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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1035th PLENARY MEETING  
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

8 February 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week, on 2 February 2023, the Russian Federation celebrated the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi forces in the Battle of Stalingrad. For several generations of Russians, Stalingrad has become a symbol of the heroic resistance of the multi-ethnic Soviet people to the largest grouping of the Wehrmacht and its European satellites, whose war machine was crushed in a fierce battle on the banks of the Volga and the Don. Almost a century later, the collective West, which has finally consigned its historical memory to oblivion, is once again using the territory of Ukraine as a bridgehead to confront our country with the help of “Hitler’s descendants” and is sending heavy tanks against the Russian Federation. As Russian President Vladimir Putin said: “We are not sending our tanks to their borders, but we have the means to respond. And it will not be limited to the use of armoured vehicles. Everyone must understand this.”

In the decades since the end of the Cold War, our country has been making every effort to ensure politico-military security in Europe. And Western States have no moral right to question or distort this reality. Today we will help our colleagues remember what really led to the European security crisis.

The OSCE participating States remember well that Russia was essentially the only country that, for years at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), had urged the Ukrainian Government to implement the Minsk agreements in their entirety and in a co-ordinated manner, invoking United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. However, the so-called co-mediators of a peaceful settlement in Ukraine – former French President François Hollande and former German Chancellor Angela Merkel – openly made it clear that these agreements were only needed to give the Kyiv regime time to prepare for full-scale hostilities. We will not stop making it known to the entire international community that the so-called European heavyweight countries, who tried to disguise themselves as peacekeepers, simply deceived us. In doing so, they completely undermined their reputation as reliable partners with whom one can reach agreement.

Last year, we emphasized that the proposals submitted by Russia on legal security guarantees were aimed at creating a new system of arrangements with the United States of America and NATO based on the

rejection of attempts to achieve military superiority and on the principle of the indivisibility of security, which was endorsed by the leaders of all OSCE States in the 1990s. We called upon the United States and NATO to rule out any further eastward expansion of the military bloc and the deployment in Ukraine of weapons systems that pose a threat to us. We made it clear to our interlocutors in the FSC that the moment of truth is approaching when the West either accepts our proposals or other ways will be found to ensure Russia's security.

In response, the Western OSCE participating States showed not just a negative but a mocking reaction to the Russian initiatives and displayed the highest degree of unco-operativeness. Well, that is nothing to be surprised about.

The international community still shudders at the ease with which a Western conglomerate of States, led by the United States, can go from peace to the use of brute military force, with no concern for casualties or destruction. Yugoslavia, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mali and Libya are still suffering the consequences of NATO bombing. This list also includes Ukraine, which, following the 2014 coup d'état financed from across the ocean, has become an obedient tool for implementing the anti-Russian ambitions of the collective West. The situation reached its peak at the beginning of last year: taking advantage of the anti-Russian hysteria, the United States and its satellites pumped the Kyiv regime with weapons and played along with its plans to seize Donbas by force and used the OSCE politico-military toolkit as a smokescreen for the military preparations of the Ukrainian neo-Nazis.

Now I shall return back to the beginning of my statement: the Western OSCE participating States are trying to find the culprits for the European security crisis. And who are the judges? Those who manipulated Colin Powell's test tube to justify armed aggression against a sovereign United Nations Member State? Those who betrayed the Minsk agreements and have covered up the Kyiv regime's war crimes against civilians in Donbas since 2014? Those who are trying to misappropriate Russian State-owned assets and our citizen's funds? Or those in Brussels who are hypocritically calling for peace when they are in fact investing in the continuation of hostilities?

The West, which, as President Putin put it so aptly, is an "empire of lies", has through its actions reinforced the world's understanding that virtually no one is safe from the banditry and international legal arbitrariness of those who consider themselves part of a civilized community of States.

In this context, we have to draw attention to the outrageous statement by German Minister of Defence Boris Pistorius on 7 February this year that "the world without Putin would be a better one". We can see that the German Government always follows the logic of its masters on the other side of the Atlantic, who not so long ago had taken the liberty of making an unacceptable comment about carrying out a "decapitation strike" against the Kremlin, which, in fact, refers to the threat of the physical removal of the Head of the Russian State. The German Minister's aggressive outburst, which we categorically condemn, merely goes to show that Europe is aware of the hopelessness of its situation. Conclusions will be drawn in our country accordingly. The authors of such disgraceful statements should think carefully about their possible consequences. A world without ministers who use foul language like Boris Pistorius would be a cleaner one.

Mr. Chairperson,

In view of these factors, the special military operation was a forced preventive measure to protect our people in our historical territories. The Russian Federation could not allow a repeat of 22 June 1941, when the Hitler coalition treacherously attacked the Soviet Union.

It is clear to any sane person that the fighting today is not between Russia and Ukraine, but between our country and the collective West, which is throwing our brotherly Ukrainian people into the fire of its geopolitical ambitions. The United States and its satellites have made it clear that they are in no mood to search for a peaceful alternative. Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, who acted as mediator at the beginning of the special operation, said just the other day: “Anything I did was co-ordinated down to the last detail with the United States, Germany and France. ... They stopped the talks.” In addition, former National Security Advisor John Bolton revealed the US Government’s cards, declaring the importance of stopping attempts by the French, Germans or anyone else to negotiate with Russia. So who is really responsible for dragging out the combat operations in Ukraine?

Amid the blocking of negotiation efforts by the Ukrainian-Western coalition, the Russian Federation continues to fulfil the goals of the special military operation set by Russian President Vladimir Putin. A successful offensive by Russian troops is under way in all areas. Soledar, Klishchiivka, Pidhorodne, Krasnopillia, Blahodatne, Lobkove and Mykolaivka have recently been liberated. Fierce fighting is taking place near Vuhledar and Artemivsk where the enemy is suffering significant losses. In January, in the battles fought in the interests of a Western conglomerate of States, the Ukrainian armed forces lost over 6,500 military personnel, 26 airplanes, 7 helicopters, 208 unmanned aerial vehicles, 341 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles and 40 multiple-launch rocket systems.

Official circles in the NATO and European Union member countries, hypocritically arguing that sending weapons to the authorities in Kyiv will supposedly facilitate the start of negotiations, are deeply mistaken – the result will be just the opposite. Those who cherish the hope that Russian cruise missiles will soon be depleted will meet with inevitable disappointment. In 2023, the armed forces of the Russian Federation expect major deliveries of all kinds of weapons, military and special equipment. Western colleagues can rest assured that the NATO weapons now planned to be handed over to the Ukrainian authorities, designed to be used against our country and kill civilians, will be turned into a pile of scrap metal in less than a month. Just last week, as part of the demilitarization of Ukraine, the list of destroyed NATO military equipment included a Norwegian-made NASAMS surface-to-air missile system, two launch pods for HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems and a US-made M-270 multiple-launch rocket system. We guarantee that the longer the range of the weapons supplied, the further we will push them away from our sovereign territories.

Once again, we warn that the supply of offensive weapons, coupled with the direct incitement of the Ukrainian Government to seize Russian territories, draw NATO member States into the conflict and can lead to an unpredictable level of escalation. This also applies to the transfer of US F-16 fighter jets discussed in the corridors of NATO, which, according to the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, will enable Ukraine to strike at Russia far behind the front lines. We appeal to the military strategists of Ukraine and NATO: look, do not miscalculate in your anti-Russian plans, as happened 80 years ago. Back then, it became clear to all that the Nazis’ plans to destroy our country and their ideas of world domination were doomed to failure.

One final point. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, US military biological laboratories are currently being moved from Ukraine to Poland and the Baltic States, which only confirms our concerns about provocative activities by the United States and its allies near Russian borders. At the same time, we are receiving information about the use by Ukrainian security forces of chemical weapons in battles near Artemivsk and Soledar, as a result of which Russian military personnel are suffering serious burns and poisoning. These are not isolated cases. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation is establishing the circumstances of what has happened. We demand that the OSCE participating States provide a categorical assessment of these actions in the context of the OSCE Principles Governing

Non-Proliferation (1994) adopted by their Heads of State or Government. Sooner or later the United States and its satellites will have to abandon their policy of “anything goes”.

Thank you for your attention.