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Delegation of the Russian Federation

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TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY AND  
ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1028th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE  
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO OPERATION**

9 November 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

According to the assessment of the Russian military and political leadership, the European security crisis is the consequence of the destructive efforts by the collective West, which seeks in vain to dent the Russian Federation's economic and military potential and deny it the opportunity to conduct an independent foreign policy. The unfolding situation benefits above all the United States of America, which is trying to exploit it as a means of holding on to its global leadership by weakening other countries, including its allies in Europe. The upshot of this strategy is the *de facto* splintering of Ukraine, which found itself plunged into civil war as long ago as 2014, but also a drastic exacerbation of the politico-military situation on the entire European continent.

In implementation of the decisions of the NATO summit held in Madrid from 28 to 30 June this year, at which Russia was declared to be the main threat to the Alliance's security, the North Atlantic allies are methodically setting about creating a fully fledged system of collective defence, or rather, "collective attack", on the "eastern flank". Formations of the armed forces of NATO States from outside the region have been deployed near our borders. The frequency of reconnaissance flights by NATO aircraft has increased manifold in the Baltic and Black Sea regions. New battalion-sized task forces are being set up in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Moreover, the multinational grouping's personnel strength has increased 2.5 times since February. Meanwhile, the multidimensional sponsoring of the Kyiv regime's combat operations continues, which is entrenching, little by little, the NATO member countries' status as parties to the Ukrainian conflict.

The aforementioned tendencies are having a most negative impact on the OSCE's activities in general, and on its politico-military dimension in particular.

In this context the armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to carry out the tasks set by our country's top leaders for the special military operation to protect the people of Donbas. During a meeting

with historians and representatives of traditional religions on the occasion of National Unity Day (4 November), the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, explained the motivation for our decisive action: “We assumed responsibility in order to avert a far more difficult situation. We remembered and still remember how in 1941, despite intelligence reports pointing to the inevitability of an attack against the Soviet Union, adoption of the necessary defence measures was delayed, and how back then the victory over Nazism was won at a most heavy price.” Nor have we forgotten how foreign States egoistically took advantage of the civil war in Russia in 1917, enriching themselves at the expense of the tragedy undergone by our country. Their methods have not changed in the least with the passage of time.

Today the Western countries are openly encouraging an escalation of the politico-military situation in Ukraine by beefing up our neighbouring State’s armed forces with modern and expensive weapons and ammunition. However, no matter how many military aid packages are churned out by the Western Governments, the fact remains that our troops are methodically destroying the NATO weapons systems on the battlefield. Over the past week alone, more than 90 rockets fired by M142 HIMARS, Vilkha and Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems were destroyed in the air. As the result of a strike on a missile and artillery weapons depot near the city of Krasnoarmiisk, the Ukrainian armed forces additionally lost about 120 rockets for HIMARS systems. Two M777 howitzers and 16 US-made HMMWV (“Humvee”) armoured vehicles were destroyed. AN/TPQ-64 and AN/TPQ-37 counter-battery radar systems were disabled in the village of Ivanivka in the Kharkiv region and on the territory of the Donetsk People’s Republic. We will continue informing the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) about this work.

The Security Council of the Russian Federation is in the possession of reliable information that the United States and the United Kingdom are recruiting international terrorists with a view to deploying them to take part in the fighting on the side of the Ukrainian armed forces. The Kyiv regime itself has long been using unacceptable methods of warfare, causing it to resemble such extremist groups as ISIS and Al-Qaida.

In connection with the United Kingdom’s involvement in the terrorist attack carried out on 29 October against ships of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, the UK Ambassador in Moscow, Deborah Bronnert, was summoned to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she was presented with a strong protest. We provided convincing proof that British instructors had trained Ukrainian underwater saboteurs for operations in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov at the Ataman Antin Holovaty Separate Centre for Special Operations “South” of the Special Operations Forces in the city of Ochakiv and at a military diving school in the city of Odessa. New reports are also coming in of plans by the British private military company Prevail Partners to train Ukrainian fighters on the territory of European countries with a view to their going on to attack facilities in Crimea. We wish to reiterate that, should such aggressive acts continue, all responsibility for their unpredictable consequences and the surge in tensions will rest with the United Kingdom.

Another form of Western support for Ukraine consists in sending foreign mercenaries to take part in the fighting against the Russian Federation. US and British entities, French private military companies and right-wing extremist organizations in Spain, the Czech Republic, Italy, Germany and several other countries are involved in the recruitment of such soldiers of fortune. Since February this year they have recruited over 8,000 mercenaries from more than 60 States. About 3,000 foreign fighters have been liquidated; a similar number have returned home of their own accord. On the whole, their numbers in Ukraine are steadily declining in view of the harshening conditions on the front in the autumn and winter months, the drastic plummeting of military discipline and the ubiquitous use of narcotic drugs “on the front line” among the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist formations, but also because of the ever more frequent conflicts with Ukrainian nationalists, which in some cases have even had a lethal outcome.

We would remind you that mercenaries sent by the West to assist the nationalist regime in Kyiv are not combatants under international humanitarian law and are not entitled to prisoner-of-war status. The best they can hope for is imprisonment. Otherwise, they will be liquidated as part of the demilitarization of Ukraine. It is high time for our Western colleagues to realize that soldiers of fortune and foreign instructors have never been a decisive factor on the battlefield.

Mr. Chairperson,

We note with alarm that the United States and its allies on both sides of the Atlantic are ignoring elements of nuclear blackmail on the part of Ukraine. The Kyiv regime does not abandon its plans to regain control over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) and carries out attacks against its critical infrastructure, thereby putting Europe at risk of a human-made disaster. No fewer than eight attempts have already been undertaken to land an assault party from the Ukrainian armed forces with a view to capturing the Zaporizhzhia NPP and establishing a bridgehead for launching offensive operations in that direction. Despite the presence of representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the plant, the Ukrainian nationalists again subjected the area adjacent to the NPP to artillery shelling on 30–31 October, 1–2 November, 6 November and 7 November. Russian artillery units returned fire and suppressed the enemy's firepower. This made it possible to ensure that the radiation situation at the Zaporizhzhia NPP remains normal. We call upon the Ukrainian Government's Western sponsors to bring their influence to bear so as to put an end to these reckless provocations.

The Russian delegation has informed the FSC about Ukraine's attempts to create a "dirty" atomic bomb. We believe that it is advisable to rely not on the IAEA Secretariat's interim report on the visit to three Ukrainian facilities by IAEA inspectors, but on the findings from the analysis of the environmental samples collected by these specialists. The findings from this analysis, which is to be performed with the involvement of accredited institutions from the Network of Analytical Laboratories supporting the IAEA's safeguards work, will become known at a later point, since such analysis requires highly sensitive equipment that is able to detect the presence of microparticles of nuclear or other radioactive material in samples.

Moreover, it is important to bear in mind that the Ukrainian Government is capable of creating a "dirty" bomb at other facilities as well, that is, at facilities not on the IAEA inspection list. In this regard, we cannot fail to mention a recent remark by the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in an interview with Czech television, during which he advised that "there is no need to be afraid" of the possibility of a nuclear war. We know that our Western colleagues at the Forum keep a close eye on manifestations of "aggressive nuclear rhetoric". Therefore, we assume that they will pay attention to the Ukrainian leader's words and at the same time heed our appeal to the other countries in the "nuclear quintet" to refrain from encouraging dangerous provocations that involve weapons of mass destruction – an appeal contained in the Russian Federation's official statement on preventing nuclear war issued on 2 November this year.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, we should like to respond to some unacceptable remarks directed at our country by our Western colleagues at the FSC. All the talk about how we will "have to pay a high price" in connection with Russia's isolation cannot be taken seriously. The policy of sanctions and rejecting co-operation with the Russian Federation (including military co-operation) will eventually backfire on those who initiated it. Such a policy is incompatible with the OSCE's striving to bring about significant agreements in the politico-military sphere, and our partners will ultimately have to choose what matters the most to them.

We are often told that "business as usual" is no longer possible. The point, though, is that we have no need for this kind of "business", in which Russia is presented with ever new demands and accusations. At

the same time, we would like to hope that we shall overcome the current period, that its lessons will be taken on board by our colleagues and that a new, genuinely equal basis for our relations will emerge.

Thank you for your attention.