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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1050th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

21 June 2023

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

On 17 June, during a meeting with African leaders in St. Petersburg, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, presented the draft Treaty on Permanent Neutrality and Security Guarantees for Ukraine, which Russia and Ukraine had initialled in March 2022 at the Istanbul talks. However, after the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Kyiv and Chernihiv regions, under pressure from its Anglo-Saxon handlers Ukraine consigned the draft treaty to the dustbin of history without any explanation. On 30 September 2022, by enacting into law the refusal to negotiate with Russia, the Ukrainian authorities in effect gave the green light to the European Union-NATO conglomerate to make colossal profits with the blood of another nation.

Today, the United States of America, NATO and the European Union openly state their opposition to freezing the conflict in Ukraine. That means they want to fight. Russia is ready to do so.

The so-called “counteroffensive” being carried out by the Ukrainian armed forces merely confirms that the criminal regime in Kyiv has no regard for human casualties as long as it can justify to its Western sponsors their expenditure on military support for the country in its current fascist and hate-filled form. Thus, the French publication *Le Monde* confirmed that 40 per cent of the Ukrainian armed forces troops trained “in a Baltic country” had been killed. Over the past week alone, Ukraine suffered the loss of some 4,500 military personnel, most of whom had been forcibly conscripted. In total, according to various estimates, at least 34,000 soldiers have died on the opposing side since 4 June.

The Ukrainian army’s unsuccessful attacks in the direction of Zaporozhye, Donetsk and South Donetsk – and there have been more than 260 of them since the beginning of the declared “counteroffensive” – are having a negative impact on the morale and psychological state of the Ukrainian troops. According to the Canadian newspaper *Toronto Star*, despondency prevails in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces and even the seriously wounded are forced to fight. Not surprisingly, as a result of failures on the battlefield, enemy soldiers have been surrendering en masse. For the Anglo-Saxon originators

of the announced Ukrainian “counteroffensive” this is a very disturbing trend. But even for this case they have a cynical scenario in store: the authorities in Washington, D.C., and London expect that in the long run the Poles, and then, perhaps, the Germans, will be able to take the place of Ukrainians in the battles. Russia is also prepared for such an eventuality, all the more so as we have historical combat experience.

Artillery and aircraft from the armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to hit important logistic support objects of the Ukrainian armed forces in the Zaporozhye front line area and successfully repulse attacks by mechanized units in the South Donetsk area and near the city of Artemovsk. Over the past week, the Ukrainian armed forces have lost more than 200 tanks and armoured combat vehicles, including the much-lauded German Leopard tanks and the US-made Bradley, Stryker and MRAP MaxxPro. In addition, Ukrainian troops have lost more than 50 mortars and artillery systems, including the Polish Krab, the French Caesar, the US-made M109 Paladin and the no longer so impressive M777 howitzers. Incidentally, in the course of the special military operation, the Russian army has already destroyed more than 10,000 tanks. It is revealing that the Pentagon is in no hurry to share its Abrams tanks with the Ukrainian armed forces, no doubt anticipating a continuation of the total “tank pogrom” of military equipment provided by the Europeans. The much-hyped British Challenger tanks are not to be seen in the field either. As for the United States, its plan is clear – when the NATO allies’ arms depots are completely depleted, they will queue up for the Abrams, replenishing the US Government’s coffers.

Attempts to shift the responsibility for the European security crisis on to Russia will not change the real state of affairs: Western countries are responsible for the escalation of the armed confrontation and its potential expansion. According to reports, the Ukrainian armed forces command plans to carry out strikes on the territory of the Russian Federation, including Crimea, with US-made HIMARS and Anglo-French Storm Shadow missiles. There should be no doubt that their use outside the special operation zone will result in immediate strikes against the decision-making centres on Ukrainian territory. As we know, some Ukrainian generals who were calling for the killing of all Russians have now been suspended indefinitely without any explanation following such strikes.

The same applies to the long-range ATACMS missiles that appeared in the draft US defence budget for 2024 and to the deliveries to Ukraine of F-16 fighter jets – potential nuclear weapons carriers – that are being carefully discussed in the corridors of NATO. So far, the only possible option for their use by the Ukrainian armed forces is working from airfields in Poland and Romania, what is more with the involvement of NATO pilots. As a member of the nuclear quintet, we have already warned our colleagues on the other side of the ocean about the consequences of this.

We are also keeping a close eye on the situation in Transdnistria. Given the reckless policy of the Ukrainian authorities of escalating the conflict to serve the destructive plans of their Western masters, we cannot rule out any scenario. In order to forestall such developments, a Russian peacekeeping contingent is there as part of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces. At the same time, there should be no doubt in anyone’s mind that the armed forces of the Russian Federation will respond accordingly to provocation by the Kyiv regime, should it occur, and will ensure the protection of our compatriots, the Russian peacekeeping contingent, the military personnel from the Operative Group of Russian Forces and the military depots in the village of Cobasna in Transdnistria. Any action that threatens their security will be regarded under international law as an attack on our country.

Madam Chairperson,

In the context of the growing militaristic ambitions of the collective West, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, has outlined a clear task for the future, namely forming a “sanitary zone” [a buffer or demilitarized zone] in Ukraine, depending on the range of the weapons transferred to the

country, in order to protect the citizens of our country from shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces. For the past ten years, Ukraine has not been sparing anyone, but we do not intend to tolerate this.

At the moment, Russia is focused on eliminating the far-reaching consequences of yet another terrorist action by the Ukrainian armed forces, carefully prepared and tested in advance with the use of US precision weapons. We are talking about the blowing up of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant. As a result of its destruction, 36 settlements in the Kherson region have been flooded. The Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations, with the assistance of the armed forces, volunteers from the All-Russian Student Rescue Corps and the People's Front national popular movement, has conducted a full-scale evacuation of residents of flooded areas. Over 7,000 people have been moved out of the disaster zone. Rescuers in boats have visited literally every house to make sure all residents have been evacuated. More than 1,100 people and 320 pieces of equipment have been involved in dealing with the aftermath of the flooding. Without exaggeration, the whole of Russia has mobilized to save the people who are in distress as a result of yet another war crime by the Kyiv regime.

Water pumping and disinfection of the affected premises is currently under way. Radiation, chemical and biological defence troops are cleaning up the left bank of the Dnieper. Humanitarian aid, including around 150 tonnes of food and 240 tonnes of bottled water, is being delivered to the flooded area. The administration of the Kherson region has started the process of making cash payments to all the victims.

While the Russian Federation is making every effort to rescue residents of the affected areas and provide them with everything they need, the Kyiv authorities continue to shell the civilian population in the Kherson region. Having failed to show their prowess on the battlefield, the Ukrainian armed forces have decided to take their frustrations out on volunteers, rescuers, children and the elderly.

On 16 June, three Ukrainian kamikaze drones attacked a hospital in Novaya Kakhovka, where patients affected by the flood were being treated. One person sustained a concussion and three were injured. Seventy per cent of the windows in the hospital were shattered. On the same day, a three-year-old child playing in a courtyard died as a result of the shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces of the village of Dnyepryany. Will the principal "champions" of international humanitarian law in this room – the United States, Canada, the European Union and the United Kingdom – condemn the Ukrainian child killers today?

This is neither an accident nor an unfortunate incident, but the deliberate extermination of people, which is taking place against the backdrop of the Kyiv regime's thuggish and self-revelatory rejection of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's initiative to set up an international commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the explosion at the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant.

This is not the first time Ukrainian neo-Nazis have blown up dams. At the very beginning of the special military operation, Ukrainian armed forces colonel general Oleksandr Syrskyi gave the order for explosives to be planted on a dam on the Irpin River near Kyiv and detonated to achieve operational advantages. This is also the case with the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant – owing to the erosion of the Dnieper riverbed and the subsequent disappearance of the "grey zone", there are ever more attempts to get sabotage and reconnaissance groups into Russian territory. Over the past few days, three boats were destroyed near Golaya Pristan, and five boats were destroyed near Aleshki.

We should also stress that the flooding of the territories of the Kherson region planned by the Kyiv regime could complicate the epidemiological situation in the region, and this could be used by the Ukrainian armed forces and their handlers for military purposes. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, after the water level drops, outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases, particularly West Nile fever, could occur. The sophistication of US technology to use infected vectors is evidenced by a patent taken out for an unmanned

aerial vehicle designed to spread infected mosquitoes in the atmosphere, which could infect military personnel in order to achieve a “tangible military effect”. By the way, US biologists received official permission to release genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild back in 2020. This is yet another argument in favour of an international investigation into military biological activities by the United States outside its national territory, including in Ukraine.

Returning to the consequences of the shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces of the civilian population of the Kherson region, we should like to draw attention to the revealing reaction of the European Union to these crimes by Ukronazis. Or rather, the lack thereof. For instance, the head of European diplomacy, Josep Borrell, called upon Russia to stop its shelling while people were being evacuated. We must clearly recognize that EU statements are as much an element of hybrid warfare as all other actions undertaken by the enemy on the information front: fake news, falsification of facts, provocations and other propaganda techniques directed against our country. All statements by the West should be perceived in much the same way that statements by the Nazi Joseph Goebbels were perceived during the Great Patriotic War, namely as elements of warfare.

We interpret the silence of the Europeans regarding the ongoing war crimes of the Ukrainian armed forces in the same way. Last week, densely populated areas of Donbas in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) were shelled over 200 times using multiple-launch rocket systems and 155, 152 and 122 mm calibre artillery. Forty-seven people were injured and three, including a child, were killed. More than 40 civilian houses and 11 civilian infrastructure facilities were damaged or destroyed. Let me give a few examples for the self-proclaimed champions of respect for the principles of international humanitarian law. On 19 June, Ukrainian militants struck a humanitarian aid distribution point in the city of Volnovakha in the DPR using a US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system, injuring 20 civilians. In the same place, a six-year-old girl was killed by a Ukrainian armed forces mine. What is more, the description of the explosive device fits the characteristics of a German AT-2 anti-tank mine. Are we to understand that the silence of the delegations of the United States, Canada, the European Union and the United Kingdom indicates that they approve of such criminal antics by their Ukrainian puppets?

Despite the civilian casualties, Western countries continue to pump Ukraine with weapons that are being used against Russian territory by Ukrainian sabotage groups and pro-Ukrainian saboteurs.

We are still awaiting signals from the authorities in Brussels that a fair investigation has been launched into the circumstances surrounding the use of Belgian-made assault rifles in the attack on Russian territory that killed one person and injured eight others in the Belgorod region. The expression of “ostentatious concern” and the statement that it was a “minor episode” are not enough here. If the task of the Brussels bloc is to “kill as many Russians as possible”, as stated by Ukrainian Presidential Office representative Mykhailo Podolyak, then, of course, these losses will seem insignificant to them. This is probably why the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium has announced that it has provided another package of military aid to the Kyiv regime amounting to 46 million euros.

Madam Chairperson,

There remains acute concern about the massive deliveries of Soviet and Russian models of weapons, military equipment and ammunition to the Kyiv regime. Member States of the former Warsaw Treaty Organization alone have transferred to Kyiv some 410 tanks and 250 armoured infantry fighting vehicles, not to mention a variety of aircraft and huge amounts of ammunition for artillery and small arms and light weapons (SALW).

In accordance with long-standing international practice, deliveries of most types of weapons always involve the submission of an appropriate end-user certificate by the country receiving the weapons. One of the key criteria for the issuance of such a certificate is that the weapons received may not be re-exported without the exporting country's written consent.

It is this provision that is now being violated by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and other NATO countries, led by the United States, which are trying to buy up Soviet and Russian arms all over the world. Among numerous examples are Slovakia's supply of Soviet S-300 PMU-1 surface-to-air missiles to Ukraine, the US shipment of 20 Mi-17 helicopters purchased in Russia for the needs of the Afghan Government, Portugal's attempts to "palm off" six KA-32A11 helicopters on the Kyiv regime, and the Czech Republic's expropriation in effect for Ukraine of 74 Moroccan T-72B tanks, which were being upgraded in the Czech Republic.

Despite being parties to international agreements on meticulous export controls, Western States continue to exacerbate the armed conflict in Ukraine and create risks of uncontrolled proliferation and of weapons falling into the hands of subversive and criminal groups. The transfer of Belgian SALW to Ukrainian terrorists and saboteurs is by no means the first such case, which clearly undermines the entire set of OSCE politico-military commitments to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition.

Madam Chairperson,

We call upon the United States and its satellites in the West to withdraw the Western mercenaries and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine and to persuade their protégés in Kyiv to embark on peace negotiations before it is too late. Ukraine should return to compliance with the neutral non-aligned status enshrined in the 1990 Declaration of State Sovereignty and abandon its plans to join NATO and the European Union. The new territorial realities resulting from the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination should be recognized. As for the objectives of the special military operation, they are well known and remain unchanged. There can be no doubt: threats to the national security of the Russian Federation and its citizens will be curbed without fail, no matter how long it takes.

Thank you for your attention.