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FSC.DEL/363/22
7 October 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

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 1024th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

5 October 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

No matter how much the West may wish it, the course of history cannot be reversed. The necessary legal steps are now being taken to launch the process of the full-scale integration of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions into the sovereign territory of the Russian Federation with rights as constituent entities of Russia. We will defend our own land with all the forces and means available to us to ensure that our people can lead a safe life.

The West refuses to admit that the reason for the special military operation has been the refusal over a period of many years to take into account Russia's legitimate national security interests. No longer paying any regard to the interests of their own citizens, the United States of America and the NATO countries are now putting European security on the line by inciting the Ukrainian Government to continue the hostilities and to refuse to hold negotiations. Under these conditions, our country will unwaveringly focus on the achievement of the goals set by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, namely to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine, and to eliminate the pro-NATO military bridgehead on Ukrainian territory.

By providing military assistance to the Ukrainian Government, the United States and the aggressive NATO bloc are making a mistake that could have catastrophic consequences for all of Europe. Let us explain what it is at issue here.

Claims by the West that weapons are being supplied as part of Ukraine's right to self-defence are legally null and void. What kind of self-defence can this be if Ukrainian military commanders are talking about the possibility of an attack on facilities deep inside Russia? According to Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, the agreement between the Ukrainian and US Governments on the non-use of US-made weapons against Russian territory does not apply to all types of weapons, but only to M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems. US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia Laura Cooper is now openly saying that HIMARS systems and their ammunition allow the Ukrainian military to launch strikes against Crimea. Make no mistake: all this could lead to the

expansion of the armed conflict zone to Europe and create genuine conditions for direct confrontation between Russia and the North Atlantic Alliance.

It is no secret that with unflinching regularity the United States creates hotbeds of tension in various parts of the world and then supplies weapons to the zone of hostilities, thereby fomenting tensions even further. In doing so, they frequently operate in an underhand manner behind the scenes. In the case of Ukraine, this consists of the provision of intelligence related directly to the battlefield, the involvement of senior officials of the US armed forces in the planning of military operations against Russia and covert arms transfers. According to Politico, a media outlet, the United States has been quietly supplying Ukraine with high-speed anti-radiation missiles. Could it be that long-range weapons have already been transferred on the sly too? We would advise the strategists in Washington, D.C., against embarking on an escalation of the situation on our southern borders. We strongly warn against supplying the Ukrainian armed forces with heavy and long-range weapons, which will inevitably force us to take appropriate retaliatory measures.

Through the efforts of the “collective West”, Ukraine has become a territory of uncontrolled arms proliferation and smuggling. The European Union and NATO countries admit that they do not have accurate information on where the military goods supplied to the Kyiv regime are going. According to the US television channel CBS, just 30 to 40 per cent of the weapon supplies reach the front lines. This hard-hitting fact for the powers that be in Ukraine and the West is confirmed by numerous advertisements on the Dark Web about the sale of missiles for Javelin anti-tank missile systems for 30,000 dollars, missiles for NLAW anti-tank missile systems for 15,000 dollars, Switchblade 600 kamikaze drones for 7,000 dollars and small arms, grenade launchers and bulletproof vests from 1,000 dollars. Unfortunately, arms suppliers from the Euro-Atlantic area refuse to take heed of the fact that all this military hardware ends up in the possession of terrorist groups and extremist organizations in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe. What is this if not the Western States’ pandering to terrorism?

It should be recalled that the United States has already had the adverse experience of seeing the weapons it was supplying then being used against US citizens themselves. This is what happened with the Stinger man-portable air defence systems that the United States supplied to the Taliban in Afghanistan for many years, and also with other weapons systems that subsequently fell into the hands of militants associated with Al-Qaida.

However, the US Government’s European allies appear eager to learn the hard way. A confidential Europol report published in the German media indicates that a significant proportion of the weapons and ammunition supplied to Ukraine by the West is already in the hands of smugglers and is being transported to member countries of the European Union. The report says caches have been set up along Ukraine’s border with EU States to organize the contraband, and there are also suspicions that firearms are being smuggled into EU territory with Ukrainian refugees for sale on the black market. Well, the boomerang tends to come back.

The European Union is making the mistake of ignoring the fact that responding to the US Government’s demand that military and technical assistance be provided to Ukraine is detrimental both to the global economy and directly to the EU itself, making it necessary for Europe to increase its defence spending. The US military-industrial complex will use this situation to expand its presence on the European arms market. Apparently, the EU members agree with this logic. They do not want to invest in peace in Ukraine, instead maintaining a policy of prolonging and exacerbating the armed conflict. The desire to inflict maximum damage on Russia is paramount. However, in the age of globalization, we live in an interconnected world.

The Western OSCE participating States' mantras about their military "assistance" to Ukraine being of a legitimate and defensive nature are not fit for anything but a "wishful thinking fest" among themselves. The reality is quite different.

The EU Common Position stipulates that when making decisions on arms transfers, the Member States must take into account the risks of unauthorized re-export of the weapons and of their diversion to illicit circulation. Moreover, in accordance with international practice, transfers of most types of weapons always involve the submission of an end-user certificate by the country receiving the weapons. One of the key conditions for the issuance of such a certificate is that the weapons received may not be retransferred without the exporting country's written consent. This provision is being violated by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and other NATO countries led by the United States.

The Arms Trade Treaty requires each State Party to assess the likelihood that the arms to be transferred could undermine peace and security and whether they would be used for gender-based violence or acts of violence against women and children. Together with the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the OSCE Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, the Treaty prohibits authorization of the export of weapons if that would pose a clear risk of international humanitarian law being violated and would be likely to exacerbate an armed conflict.

All the aforementioned principles of responsible policy in the control of exports are being recklessly violated by the EU and NATO member countries that are "helping" Ukraine on a daily basis to kill Donbas civilians. We understand that this is why it was not possible to reach consensus this year at the Forum for Security Co-operation on the holding of the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. Your use of double standards is off the scale.

Mr. Chairperson,

With the support and at the behest of its NATO sponsors, the Ukrainian Government is continuing its war "down to the last Ukrainian". The Ukrainian armed forces' strategy, in the development of which the Anglo-Saxons were involved, is abhorrent. The Kyiv regime continues its policy of terror against citizens in the territory under its control and against those who are attempting to flee to Russia. On 30 September this year, following a Russian army strike on military facilities in Zaporizhzhia, Ukrainian neo-Nazis barbarically shelled a convoy of vehicles as people were leaving for territory liberated from the neo-Nazis. At least 30 people were killed and 88 injured. The Ukrainian Government's inability to reach the minds of the residents of the Zaporizhzhia region pushes it to take revenge on them for the choice they made in favour of the Russian Federation. The crimes of the Ukrainian military and nationalists are being documented. A tribunal will have to be set up for them.

As a response to the armed violence using Western weapons against the population of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, our troops are continuing their intensive efforts to demilitarize Ukraine. Over the past week, a high-precision strike on an equipment repair facility at the EnergoMekhKomplekt plant in Zaporizhzhia destroyed ten field artillery guns, including two US-made M777 howitzers, four launching ramps for Vilkha multiple-launch rocket systems and 15 motor vehicles. Missile strikes near the city of Zaporizhzhia hit aircraft repair workshops at the Motor Sich plant, where more than 15 tonnes of ammunition, including shells for the US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system, were destroyed. An artillery battery of M777 howitzers was hit near the city of Huliaipole in the Zaporizhzhia region. In total, more than 80 shells for HIMARS and Vilkha multiple-launch rocket systems were destroyed in the air. Just yesterday, a high-precision strike by the

Russian Aerospace Forces hit the headquarters of the Vostok Air Command of the Ukrainian Armed Forces on the south-western outskirts of Dnipropetrovsk. This systematic work will continue.

There is currently intensive fighting along the entire line of contact. The Ukrainian side is suffering heavy casualties. Amid a critical lack of reserves, the Ukrainian armed forces have begun to retreat near Artemivsk. Ukrainian troops are caught in a “kill zone” on the territory of the Luhansk People’s Republic. Meanwhile, owing to the threat of encirclement, our army units were withdrawn from the city of Krasnyi Lyman to a more favourable position. Ukrainian armed forces’ detachments and Western mercenaries are now operating in this city – our colleagues can see in the video that “allied Ukrainian and British troops” are trampling upon Donbas soil. We assure you that Krasnyi Lyman will be liberated from the death squads.

Within the framework of the partial mobilization, since 21 September this year, more than 200,000 men have reported to the armed forces of the Russian Federation. They are to be provided with everything they need and assigned to the relevant military posts. The conscripts are being trained at 80 firing ranges and six training centres across the country. They will soon begin the tasks of controlling and actively defending the new constituent entities of our country.

Mr. Chairperson,

Against the backdrop of a gradual loss of influence in the international arena, the US leadership is trying to rally dependent countries around it by whipping up anti-Russian hysteria in connection with our sovereign decision to invoke Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. In doing so, the US Government is pursuing its own selfish ends. By forcing its European allies to step up the sanctions pressure on Russia, the US administration is seeking to increase its own share of the EU energy market to the detriment of its partners’ economies. This is likely to be facilitated by the deliberate disabling of offshore gas pipelines of the Nord Stream system on the day the historic referendums ended (27 September). We have repeatedly said in this room that we should not wait for the bell to toll. Are the countries on the continent willing to continue to risk the future of the “United Europe” project? It’s up to you.

Thank you for your attention.