕЭК ООН и Правил процедуры. Призываем дать твёрдую правовую и процедурную оценку факту нарушения мандата ЕЭК ООН. Ожидаем услышать обоснованное и информированное мнение Секретариата. К Вам, госпожа Председатель, в соответствии с Правил 29 Правил процедуры обращаем настойчивый призыв принять решение о снятии обоих проектов решений с рассмотрения. Просим озвучить его безотлагательно.

Russian Federation

Россия возмущена фактом принятия решений и крайне обеспокоена ситуацией, когда те или иные действия навязываются в нарушение Круга ведения и Правил процедуры ЕЭК ООН и Исполкома. Более того, напрямую нарушается положение ни много, ни мало, Устава ООН.

Мы отвергаем действия Украины, США и Евросоюза, направленные на политизацию работы региональных экономических комиссий (РЭК) ООН. Эти учреждения были созданы под эгидой ЭКОСОС в целях содействия международному сотрудничеству в экономической и социальной областях. Этот факт закреплён в правилах процедуры РИК и соответствующих решениях ЭКОСОС. Основной задачей РЭК является разработка и координация совместных усилий в поддержку Повестки дня в области устойчивого развития на период до 2030 года. Любые попытки заблокировать

работу РЭК или искусственно ограничить права входящих в неё государств-членов неизбежно подорвут региональное сотрудничество по достижению ЦУР и нарушат деятельность ООН, направленную на поддержку стран, находящихся в особой ситуации, которые получают помощь от ЕЭК ООН. Последствия случившегося сегодня для ЕЭК ООН плачевны. Фактически, сделан шаг к подрыву и распаду этой общеевропейской платформы сотрудничества, образованной задолго до Евросоюза и неизменно служившей эффективным мостом и местом встречи всех заинтересованных стран региона в течение десятилетий в разных, и порой весьма непростых геополитических ситуациях. Вопиющее нарушение мандата и правил процедуры ЕЭК ООН – это произвол в угоду отдельным странам, для которых задачи развития сотрудничества в регионе интереса не представляют. Произвол весьма показательный: ради сиюминутных амбиций одной из стран и её заокеанских кураторов разрушается очередной и один из немаловажных инструментов панрегионального взаимодействия. Разве это нужно Европе? Нет, конечно, но европейские страны в исступлении бегут в сторону от своих интересов. Перед нами и типичный пример того самого пресловутого "порядка, основанного на правилах". Какие правила, дамы и господа? Ваши правила – это отмена правовых основ международного взаимодействия. Это происходит в отдельно взятой – и не самой крупной – организации системы ООН. Но речь идёт о гораздо большем – разрушении архитектуры международного взаимодействия. Никто не давал отдельным странам права устанавливать свои правила там, где они уже совместно выработаны всеми и на практике доказали свою эффективность. Продолжайте! Вы разоблачаете себя, и это видно миру. Реальному, а не той его части, которую вы привыкли самонадеянно именовать "международным сообществом". Мы отвергаем и не признаем принятые решения. Призываем Секретариат руководствоваться не ими, а практикой и процедурами взаимодействия, проверенными временем и основывающимися на мандате и принципах работы ЕЭК ООН как площадки

для технического, неполитизированного, прагматичного взаимодействия при учёте приоритетов и интересов всех стран и нацеленного на поиск ответов на вызовы стоящего перед паневропейским регионом и всеми странами мира. Я обращаюсь к сотрудникам Секретариата. ЕЭК перестает быть прежней. В этом нет нашей вины, мы ценили и ценим всех профессионалов, эффективно и с самоотдачей работающих в Комиссии. Жаль, если не только нашему взаимодействию, но и вашей работе в интересах развития региона будет нанесён ущерб. Российская Федерация оставляет за собой право на весь спектр мер, вызванных сложившейся в ЕЭК ситуации. Проведём тщательный анализ, дадим нелицеприятные оценки. Очевидно, что последствия для Организации ждать себя не заставят. Повторю, что уже говорил 3 марта.

ЕЭК - не карательная организация. Она объединяет. На основании общих решений, договоренностей, консенсуса. Иного смысла у неё нет. Если, коллеги, вы думаете, что размер вашей группы позволяет вам распоряжаться организацией - иллюзия.

Превращение ЕЭК ООН во вспомогательный орган Евросоюза полностью дискредитирует Комиссию и обесмыслит её дальнейшее функционирование. Комиссия, лишённая смысла существования, являющаяся придатком Брюсселя, санкционным хлыстом, очевидно, не будет нужна. Уверен, что это очень быстро поймут многие.

Во многополярном мире доминирование Запада все более становится иллюзией этого Запада, Вектор движения мира диаметрально противоположен. И если вы, коллеги, обрекаете ЕЭК ООН на управление группой развитых стран, вы обрекаете ЕЭК на маргинализацию. Мы готовы работать со всеми заинтересованными делегациями, чтобы этого не допустить.

Georgia

My Delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Let me add remarks in my national capacity.

We strongly condemn Russia's devastating full-scale military aggression against Ukraine leading to horrific human suffering, death, destruction and humanitarian disaster. Fundamental human rights of Ukrainians, first and foremost the right to life, are being massively violated.

Russia's indiscriminate military attacks against Ukraine, attacks on civilian infrastructure, including kindergartens, is an assault at the international human rights law and International Humanitarian Law. Russia's aggression violates key principles of the UN Charter.

We call on the Russian Federation to immediately, completely and without any preconditions cease its military activities and withdraw all its forces and armaments from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;

In conclusion, let me reiterate our unwavering support to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas, and Ukraine's navigational rights in its territorial waters.

Thank you.