

# ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE US AND UKRAINE

BRIEF 2 OF 6 | SEPTEMBER 2022

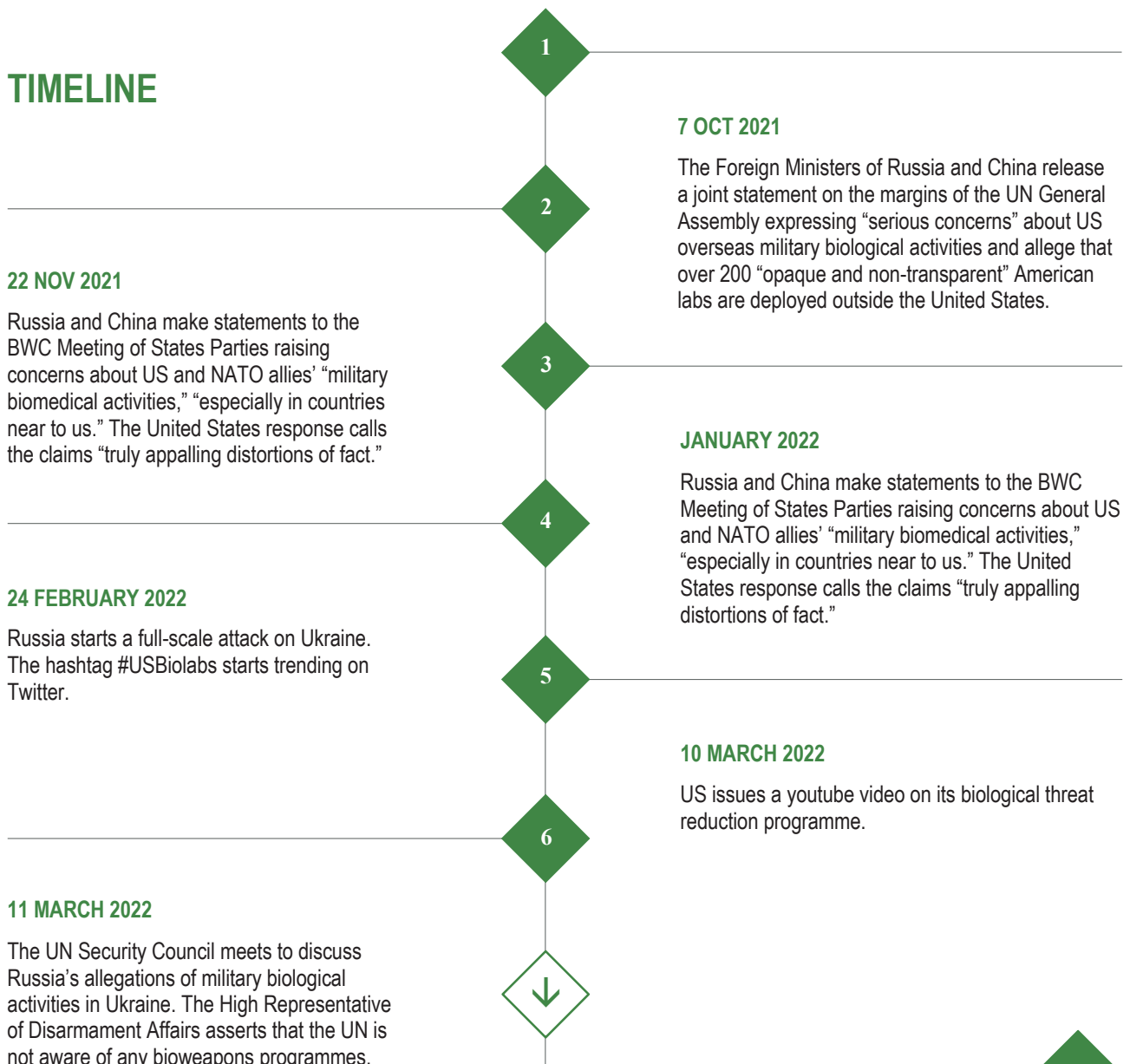


## MISSING EVIDENCE AND A REVERSED LOGIC

Russia requested a formal consultative meeting under BWC Article V on 29 June 2022 to present its case that the United States and Ukraine are in breach of the convention. On the basis of Russian evidence presented so far, neither the United Nations, independent media nor independent experts have concluded that there is any indication that Ukraine's biological activities and its public health labs support anything other than peaceful purposes. Ukraine, unlike Russia, makes its annual Confidence Building Measure submissions to the BWC publicly available.

Consultation procedures under Article V are generally viewed as a way to discuss issues at a lower level before escalating to the UN Security Council. Russia has reversed this logic and, having failed to gain any substantive support in the UN Security Council or the UN General Assembly for its allegations, appears intent on airing its allegations formally within the BWC.

## TIMELINE





**4 APRIL 2022**

Russia, China, the United States and other states parties make statements to the BWC Preparatory Committee on Russia's allegations.



**13 MAY 2022**

Russia circulates a note verbale to the UN Secretary-General and Security Council members with additional material claimed to relate to military biological programmes in Ukraine.



**18 MAY 2022**

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs tweets that Russia is "getting ready to activate the #BTWC mechanisms, according to which the States Parties are to co-operate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective of the Convention & co-operate in carrying out investigations of possible violations."



**9 JUNE 2022**

The United States issues a factsheet on WMD threat reduction efforts with Ukraine, Russia and other Former Soviet Union countries

## KEY MESSAGES

- ◆ Triggering Article V is an attempt by the Kremlin to distract attention away from Russia's unprovoked military invasion and its continuing war against Ukraine.
- ◆ If Russia is effective at framing US development assistance as a form of non-compliance with the BWC, the Article V process could seriously undermine development aid and cooperation efforts on peaceful biological research under BWC Article X.
- ◆ The potential consequences of Russia's allegations are significant. They may erode confidence in essential public and animal health infrastructure, and significantly undermine global biosafety and biosecurity efforts.



## READ MORE

Lentzos, F & Littlewood, J, 'Russia finds another stage for the Ukraine biolabs disinformation show,' The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, 8 July 2022.

Jakob, U et al, 'Russian allegations of biological weapons activities in Ukraine,' Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) Blog, 22 March 2022

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