CONCEPT NOTE

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING
ON THE SITUATION WITH NATIONAL MINORITIES AND GLORIFICATION OF NAZISM IN BALTIC AND BLACK SEA REGIONS

Date: December 22, 2021
Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm
Venue: VTC via Zoom (Meeting ID: 837 3186 4599; Passcode: 187610)
Participation: The meeting is open for all New-York based representatives of the UN member states at the level of permanent representative/deputy/expert.

Objective and Background:

The meeting seeks to update the Security Council and other interested UN members on situation with respect to national minorities and glorification of Nazism in Baltic and Black Sea region. Such a first-hand information from experts on the ground is indispensable for better understanding the ways to address and prevent further aggravation of the existing challenges that poison and complicate good neighborly relations between peoples, incite inter-communal intolerance and thus undermine regional stability.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the 75th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Tribunal verdicts. This historic event symbolized the end of the deadliest World War and contributed in a decisive way to the identity of the United Nations and its Security Council, which since then carries the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Nevertheless, after seven and a half decades glorification of Nazi criminals and collaborators is unfortunately not uncommon which risks to undermine the cornerstones of the UN. A number of experts in this field will help Participants to get an objective picture on what’s happening.
Program:

Welcoming remarks:
- Mr. Vassily Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations;

Briefing:
- Dr. Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on Minorities Issues;

Panel presentations:
- Mr. Alexey and Ms. Larisa Semyonov, Human Rights Information Center (Estonia);
- Mr. Victor Gushchin, Baltic Center for Historic and Socio-Political Studies (Latvia);
- Mr. Valery Engel, European Center for Democracy (Latvia);
- Mr. Denis Tolstun, CSO “Peace Initiatives. Development” (Ukraine);
- Ms. Natalia Elkina, Latvian Committee for Human Rights (Latvia);
- Mr. Alexander Gaponenko, Civil activist (Latvia);
- Mr. Ryshardas Burda, Lawyer (Lithuania);
- Ms. Alice Blintsova, Estonian Russian School (Estonia);
- Ms. Elena Berezhnaya, Ukrainian Anti-Fascist League (Ukraine);

Discussion:
- Statements by UN Security Council members, UN Member States, Q&A session. Interventions are suggested to be limited to 5 minutes for delegations, to 10 minutes for the briefer, and to 5 minutes for the panelists.

Closing remarks:
- Mr. Vassily Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

The meeting will be Webcast on UN Web-TV, recorded and available to the media.