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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1025th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO OPERATION**

12 October 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

At a press conference in Brussels yesterday, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Alliance, Jens Stoltenberg, announced that a Russian victory in Ukraine was unacceptable, because it would signal NATO's defeat. Finally, the West has dotted all the i's by openly admitting its involvement in the conflict and the use of Ukraine as a military bridgehead for achieving the anti-Russian objectives of the NATO military machine.

In an effort to cause maximum damage to the Russian Federation, the member countries of the bloc, led by the United States of America, have been striving to cultivate and nurture near our borders a Ukrainian terrorist State, which is openly provoking the unleashing of a world war and nuclear catastrophe.

The President of Ukraine has made clear and unambiguous calls for the country's Western handlers to launch pre-emptive nuclear strikes against Russia. Attempts by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office to play down the situation claiming that he meant something else are ludicrous. After all, we are talking about a regime that demands long-range missiles from the United States to deliver dirty bombs to Russian territory. We also remember well how in February this year the Ukrainian leader announced his desire to possess nuclear weapons. These slogans and ambitions are falling on fertile ground. Just a week ago, US military commanders threatened the possibility of launching a decapitation strike against the Russian capital. It seems that the United States and its allies have come to believe in their ability to control the escalation and exert coercive pressure on Russia in a way that does not negatively impact on themselves. This arrogance is misguided. You have already trampled on international law and broken taboos that have existed in diplomatic practice for decades. The attempts to undermine the "nuclear taboo" are dangerous, irresponsible and could bring all of humanity to the edge of the abyss.

But the United States, NATO and the European Union are not calling Ukraine to order and are merely encouraging its military and political leadership to engage in blatant sabotage that exacerbates regional and international tensions. In August this year, Darya Dugina, a 29-year-old Russian journalist, was

murdered by a member of the neo-Nazi Azov regiment near Moscow on the orders of the Ukrainian intelligence services. There have been terrorist attacks on the Kursk nuclear power plant, and our country's electric power facilities and gas transport infrastructure have been sabotaged, including an attempt to blow up a section of the TurkStream gas pipeline. The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is the target of regular missile and artillery strikes. The last straw was the provocation by the Ukrainian intelligence services on the Crimean Bridge, which is one of the national symbols of the Russian Federation. This act of terrorism – which is exactly how the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation referred to it – definitively put the criminal Kyiv regime on a par with international terrorist groups. We provided an appropriately strong military response, launching high-precision missile strikes against the enemy's critical infrastructure on a massive scale, the consequences of which are the full responsibility of the Ukrainian leadership. This is how things will remain if, at the Ukrainian leadership's instigation, dangerous provocations on Russian territory continue.

Before the platform of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation is flooded with false anti-Russian accusations – and we are sure to hear them today – we draw the attention of our Western colleagues to the following facts.

First of all, the Western OSCE participating States that approve of the Kyiv regime's terrorist attacks are effectively becoming accomplices to State-sponsored terrorism. In that context, we would remind you that the criminal act on the Crimean Bridge was explicitly supported by politicians in Estonia, Poland and Slovakia. In fact, court proceedings have already been instigated in Slovakia against Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' for encouraging terrorism. It would not be amiss to recall the admission by the head of the Association of Defence Enterprises of Ukraine, Serhii Pashynskyi, that NATO intelligence services were involved in the aforementioned incident: "Once you tell me that the United States has green-lighted the blowing up of the Crimean Bridge, things can start moving." I believe there is no need for any comment.

Secondly, a few words about the Western OSCE participating States' attempts to accuse Russia of launching strikes against Ukraine's civilian infrastructure. To begin with, the Ukrainian Government's handlers are well aware of the situation in the Ukrainian conflict zone. Some 70 military satellites from the United States and other NATO countries are continuously operating over the country, as are 200 commercial satellites. They know that the vast majority of the damage to civilian infrastructure in Ukrainian towns and cities on 10 October this year resulted from operations by the Ukrainian air defence system. The Ukrainian armed forces' air defence missiles failed to do their job, regularly missing their targets and landing on residential buildings. The decision to shoot down the missiles was taken by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, who were aware of the consequences. In contrast, the Russian army's tasks included strikes against Ukrainian military command, communications and energy systems. The aim has been achieved. All the designated targets were hit.

Thirdly – and this is especially for the NATO member countries – which claim to be so concerned about the civilian population, as a result of the shelling with military equipment you have supplied to Ukraine, at the peak of the escalation in Donbas an average of ten people were being killed and 15 injured. Why do you not express sorrow for these losses? Do you consider these people second-class citizens? Have you forgotten the bloodbath in Libya in 2011, when you conducted over 10,000 air strikes on the country? On the first day of the incursion alone, Western forces launched 114 cruise missiles at targets on Libyan soil. The incessant bombardment resulted in massive casualties among the civilian population. When you were asked about the dead and injured, you insisted that these were "collateral damage" that "could happen" during hostilities. It is clear to us that behind the appealing facade of your "rules-based world order", what you actually promote is a US-centric diktat aimed at dividing countries and peoples into desirable or undesirable ones.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russophobic campaign by the countries of the collective West is designed to serve the interests of the United States, which seeks to solve its economic problems, including servicing the national debt of 31 trillion dollars, by fomenting military conflicts. Almost every week, there are reports from the United States about new tranches of military aid to the Ukrainian Government for confronting Russia “down to the last Ukrainian”; the US military-industrial complex is increasingly being filled with defence orders. In that connection, US General Jack Keane said live on Fox News: “For 66 billion dollars what we’re getting is that Ukraine is doing the fighting ... against the Russian army. [...] We’ve invested, [and I mean invested, 66 billion dollars in Ukraine this year and that is] like 1.1 per cent [of the budget]. [...] For this investment I think it’s well worth it.” It is high time for the US Government to be frank about its involvement in Ukraine, including the regime change in 2014.

Against this background, the Russian Federation is continuing to implement President Putin’s goals of denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine. As an appropriate response to the terrorist provocations by the Kyiv regime, our troops continue to carry out high-precision strikes against Ukrainian military command and energy infrastructure facilities on a massive scale. We note the unsuccessful attacks by the Ukrainian army in the area of Kupiansk and Krasnyi Lyman and between Mykolaiv and Kryvyi Rih.

There are reports that the United States is pressing the Ukrainian Government to launch a decisive battle in southern Ukraine before mid-winter. At the same time, the US handlers are forcing their allies to send more and more weapons systems and equipment to Kyiv. The United Kingdom recently trained several thousand Ukrainian fighters, with instructors from Canada, Poland, New Zealand and other Western countries involved in the training. The European Union, which is discussing the establishment of a military assistance mission to Ukraine, is also keeping pace with the United States and the United Kingdom. We strongly warn that if such a mission is formed, it will confirm the EU’s status as a party to the conflict.

Foreign mercenaries from more than 30 countries continue to arrive at the line of military contact in south-eastern Ukraine. Citizens of Canada, the United States, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom and Georgia have been particularly zealous. Whereas initially they served as instructors, now they are often becoming commanders of mixed units. Radio intercepts carried out by our military personnel in the Luhansk area indicate a large number of Polish and German nationals among the ranks of the mercenaries. In the Donetsk People’s Republic it is mainly Polish and British citizens. Serving US special forces officers have been spotted in the Zaporizhzhia area. The Kyiv regime’s criminal tactics are such that poorly trained recruits of Ukrainian origin are flung on to the front line as cannon fodder, while mercenary forces are being spared in order to gain favour with the regime’s Western handlers.

We warn that the recruitment of mercenaries by Ukrainian diplomatic missions to participate in the hostilities is a gross violation of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1989 International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, as well as the domestic legislation of a number of countries. Mercenaries sent by the West to assist the nationalist regime in Kyiv are not combatants under international humanitarian law and are not entitled to prisoner-of-war status. The best they can hope for is imprisonment. Otherwise, they will be liquidated by Russian troops as part of the demilitarization of Ukraine. More than 160 soldiers of fortune were eliminated through a high-precision weapon strike by the Russian Aerospace Forces in the Zaporizhzhia area on 8 October this year alone.

Contrary to the plans of the strategists in Washington, D.C., an increase in military assistance to the Ukrainian Government by NATO member countries will not only not allow Ukraine to strengthen its defence capabilities but will also lead to a sharp rise in losses among the Ukrainian armed forces’ personnel

and foreign mercenaries. Over the past week, Russian military personnel have destroyed at least 37 unmanned aerial vehicles, including Switchblade 600 and Bayraktar TB2 combat drones, and in the Mykolaiv region an entire hangar full of the latter was eliminated by a tactical Iskander missile strike on Voznesensk military airfield. In addition, more than 115 shells for HIMARS, Vilkhavka and Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems and at least 15 HARM anti-radiation missiles were destroyed in the air. A high-precision strike by the Russian Aerospace Forces eliminated an ammunition depot of the 61st Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near Berezhneuvate in the Mykolaiv region, in which over 200 missiles for HIMARS and Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems had been stored. A storage site containing HIMARS missiles was destroyed near the village of Predtechyne in the Donetsk People's Republic. Three US-made AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 counter-battery radar systems were taken out of action in the vicinity of the village of Murakhivka in the Mykolaiv region and near the settlements of Kirove and Drobysheve in the Donetsk People's Republic. A Polish-made Krab self-propelled artillery system and two US-made M777 howitzers were eliminated. This systematic work will continue.

“Pumping” the Ukrainian Government with Western weaponry and military equipment also does not help to improve the combat capabilities of the Ukrainian armed forces, which are obliged to adapt the weapons they receive directly in active combat conditions. At the same time, Ukrainian military personnel have become dependent on Western arms deliveries. On many occasions, US-made grenade launchers, anti-tank missile systems, man-portable air defence systems and assault rifles are left on the battlefield and then end up in the hands of the Russian army. The Russian Ministry of Defence is carefully studying the captured Western weapons. Their particular features and specific qualities are taken into consideration with a view to improving the methods for conducting military operations and enhancing the effectiveness of Russian weapons.

Something else to be noted is the fact that the Ukrainian military's handling of Western equipment also leaves much to be desired. In the video, our colleagues can see how Ukrainian armed forces' military personnel are dragging a US-made M777 howitzer along dirt roads at high speed. It is not hard to guess what will happen to this expensive piece of military equipment after such treatment.

What the Ukrainian neo-Nazis and their NATO handlers have really succeeded in is the systematic criminal shelling of the civilian population in the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and the liberated territories. They are hitting civilian objects: shopping centres, shops, markets and agricultural enterprises. Last week, US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems were used to shell a hotel and a bus in the centre of Kherson and the Daryivskiy Bridge at a time of heavy traffic. Shrapnel-filled HIMARS missiles were used against a temporary accommodation facility on the outskirts of Starobilsk in the Luhansk People's Republic to achieve a larger number of casualties. M982 Excalibur guided artillery shells were aimed at the Kirovskiy district of the city of Donetsk. In the Donetsk People's Republic alone, eight people were killed and 42 injured last week. A total of 98 residential buildings and 24 civilian infrastructure facilities were damaged. This begs the question for our US colleagues: do we understand correctly that the effectiveness of Western weapons in Ukraine is measured by the number of civilian casualties?

The Russian delegation regularly cites evidence of the neo-Nazi nature of the Kyiv regime. Last week, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, posted a photo of himself on his Twitter account wearing a bracelet with a Nazi swastika. This was not a case of a “file compression error”, which is how the Kyiv authorities tried to present the situation. Soldiers of the 25th Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces have also confirmed the neo-Nazi nature of the Kyiv regime. They spoke of the criminal orders of their commanders, who abandoned them on the front line and ordered them to finish off the wounded so as not to have to organize their evacuation. We will distribute the video material in which a Ukrainian soldier quotes his commander: “Once you enter the village, shoot at

everything, at cars, at houses, throw grenades into cellars.” Such “mopping-up operations” involving civilians took place in the cities of Balakliia, Iziium and Kupiansk after the withdrawal of the Russian forces.

Shocking new evidence has emerged of Ukrainian neo-Nazis carrying out executions among the civilian population near Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region and then, without fear of repercussions, posting video footage in the public domain. A few days ago, the former commander of the nationalist Azov formation, Maxim Zhorin, decided to intimidate the Ukrainians by promising retribution for collaboration with the “occupiers”. Apparently, he was inspired by reports on the Ukrainian television channel 1+1, which promotes the message that “all those who collaborated with the Russians do not even make it to court and prison”. This video actually belongs to Mr. Zhorin and was filmed on 9 October this year, when Kupiansk was already controlled by the Ukrainian Government. The murders of Kharkiv region residents are on the conscience of the Kyiv regime and they will not go unpunished.

It is time finally for the collective West to wake up and see who in actual fact its representatives are supporting. However, some States bound by the shackles of Euro-Atlantic solidarity, especially the Anglo-Saxon contingent, have no need for peace in Ukraine and do not benefit from it. They will bear responsibility for their choices.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.