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**STATEMENT BY  
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AT THE OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

29 June 2022

**Closing session**

Mr. Chairperson,

I will exercise my right of reply and also make some comments of principle in relation to the discussions that have taken place. Given that this is an “incomplete” Security Review Conference that would have been held in full compliance with the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council decision, I should like in this case to highlight the following aspects at the closing session of today’s event.

The first thing to do is to debunk the fake stories that many in this room have been circulating with regard to what actually happened in Kremenchuk. The real facts are that there was no shelling of the shopping and entertainment complex in Kremenchuk. It has not been used as a commercial enterprise for a long time. The complex was not hit by the Russian military.

On 27 June, the Russian aerospace forces carried out a precision strike against hangars containing weapons and ammunition from the United States of America and some European countries. The hangars were located approximately 250 metres from the aforementioned complex, near the Kremenchuk road machinery plant. The weapons and ammunition stockpiled there for shipment to the Ukrainian forces in Donbas were hit as a result. However, the detonation of the stored ammunition caused a fire in a nearby and, I emphasize again, non-functioning shopping centre. Once again: the building was damaged by NATO shells, not by a Russian precision strike. The locations where the Ukrainian forces set up storage sites for this ammunition is a separate issue. One way or another, Western weapons will still be tracked and destroyed.

And there is one more interesting point: the building that was allegedly destroyed by a “Russian missile strike” was visited by Anton Herashchenko, an adviser to the Minister of Internal Affairs, who immediately posted a video from there: all the goods in glass containers were on the shelves and intact. You can watch the video yourselves. Could it all have survived the missile impact? There is no crater, the car park in front of the building is empty, and the cars that are parked are intact. Draw your own conclusions.

There is thus no need to spread misinformation about a targeted strike on a shopping centre. As for the casualty figures announced by the Kyiv regime, they simply cannot be trusted: for example, the names of

the victims in Bucha, their place of residence and the nature of their injuries remain unknown – none of this has been made public. They staged a provocation, got the emotional and political impact they needed and then left. Most interestingly, the participants in this provocation are now demanding additional compensation from the court in Kyiv – the 50 dollars for their involvement in the production was not enough.

Now I should like to talk specifically about who was actually preparing Ukraine for war against Russia. Not so long ago, confirmation emerged from Pentagon officials – for example, Lieutenant Colonel Todd Hopkins, former head of the US Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine, and White House spokesperson and former Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby, who openly talked about the efforts of the United States and its allies to train the Ukrainians for war over the past eight years. Russia's banking on the facilitation of a diplomatic solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine on the basis of the Minsk agreements was, for example, described by Mr. Hopkins as a "mistake that the Russians made" in "giving us eight years to prepare for this". Former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who signed a declaration in support of the Minsk agreements, was also outspoken in a recent interview. He stated explicitly that the Kyiv regime needed these agreements only to buy time and build up its military capabilities.

The Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), which has been planned and held all these years, still maintained the spirit of the Porto Ministerial Council decision. This year, the situation changed dramatically – by decision of the Chairmanship, everything was reduced to the Ukrainian issue alone. An inherently flawed logic that underpinned past discussions while ignoring other topics.

Subordinating destructive tendencies in the OSCE's area of responsibility to the crisis in Ukraine is amateurish and reductive. Disagreement among participating States over the parameters for the development of the European security architecture, enshrined in the 1999 Charter for European Security and endorsed in the declaration by the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States at the Astana Summit in 2010, has been brewing for a long time. In 2022, it boiled over.

The situation in Ukraine is a direct consequence of the policies of Western elites, who have made an axiom of their own exceptionalism and the prioritization of their interests and considerations of political expediency over the primacy of international law. The prologue to the latest acute crisis in the Euro-Atlantic area has been the refusal to establish a dialogue on the principles of equal and indivisible security and reciprocal consideration of each other's interests and concerns in ensuring one's own security.

Confrontation is not something we chose. Russia traditionally prefers to resolve issues at the negotiating table. But we are not being heard, our concerns are being ignored. This is not how it works. If diplomacy fails, we will use other mechanisms to secure our fundamental interests.

Russia no longer believes in the chimeras of building a "common European home". Over the past decades, we have been able to see for ourselves what lies beneath their outward appearance. We also know the price of the principles formulated by the "collective West", which are used to "civilize" what some consider to be the "second-rate" countries "east of Vienna".

As some participants pointed out, the ASRC was devised for a broad exchange of views on and search for agreed approaches to pressing security issues in the OSCE area, building on the objectives laid down in the 2002 Ministerial Council decision. It is sad to say that this conference has categorically failed to accomplish this task. The participating States failed to rise above their emotions, to abandon demagoguery, confrontational language and rudeness, to break free from narrow interpretations of certain events, to look beyond the horizon and to try to tentatively visualize how we should all live in the years to come.

Some countries, like it or not, will remain our neighbours. Russia expects this to be an environment, if not of good-neighbourliness, then at least of predictability and sustainable development. In turn, this dictates the need to work out common rules for conflict-free coexistence in the interests of maintaining regional and global stability. We believe that the OSCE has the potential to launch such a thought process, on which the fate of our Organization will largely depend. We are open to a dialogue as equals – I stress – a dialogue on the basis of equality and aimed at achieving practical results, not some ersatz imitating a negotiation. Are you ready for that, ladies and gentlemen?

One final point. I should like to caution the Permanent Representative of North Macedonia, who is present in this room. Next year, during your country's OSCE Chairmanship, if it comes to holding the ASRC, we will no longer consent to palliative organizational modalities for this most important event. Everything must be in strict compliance with the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council decision and nothing else.

Thank you for your attention.