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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1113th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

23 July 2025

Agenda item: Closing session under the Estonian Chairmanship

Madam Chairperson,

We welcome the Director of the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre, Ms. Catherine Fearon, to today's meeting. We take note of the analysis presented by Mr. Martin Roger, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, on the outcomes of the spring-summer session of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) that now lies behind us.

This latest stage in the FSC's work is coming to a close against the backdrop of continued deterioration in the European security situation and with regard to the system for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The European ruling elites' destructive course aimed at total confrontation with Russia and at prolongation and escalation of the Ukrainian crisis is becoming further entrenched.

Russia has been and remains open to a political and diplomatic resolution of the Ukrainian conflict. We are deeply grateful to all our international partners who have been undertaking, and continue to undertake, sincere mediation efforts with a view to peacefully settling the Ukrainian crisis. That being said, with each new official statement issued by decision makers in Brussels, Berlin, London and Paris, it becomes increasingly clear that the main obstacle to resolving the conflict continues to be posed by European countries obsessed with the idea of inflicting a strategic defeat on the Russian Federation on the battlefield.

The truce that our opponents have been persistently calling for when taking the floor at the FSC is something that the Kyiv regime and its external handlers intend to exploit for the purposes of regrouping, continuing the mobilization and strengthening the military capabilities of the Ukrainian armed forces. Of course, we cannot allow this to happen. What we have in mind is achieving a lasting peace, and not a breathing space for the benefit of the Kyiv junta, which would be followed by even greater bloodshed.

We stress that a sustainable settlement is impossible unless the root causes of the conflict are eradicated – that is, it is impossible without elimination of the security threats posed to our country by NATO enlargement and the drawing of Ukraine into the Alliance. It is important to ensure that human rights

are respected in the territories that remain under the control of the Kyiv regime, which since 2014 has been wiping out everything that has to do with ethnic, cultural and spiritual ties to Russia.

There must be international legal recognition of the realities that have arisen following the incorporation of new territories into Russia. Their inhabitants chose their own destiny through a free expression of their will in a referendum. Going forward, what is on the table is the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine, the revocation of anti-Russian sanctions, the withdrawal of all lawsuits against Russia and the return of its assets that have been unlawfully seized in the West.

Ukraine must go back to the origins of its statehood and adhere to the letter and the spirit of the documents that laid down its legal foundations. We are referring, in particular, to its 1990 Declaration of State Sovereignty.

Apart from the Kyiv regime's discriminatory actions against all things Russian in Ukraine, another reason for the conflict has been NATO's eastward expansion over many years, which is linked to the transformation of Ukraine into a military bridgehead for the containment of Russia.

I would remind you that, back in late 2021, we proposed to the US Government and NATO that treaties be concluded on mutual security guarantees, one of which was to have been Ukraine's non-accession to the Alliance. Our initiative was rebuffed. The West continued to arm the Kyiv regime in order to resolve the issue of Donbass and Crimea by force. We were ultimately left with no other choice but to launch a special military operation.

Madam Chairperson,

Your watch at the helm of the OSCE's politico-military decision-making body coincided with a most challenging period. However, you discharged the functions of FSC Chairperson with a high degree of professionalism, giving each participating State the opportunity to have its voice heard.

The meetings during the spring-summer session were conducted in accordance with the Forum's programme of work. Three Security Dialogues were held: on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, with an emphasis on the democratic control of armed forces (28 May); on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security in the context of its 25th anniversary (18 June); and on ensuring the safety of children in armed conflict settings, with the event taking place in the format of a joint meeting of the FSC and the OSCE Permanent Council (9 July).

On the other hand, we note the refusal to organize a meeting on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The blocking of that key event in the OSCE's annual cycle over the past four years as a result of anonymous delegations acting behind closed doors constitutes an abandonment of diplomacy and a blow to the very foundations of the Forum, in particular to FSC Decision No. 12/11, which obligates the participating States to annually review the implementation of the Code of Conduct. We categorically reject the attempts to "compensate" for the refusal by NATO countries and Ukraine to hold such a meeting by considering, through the lens of the Code of Conduct, the topic of children or any other issues extraneous to it. I must stress that our position is based on a precise and careful reading of that document, of all its provisions as an interlinked whole. Conversely, an over-broad understanding of the Code of Conduct to cater to political ends and to the propagandist advocacy agenda of a number of States dilutes, if not undermines, the Code's objectives and essence.

Pursuant to OSCE Ministerial Council decisions, during the next round of negotiations a decision is meant to be adopted on holding the annual event on the management of small arms and light weapons

(SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA). Similarly, we expect the initiation of discussions on the prospects for holding the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting on the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, which is supposed to be convened in accordance with Chapter XI of the Vienna Document. Should there be no consensus on holding these events, a relevant FSC decision will need to be adopted. Otherwise, we would be faced with a violation of the provisions of Ministerial Council documents and the Vienna Document, something that has failed to elicit a satisfactory response from the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) for several years now. This situation needs to be rectified.

A few words in connection with the efforts undertaken by the Norwegian Chairmanship of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue on the Current and Future Challenges and Risks to Security in the OSCE Area to resume the Group's work. We continue to be against the Structured Dialogue being broken up into "small groups", which are exacerbating the already deep divide in the OSCE, as this runs counter to the Rules of Procedure, the relevant 2016 Hamburg Ministerial Council declaration and the principles of the Structured Dialogue itself. On that premise, we do not believe it is worth participating in this "flexible" format and will not recognize its outcomes. We continue to be a stickler for strict adherence to the "Hamburg mandate" based on the participation of all 57 participating States without exception, as befits us here at the OSCE.

Last week, CPC Director Ms. Fearon addressed our Organization's Permanent Council to present a report on the Centre's activities over the past year. With regard to its FSC-related work, we should like to express our appreciation for the Centre's active contribution towards maintaining the smooth operation of the OSCE Communications Network, the provision of reliable support for the exchanges of military information and the regular briefings on the Secretariat's activities related to the management of SALW and SCA in recipient countries. On the other hand, although the Centre's report talks about supporting the FSC in the promotion of dialogue, we have been seeing quite the opposite in practice: the Forum's programme of work has been emasculated, traditional topics falling under its mandate are tabooed, hate speech has issued forth from the Chairmanship's "bully pulpit" during the reporting period and one chairing country even trampled the OSCE's core principle of consensus underfoot, as a result of which the Forum has slid into a profound procedural and political crisis. What is required of the CPC and, more specifically, the FSC Support Unit is outreach work with the rotating Chairmanships covering the Forum's politico-military mandate, the nature of agreements adopted at the FSC and the modalities for holding the politico-military events in the OSCE's annual cycle. We trust that the CPC will not allow a festering of the situation at the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue, which, as it is, has already turned into a dubious Western conclave. We are convinced that the CPC will manage to draw constructively on its experience and energy in order to bring the FSC's work – and, more broadly, the work performed under the OSCE's politico-military dimension – back into line with its mandate.

Madam Chairperson,

Our position remains unchanged. The Forum still has a leading role to play in addressing politico-military security issues in the OSCE area. We reaffirm the need to bolster the FSC as a unique politico-military platform operating on the basis of the consensus rule and the principle of the sovereign equality of countries, with a view to strengthening security and developing co-operation among the participating States. We call upon all participating States that care about its fate to align themselves with the joint statement delivered by Russia and Belarus in support of the Forum (FSC.DEL/4/25).

In closing, we should like to thank Spain as the outgoing member of the Troika and to welcome France, which is set to join in its work.

Permit us also to separately address the delegation of Finland, which will be chairing the FSC in the next semester. We are counting on your efforts to keep our ship on the course charted by its mandate and the Rules of Procedure, and to enable constructive dialogue in the interests of all 57 participating States.

Thank you for your attention.