

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 7 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I would like to draw your attention to the emergency statement of the Joint Coordination Headquarters for Humanitarian Response in Ukraine (see annex), in which the Russian side proposes to open humanitarian corridors on 8 March 2022. The statement was issued by the Defence Ministry of the Russian Federation on 7 March 2022.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**



**Annex to the letter dated 7 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Russian]

**Emergency statement of the Joint Coordination Headquarters of the Russian Federation for Humanitarian Response in Ukraine**

“Owing to the failure and inability of the Ukrainian side to ensure the functioning of humanitarian corridors, the situation in a large number of populated areas across almost all of Ukraine, especially in large cities such as Kiev, Chernigov, Sumy, Kharkov and Mariupol, is rapidly deteriorating and has become a humanitarian crisis.

The Russian Federation had done its part to fully prepare and secure the planned routes during the previously announced humanitarian operations to evacuate civilians and foreign nationals.

Without the involvement of Ukraine, the Russian side has thus far managed to evacuate 173,773 people, including 44,187 children, and 19,969 personal vehicles from the zones of the special military operation, from the Lugansk and Donetsk People’s Republics and Ukraine, to the Russian Federation.

These citizens of Ukraine are currently staying in temporary accommodation, hotels, health resorts and boarding houses; they are given hot meals; the children have gone to schools and kindergartens; and issues regarding temporary employment are being promptly resolved.

Despite the irresponsible attitude of the Ukrainian side to the lives and health of ordinary civilians, including foreign nationals, the Russian Federation is prepared to take further humanitarian steps to evacuate civilians from all populated areas caught up in the humanitarian crisis and to establish decent living conditions for all refugees in Russia.

Given the urgent and persistent appeals of foreign embassies and the numerous direct requests of Ukrainian citizens for the evacuation of almost all populated areas (more than 2 million (2,000,417) such appeals were documented from 5 to 7 March 2022 alone by official bodies of the Russian Federation and the Joint Coordination Headquarters of the Russian Federation for Humanitarian Response in Ukraine), the Russian Federation is ready to prepare and carry out a humanitarian operation.

Its effectiveness, however, depends solely on the Ukrainian side. The Kiev authorities are entirely responsible for the key aspects of preparing the humanitarian operation and for ensuring the security of civilians and foreign nationals during their evacuation from populated areas, where nationalists under Kiev’s control are doing everything possible to prevent people from leaving.

To effectively carry out the humanitarian operation:

1. From 1000 hours (Moscow time) on 8 March 2022, the Russian Federation shall declare a ceasefire and be ready to open the following humanitarian corridors:

From Kiev and its surrounding areas to the Russian Federation, through the Republic of Belarus to Gomel, then by air to the Russian Federation, and southward, subject to agreement with the Ukrainian side;

From Chernigov through the Republic of Belarus to Gomel, then by air to the Russian Federation, and southward, subject to agreement with the Ukrainian side;

From Sumy along two routes, to Poltava and to Belgorod in the Russian Federation, then by air, rail and road to designated destinations or temporary accommodation, and southward, subject to agreement with the Ukrainian side;

From Kharkov to Belgorod in the Russian Federation, then by air, rail and road to designated destinations or temporary accommodation, and to Lvov, Uzhgorod and Ivano-Frankovsk, subject to agreement with the Ukrainian side;

From Mariupol along two routes, to Rostov-on-Don in the Russian Federation via Novoazovsk and Taganrog, and to Zaporozhe, subject to agreement with the Ukrainian side.

2. This statement shall be immediately transmitted to the Ukrainian side (to the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine, Irina Andreevna Vereshchuk), and the specified routes and the time at which the humanitarian corridors will be opened should be agreed by 0300 hours (Moscow time) on 8 March 2022. Also by that time, written approval of these procedures, including security guarantees from the Ukrainian authorities for the specified routes of the humanitarian operation, should be submitted to the Joint Coordination Headquarters of the Russian Federation for Humanitarian Response in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian side should publish this emergency statement in the Ukrainian and Russian languages in the media of Ukraine by 0300 hours (Moscow time) on 8 March 2022.

3. This statement shall be immediately transmitted in the Russian and English languages to foreign embassies and relevant bodies of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international organizations through all available means of communication, including the media.

4. The Ukrainian side should also duly inform, by 0300 hours (Moscow time) on 8 March 2022, representatives of foreign embassies and relevant bodies of the United Nations, OSCE, ICRC and other international organizations located in Ukraine about the planned humanitarian operation through all available means of communication, including the media of Ukraine.

5. As part of the practical measures to evacuate civilians and foreign nationals along the agreed routes during the humanitarian operation, continuous communication between the Russian and Ukrainian sides should be established from 0930 hours (Moscow time) on 8 March 2022 to enable the mutual exchange of information about the preparations for and progress in the evacuation of civilians and foreign nationals.

6. This emergency statement shall be published immediately and transmitted to all interested parties through all available means of communication, including the media.”