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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 1029th PLENARY MEETING
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO OPERATION**

16 November 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past few hours, the international community has been witnessing attempts to artificially escalate the conflict in Ukraine – attempts aimed at dragging the NATO bloc into an armed confrontation.

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has confirmed that the photographs of missile fragments published from the scene of the incident in the village of Przewodów by Polish media have nothing whatsoever to do with Russian weapons. No strikes had been launched against targets near the Ukrainian-Polish State border.

Nevertheless, the Ukrainian regime, without bothering to sort out the facts or else simply seizing the opportunity, called upon the leaders of the Alliance’s member countries to give a “tough response” to Russia. We note that this appeal was supported straight away by NATO’s most Russophobic “wing”, namely the Baltic countries.

This fits in with the Ukrainian Government’s overall policy of categorically refusing to negotiate with our country and its presumptuous attempts to dissuade its Western handlers from calling for a peaceful settlement. Anti-Russian provocations are the hallmark of the criminal regime in Kyiv.

If we are to speak on the substance of the matter, we would recommend paying attention to the fact that the Ukrainian air defence system regularly causes missile fragments to hit residential buildings. Ukrainian civilians are injured and killed as a result of that country’s air defence system not working properly. This is officially confirmed by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. Moreover, the question still remains open as to what a Ukrainian Tu-141 Strizh reconnaissance unmanned aerial vehicle was doing in the skies over Croatia in March of this year.

We urge that empty accusatory rhetoric be eschewed, together with the irresponsible spreading of conjectures that are fraught with unpredictable consequences.

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite the fierce anti-Russian antagonism into which the whole of Europe has worked itself up, the armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to dynamically address the tasks of ensuring peace and security in Donbas and eliminating the threats to Russia's stability emanating from the territory of Ukraine.

At present, the situation in the zone of the special military operation has stabilized; the capabilities of the joint grouping of forces have increased following the assembly of reserves. The Russian troops have resumed offensive operations in several directions. Over the past week, the village of Maiorsk and the settlements of Opytne and Pavlivka in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) were liberated. At the same time, the assault on Artemivsk, Vodiane and Pervomaiskyi continues, with the enemy sustaining significant losses there.

The operation in the Kherson area aimed at moving the Russian battle group on to the left bank of the River Dnieper was completed on 11 November. In this connection, such factors were taken into account as the intensive shelling of civilian infrastructure and the Ukrainian armed forces' plans to destroy the dam at the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, which could have exacerbated the problem of supplying electricity to Kherson and other population centres on the right bank. The restationed Russian formations and military units – we are talking here about some 30,000 military personnel and 5,000 units of weaponry and military equipment – have occupied fortified lines of defence, from where they continue to inflict fire damage on clusters of troops and military equipment of the Ukrainian armed forces.

The Russian Federation has undertaken all the necessary measures to keep the civilians of the Kherson region safe. In the course of the mass evacuation that was announced, more than 115,000 people left the right bank of the Dnieper. It is telling that here, too, the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers showed their true colours by trying to thwart the relocation of civilians to safe areas. In the early hours of 11 November, the Ukrainian fighters launched five strikes on civilian river crossings using rockets fired from US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems. The next day, the nationalists used tube artillery to open fire on the centre of Nova Kakhovka, where civilians – about 200 women, children and elderly people – were waiting to be evacuated. With the whole world watching, the Kyiv regime tried, in a fit of blind revenge, to punish Khersonites for seeking to save their lives from the Ukrainian death squads.

The Ukrainian nationalists who have descended on the right bank of the Dnieper have already begun to conduct massive purges and reprisals against civilians loyal to Russia. The representative of the Ukrainian Government, Halyna Luhova, had issued a warning in advance that the Ukrainian armed forces would “shoot traitors like dogs”. A curfew has been imposed by way of a smokescreen. Although the authorities in Kyiv are trying to maintain an information blockade in relation to the Kherson region, harrowing photographic evidence is nevertheless leaking out that shows Ukrainian fighters tying to lamp posts people who had collaborated with the Russian military. That is exactly how the fascists tormented citizens of the USSR during the Great Patriotic War. Now even those who are simply found to be in possession of a Soviet army card are being subjected to abuse. The goal is obvious, namely to intimidate the opponents of the Kyiv regime. Things have already reached the point where civilians fearing reprisals feel compelled to help the Ukrainian armed forces in organizing “filtration measures”, to shout Nazi slogans and raise their arms in a fascist salute to the Ukrainian fighters. Such images found their way into a report by CNN, whereupon the Ukrainian Government stripped the journalists from that television channel of their accreditation. A similar fate befell Sky News. So what, then, is the Ukrainian Government trying to hide?

Judging by their reaction, the Western overlords of Ukraine, who have promised European Union membership to that country, approve of their protégés' punitive tactics, that is, of the reprisals against teachers in the Kharkiv region, of the murders of civilians who were subsequently buried in a mass grave in

Kupiansk, and now also of the abuses against Khersonites. We would remind you that Kherson remains the capital of a region that forms part of the Russian Federation. Those responsible for war crimes perpetrated on the territory of our country will ineluctably be brought to justice.

Mr. Chairperson,

According to the assessment of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and its allies continue to play off whole peoples against one another and to push the world towards a global war. As confirmation of this one may cite the head of the United States Strategic Command, Admiral Charles Richard, who shortly before intimated that the conflict in Ukraine was “just a warm-up” for a “bigger” confrontation. It is evidently for this reason that the collective West so clings to Ukraine, seeking to rehearse NATO strategy and tactics on the battlefield and also to “break in” Western military hardware. Suffice it to say that Danish drone manufacturers plan to use that country as a testing ground where their products can be tried out in combat conditions.

Similarly, the latest meeting of the Ramstein-format consultative group on the provision of military aid to Ukraine is taking place today, 16 November. Further shipments of Western military goods to meet the Ukrainian armed forces’ needs are expected following the meeting. It is clear that, under the supervision of instructors and spotters from the United States and other NATO member countries, these goods will again be used by the Ukrainian nationalists to exterminate the civilian population that does not agree with the Kyiv regime’s policies.

We invite our Western colleagues at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to assess once again the consequences of this unrestrained beefing up of the Ukrainian armed forces with Western weapons systems.

On 9 November, as a result of the shelling of residential areas of the city of Donetsk from NATO artillery of 155 mm calibre, three people were killed and six were injured. In addition, there was extensive damage to residential buildings and a fixed-route bus, while a shop burned down completely.

On 10 November, the Ukrainian nationalists used a US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system during the shelling of residential areas of Horlivka in the DPR. One man was killed and three residents of the city were injured; more than 25 houses and seven civilian infrastructure facilities were damaged. In the Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR) a US-made multiple-launch rocket system claimed the lives of two employees of the mine near the village of Krynychne.

On 11 November, the US handlers approved the use of M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems stationed near the city of Kostiantynivka in the DPR against a secondary school and the premises of a cultural and recreational association in the village of Rozivka. On the same day, a HIMARS system was trained on the Dokuchaievsk dolomite flux plant. A woman was injured in the Kuibyshevskyi district of the city of Donetsk, while about 4,000 users were left without electricity in Olenivka. Strikes were launched from US-made M777 howitzers on the city of Kamianka-Dniprovska, hitting a jobcentre with people inside.

On 12–13 November, the Ukrainian nationalists continuously and massively shelled residential areas of Donetsk, Makiivka, Horlivka, Ilovaisk, Kashtanove, Torez and Yasynuvata in the DPR, launching more than 300 shells, including rockets from Grad and HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems. As reported, at least 14 houses and seven civilian infrastructure facilities were destroyed. US weapons were also used against the peaceful city of Stakhanov in the LPR.

On 14 November, as a result of the shelling of the settlement of Sabivka in the LPR from a HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system (five M31 guided missiles were launched), a school, a kindergarten and a library were damaged. What are children and books guilty of in the eyes of the Ukrainian Government and its handlers?

These are just some instances of the terror perpetrated through the collective efforts of Ukraine and the West against non-combatants, in violation of the basic norms of international humanitarian law.

It is telling that thousands of public protesters in European countries have already clamoured against arms supplies to the Ukrainian Government – your citizens do not want to wage a proxy war against Russia and even less to pay for the continued armed violence out of their own pocket. However, the authorities in the United States, Canada and European countries continue to do everything they can to drag the fighting out for as long as possible.

We firmly warn that the arms supplies to Ukraine by EU and NATO countries are making these into accomplices in the war crimes and terrorist acts that the Ukrainian Government has been committing against the civilian population in this unlawful and unjustified war for almost nine years now.

Mr. Chairperson,

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are methodically “grinding down” the armaments delivered by EU and NATO countries as they seek to fulfil the fundamental tasks of the special military operation to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine. Over the past week, more than 100 missiles for HIMARS and Vilkha multiple-launch rocket systems, six HARM anti-radar missiles and eight AN/TPQ-50 and AN/TPQ-36 counter-battery radar systems were destroyed. A total of 18 US-made M777 howitzers were knocked out of action. Strikes were carried out on two command posts of the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries near the city of Mykolaiv and the settlement of Sukhyi Stavok in the Kherson region. An ammunition depot of the Ukrainian armed forces containing shells for HIMARS and Vilkha multiple-launch rocket systems was destroyed near Dnipropetrovsk. This work will continue.

Despite the Ukrainian Government’s efforts to put on a brave face, the fact remains that Ukraine is sustaining significant personnel losses, which are being concealed from the country’s citizens. In a video message, soldiers from the 173rd Battalion of the 120th Ukrainian Territorial Defence Brigade affirmed that their commanders were throwing them into battle like cannon fodder without prior training, as a result of which many were being killed or going missing. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, since 9 November alone, at least 30 foreign instructors and mercenaries have been liquidated in the zone of the special military operation, as have some 3,370 military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces. Their ranks include rabid nationalists and neo-Nazis who make no secret of their predilections. As our colleagues can see on the screens, many Ukrainian fighters wear insignia with Nazi symbols and slogans that were used by the Hitlerite troops and their accomplices during the Second World War. The Ukrainian fighters’ devotion to Nazi ideology is also confirmed by their actions towards the civilian population and captive Russian military personnel.

To carry on with the discussion initiated at the FSC on the implementation of international humanitarian law in Ukraine, we wish to draw attention to shocking evidence of torture and abuse being perpetrated by the Ukrainian side in violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. DPR fighters released from captivity confirm that militants from the ultra-nationalist armed formation Right Sector (which is prohibited in Russia) are executing prisoners of war by hanging. At the same time, forensic medical experts examining the dead bodies of prisoners in the LPR have come to the conclusion that these had their ears cropped and were shot in the legs while they were still alive. Some Russian military personnel had to lie

inside pits for up to five hours, covered with earth. We are divulging this information merely to open the delegations' eyes to the true nature of the criminal regime in Kyiv. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Officers of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation are reviewing every such case. We call upon the international community and international human rights bodies to give principled assessments of the egregious instances of the Ukrainian Government's failure to comply with its international obligations under international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, I should like to respond to the unceasing attempts by the United States and the United Kingdom to misuse the FSC platform for levelling accusations and making threats against the Russian Federation. It is most telling that a lecturing tone is being adopted here by the representatives of those States that for decades have been engaging in unlawful actions across the whole world with impunity. Moreover, they are overlooking the fact that the "escapades" of the US and UK Governments and their allies to this day continue to cause irreparable harm to entire regions.

Turning to specific examples, it is worth recalling how the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was subjected to lawless actions by the international community, specifically by the NATO member countries: depleted uranium ammunition was used against the Republic during the Alliance's Operation Deliberate Force from 30 August to 21 September 1995. Still fresh in the mind are the deaths of more than 2,000 civilians killed in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a result of the 78-day Operation Allied Force by NATO (24 March–10 June 1999). In addition, the US war machine has brought indescribable suffering on the Middle East and North Africa region. More than 205,000 civilians perished after the United States and its allies invaded Iraq, which they did, what is more, without a formal declaration of war. In 2011, the "fruits" of the intervention in Libya by the NATO bloc's military coalition turned out to be the destruction of that country's statehood and a migration crisis in Europe lasting many years. In 2017, the city of Mosul in Iraq was virtually wiped off the face of the earth by carpet bombing and shelling, while the city of Raqqa in Syria was completely destroyed.

A rough estimate suggests that the material damage suffered by the victims of the Western countries' aggressions over the past 20 years alone amounts to at least 1.5 trillion US dollars. However, the US Government and its allies have so far not found the courage to take responsibility for their criminal acts worldwide and to compensate the world for all the harm that they have done.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.