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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1055th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

20 September 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

Today, the Russian Federation is virtually alone in confronting the NATO-Ukrainian military-industrial conglomerate, in which Ukraine is the battlefield and an instrument of armed struggle against Russia, while Western countries provide the command staff, logistics, arms supplies, intelligence and targeting instructions. We regard the attempt to have our country “broken” by the hands of Ukrainian neo-Nazis as an element of the strategic course of the United States of America and its satellites aimed at reviving a unipolar world order. We are talking about an absolutely ideologized group of countries, which, as President Putin put it, “imagine themselves as celestial beings and are trying to take the place of God”. In the pan-European dimension of security, in particular, this is reflected in the fact that the European Union’s leadership, guided from across the ocean, is trying to erect a new Iron Curtain by limiting the possibilities for people-to-people contacts. But it will not be possible to hide behind the authorities in Washington, D.C., and Brussels. Each State will have to answer for the deliberate infringement of both the rights of Russians and the security of our country as a whole.

We know for a fact that no one in NATO has any doubts that the aims set by the Russian leadership for the special military operation will be achieved and that the plans to weaken Russia strategically and economically will fail. According to the World Bank, by the end of 2022, Russia had become one of the five largest economies in the world, surpassing Germany in purchasing power parity. Moreover, the gross domestic product is projected to grow by between 2.5 and 2.8 per cent by the end of this year. The current economic situation may be characterized as stable. We have withstood the onslaught of the ruling elites of unfriendly – one could even say hostile – countries. Instead of a sanctions blitzkrieg, they have ended up with the growing erosion of Western economic domination.

In the course of the special military operation, the Russian Federation has debunked many myths about the superiority of Western military standards. It has become obvious to the whole world that the Ukrainian armed forces’ use of Western weaponry and supposedly advanced NATO methods of planning operations has not enabled them to secure supremacy on the battlefield. The interim results of the widely

publicized strategic counteroffensive by the Ukrainian armed forces with the support of the collective West are lamentable and clearly show that Ukraine's military resources are as good as exhausted. The current state of affairs was succinctly characterized the other day by US entrepreneur Elon Musk: "So much death for so little."

Here in Vienna, we often hear Western delegations' reports about a kind of "triumphal procession" by their Ukrainian protégés. But let us face facts. In three months, the Ukrainian armed forces, at the cost of the lives of 71,500 – maybe more – of their soldiers, have made headway in only a few sections of the front, without reaching the main entrenchments of the Russian army. According to John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the US National Security Council, the counteroffensive is "not going as fast" as desired and will become even "harder" to continue in the autumn. Mark Milley, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that Ukraine's counteroffensive would not enable the full return of the lost territories. Finally, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh has made it clear that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken knew from the CIA that the Ukrainian counteroffensive "was not going to work. It was a show by Zelenskyy and there were some in the administration who believed [it]."

Despite the colossal losses in manpower, the Kyiv junta is determined to continue the bloody Ukrainian-NATO spectacle, carrying out forced mobilization, which people are already calling "mogilization" ["grave-ization"]. The other day, the US media published information quoting Ukrainian sources that about 500,000 Ukrainian soldiers are currently believed to have been killed. This data was indirectly confirmed by Lieutenant Colonel Vitalii Berezhnyi, acting head of the Poltava regional military recruitment office, who estimated that the Poltava unit alone had lost up to 90 per cent of its strength during the past year. Literally everyone is being pushed to the front, regardless of medical restrictions and under threat of criminal prosecution. The attitude of the Western handlers of the "post-Maidan project" was eloquently described by Polish President Andrzej Duda, who told a *Washington Post* journalist that "right now, Russian imperialism can be stopped cheaply, because American soldiers are not dying". Translated from Polish, this means that the life of a Ukrainian is worth nothing to the West. We hope that such revelations will help the people of Ukraine to finally realize that they are being shamelessly used as a "cheap" tool for the implementation of the West's globalist plans.

As for the Western-made armaments supplied to Ukraine, we should like to emphasize once again that they feature nothing that is special or invulnerable to Russian weapons on the battlefield today. In many cases, even Soviet-made equipment surpasses the battle capabilities of Western models. The Russian military-industrial complex has not only adapted to work under severe pressure from sanctions, but has also significantly increased its capacity in certain areas.

Since the beginning of the counteroffensive by the Ukrainian armed forces, the Russian army has destroyed at least 543 tanks and almost 18,000 enemy armoured vehicles, including the "indestructible" British Challenger tanks, the lauded US Bradley armoured personnel carriers, the "world's best" Swedish CV90 armoured infantry fighting vehicles, the Turkish T-122 Sakarya multiple-launch rocket systems and many other systems that have burned and continue to burn on the battlefields like candles – along with Western taxpayers' money. By the way, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy, has already raised questions about where the US money spent in Ukraine is actually going.

At the moment, the Russian armed forces in the zone of the special operation are carrying out active defence, grinding down the enemy's military potential by means of group strikes with long-range precision weapons and also with unmanned combat aerial vehicles against places where the Kyiv regime stores Storm Shadow cruise missiles and depleted uranium ammunition, and against centres for electronic intelligence operations and the training of Ukrainian armed forces sabotage groups. Many Western weapons systems shipped to Ukraine to kill Russians have subsequently become museum pieces. In August, as part of the

Army 2023 International Military-Technical Forum in the Moscow region, there was a successful exhibition of trophy armaments at which a US-made M-113 armoured personnel carrier, a French AMX-10RCR wheeled tank, and British Husky and Mastiff armoured vehicles were presented. After a thorough study of these models, we have been sharing our knowledge of their limitations with all interested like-minded States.

In the light of the obvious setbacks on the front, which can no longer be concealed, the Kyiv regime is blaming its Western handlers for the weakening of the counteroffensive. Thus, the Ukrainian media outlet UNIAN claims that military instructors from NATO countries are responsible for the failure of the Ukrainian armed forces' summer campaign: "Our staffs began to act in their own way, ignoring Western theoretically minded advisers who have little understanding of what is going on here." The inadequacy of NATO-EU military training has been confirmed by the *Financial Times* in an interview with the commander of a special forces unit from the 78th Regiment of the Ukrainian Armed Forces going by the name of Suleman, who said: "If I only did what [western militaries] taught me, I'd be dead." In total, more than 75,000 Ukrainian military personnel have been trained to Western standards to date. Many of them have been taken prisoner, and afterwards they have spoken in vivid detail about NATO training methods, chaos, drug addiction and deteriorating morale in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces. We will share video evidence after the meeting.

In the face of military failures, the Kyiv regime is clamouring with redoubled vigour for new weapons, using a wide range of methods and tricks. In particular, it does not shy away from rude political behaviour towards its Western "benefactors" and the entire international community. It already seems to be becoming the "new normal" for Germany – once the intellectual leader in the field of European security – to be simply disparaged by Ukrainians, as in the case of the brazen demands for Taurus missiles from Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock or the branding of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz as a "sulky liver sausage". Now Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, is referring to the United Nations as a "money-making office", the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Committee of the Red Cross as "fictitious organizations that clog our minds with absolutely garbage assessments", and India and China as countries with "low intellectual potential". This goes beyond all the bounds of diplomatic propriety. Apparently, the agonizing "post-Maidan Ukraine" project will keep on snarling at the international community and, in particular, at its creators, who are no longer able to satisfy its military appetites.

However, it is far worse when, in an attempt to obtain even more military packages and hardware, the Kyiv junta resorts to bloody provocations involving civilian casualties. Just before the arrival in Kyiv of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, the Zelenskyy regime played out a familiar script, firing rockets at a market in the city of Konstantinovka, which it immediately tried to blame on Russia. The collective West dutifully picked up their favourite Russophobic narrative in unison, but there is a problem for them: *The New York Times* published an investigation indicating that the city market was hit not by a Russian but by a Ukrainian missile fired from a Buk surface-to-air missile system. As the EU leadership has previously stated: "Intentional attacks against civilians are war crimes. All commanders, perpetrators and accomplices of these atrocities will be held to account." It is difficult not to agree with this. Only it is not those who cover for the Kyiv regime, no matter what it does, who will sit in judgement.

Madam Chairperson,

We cannot rule out the possibility that the neocolonial powers of the West may take reckless steps to turn the situation on the battlefield in their favour. Their willingness to invest in Ukraine a significant portion of their available resources creates serious risks of further escalation of the conflict. Among these

risks is the militarization of Poland, which has become the main instrument of the anti-Russian military policy of the United States. Poland has announced its intention to build what it claims to be “the most powerful army in Europe” and nurtures plans to create a Polish-Ukrainian formation, ostensibly to ensure security, but in fact to occupy western Ukraine, a plan that is fraught with unpredictable consequences from the point of view of European security.

We can see that Polish experts are watching this region closely and have already identified signs of radioactive contamination in the areas bordering Ukraine, caused by the detonation of British sub-calibre armour-piercing rounds with uranium cores in an ammunition depot near Khmelnytskyi, which was destroyed by the Russian Aerospace Forces in May. According to experts, radiation levels exceeding the threshold of background radiation may indicate the presence of highly toxic nuclear energy waste in the arsenal handed over to the Ukrainian authorities. Such waste may have been mixed with depleted uranium to solve the problem of disposing of spent nuclear fuel, particularly from British submarines. In the near future, the Kyiv regime could receive just as dangerous weapons from the United States, which is reported to be preparing a base for sending its Abrams tanks to the Ukrainians. It is clear that the Western sponsors will do anything to achieve their goals. They do not care about the threat to the life and health of the country’s inhabitants posed by the weapons supplied, even if it means turning some part or other of Ukraine or Poland into a new exclusion zone, where chemical-contaminated soils will endanger future generations.

They showed the same cynicism with regard to the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative. The West is silent about the fact that Ukrainian grain, predominantly forage grain, has gone mainly to “well-fed” Europe. They are silent about the systematic blocking of Russian agricultural exports through illegal unilateral sanctions, as a result of which the Russia-United Nations Memorandum has never worked. They are silent about the fact that the humanitarian sea corridor from Odessa to Istanbul has been used by the Kyiv regime for terrorist attacks against Sevastopol, the Crimean Bridge and Russian ships. As part of the grain deal, it was agreed that Ukrainian ports would not be used for attacks on Russian facilities or for the construction of unmanned boats. All these violations took place with the connivance of the collective West.

Similarly, we would recommend reflecting on the sincerity of the so-called “Ukrainian-EU romance”: is the Kyiv junta really so welcome in Brussels and the European Union? Romanian farmers recently sent an open letter to the country’s leadership warning that from 1 October they would block ports and customs checkpoints if the ban on imports of Ukrainian grain was not extended. Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have already prolonged such a ban and, in response to threats of a complaint being filed with the World Trade Organization, they have stopped participating in the European Commission’s co-ordination platform on grain issues.

And in conclusion, just a few more words about how the West cares about the fate of Ukraine. Boris Pistorius, Minister of Defence of Germany, a country that was once one of the mediators of a diplomatic settlement, said he was “annoyed” by talk of peace. The United States, on the other hand, sees no possibility of ending the conflict at this time on terms to its liking. It is clear who is calling the tune here and directing the war in Ukraine. The US elite has long been living in a reality known only to itself, where the United States still holds undivided sway over the planet and has the exclusive right to oversee and punish. It is within the power of the United States alone to stop the relentless escalation. Otherwise we will do so.

As for the duration of the special military operation, it largely depends on how quickly the authorities in Kyiv and the West recognize that we will not tolerate the existence of a blatantly anti-Russian State on our borders. At the instigation of the collective West, post-Maidan Ukraine remains the only country in the world where those who want the survival of the people and economic progress are labelled “separatists”, “collaborators” and “enemies”; where Nazis and pro-fascist lackeys are national heroes; where

close siblings are “Russkies” and “Moskals” [Muscovites] who must be exterminated, while those who sponsor bloodshed are hailed as friends. Maintaining such a state of affairs is untenable from the standpoint of Russia’s security.

Thank you for your attention.