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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 1085th PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

24 July 2024

**Agenda item: Closing session of the Croatian Chairmanship**

Mr. Chairperson,

The negative tendencies of the past decade have begun to manifest themselves even more starkly in the politico-military dimension of European security over the past six months. The countries of the collective West, led by the United States of America, are offering increasingly fierce resistance to the irreversible process whereby the world is transitioning towards multipolarity. This is accompanied by provocative steps that are liable to exacerbate international tensions and are motivated by their striving, in violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, to impose the concept of their own “rules-based world order” as the sole possible foundation for the contemporary world order.

The scope of the military and military-technical assistance being provided to the Kyiv regime by the North Atlantic Alliance countries confirms their intention to wage the proxy war against Russia “down to the last Ukrainian”, thereby trying to preserve their global domination, keep our country in check and pave the way for inflicting a “strategic defeat” on it. No one doubts any longer that NATO is involved knee-deep in the Ukrainian conflict. Within the Alliance, particular importance is being attached to providing the Ukrainian armed forces command with real-time data on the operational order of battle of groupings of Russian troops and the nature of their movements. The average frequency with which spy planes belonging to NATO countries are deployed along our borders has risen to 190 sorties per month. NATO officers are being enlisted for the processing of intelligence information and also for the planning of military operations serving the Kyiv regime’s interests. This is confirmed by the instances that regularly come to light of foreign military specialists working at command posts of the Ukrainian army getting killed or injured.

At the same time, the US-led North Atlantic Alliance is no longer restricting itself to the war that it unleashed against Russia using the illegitimate authorities in Kyiv as a cat’s paw, but is now trying to destabilize the entire OSCE area. The countries in question have virtually completely destroyed the agreements in the field of arms control in Europe. In view of this, the decision by the United States to deploy new US-made short- and intermediate-range missile systems and hypersonic weapons in Germany from 2026 onwards is fraught with strategic risks. How much more proof does Europe need that the United States is calling the entire continent to arms?

It is understood perfectly well in the Russian Federation that all of the aforementioned is part of a general multidimensional strategy by the Western alliance to inflict damage on our country and our citizens, and, what is more, to do so at any price. We remember well the remarks by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken threatening Russians that they “will suffer” as a result of the US sanctions. Our opponents have not managed to achieve that, nor will they ever manage to. In the face of confrontational behaviour by the collective West, which is clearly not interested in seeking a peaceful alternative and poses a threat to Russia’s sovereignty, our resolve to safeguard our rights by all available means will merely increase further. After all, it is a known fact that the more you try to compress a spring, the harder it pushes back.

This maxim is also relevant to the functioning of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The current security situation is inevitably reflected in the state of affairs at the FSC, and indeed within the OSCE as a whole, both of which have ceased to be of interest to our Western interlocutors as platforms for the professional discussion of matters pertaining to stability in the military sphere in Europe. At present it is not only in global politics but also here that the principle holds sway whereby realization of the will of a self-proclaimed hegemon provides a broad space for action; however, if someone defends their national interests, the attempt is made to cast them into notional isolation. As a consequence, through the fault of the confrontation’s instigators, our Vienna platform is gradually losing its potential for effective work.

These tendencies have been exacerbated during the Forum’s current session, where, in full view of the entire pan-European community, the Croatian Chairmanship has served as striking confirmation that by no means all of the countries represented in this room recognize a key principle of the Charter of the United Nations, namely the sovereign equality of States. Starting off back in March with open threats directed at the Russian delegation along the lines of “you’re all on your own, whereas there’s a whole bunch of us”, the Croatian colleagues went on to engage in various manipulations that are incompatible with diplomatic practice, including the exertion of overt pressure in violation of our country’s legitimate rights as an OSCE participating State.

In that regard, there were outrageously three instances in a row where high-ranking Russian representatives were not allowed to take part online as panellists. Similarly outrageous was the brazen refusal to invite Russian students to attend meetings of the Forum as observers. We have heard your arguments, Mr. Chairperson, about how the delivery of statements via video teleconference has been prohibited at the FSC since 2022. Nevertheless, we would recommend you and the other members of the Troika, with whom you cleared all your decisions, to familiarize yourselves with the following documents:

- The letters from the Belgian FSC Chairmanship dated 23 September 2022 and 14 October 2022 (FSC.GAL/79/22 and FSC.GAL/86/22);
- The letters from the Bosnia and Herzegovina Chairmanship dated 7 March 2023 and 17 March 2023 (FSC.GAL/18/23 and FSC.GAL/18/23/Add.1).

All these documents have one underlying idea in common: to give representatives from the capitals of all the participating States without exception an opportunity to take the floor by joining plenary meetings remotely, the aim being to ensure inclusivity and multilateralism. Yet, you, Mr. Chairperson, spent months promoting your one-sided understanding of the FSC’s operating principles, denying States that had expressed a desire to contribute to its work their legitimate right to receive such an opportunity.

We believe that we are entitled to demand that all subsequent Chairmanships of the Forum ensure maximum impartiality and operate on behalf of all 57 participating States. We also have every reason to

expect actions from them that are aimed at ironing out the existing differences between delegations. We reiterate that, should the discriminatory actions against our country (that is, actions contrary to the Charter of the United Nations) be repeated, we will take – in full compliance, it must be stressed, with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE – commensurate countermeasures until a balance between the rights of the Organization’s participating States has been restored.

One further alarming tendency at the Forum has to do with the fact that, contrary to its mandate, the Western participating States have decided to introduce their irrelevant preferences into our politico-military platform. They have completely forgotten about the canonical tasks of the FSC as enshrined in the Helsinki Document of 1992, namely, to conduct negotiations on conventional arms control, disarmament, confidence- and security-building measures, and ways of ensuring military stability in Europe. Instead, under various specious pretexts, such as implementation of the OSCE’s concept of comprehensive security, they are trying to foist on the Forum functions that are alien to it, specifically in the fields of “gender” equality, climate, information security and so on. As borne out in practice, the discussion of these issues is not in the least beneficial to the FSC’s work. Indeed, what benefit can there possibly be from repeating hackneyed Russophobic mantras and, for example, grossly distorting the very essence of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. All this is doing irreparable harm to our platform’s credibility.

In connection with this, Mr. Chairperson, so as to preserve the FSC’s original mandate, to which the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States put their signature, we are officially giving notification that, going forward, we shall not be able to join the consensus on draft agendas for meetings where topics lying beyond our autonomous decision-making body’s mandate are put forward for discussion.

Future Chairmanships of the Forum, and likewise the Western delegations influencing their work, must realize the utter futility of attempts to take mechanisms originally designed to safeguard politico-military security in Europe on the basis of co-operation and harness them to the goals of advancing the interests of a narrow group of States and pursuing confrontation with Russia.

We are convinced that, despite the current international turbulence, the Western States will sooner or later stop their frenzied anti-Russian campaign and realize that there is no alternative to establishing equal and mutually respectful dialogue. In that regard, we note the Croatian Chairmanship’s decision, at the 1084th Plenary Meeting of the FSC, to give the green light for us to show a pre-recorded video statement by the Deputy Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Anton Mazur. Reverting to a balanced approach is an essential condition for preserving the FSC as a cardinal element of the system of international multilateral disarmament instruments that are capable of meeting politico-military challenges. Specifically, a start should be made by reducing tensions and restoring at least a minimum level of dialogue among the participating States.

If, though, no substantive headway is made at the FSC from now on, this will inevitably rebound on the whole OSCE, since it is very much States’ politico-military commitments that constitute the original intent and core of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. In that regard, we are counting on a balanced approach by the Maltese Chairmanship of the Organization.

We are convinced that, if the political will is forthcoming, the participants in the FSC can and should overcome their differences and arrive at mutually acceptable solutions opening the way to the restoration of operational normality. Russia is keen for the conversation on a topic of such vital importance to everyone as the creation of a system of indivisible security, along with the affirmation in global affairs of the principle that the security of some cannot be achieved at the expense of the security of others, to be tangibly developed further, not least at the Forum. Chances do exist for this to happen. We expect the Troika of FSC

Chairmanships, which as of September will comprise Croatia, Denmark and Spain, to make a contribution to such work. We wish them success and reiterate our openness to diplomatic engagement based on the principle of reciprocity.

Thank you for your attention.