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STATEMENT BY

MR. OLEG BUSHUEV, HEAD OF THE CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL OF THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1082nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

19 June 2024

On the adoption of the agenda for the 1082nd Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation

Mr. Chairperson,

In line with instructions from our Government, we should like to make the following statement with regard to the draft agenda for the 1082nd Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The position of the Russian Federation, according to which the FSC is called upon exclusively to consider topical issues of direct relevance to the strengthening of military security in the OSCE area, remains unchanged.

We expect its work programme to rigorously minimize "gender" issues and topics that do not fall within its sphere of competence or that are already addressed by other OSCE bodies and international organizations.

The same applies to the topic "Emerging technologies and military data collection, open-source intelligence (OSINT)", scheduled for discussion in today's Security Dialogue. In our opinion, this has no bearing on the FSC's mandate.

We should like to stress that since the organization, under the Slovak Chairmanship, of the Security Dialogue on the importance of transparency and reliability of military information (875th FSC Plenary Meeting, 31 January 2018) mentioned in the concept note, we have had enough time to draw conclusions about the destructive potential of this topic, which has since been used in propaganda by a number of Western delegations and their like-minded colleagues, including on other OSCE politico-military platforms, such as the now defunct Structured Dialogue.

Moreover, we have recently witnessed the systematic disregard for Russia's interests on the part of the rotating FSC Chairmanships, which our Government sees as an unacceptable infringement of the legitimate interests of an OSCE participating State. We have stated this several times in our previous statements (FSC.DEL/166/24, FSC.DEL/176/24, FSC.DEL/192/24).

Given the fact that the topic proposed for discussion is not a core issue and in view of the current situation in the Forum, the Russian delegation is unable to join consensus on the entire agenda for the 1082nd Plenary Meeting of the FSC.

Thank you for your attention.