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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1058th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

11 October 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

Speaking at a session of the “Valdai forum” on 5 October, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, advocated strengthening international law on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and put forward six principles for shaping a genuinely polycentric system, namely an open world without artificial barriers; respect for civilizational diversity based on a balance of interests; maximum representation in global governance structures; universal indivisible security; non-discriminatory access to the benefits of development; and equality, which includes eschewing the “dictate of the powerful” in international affairs. Multipolarity on the basis of the aforementioned premises is gradually becoming a reality. Our country remains one of the pillars of a global system geared towards constructive co-operation with everyone who strives for peace and prosperity. At the same time, we are ready to offer justifiable resistance to those who profess and propagate the principles of imposition and violence.

The main difference between the global majority and those seeking, by means of neocolonial methods, to arrest the natural course of things is that those in the majority respect the interests of sovereign States and their cultural and civilizational peculiarities, while the others disdain these. The West’s logic is simple and ultimatum-like. Either a country aspiring to become one of the West’s “democratic partners” loses its sovereignty and comes over to what is allegedly the “right side of history”, or it is pigeonholed as a so-called authoritarian regime, against which any methods of coercion may be used. These are anachronistic approaches to say the least.

As far as the European continent is concerned, the root of discord lies above all in the aggressive actions by Western countries, with the United States of America at the helm, to satisfy their neocolonial desires at the expense of other States’ interests. Grossly flouting the principle of indivisible security, the US-led NATO bloc embarked on an incendiary course of expansion into post-Soviet space, forcing our country to take the necessary measures to protect the outer cordon of security. Moreover, the West continues to raise the stakes while balancing on the brink of a direct armed conflict between nuclear powers.

Western media continue to speculate about the alleged ramping-up of nuclear rhetoric and the impending use of Russian nuclear weapons in the course of the special military operation. All these conjectures are lies. The principal function of Russian nuclear forces is to deter a nuclear attack. Their use is limited to extraordinary circumstances that are defined in the relevant policy documents. We currently see no need to change our military doctrine.

That being said, any potential adversary must understand that they will have no chance in the event of a retaliatory strike by Russia in response to a nuclear attack. To that end, work on sophisticated types of strategic weapons is now being finalized, including the Burevestnik intercontinental cruise missile, which has a global range, and the Sarmat silo-based strategic missile system. They will soon enter mass production and be put on combat alert. As already mentioned today, we are also exploring the possibility of revoking our ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) so as to put ourselves on a level playing field with the United States, which has still not ratified the Treaty. In the event of deratification of the CTBT, we reserve the right to resume nuclear testing, albeit exclusively – I stress exclusively – in response to similar actions by the United States.

The Western minority's aggressive and narrowly selfish course has already led to instability carrying over into Asia and the Pacific, and now it has triggered unprecedented bloodshed in the Middle East. We attribute the current escalation of the situation in that region not only to the chronic failure to implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and its Security Council, but also to the West's *de facto* blocking of the work of the Middle East Quartet of international mediators, whose participants are Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations. We have consistently argued for the need to break the deadlock in international mediation efforts. We maintain close contact with all parties to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We call for an immediate ceasefire and for the establishment, with the assistance of the international community, of a negotiation process within the well-known legal framework providing for the creation of an independent Palestinian State on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital and living in peace with Israel.

We are carefully monitoring incoming reports of how NATO weapons – principally US ones – previously transferred to Ukraine have been detected in the Middle East conflict zone. There were already alarming signals in that regard on 22 June, when the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, said that weapons supplied by the West for the Zelenskyy regime had turned up near the Israeli border. However, as is the custom, in the “civilized world” people only wake up when all the bells have been set a-ringing. It was not until the start of hostilities and the death of civilians that the United States Congress began talking about the need to work with Israel to track the serial numbers on all identifiable US-made weapons, since their diversion from Ukrainian territory and from Afghanistan could not be ruled out. Over the past year and a half, we for our part have been emphasizing in all international forums the colossal risks of Western weapons held by a neo-Nazi regime finding their way into black markets, which is a consequence of the corrupt tandem made up of the US and Ukrainian Governments. We trust that Israel has the reconnaissance infrastructure required to ascertain the origin of weapons ending up in the conflict zone and to make it public knowledge.

Madam Chairperson,

The West's prosperity was to a considerable extent achieved through the centuries-long plundering of colonies. Even now, Western influence in the world is maintained thanks to natural, technological and human resources that belong to others. Such a fate has also befallen Ukraine. As the Minister of Defence of the Netherlands, Kajsa Ollongren, put it, “supporting Ukraine is a very cheap way to make sure that Russia ... is not a threat to the NATO alliance” (she said this at the Warsaw Security Forum on 3 October).

The NATO sponsors of the Kyiv regime are now coming to the realization that its military defeat is inevitable and is merely a matter of time. Placed under Western micromanagement, “post-Maidan” Ukraine has already forfeited its economic sovereignty and industrial potential; it has turned into the world’s largest hub for arms and drug smuggling, trafficking in human beings and black-market organ transplants.

Straight-thinking elites in hostile countries are increasingly realizing the futility of pouring money into the Kyiv junta. According to Western estimates, at least one fifth of the equipment supplied for the offensive has already been destroyed or damaged. Over the past week and a half alone, the armed forces of the Russian Federation have obliterated, within the zone of the special operation, a workshop for the assembly of Punisher and Furia combat and reconnaissance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in semi-knocked-down form, along with depots storing HIMARS rockets and Storm Shadow and Scalp cruise missiles. Knocking out such NATO weapons systems as Bradley and Marder armoured infantry fighting vehicles or Leopard and Challenger tanks is becoming a routine job for us. Besides, given the flaring-up of tensions in the Middle East, US Abrams tanks and F-15 fighter jets will, by the looks of it, not be sent to the originally intended recipients in Ukraine at all.

Avoiding the use of military equipment on account of the considerable attrition rate, the Ukrainian armed forces command has switched to the tactic of “human wave attacks”: infantry soldiers are the first to be sent through minefields, where at the risk of their lives they try to break through the Russian defences. Significantly, former UK Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace cynically urged Volodymyr Zelenskyy to set about mobilizing young people more actively. All this is taking place against a backdrop of intensifying official discussions on lowering the age of conscription to 16–17 years. Do the forcibly mobilized Ukrainians themselves, who are literally being thrown to the slaughter, realize that they are “expendable material” in the geopolitical experiments of the United States and its satellites?

As they lose on the battlefield, the Kyiv regime and its Western patrons have no qualms about mounting staged “bloodbaths” in order to demonize our country in the eyes of international public opinion. The series already includes Bucha, Mariupol, Kramatorsk and Kremenchuk. All these productions have a distinctive hallmark: the Ukrainian Government accuses Russia at once, while Mr. Zelenskyy’s supporters in the West take up that narrative – and they demand not that the hostilities be halted, but that weapons with an even longer range be handed over to Ukraine.

We understand perfectly well that now that there is a gathering trend in Europe towards military assistance for the Zelenskyy regime being wound down, this neo-Nazi junta has inevitably fallen back on tried-and-tested methods. And now, the tragedy in the village of Hroza in the Kupiansk district of the Kharkiv region took place while Mr. Zelenskyy went off to attend the European Political Community summit, where – by a mystifying coincidence – arms supplies to Ukraine were being discussed.

The reaction was not long in coming, with the aforementioned ex-Defence Secretary of the United Kingdom, Ben Wallace, issuing the following appeal to Western colleagues: “Every time Russia strikes ... civilian infrastructure ...[,] there needs to be a response. We did that with Starstreak and Storm Shadow. Germany should now send their Taurus missile systems to Ukraine and join the UK and France.” The only trouble is that Germany so far is refusing to do that. As for the United States, it would seem that already in September of this year the decision was taken there to hand over ATACMS surface-to-surface ballistic missiles to the neo-Nazi regime. We warn in advance that this is a waste of Western taxpayers’ money. According to information from the field, the Ukrainian armed forces are trying to use British-made AIM-132 ASRAAM guided missiles, each one of which is worth around 250,000 dollars, to shoot down our Geran-2 UAVs, which cost approximately 20,000 dollars apiece. This example encapsulates how – and at what price – the West is trying to confront the Russian Federation courtesy of the Ukrainians.

With regard to what happened in the village of Hroza, we consider it necessary to emphasize once again that the armed forces of the Russian Federation do not carry out strikes against the civilian population; they exclusively target concentrations of Ukrainian armed forces soldiers, the army's leadership and mercenaries. At the time of the strike, a funeral was being held in the village for one of the high-ranking Ukrainian nationalists, with many of his accomplices in attendance. Tellingly, in the photographs posted on social media immediately after the strike, almost all the bodies belong to men of military age. This has happened before: the Kyiv regime whipped up hysteria over strikes on shops and cafés, and then an avalanche of obituaries of soldiers and foreign mercenaries appeared. We stress that if the neo-Nazi concentrate military personnel in a certain place, it becomes a legitimate target for a strike, including from the point of view of international humanitarian law.

Madam Chairperson,

In closing, we should like to respond to the statements by Western delegations that have been calling here, at the Forum for Security Co-operation, for making the return of Ukraine “to the 1991 borders” one of the principles for a settlement. That concept has become devoid of meaning, as follows clearly from the 1970 United Nations General Assembly Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, whereby all States have the duty to respect the territorial integrity of a State whose government recognizes the right of peoples to self-determination and represents the entire population living in the relevant territory.

As a result of the bloody coup d'état of 2014, Ukrainian statehood began to be constructed on the basis of a Nazi-inspired narrative of repudiation of everything Russian, including the population's identity and traditions. We were not the ones menacing the Crimeans and the residents of Sevastopol with ethnic cleansing in the spirit of the Nazis. We were not the ones trying to force Donbas into obedience by means of shelling attacks and bombardments. We were not the ones threatening to make short shrift of those who want to speak their native language.

Nowadays, all dissenters in Ukraine are persecuted as “collaborationists”. According to the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif, around 6,000 criminal cases have been opened in that country for collaboration with Russia, charging people who, under international law, have not broken any laws. Things have got to the point that, on 13 September, Right Sector fighters shot dead 22 inhabitants of Snihurivka in the Kherson region for pro-Russian views. Carte blanche for this is being given from above: the inhabitants of Crimea and the new regions of Russia have repeatedly been threatened by high-ranking Ukrainian figures with an unenviable fate in the event of the Kyiv regime descending on our territory – ranging from imprisonment to physical extermination. We will not allow this to happen.

On 30 September, the Russian Federation celebrated the Day of Reunification of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Kherson and Zaporozhye Regions with Russia. The choice made by hundreds of thousands of people has come to symbolize not only the restoration of historical justice, but also the unity of the Russian people, its colossal willpower and self-sacrifice. Schools and kindergartens, roads and fountains, water mains and hospitals are currently springing up in the new regions of our country; neighbourhoods are being reconstructed and whole new ones are being built. As President Putin said, “it is not about territories, it is about security guarantees for the peoples of Russia.”

The Russian Federation has always confirmed its openness to engaging in negotiations, but given the rejection of these by the authorities in Kyiv and their handlers, who consider such negotiations to be “pointless, dangerous and fatal”, we will continue to implement the objectives of the special military

operation and to eliminate threats to the security of our country and our citizens emanating from Ukrainian territory.

Thank you for your attention.