



April 15, 2022

Press Release

As part of the Russian Federation's ongoing disinformation campaign surrounding its unprecedented and unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine, the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation stated in a press conference on April 14, 2022, that the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) is facilitating illegal biological weapons activities in Ukraine. This is not the first time Russia has invented such false claims against the STCU or states that are party to the organization. These claims have been countered and discredited conclusively and repeatedly over many years. The STCU's fact sheet and a few illustrative examples from STCU partners are linked below:

http://www.stcu.int/documents/stcu_inf/STCU_Russian_Disinformation_Fact_Sheet.pdf

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2519872>

<https://www.dtra.mil/News-and-Media/Countering-Disinformation/>

The STCU was established in 1993 to support peaceful scientific research; it does not facilitate any illegal biological laboratories in Ukraine. Furthermore, Ukraine itself is in full compliance with its obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention.

From 1995-2015, the Russian Federation itself hosted the STCU's sister center in Moscow, the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) and benefitted from approximately \$1.5 Billion of funding from states parties to the ISTC, including the United States and the European Union, to support Russian scientists (including those who worked in Russian bio laboratories such as the Vector Institute) in their transition to peaceful research and demonstrated the Russian Federation's commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The two science centers have played a vital role in supporting the redirection of scientists formerly involved in weapons programs in most of the Former Soviet Union. To this day, they maintain good relationships with those governments and research organizations in those states.

The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation is aware of these facts but chose to omit these 'inconvenient truths' from its press conference on April 14, 2022, and subsequent disinformation activities concerning both science centers.



STCU operates in full transparency. Information about past and ongoing activities of the STCU are publicly available on our website: <http://www.stcu.int>