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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 1049th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

14 June 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

The unfolding hostilities in the zone of the special military operation suggest that the widely publicized counteroffensive by the Ukrainian armed forces has begun. During the intense fighting, the enemy is deploying strategic army reserves, but its military operations are clearly not going according to plan, with catastrophic losses of personnel and military equipment. The Ukrainian troops have not achieved their objectives in a single area of their combat operations.

Artillery and aircraft from the armed forces of the Russian Federation have hit important logistic support objects of the Ukrainian armed forces in the Zaporozhye front line area and have successfully repulsed attacks by mechanized units in the South Donetsk area and near the city of Artemovsk. Radio intercepts confirm that some units of the Ukrainian armed forces are in a desperate position and refuse to advance. Apparently, a few months of training under the guidance of NATO instructors has not compensated Ukrainian troops for their lack of combat experience and co-ordination.

In the first 48 hours of the offensive alone, the Ukrainian armed forces lost 15 per cent of all US-manufactured M2 Bradley armoured infantry fighting vehicles and 20 per cent of the German Leopard 2A6 tanks. More broadly, in eight days Ukraine lost 360 armoured vehicles and 160 tanks, that is, 30 per cent of its Western weaponry. Many combat vehicles, as we also promised, went up in flames on the battlefield, while others were taken by the Russian army as trophies with their engines still running, showing that the crews had fled from the vehicles while in operation. As the West has also suggested, the chips from these NATO weapons will be useful to us in “washing machines”, that is for the development of new weapons systems.

The British contribution to the combat “training” of Ukrainian soldiers can be judged from their tactics. We well remember how at the Battle of Balaclava in 1854 the British cavalry came under massive cannon fire on account of misguided orders from their military commanders. Today, the Ukrainian armed forces have sent costly Western tanks straight into minefields, forgetting to let the mine-clearing vehicles go

first. As a result, in the early hours of 8 June the Ukrainian armed forces lost 38 tanks, a US-made MRAP MaxxPro armoured personnel carrier, a Dutch YPR-765 armoured personnel carrier, a French VAB armoured personnel carrier and a Finnish Leopard 2R heavy mine breaching vehicle. Tellingly, the British Challengers are not engaged in combat, while the United States of America has done its best not to hand over its Abrams tanks so as to avoid another spate of painful damage to the reputation of the US military-industrial complex. In other words, as usual the Anglo-Saxons have let down the continental Europeans.

It is now more evident than ever at the combat line that NATO and European Union Member States are waging a proxy war against our country. Once in the hands of the Kyiv regime's fighters, their military equipment and weapons have long been used for terrorist acts on Russian territory and attacks on the civilian population, and are now being employed en masse in a counteroffensive. Soon the sponsors of the "Ukrainian adventure" from the United States and Europe will have to answer uncomfortable questions from their taxpayers, who can see in all the Western media how the weapons sent to Ukraine, including the German IRIS-T air defence system worth 17 million euros, are just turning into a target for the Russian military and nothing more.

According to reports, the United States is insistent that Ukraine must succeed in fighting or else the puppets will simply not be granted fresh instalments of military aid at the NATO summit in Vilnius in July. In the meantime, Ukrainian Minister of Defence Oleksii Reznikov admitted in an interview with *Foreign Affairs* that instead of supplying weapons, the West advised Ukraine to dig trenches and kill as many Russians as possible. It looks as if for the self-proclaimed "civilized" world, Nazi slogans about killing Russians have already become commonplace. But not for us.

The Western geopolitical engineers fully condone the fascist nature of the Zelenskyy regime, which publicly called the residents of Donbas not people but "creatures" and urged them and all Ukrainians who feel a connection to Russian culture to clear off to Russia. People in North America and Europe deliberately turn a blind eye to the hate-filled statements by individuals such as Oleksii Danilov, Dmytro Kuleba, Oleksii Reznikov and Oleksii Arestovych. And they make no secret of the plans of the criminal Kyiv regime to retake Crimea and Donbas and then destroy the Russians there "legally or physically".

Colleagues, it is high time you shed your hypocritical masks of "peacemakers".

I have in my hands physical evidence of the Kyiv regime's war crimes with the direct support of the West: a fragment of a US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system, which was used by the Ukrainian armed forces to shell the civilian infrastructure of Donbas. We obtained it from Russian troops in the special military operation zone in Donbas. Directly from the places where the Kyiv regime has for nine years been committing acts of criminal lawlessness against the civilian population with impunity.

The M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system first appeared in Donbas in June 2022 and was touted by US strategists and their protégés in Kyiv as a kind of miracle weapon capable of turning the tide in their unprovoked war against everything Russian. Except that the HIMARS was mainly used against the civilian population of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, which is a gross violation of international humanitarian law. The utter cynicism of the situation can be seen in the fact that, as Western experts point out, the "testing" of the HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system at the Ukrainian test site allowed the United States to learn some "valuable lessons". That is, in front of the whole world they set up a military laboratory in Donbas to test their weapons on Russians and citizens of Russia.

We should like to point out in particular that the HIMARS is a high-precision system guided by the US Global Positioning System, and all targets selected by the Ukrainian armed forces are co-ordinated with

the United States at one of the US military bases in Europe. You may well recall that last week, on 6 June, Ukrainian terrorists blew up the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, overnight triggering a disaster for hundreds of thousands of civilians. Before that, in the summer and autumn of 2022, the Ukrainian armed forces fired more than 300 rockets at the hydroelectric power plant just from HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems. The United States knew this. But they did nothing to prevent the disaster.

The Russian delegation has been raising the issue of US weapons being used against the civilian infrastructure and population for a year. We regularly show photo and video evidence here of the disastrous consequences of the use of HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems against the civilian population. But the United States and its allies have no sympathy for the people who die and suffer as a result of their geopolitical ambitions and the use of NATO weapons on the territory of third countries. After all, these are not their citizens, not the “Golden Billion”.

But how would Western colleagues react if something similar were to be done to, say, the British in Ireland, the French in Belgium, the Italians in Switzerland, or the Swedes in Finland? What would they say if the United States were to arm terrorist forces against these citizens and endorse inhuman slogans? What would they do if their citizens were fired upon at an evacuation point in a disaster zone? Just this week, the Ukrainian armed forces carried out massive strikes on a bus evacuating people from Golaya Pristan in the Kherson region, killing a pregnant woman. Anglo-French Storm Shadow missiles were fired at a children’s recreation centre on the Arabat Spit in the Genichesky district, where a temporary accommodation centre was located. Surely, this is terror in its purest form.

Against this background, Western leaders falsely claim that they have nothing to do with the ongoing bloodshed and are fighting for “Ukraine’s sovereignty, faithfully following the Charter of the United Nations”. The collective West will pay a high price for its policies, as many States in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America are already distancing themselves from it. And no matter how hard the United States tries to twist the arms of the non-Western world, around half the world population supports Russia in its struggle for legitimate national interests and the protection of civilians, as confirmed both by officials and by reputable journalists with international reputations.

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine continues to commit criminal acts in connection with the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) and its employees with the aim of undermining the safety of the plant. As fighting intensifies on the Zaporozhye front, the risks of nuclear provocations and blackmail by the Ukrainian armed forces are increasing.

Earlier, Russia repeatedly warned the international community of the Ukrainian armed forces’ intention to attempt another landing operation to seize the Zaporizhzhia NPP, for which a special force of up to 150 people and as many as 30 motorboats had been prepared. Over the past two months, there has been an increase in the number of fast-moving amphibious assault landing vehicles belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces on the Ukrainian-controlled right bank of the reservoir. Russian National Guard forces in charge of securing the Zaporizhzhia NPP repel up to ten Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicle attacks on the plant every day. In addition, the Ukrainian armed forces continue to attack the city of Energodar, where nuclear workers and their families live. A real campaign of psychological terror has been unleashed by Ukraine against the plant personnel. Zaporizhzhia NPP workers regularly receive phone calls and text messages threatening them with physical harm. Moreover, a large amount of threatening material is posted by Ukraine directly on social media.

In that context, it is symptomatic that during the United Nations Security Council meeting on 30 May, the recommendations by Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for ensuring a stable environment in and around the Zaporizhzhia NPP were not supported by Ukraine, which tried to dictate additional conditions of its own. This again demonstrates Ukraine's aim to undermine the safety of the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Strictly speaking, one thing was and is required of Ukraine – a public promise to refrain from shelling or otherwise attacking the Zaporizhzhia NPP in the future, but the current Ukrainian authorities are unable to do even that. Apparently, they want to keep their hands free for more attacks on the plant.

For our part, we note that the considerations announced by the IAEA Director General on 30 May on the margins of the United Nations Security Council meeting on the safety of the Zaporizhzhia NPP are consistent with the measures that we have already been implementing in a national capacity, in accordance with decisions taken at the national level. We intend to continue to protect the plant in a way that does not allow Ukraine and the collective West that supports it to violate them. We have not forgotten how the Ukrainian armed forces shelled the plant with US-made M777 howitzers. We shall continue to respond harshly to any attacks by Ukraine on the Zaporizhzhia NPP that could lead to a nuclear disaster in Europe.

Madam Chairperson,

Official circles in the NATO and European Union member countries, hypocritically arguing that sending weapons to the authorities in Kyiv will supposedly facilitate the start of negotiations, are deeply mistaken – the result will be just the opposite. Those who cherish the hope that Russian arms will soon be depleted will meet with inevitable disappointment. The armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to receive major deliveries of all kinds of weapons, military and special equipment. Western colleagues can rest assured that the NATO weapons now planned to be handed over to the Ukrainian authorities, designed to be used against our country and kill civilians, will be turned into a pile of scrap metal. Similarly, we will respond to planned US deliveries of sub-calibre armour-piercing ammunition containing depleted uranium to the terrorist regime in Kyiv. We guarantee that the longer the range of the weapons supplied, the further we will push them away from our sovereign territories, up to and including the creation of a “sanitary zone” [a buffer or demilitarized zone].

Once again, we emphasize that the supply of offensive weapons, coupled with the direct incitement of the Ukrainian Government to seize Russian territories, draws NATO member countries into the conflict and could lead to an unpredictable level of escalation. This also applies to the discussed transfer of US F-16 fighter jets, which, according to the Secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council, Oleksii Danilov, will enable Ukraine to strike at Russia far behind the front lines. We appeal to the military strategists of Ukraine and NATO: do not miscalculate in your anti-Russian plans, as happened 80 years ago. Back then, it became clear to all that the Nazis' plans to destroy our country and their ideas of world domination were doomed to failure. Similarly, the West has yet to realize that it cannot achieve its geopolitical goals in relation to the Russian Federation.

Thank you for your attention.