

**Statement by the representative of the Russian Federation during the 62nd
session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review of the UNECE
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
Agenda item 1 Approval of the agenda
27 May 2024, Geneva**

Thank you, Chair,

We are contemplated to take the floor in order to exercise the right of reply. Regretfully the delegation of Ukraine is again trying to politicize the work of the session. We strongly deny the false accusations against our country.

We urge the Parties to refrain from biased assessments of the situation. The conflict in Ukraine started not in 2022 but ten years ago and it was not Russia that started it.

The reasons for the special military operation in Ukraine are well known. They are a barbaric civil war unleashed by Kiev against its own population, the economic and environmental blockade of the southeast of the country and the sabotage by Ukraine of the UN Security Council approved Minsk agreements. We once again note that it is unacceptable to talk about “aggression” in this context.

We would like to remind the participants of the current meeting that the special military operation of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine is carried out in accordance with the UN Charter and the norms of the international law including humanitarian law.

The actions of the Armed Forces of Russia are not directed against civilian population. Strikes of high-precision weapons are applied to disable infrastructure facilities, which are used for the purpose of military supply of Ukrainian forces.

According to the official reports of the United Nations Environment Programme¹ and the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes² already in 2016, the Donbass was in a state of environmental catastrophe

1 <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ukraines-donbas-bears-brunt-toxic-armed-conflict>

2 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2017/03/chemical-disaster-fear-eastern-ukraine-prompts-un-expert-raise-alarm>

caused by deliberate destruction of industrial facilities, flooding of mines and economic and ecological blockade deployed by Kiev against own population.

We urge the participants not to escalate the already extremely tense geopolitical situation and to return to substantive discussions within the framework of the mandate of our meeting.

Thank you.