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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 1047th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

31 May 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

The striving to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia is being enshrined as an integral element of the strategy pursued by the Ukrainian-Western “conglomerate”, which has now proceeded to overt intimidation of Russian citizens.

On 30 May, eight unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) carrying explosives were deployed in a terrorist attack on residential neighbourhoods in and near Moscow. According to our information, this was the Kyiv regime’s response to the strike that Russian troops carried out on the headquarters of Ukrainian military intelligence, which, unlike civilian houses, is a decision-making centre and therefore a legitimate military target. We strongly condemn this attack, which had no military utility at all, and consider it to be an act of terrorism. Through such forays, the Ukrainian Government is trying to make up for the lack of success along the combat line and for the impossibility of mounting a counteroffensive, which demonstrates its military impotence.

All of the devices launched at the instigation of the terroristic regime in Kyiv were knocked out by the Moscow air defence system. It proved possible to avoid any casualties, but we remember very well some recent remarks by Lindsey Graham, United States Senator for South Carolina, who, smirking contentedly, said during a meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy: “And the Russians are dying. The best money we’ve ever spent.” This US politician, who threatened the entire Russian people and gave the green light for crimes against our country, has already been put on a wanted list so that he may be brought to justice – like the US Government’s protégés implicated in terrorist attacks against Russia and its citizens. Until common sense prevails among the Kyiv regime and its Western puppet masters, all armed provocations – wherever they may occur, from Donetsk to Moscow – will be met with a well-thought-out and firm response wherever and whenever Russia deems it necessary.

Madam Chairperson,

The Russian delegation continues to point out the dangerous nature of the actions of the United States of America and NATO, which seem to have come to believe in their ability to engage in “escalation control”. Europe’s transformation into one big military camp has already become a reality. The presence of NATO Allied Forces near the borders of the Union State has increased 2.5-fold, from 13,500 to 31,500 personnel. Some 40,000 troops have been put on high combat readiness as a rapid response force. There are plans this year to increase the personnel strength of that grouping to 300,000 troops, who can be deployed within 30 days. In addition, more than 100,000 US troops are stationed in Europe. It is understandable that the Western delegations at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), which assert the “defensive” nature of NATO, should be engaged in “diplomatic concealment” of their plans for the eventuality of a direct conflict with Russia. We know that such documents comprising thousands of pages are being drawn up and will soon be presented at the Alliance’s summit in Vilnius.

In that regard, the Russian and Belarusian Governments are continuing to take measures to ensure the security of the Union State – these are a forced response to the destabilizing policies pursued by NATO over many years, including in the nuclear sphere. On 25 May, the Defence Ministers of Russia and Belarus signed documents laying down the procedure for Russian non-strategic nuclear weapons to be stored at a special storage facility on Belarusian territory without control over these being transferred. These measures are consistent with international legal obligations and are being implemented as part of a common defence space in accordance with the Military Doctrine of the Union State. We should like to stress that, in a context where the United States and NATO are waging an all-out “hybrid” war against the Union State, it would be naive not to expect any appropriate military and technical countermeasures on our part.

Madam Chairperson,

We condemn the Western policy of abetting the continued daily shelling of residential areas and civilian infrastructure in the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Zaporozhye, Kherson and Belgorod regions. The perpetrators and sponsors of these terrorist attacks will be held accountable for human rights violations, for breaches of the norms and principles of international humanitarian law, and also for the casualties among the civilian population.

On 25 May, as a result of a shelling attack on the front-line city of Gorlovka in the Donetsk People’s Republic, seven civilians were injured, including two children. You can see them on the slides. Will the delegations of the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom and Canada condemn these strikes on non-combatants by the Ukrainian armed forces? Will a statement be issued nine years later by the OSCE leadership about the unacceptability of firing at civilians in Donbas?

On 26 May, US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems were used to carry out strikes on the Voroshilovsky district of Donetsk and then on the building of a research institute in the city’s Kalininsky district, as a result of which a woman was killed. When personnel from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Investigative Committee staff and journalists arrived on the scene, the Ukrainian neo-Nazis launched a few more missiles. As is known, the Ukrainian armed forces liaise with US strategists when it comes to using the expensive HIMARS munitions. We should like to ask the US delegation: how is this compatible with your priority of protecting human rights, and in particular the human rights of journalists?

On 27 May, an ambulance brigade called out to help an elderly woman came under artillery fire in Aleshki in the Kherson region. Will we hear words of condemnation today for these actions by the Kyiv regime through which it is most flagrantly violating international humanitarian law?

Border settlements in the Belgorod region are subjected daily to numerous shelling attacks. The Ukrainian neo-Nazis carry out strikes on residential areas and overhead power lines; they use UAVs to drop explosives on energy infrastructure facilities and administrative buildings. More than a hundred such strikes are recorded daily in the Shebekinsky municipal district alone. There are inevitably casualties.

News came in this morning from the village of Karpaty in the Lugansk People's Republic, where five people were killed and 19 were injured in a massive strike carried out using US-made HIMARS rockets with submunitions.

Where is the OSCE leadership's reaction to this? Why do the Western OSCE participating States ignore the civilian casualties resulting from shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces? There can be only one conclusion: those who talk here about promoting the principles of international humanitarian law and advocate compliance with OSCE commitments are in reality the chief offenders against those principles and commitments.

We must point out, in particular, that the West's assurances about how the armaments supplied to the Ukrainian Government will not be used to carry out strikes deep inside Russia are untenable and false. We have no faith either in the Zelenskyy regime or in the pronouncements by leaders of the Western world, which are merely spurring the Ukrainian Government on to new criminal actions. In order to defend the Russian Federation's sovereignty and territorial integrity and protect Russian citizens, the special military operation will be continued until all the objectives set by our country's leadership have been fully accomplished.

Madam Chairperson,

We should also like to draw particular attention today to the consequences of the ongoing "beefing up" of Ukraine with NATO weapons.

Following the failed "tank coalition", the US Government is now prodding its allies to cobble together a "fighter jet coalition" – again, at their expense – so as to subsequently expand its presence on the European arms market. Although the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, has admitted that "there are no magic weapons" for Ukraine and that it was in vain for them to pin so many hopes on US fighter jets, these "flashes" of awareness of reality are as yet not restraining the West from making arms deliveries and, consequently, feeding the black market for weapons.

It was previously confirmed by Jan Op Gen Oorth, a spokesperson for Europol, that European law enforcement officers have observed not only large quantities of small arms and infantry materiel cropping up on the darknet, but also the latest models of US drones, anti-personnel mines, anti-tank missile systems and man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS). After a long interval, these facts were corroborated by the deputy head of the Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Maciej Wąsik, who pointed to a dramatic increase in the smuggling of weapons and ammunition into Poland from Ukraine. The alarm is being sounded in the media in the Netherlands, where it is noted with concern that European citizens who acknowledge this problem are likely to face social ostracism. Things have got to the point that even Algerian media outlets are writing about illicit trafficking in Western weapons from Ukraine, bringing to light information about the diversion of Finnish grenade launchers and how these are being auctioned on the black market.

Given the high risk of Western weapons and military equipment ending up in illicit circulation and, *inter alia*, falling into the hands of extremist and terrorist elements – which could pose a threat to international peace and European security – we urge the US and EU delegations to give a detailed briefing at

the FSC on what measures are being taken to prevent the illicit diversion of Western arms and ammunition from Ukraine to other parts of the world.

Madam Chairperson,

Russian troops are systematically carrying on with the special operation. The transport routes used to deliver consignments of Western weapons and ammunition are being monitored, and targeted strikes are launched on these. Over the past few days, depots containing Western arms in Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil and Mykolaiv have been destroyed, while an “indestructible”, US-made Patriot anti-aircraft battery was knocked out in Kyiv. As we have been warning, these are now fair game.

In the course of this month alone, the enemy has lost more than 16,000 military personnel, 16 airplanes, five helicopters, 466 UAVs, more than 400 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, and 238 artillery pieces and mortars. In addition, 196 HIMARS-fired rockets, 16 HARM anti-radar missiles and 29 Storm Shadow long-range cruise missiles have been intercepted and destroyed.

Although the Ukrainian Government’s Anglo-Saxon handlers regularly extol at the FSC the “fantastic” heroism and professionalism of the Ukrainian armed forces, the facts are what they are – namely, that the Ukrainian battle group is sustaining significant personnel losses. Morale is falling noticeably among the Ukrainian armed forces. Significantly, great care is taken not to “waste” those nationalists who have undergone training in the West. They are very often not allowed to fight on the front line, with unprepared soldiers thrown into battle instead as “expendable material”. It has been confirmed by *The Wall Street Journal* that among those fighting in Artemovsk were some who had never held an assault rifle before, let alone fired one. A further detail illustrating observance, or rather non-observance of human rights in Ukraine is that the Ukrainian State Service for Disaster Medicine, which is part of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, secretly removed organs for transplantation from the bodies of fallen Ukrainian soldiers in a hospital in Kherson. This fact is being concealed from their families. Of course, international agencies pretend not to notice such facts and even information that is actively circulating in the media.

Furthermore, documents in our possession confirm that the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in the United States was involved in studying the antibiotic resistance of microorganisms isolated from military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces during the fighting in Donbas in 2014–2022. This raises the legitimate question as to why a research institute of the US Army should need to be studying the drug resistance of microorganisms sampled in that region. To prepare a bridgehead for the deployment of NATO troops? Questions are also raised by the fact that the US Government’s professed commitment to “global biosafety standards and norms” turns out in practice to consist in rejecting international initiatives to strengthen the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and in blocking the development of a verification mechanism for the Convention.

To sum up, I should like to stress that the Kyiv regime and its US overlords have no pity be it for the population of Ukraine, for the Ukrainian military personnel, or for the citizens of Western countries, all of whom they are willing to sacrifice to their geopolitical interests and their unquenchable desire to harm Russia. Our country has never set out to destroy Ukraine as a State. However, we have no intention of tolerating near our borders an anti-Russian, hate-filled dictatorship sponsored by the United States, the United Kingdom and other NATO members.

Thank you for your attention.