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## 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 1026th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO OPERATION

19 October 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The countries to the "east of Vienna" are increasingly engaged in multi-format Eurasian co-operation based on the principles of good-neighbourliness, partnership, mutual benefit and consideration of each other's interests. On 13 and 14 October this year, Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, hosted a series of events at the highest level designed ultimately to foster dialogue with a view to developing a more sustainable and equitable international security architecture. The summit of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders adopted a set of documents aimed at creating an integrative, political, economic, cultural and humanitarian community within the CIS. The first Russia-Central Asia summit was held. The sixth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) confirmed that the nerve centre for the successful implementation of confidence- and security-building measures is shifting to the Asian space, where new power hubs are being established. The participants in these Eurasian formats do not intend to stop there. We are grateful to Kazakhstan for the excellent organization of these major events.

Meanwhile, "west of Vienna" on the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, NATO has commenced the two-week "Steadfast Noon 22" exercise (17–30 October) to test the scenario of a nuclear war being launched in Europe. Although these exercises were planned, we should not overlook the context of the manoeuvres, conducted against the backdrop of aggressive nuclear rhetoric from Western countries and the desire by the United States of America to inflict a "strategic defeat" on Russia. The lamentable experience of NATO's large-scale nuclear exercise "Able Archer 83" comes to mind. Its realism against the background of the Euromissile crisis exacerbated the international situation and pushed humanity towards the brink of nuclear war for a second time.

Over the past decades, we have regularly urged the US authorities to return all nuclear weapons to its national territory and to stop involving non-nuclear-weapon States in testing their use, in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. All efforts have been rebuffed. Now Poland is also offering to host a US "nuclear bomb", evidently seeking to put a definitive end to the NATO-Russia Founding Act. As we see from all

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these facts, the lessons of 1962 are not enough for the member countries of the Alliance to seek détente in the face of the escalating erosion of international security.

Tension remains high as far as conventional arms are concerned. The anti-Russian wing of the European Union, with the vigorous interference and focus by the United States and the United Kingdom, takes every opportunity to encourage a continuation of hostilities in the region. The United States is still creaming off the profits from the continuing bloodshed, forcing European countries to buy arms and military equipment from it, and in doing so increasing military budgets rather than permitting investments in the social sector and adaptation of the energy model to deal with global climate change. It is worth recalling that the US lend-lease to Ukraine, 90 per cent of which is made up of unsustainable loans for the Ukrainian Government, enables the United States to flood its military-industrial complex with orders and reduce inflation in the country by creating new jobs. It is not without reason that there is an age-old saying in Russia "war is when you fight to the last ditch and others get rich".

But to the west of Vienna, they do not want to stop there. Last week, new deliveries of military equipment to Kyiv were announced, for use by the Ukrainian armed forces to continue their terrorist shelling of civilians in the Russian Federation. We would emphasize that the EU and NATO countries have opted for the most lethal systems for the people of Donbas and the liberated territories.

First of all, the United States is handing over to the regime in Kyiv another batch of M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems and M31 GMLRS high-precision guided missiles, which destroy residential buildings and maim or kill elderly people, women and children on a daily basis. Judging by the way the US authorities have started to use this rocket system in bilateral military exercises on the western and eastern borders of the Russian Federation and by the fact that the US defence corporation Lockheed Martin has increased its annual production, someone on the other side of the Atlantic evidently believes in the existence of some kind of potent "wonder weapon". But this impression is misleading.

US-made AGM-88 HARM air-launched anti-radiation missiles, which are already being used by Ukronazis for treacherous attacks on residential areas of Belgorod, where there are no military facilities, are expected to be delivered to Ukraine. At the same time, we see how diligently the Ukrainian military and political leadership seeks to accuse Russia of "shelling itself". But the truth always comes out in the end. Last week, in a conversation with Russian pranksters, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba confirmed that Ukraine was behind the attacks on Crimea and the Belgorod region. He also openly stated that the Ukrainian army was planning a counteroffensive in the south in direct co-operation with the United States and the United Kingdom. The Russian delegation has spoken about this in detail on several occasions. The Ukrainian lies are collapsing like a house of cards.

From France, the Kyiv regime will once again receive the 155 mm Caesar self-propelled artillery systems, which have also shown their prowess in an unequal battle against residential buildings, schools and offices. With direct support from France, at least five people have been killed, ten injured and over 64 buildings damaged or destroyed by Ukrainian neo-Nazis in Donetsk since June this year. Will we at least hear words of regret today from the delegation of France about the casualties and destruction in Donbas?

Germany, along with Canada and the United States, has announced the supply to the Kyiv regime of 155 mm munitions, with which Ukrainian neo-Nazis target the citizens of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and the other new constituent entities of Russia on a daily basis. We have also noted the pointed statement by Wolfgang Schmidt, Head of the German Federal Chancellery, who compared the Kyiv regime's expectations for the Leopard 2 tanks with the enthusiasm of the German fascists for the V-2 rockets. With remarkable ease, Germany has overnight forgotten everything that our

country has done to unite the German people and the difficult chapters in the process of reconciliation between our two countries. Once again today, German guns are killing Russians.

If the collective West really believes in its ability to help bring about a Ukrainian victory on the battlefield, we are forced to disappoint it. Western weaponry does not play a decisive role on the battlefield, no matter how much our Western colleagues and their Ukrainian vassals claim otherwise. But it is used actively to exterminate civilians who disagree with the policies of the criminal Kyiv regime. When will our Western colleagues stop hiding their heads in the sand and finally explain how their behaviour is consistent with the norms of international humanitarian law and the obligations of a responsible export control policy?

We issue a strong warning that arms deliveries to Ukraine by EU and NATO countries make them accessories to the aggression against Russia and the war crimes and terrorist acts that Ukraine has been committing for the past eight years in this illegal, unjustifiable war against the civilian population. All those involved will most assuredly be called to account.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are systematically "pulverizing" the weapons supplied by EU and NATO countries in order to implement the fundamental objectives of the special military operation to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine. Over the past week, a platoon of US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems was hit during counter-battery fire near the settlement of Drobysheve in the Donetsk People's Republic. As a result of a high-precision strike by the Russian Aerospace Forces, three US-made M777 howitzers were destroyed near Zahryzove (Kharkiv region), and an entire battery of these systems was eliminated near Metalivka. More than 80 shells for the US-made HIMARS and Ukrainian Vilkha multiple-launch rocket systems and at least 14 HARM anti-radiation missiles were destroyed in the air. Four US-made AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-50 mobile counter-battery radar systems have been destroyed. Three Turkish Kirpi armoured personnel carriers and 71 unmanned aerial vehicles, including two US-made Switchblade 600 drones, have been eliminated. In total, Russian strike drones have destroyed more than 600 Ukrainian armed forces targets. This work will continue.

## Mr. Chairperson,

The situation in the zone where the special military operation is being conducted remains tense. The Russian army is delivering fire along the entire front. We are carrying out offensives in the Kramatorsk, Artemivsk and Avdiivka areas. We are concentrating our efforts on reaching the administrative borders of the Donetsk region. At the same time, we are not aiming to advance at a rapid tempo, are careful with our human resources and are methodically confronting the advancing enemy. The Ukrainian armed forces are suffering significant casualties, which is taking a heavy toll on the morale of the Ukrainian troops. This is also confirmed by Western media.

There are reports that Ukraine may be using prohibited methods and means of warfare near Kherson, including indiscriminate artillery fire and a planned missile strike on the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam. The Western architects of this criminal strategy are known. In that regard, army general Sergey Surovikin, commander of combined forces of the special military operation, did not rule out the possibility that we might have to make difficult decisions. The voluntary resettlement of the civilian population for security reasons from a number of districts in the Kherson region has been announced.

As Western handlers demand more and more offensive operations from the Ukrainian armed forces, the Ukrainian-NATO Russophobic propaganda factory is intensifying its activities.

We have noted that during the recent North Atlantic Alliance exercises, representatives of the information and psychological warfare, cybercommand, radio intelligence and special operations forces of

the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany practised scenarios that had either featured in Ukrainian media or could be implemented both in that country and in neighbouring NATO countries. We do not rule out the further involvement of specialists from Eastern European countries in psychological operations in Ukraine.

You should be careful about the games you play with your falsifications. It is the height of cynicism to erect a monument at the railway station in Kramatorsk to the "victims of Russian aggression" when they were in fact killed by a Ukrainian Tochka-U missile strike. The declaration by the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry about Ukraine's application for EU membership dated 988 evokes mixed feelings, to say the least. And we are no longer surprised to read in Ukrainian history textbooks that the ancestors of the French, the Gauls, came from Galicia, which is in Ukraine. But all records are still broken by former Ukrainian human rights commissioner Liudmyla Denisova, who duped the collective West with fabrications about the Russian army's involvement in mass rapes in the country, and then confessed that she made them up so as to be invited to speak in the parliaments of EU Member States and ultimately to get more money and arms from the West.

Nevertheless, we are forced to note that the case of the Ukrainian official Denisova was followed up in the rhetoric of the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, who made statements about the Russian army's "weaponization" of Viagra to commit violence against Ukrainians. We categorically reject these insinuations and remind you that our army regulations provide for the harshest penalties for any unlawful act, including rape, and that these penalties are always enforced.

It should be recalled that Western propaganda has used a similar technique against undesirable States in the past. In 2011, Reuters published an article alleging that the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was supplying his soldiers with Viagra pills. Everybody remembers well what happened afterwards. NATO simply turned the country into a bloodbath. Similar stuff was spread in the West about Iraqi soldiers during the invasion of Kuwait, which was engineered by the United States. Both then and now, the accusations are unsupported by any real evidence.

We should like to try once again to urge our colleagues to be vigilant: the automatic retransmission of propaganda slogans emanating from the Ukrainian authorities and their Anglo-Saxon handlers brings discredit to those States that are in the habit of using their methods.

## Mr. Chairperson,

The West's encouragement of the criminal Kyiv regime has enabled neo-Nazism to flourish openly in Ukraine, where the fascist henchman Stepan Bandera is considered by the local population to be one of the most outstanding Ukrainians of all time. This is not Russian propaganda or disinformation, but the results of recent opinion polls. Our country does not play a game of double standards as do Western colleagues who recognize Kosovo's independence but deny nations that are not to their liking the right to self-determination. No matter how they try to manipulate the results of the vote on the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the referendums in the Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic and in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, the fact remains that those States that represent over half the world's population, have huge gross domestic products and are the largest military powers abstained or voted against the document. They did not succumb to Western pressure. It goes without saying that the Russian Federation, which will undoubtedly achieve the goals set by President Putin for the special military operation to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine, will not succumb to it either.

Thank you for your attention.