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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 1046th PLENARY MEETING
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

24 May 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

On 20 May this year, after lengthy fighting, the liberation of the city of Artemovsk in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) was completed. The swift breakthrough that the Ukrainian armed forces and their Western handlers had banked on failed to materialize: a protracted phase of fighting ensued and it was the Russian artillery that spoke the decisive word. It is impossible to overestimate the significance of this event, just like that of the liberation of Mariupol on the same day one year ago, which became one of the most important milestones in the denazification of Ukraine.

In Artemovsk, as is generally the case in the zone of the special military operation, the Russian Federation was pitted against the forces and resources of the entire aggressive bloc that is NATO. Our troops are continuing to discover Western military equipment in the city, including equipment from France, Türkiye and the United Kingdom, along with high-explosive fragmentation shells and the personal documents of mercenaries who had come from the United States of America. All in all, during the fighting in the area of Artemovsk, 21 brigades of the Ukrainian armed forces were routed, with ten brigades completely knocked out; around 57,000 Ukrainian military personnel were killed and more than 85,000 injured. As part of the demilitarization of the Ukrainian-Western troops, at least 10,000 weapons and pieces of military equipment were destroyed and over 50 airplanes and helicopters were shot down. More than 6,500 foreign mercenaries were eliminated in the fighting and around 35,000 weapons were captured.

At present, the armed forces of the Russian Federation are continuing to disable the Kyiv-NATO "war machine" in Ukraine. Group strikes by long-range high-precision weapons are being used to systematically strike at major weapons and ammunition depots and aircraft hangars of the Ukrainian armed forces. On 16 May this year, five US-made launching stations for Patriot surface-to-air missiles were fully destroyed in Kyiv using the Kinzhal hypersonic missile system. The arms market responded sharply to this news, with the shares of Raytheon, the company that manufactures the Patriot systems, dropping by more than 7 per cent, or 10 billion dollars. As indeed we promised, the US military-industrial complex is guaranteed to lose face in Ukraine, its military "bridgehead".

We can see how the Russian Federation's successes on the battlefield are provoking a hysterical reaction in Ukraine and the collective West, which have hurriedly embarked on raising the stakes in the conflict.

To minimize the political impact of the loss of Artemovsk and divert attention from the Western arms fiasco, an armed subunit of a Ukrainian nationalist formation, equipped with US and Polish weapons, penetrated into the territory of the Belgorod region of the Russian Federation on 22 May. The international border checkpoint at Kozinka and civilian objects came under intensively shelling, while unmanned aerial vehicles dropped explosive devices on residential and administrative buildings. In the course of a counter-terrorism operation, the nationalists were hemmed in and routed; efforts were undertaken to push the remaining saboteurs back into Ukrainian territory, where they were subsequently eliminated.

The Ukrainian Government makes a spectacle and public relations out of everything. Accordingly, this latest terrorist provocation on Russian soil was turned by its organizers into a cynical "performance" for the whole world. The preparations for it were clearly carried out at the instigation of NATO strategists. As is known, British special forces are operating in the immediate vicinity of the zone of hostilities and exerting a certain influence as regards the organization of Ukrainian acts of sabotage on the territory of our country.

We warn the hotheads in Kyiv and in Western capitals against organizing and encouraging acts of sabotage and terrorism in the Russian Federation. There should be no doubt that every such act will be met with an appropriately rigorous response.

One further manifestation of the NATO-EU conglomerate's hysteria in view of the advances of the Russian forces in the zone of the special operation is a new flurry of desperate attempts to "beef up" the criminal regime in Kyiv with weapons. Just one day after the liberation of Artemovsk, the US Government announced a new package of military aid for Ukraine, while over in the European capitals they set about cobbling together a "fighter jet coalition" for the neo-Nazis in the shortest possible time. We understand that, apart from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands is showing itself to be particularly zealous in this matter: 48 F-16 fighter jets will be decommissioned from that country's armed forces in 2024. Colleagues, you know very well that, in order to drag out the conflict and create the conditions for a "defeat" of Russia, your governments are transferring more than 600 types of weapons and military equipment to Ukraine. In these circumstances, supplying aircraft for the Ukrainian Government is just a drop in the ocean from Russia's point of view, but as far as you are concerned, it is an escalation scenario fraught with enormous risks. This is apparently what you are working towards, given that statements are to be heard from NATO headquarters about the drawing up of the first large-scale plan since the end of the Cold War for the eventuality of direct conflict with Russia.

The use of Ukraine to counter the Russian Federation is a consequence of the collective West's panic in the face of the objectively observable process whereby multipolarity is emerging while US-centric hegemony is crumbling. That is why the powers that be in capitals on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean display such indifference to the fact that the terrorist regime in Kyiv, sponsored by NATO and the European Union out of their coffers, is carrying on with the war against Russians unleashed by that very regime itself in 2014.

Over the past week, the Ukrainian neo-Nazis have employed a wide range of NATO weapons against constituent entities of the Russian Federation, namely the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk.

On 17 May, Yasinovataya in the DPR was shelled using T-122 Sakarya multiple-launch rocket systems. The projectiles fired were TR-122 (MTR) rockets with an extended range of up to 40 km, which

had been transferred by Türkiye. Seven people sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity; damage to ten houses was recorded.

On 19 May, the Voroshilovsky district of the city of Donetsk was shelled using 155 mm calibre artillery; MFOM rockets with German-made AT2 anti-tank mines were fired. A woman was killed; the Republican Blood Transfusion Centre, a supermarket and residential apartment buildings were damaged.

On 21 May, a 13-year-old boy was injured as a result of a shelling attack on the Kievsky district of the city of Donetsk using French-made shells fired by 155 mm calibre artillery. The injury was so severe that he lost his leg. According to the available information, the Ukrainian armed forces used a Caesar self-propelled artillery system to carry out the attack. Meanwhile, the French Government is coolly putting together yet another package of military aid, which will include Caesar howitzers.

On that same day, US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems were used to carry out a strike on the village of Kalinovo-Borshchevatoye in the Lugansk People's Republic. Two women were killed, five people were injured and 14 single-storey residential buildings were damaged. Clearly, the US Government is not too bothered about this, seeing how it has drenched half the world in blood.

It is obvious to the entire international community that the contempt for humankind which constitutes the essence of the Kyiv junta relies in all respects on the collective West's unquestioning support. No one is under any doubt that the NATO and European Union countries share responsibility with the Kyiv regime for all these violations of international humanitarian law, acts of violence against women and children, crimes against humanity, and attacks on civilian objects and civilians. Under these circumstances, the Russian Federation reserves the right to take all necessary well-calibrated measures to protect our citizens and the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of our country within its constitutionally enshrined borders.

Madam Chairperson,

In a few months' time it will be the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which serve as a tragic example of the use of weapons of mass destruction on civilians. The order to carry out a nuclear attack on these two Japanese cities, where there were no military targets, was issued from the White House. It is from there, too, that external control was established over the Kyiv regime several decades later – a regime that, as we have already been able to see for ourselves, is continuing the practice of “testing” Western weapons on non-combatants.

Shortly before the Group of Seven summit held in Hiroshima from 19 to 21 May this year, the US Government announced, in its characteristically arrogant manner, that Joe Biden had no intention of apologizing for the atomic bombing of that city. As if anybody had expected it to be otherwise. Many years after the atomic bombings, the British, like their “big brothers”, remain suggestively silent or hypocritically try to justify depleted uranium munitions by claiming that they are “conventional” while, on the one hand, the level of radiation in certain European countries continues to rise as a result of these munitions exploding and, on the other, Russian soldiers converging on Ugledar are sustaining wounds from shrapnel containing uranium particles, as attested by military doctors. By the way, the Ukrainian Government has similarly not apologized to the Polish people for the Volhynia (Wołyń) massacres of 1943–1944, which were perpetrated by Nazi militants from the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). Apologies would be due not only to the Poles, though, but also to the Jews and Russians, thousands of whom were slaughtered there. However, apologizing in this case would, for the Ukrainian leadership, imply confirming before the whole world the Nazi essence of a regime that is propped up by numerous adherents of the barbaric OUN-UPA ideology.

To return to the outcomes of the Group of Seven summit, we should like to draw attention to the cynical passages from the communiqué adopted as an outcome document in which reference is made to the parties “remain[ing] committed to the ... strengthening of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention [BTWC]”. Our Chinese friends are in the possession of information indicating that the Pentagon has developed a biological weapon designed to target only certain races. This is corroborated by information obtained by the Russian Ministry of Defence, according to which more than 50 laboratories on Ukrainian territory were being used by the United States to collect and study pathogens capable of affecting certain human genotypes, and also to study the susceptibility of the residents of specific regions of the country to various dangerous infectious diseases. All this confirms the need for an independent international inquiry into US military biological activities, which pose risks to international security.

To prevent the emergence of biological threats, the Russian Federation intends to strive for an investigation of instances in which it is believed that biological and toxin weapons have been developed, deployed and used – above all on the territory of neighbouring States – and also to contribute in practice to efforts aimed at strengthening the BTWC regime. In these circumstances, genuine confirmation of the commitment of the Group of Seven to the goals of enhancing the BTWC would entail stopping the destructive military biological activities of the United States around the world, together with the adoption of a universal, legally binding and non-discriminatory protocol with an effective verification mechanism – work on such a protocol having been blocked since 2001 by none other than the US Government.

All this once again confirms the scale of the threats to the security of our country emanating from Ukrainian territory. It likewise confirms that the Russian Federation’s sovereign decision to launch a special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine was justified. The objectives set by Russia’s leadership for the special military operation, which include protecting our people from the Western-sponsored Kyiv regime, will be accomplished.

We warn the United States and its satellites about the counterproductive nature of their current aggressive course with regard to the Russian Federation. We call upon them to realize the gravity of the moment and to take steps to exercise military restraint, withdraw Western military personnel and weapons from the territory of Ukraine, and desist from any hostile activities against our country. Those responsible for war crimes against the Russian people will face inevitable punishment, while the sponsors of the Kyiv regime, a regime that is directed against the people, must be ready to rebuild, at their own expense, the civilian infrastructure in Donbas destroyed by the Ukrainian armed forces since 2014.

Thank you for your attention.