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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. KONSTANTIN GAVRILOV, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1079th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

29 May 2024

**On the adoption of the agenda for the 1079th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Forum for
Security Co-operation**

Mr. Chairperson,

You have proposed a very interesting topic concerning military education in the OSCE participating States for discussion under the Security Dialogue agenda item today. We can see that the Croatian Chairmanship has tried to present this topic through the prism of the mandate of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), including the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. We remember well how, a few years ago during the Swiss FSC Chairmanship, there were quite active discussions on the idea of setting up an OSCE “Network of Military Academies” that would make a tangible contribution to the development of international military co-operation.

However, instead of a unifying agenda, the Croatian Chairmanship has opted to put patently anti-Russian approaches ahead of everything else. We deem it necessary to remind you that the inclusion of accusatory passages directed against the Russian Federation in the concept note for the meeting and the invitation to demagoguery on the so-called “most significant implications of the Russian aggression against Ukraine” are not only undermining the very essence of the role of the Chairmanship, which is required to show impartiality and to take into account the interests of all the participating States, but are also aggravating the lamentable situation in which the Forum – through the efforts of Croatia and its predecessors at the helm of the Chairmanship – currently finds itself.

In this way you, Mr. Chairperson, are once again demonstrating your firm commitment to seeking to debase the level of discussion at a time-tested and respected platform.

If the delegations in attendance are tempted by the role of gravediggers burying dialogue on European security issues, they can continue, as before, to play up to the Chairmanship. We have no intention of taking part in this unimpressive NATO-EU spectacle. Moreover, to save time, we intend to circulate our written contribution dealing both with the topic of military education and with the massive use of Western weapons against our country’s civilian population and infrastructure.

We emphasize that the delegation of the Russian Federation is not blocking the holding of the 1079th Plenary Meeting of the FSC. It is simply that we see no point in taking part in a discussion with already predetermined outcomes.

In accordance with instructions from our capital, we are officially notifying you, Mr. Chairperson, and also all the participating States of our request for an online connection to be provided for a Russian speaker, specifically for Ambassador-at-Large Rodion Miroshnik from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to enable him to speak in a national capacity at the 1080th Plenary Meeting of the FSC on 5 June. We are thus leaving an opportunity open for the restoration of balanced dialogue at the Forum and expect constructive actions in response from the Croatian Chairmanship.

Mr. Chairperson,

We trust that your team has sufficient diplomatic wisdom not to sacrifice a pan-European politico-military platform for the sake of opportunistic considerations and political hubris.

Thank you for your attention.