

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.DEL/444/22
9 December 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. KONSTANTIN GAVRILOV, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1030th PLENARY MEETING
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

7 December 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The last meeting in the current session of the Forum for Security Co-operation devoted to a discussion of the situation in Ukraine serves as an opportunity for taking stock of some of the discussions that have taken place.

This year made us realize once and for all the futility of attempts to persuade the West to strive for an equitable and mutually respectful agreement to ensure stability on the continent without expanding the North Atlantic Alliance. One of the decisive factors behind the escalation of pan-European tensions was the arrogant refusal by NATO member States to meaningfully discuss the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, regarding the provision of security guarantees for Russia on its western border. Subregional formats, intended as substitutes for the OSCE, are currently being cultivated in Europe in an attempt to organize security without Russia. But the Russian Government has no need of security under such “rules”.

At the very start of this year, Ukraine, supported by its Baltic allies, manipulated the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, seeking to discredit the routine combat training events taking place on the territory of the Union State. At the same time, the criminal regime in Kyiv continued shelling population centres in Donbas (as confirmed in reports by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine), massing its forces and readying itself for a large-scale operation to resolve the internal Ukrainian conflict by force. It is precisely those highly “unusual” military activities that ought to have been brought up at the OSCE if our colleagues really had been concerned about the need to reduce military risks in Europe.

Throughout 2022, the Western OSCE participating States have been showing an astonishing level of tolerance towards the nuclear threats generated by the Ukrainian Government, thereby fostering a dangerous sense of permissiveness in its ranks. The remarks made by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the possibility of reconsidering his country’s non-nuclear status essentially implied an attempt by the radical nationalists to acquire nuclear weapons, which is categorically unacceptable in view of the Ukrainian

Government's obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Abetted by the collective West, the Ukrainian armed forces are currently training their guns on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP), the largest such plant in Europe.

In addition, serious risks to nuclear security could arise from provocations against the Russian strategic bomber airfields at Dyagilevo and Engels involving the use of Tu-141 Strizh unmanned aerial vehicles as missile-like combat drones. As is known, work was carried out in the course of 2022 to restore and modernize these Soviet-era drones with the participation of specialists from the Luch State Design Office (in Kyiv) and the US corporation Raytheon Technologies. The unmanned aerial vehicles were converted into strike weapons with a range of up to 1,000 km, a high-explosive warhead of up to 80 kg, and the ability to home in on their target by means of GPS, the US global satellite system. In other words, NATO was in the know about the preparation of the recent Ukrainian attacks on Russian military airfields. We immediately responded to these through massive strikes on Ukraine's military command system, defence facilities and associated energy infrastructure facilities. No one should be in any doubt that this will happen every time should the Ukrainian terrorist acts continue.

This year we have once again seen how the democratic principles of freedom of expression and speech, humaneness and humanitarianism proclaimed by European Union and NATO countries are nothing but empty talk. Every day, these States make the conscious choice to prolong an armed conflict in the OSCE area that is being fuelled by their continuous shipments of weapons and military equipment to Ukraine. As far as the collective West is concerned, the residents of Donbas do not exist – that is, all those people against whom the Ukrainian Government has been conducting a deadly military operation for eight years now, cutting an entire region off by severing its social, economic and transport links. The EU and NATO countries have become accustomed to turning a blind eye to the plight of the women and children of Donbas, among whom the Ukrainian Government wreaks daily carnage as a result of shelling from NATO weapons.

To us it is evident that since 2014 the Western OSCE participating States have been encouraging the militarization and Nazification of Ukraine, together with all the terror and killing perpetrated by the Kyiv regime. Nothing was done to compel the President of Ukraine – first Petro Poroshenko and then Mr. Zelenskyy – to implement the Minsk agreements. All this is tantamount to connivance in the pursuit of “plan B” as announced by the Ukrainian Government, namely, the seizure of Donbas and Crimea by force. The revelations by the deputy head of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) Committee on National Security, Defence and Intelligence, Mykhailo Zabrotskyi, about the project for conducting an operation to bring about the “return” of the Crimean peninsula by 2023, alongside the documents captured by our military, clearly demonstrate that the Ukrainian Government had been preparing in earnest for a large-scale offensive last spring.

In these circumstances, the Russian Federation, by way of preventive self-defence, took the justified and momentous decision to conduct a special military operation in accordance with Chapter VII, Article 51, of the Charter of the United Nations. The operation is aimed at protecting people who for eight years have been subjected to genocide by the Kyiv regime, and also at eliminating the NATO military bridgehead on Ukrainian territory, together with the threats to the national security of Russia and the security of Europe emanating from that bridgehead. Our country, our soldiers and our people are willing to pull together all as one and do everything possible to frustrate the goal set by the collective West of inflicting on Russia a “strategic defeat” in Ukraine. The special military operation will continue all the way until fulfilment of the objectives laid down by the country's senior political and military leadership, with account taken of the situation on the ground.

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past year, the United States of America and its NATO allies have consolidated their status as participants in the Ukrainian conflict. This runs the risk of leading to a direct confrontation between nuclear powers, with catastrophic consequences. Russia regularly sends out warning signals in that regard, but instead of treating them seriously, those in the West maliciously distort them. The NATO bloc's promises to continue rendering assistance to Ukraine "for as long as it takes" merely indicate that the pursuit of further escalation of the conflict in that country and destabilization of the situation on the European continent remain the chief tasks for that instrument of the collective West. This is further confirmed by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's remark to the effect that the only way to achieve peace in Ukraine was through constant arms supplies to the Ukrainian Government.

Let us now take a look at the inglorious track record of NATO "arms diplomacy" in Ukraine.

First, following the meeting of the NATO member countries' ministers of foreign affairs in Bucharest on 29 and 30 November, it is expected that supplies of air defence systems and the associated missiles to Ukraine will be stepped up. The only thing is that, as it turns out, these are being shipped not to defend the "free world" but to kill Ukrainian civilians. The Ukrainian armed forces are deploying air defence systems not on the outskirts but right in the centre of cities, which poses a direct threat to civilians. Leading media outlets on the other side of the Atlantic are confirming how US-made air defence missiles, including AGM-88B HARM anti-radar missiles, hit residential buildings in Kyiv and Kramatorsk, leading to extensive destruction and civilian casualties. In short, the Kyiv regime, aided by its handlers, continues to use the population as human shields.

Speaking of the problematic functioning of the Ukrainian air defence system, which is a threat not only to Ukrainian civilians but also to the citizens of neighbouring States: it seems that people in this room have already forgotten about the incident involving S-300P missiles in the Polish village of Przewodów. Nevertheless, we continue to await a clear, unambiguous explanation from Ukraine and Poland – which three weeks ago were trying here to pit Russia and NATO against each other – as to whose missiles it was that caused the death of Polish citizens. What conclusions has the international investigation reached? We demand a meaningful response, and not empty blathering about the incident.

Secondly, EU and NATO member countries continue uninterruptedly to deliver 155 mm shells to Ukraine, which the Ukrainian armed forces happen to be using in their daily shelling of the site of the Zaporizhzhia NPP, thereby posing a threat to its safe functioning and increasing the risks of a human-made disaster. Ukraine's actions in relation to the Zaporizhzhia NPP, which involve the use of NATO weapons, cannot be described as anything other than nuclear terrorism. It is outrageous that the collective West should in effect be sponsoring these provocations. We would particularly point out that the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation has directed an appeal to the parliaments of countries around the world and to international parliamentary organizations, calling upon them to condemn the policies of the Kyiv authorities and to demand that these aggressive actions threatening the security of an NPP be stopped.

Thirdly, the Western deliveries of weapons and military equipment to the Kyiv regime continue to bring destruction and death to the cities of Donbas and also those of the liberated territories. We regularly provide photographic evidence of how the notorious US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system is used for targeted strikes on civilian infrastructure in the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. A contribution to the realization of the goals of Western "diplomacy" in Ukraine will soon also be made by the French modernized version of HIMARS, the LRU M270 multiple-launch rocket system, which is able to fire guided rockets with a flight range of up to 85 km. In general, the residents of Donbas have since the

summer come to associate Paris not with the Eiffel Tower but with the CAESAR self-propelled artillery systems that Ukrainian radicals are using to fire at them on a massive scale. Around 4,500 people, including at least 140 children, have been killed in the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics by NATO and Ukrainian weapons since mid-February. Some 4,200 people have been injured, including 268 children. More than 12,000 residential buildings and 2,300 civilian infrastructure facilities have been damaged. We would remind you that the vast majority of the targets hit by the neo-Nazis are determined by the Western overlords of the Kyiv regime.

Fourthly, we should like to draw attention to the international legal aspects of the matter. As we can see, the Euro-Atlantic allies led by the United States have launched a campaign to buy up Soviet and Russian weapons and ammunition around the world, to be subsequently transferred to Ukraine. On 30 November, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the production of Soviet-designed weapon systems would be resumed at enterprises in Eastern European States with a view to those systems then being delivered to the Kyiv regime. It should be stressed that the production of Soviet and Russian models of weapons and ammunition had been organized there in full compliance with intergovernmental agreements that laid down the obligation not to supply the goods thus produced to third countries without the written consent of the USSR or Russia as its legal successor. With such statements, the United States, which is not a party to the aforementioned agreements and does not bear any responsibility in this connection, is inciting its allies to violate basic international norms and practices in the field of conventional arms control. This is unacceptable.

We call upon the OSCE participating States to refrain from complicity in the Kyiv regime's war crimes and to show respect for universal mechanisms for the control of conventional arms transfers, and for their obligations within the EU framework and under the Arms Trade Treaty – obligations that provide for a ban on arms exports to regions where this could lead to a violation of international humanitarian law and contribute to the aggravation of domestic armed conflicts.

Mr. Chairperson,

In view of the Ukrainian Government's demonstrative refusal to negotiate, the armed forces of the Russian Federation will continue systematically to implement the special operation's objectives. We are liberating Donbas bit by bit. An offensive by Russian troops is under way near Artemivsk in the Donetsk People's Republic, where the enemy is sustaining tremendous losses. All in all, in the course of three weeks, more than 8,000 Ukrainian military personnel have been eliminated in the zone of the special military operation. As part of the demilitarization of Ukraine, Western military equipment supplied to the Kyiv regime is being targeted and destroyed, including the following equipment over the past three weeks: 21 US-made M777 howitzers, 18 US-made AN/TPQ radar stations, and 3 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems with their ammunition and crew. At least six bases of foreign mercenaries have been hit. Targeted strikes have been carried out on major depots for missile and artillery weapons. More than 100 rockets fired by HIMARS, Vilkha and Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems were intercepted in the air, as were HARM anti-radar missiles.

We have taken note of reports by media outlets close to the US Government, according to which the Pentagon is planning to train the Ukrainian armed forces to conduct "sophisticated campaigns" against the Russian army. We should like the US delegation to clarify what exactly this is referring to. Perhaps to executing and torturing our soldiers? It is no secret that US marines were involved in training the military personnel from the 80th Airborne Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces who in November shot dead unarmed Russian soldiers in Makiivka. This is not an isolated case. In particular, one cannot but shudder at a shocking video sequence published by the neo-Nazis in which a bound Russian soldier is placed alive in a wooden coffin. So that our Western colleagues can see for themselves what kind of people they

have been “nurturing” in Ukraine, we will circulate the material in our possession showing our soldiers being subjected to acts of violence in order to make an example of them. This is yet more evidence of the crimes committed by the Ukrainian neo-Nazis at the instigation of their transatlantic handlers – of Ukraine’s gross violation of international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Russia will independently set about searching for the perpetrators of these atrocities: they must be found and punished.

Mr. Chairperson,

The ongoing special military operation has brought to light major violations by Ukraine and its Western handlers of the international regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction – something that is contrary to OSCE participating States’ commitments under the Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, a fundamental document adopted at the CSCE Summit in Budapest in 1994.

By this we are referring to the Kyiv regime’s aspirations to change Ukraine’s non-nuclear status in contravention of the NPT; to the support provided by US contractors in the preparation of chemical provocations in Ukraine in breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention; and to the co-operation between the United States and Ukraine on the creation of biological weapons in Ukrainian laboratories, which goes against the provisions of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).

During the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the BTWC (Geneva, 28 November–16 December), the Russian delegation has emphasized that our country intends to continue making the necessary efforts to establish all the facts related to the violation by the United States and Ukraine of their obligations under the Convention. As one such step, we propose developing the parameters for the functioning of a specific mechanism, together with technical guidelines and procedures, for the conduct of investigations into a presumed breach of obligations under the BTWC in accordance with Article VI of the Convention. In our view, the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts established by a decision of the Review Conference would be a suitable platform for that purpose. We for our part will continue to shed light on the dangerous military biological activities of the United States outside its national borders.

Mr. Chairperson,

To sum up: we are obliged to note that the situation in Ukraine is a tragic consequence of the geopolitical engineering of the United States and its satellites, which for decades have been making themselves at home in Ukrainian territory with a view to creating an anti-Russian military bridgehead. In the US Government’s “Great Game”, the authorities in Kyiv, who are under external “manual” control, have been assigned merely the role of a pliant instrument. The same is true of most EU countries, which are blindly aligning themselves with a world order based on US rules, to the detriment of their own interests. It is time for the countries of that continent to take responsibility for Europe’s future and security into their own hands.

The Russian Federation remains open to substantive dialogue on the future of European security provided that there is a suitable partner who is capable of operating according to the principles of mutual respect and a balance of interests, and who is prepared not to cross the Russian Government’s red lines.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.