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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1051st PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

5 July 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

We protest against the attempts by the Anglo-Saxons and their satellites to put pressure on the Bulgarian Chairmanship and stop our presentations from being shown.

For almost one and a half years now at plenary meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the Russian delegation has been demonstrating the true state of affairs in the zone of the special military operation and shedding light on the testimonies of civilians in Donbas who have suffered at the hands of the Ukrainian armed forces. Every week we are seeing how in Europe and North America they simply do not want to know about the suffering of those civilians, how they try to hush up gross systematic violations of the norms of international humanitarian law with regard to Russian prisoners of war.

We call upon Bulgaria to abide by the neutral status associated with the Chairmanship, which is meant to perform exclusively technical functions at the FSC, and to adhere to approaches to the Organization's work that have been agreed on by all the participating States. Failing that, we will interpret Bulgaria's censorship efforts as a direct violation of Section I, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, which speaks of all the participating States being on an equal footing. Should the Bulgarian Chairmanship nevertheless decide to overstep its mandate, we reserve the right to take the necessary countermeasures. We are interested in everything being done fair and square at the FSC. We trust that our colleagues will have enough good sense not to plunge one of the pillars of the OSCE into a systemic crisis.

Madam Chairperson,

The United States of America, NATO and the European Union selected Ukraine as a bridgehead and tool for an armed struggle against our country, nurturing a neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv and transforming Ukraine into a new international terrorist cell. The Anglo-Saxons have assumed the role of a command staff of, and purveyor to, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whom they supply with weapons, reconnaissance data and instructions on targets for systematic strikes against civilian objects and civilians on Russian territory.

Through the efforts of the US and UK Governments and their satellites, the crisis is inexorably acquiring a global geopolitical dimension, giving rise to strategic security risks.

Having unleashed a record number of aggressive wars in its modern history, the United States is flaunting the way in which it can render military assistance to a so-called victim of aggression while at the same time remaining above the fray, as it were. However, the aggressor here is very much the party that organized the pro-fascist coup in Kyiv in 2014, provided training to fighters (including obnoxious nationalist battalions) and equipped them with weapons long before February 2022, in full knowledge that those weapons would be used to kill Donbas civilians. Moreover, the portrayal of NATO, which Ukraine is so keen to join, as a purely defensive alliance cannot but elicit a smile in view of the extensive list of unprovoked military aggressions involving that bloc.

The ongoing suicidal counteroffensive of the Ukrainian armed forces, in the course of which Ukraine has already lost tens of thousands of military personnel, is but the latest (blood)stain on the North Atlantic Alliance's reputation. Everything is, you see, to be sacrificed on the pyre of the US Government's geopolitical interests.

According to one of the architects of the Ukrainian "counter-attack", Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, the Ukrainians should not entertain any illusions about the outcome of their offensive operations, since "it's going to be very long, and it's going to be very, very bloody." And this pointless slaughter is being foisted on Ukraine merely for the sake of being able to report on some notional successes in time for the NATO summit to be held in Vilnius next week, on 11 and 12 July. Let us consider, then, the actual results that the Heads of State or Government of the North Atlantic Alliance countries will take with them to that meeting.

First, despite the much-hyped NATO and EU training programmes for the Ukrainian armed forces on joint command operations and mobile warfare, the Ukrainians are unable to put their newly gained knowledge to use in the counteroffensive. Captured fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces are confirming that the European training is nothing but a show being put on for the global media. For example, after undergoing training in France, Ukrainian military personnel are not even capable of rendering first aid to the wounded, to say nothing of knowing how to storm fortified positions. During a month's stay in Latvia, soldiers from the Ukrainian armed forces were taken to firing practice only twice. All the rest of their time was spent with so-called psychologists, who worked intensively with these soldiers, overtly seeking to inculcate in them hatred towards Russia and exhorting them to kill as many Russians as possible while persuading them at the same time that they would soon be victorious. The training in Germany and Slovenia followed the same template. Not surprisingly, many mobilized Ukrainians, upon finding themselves on the front line after such pseudo-training, surrendered en masse when they got their first taste of battle.

Everyone has already seen how the mobilization is proceeding in Ukraine: people are simply rounded up, beaten black and blue, forcibly abducted and packed off to be slaughtered in the "meat grinder" – that is the name given to the counteroffensive by ordinary Ukrainians. The Kyiv regime's mobilization pool is being depleted and, most sadly, there is by now a shortage of space in Ukrainian cemeteries. All this is being done merely so that Western governments at the forthcoming NATO summit can demonstrate to their electorate that the huge sums of money spent on Ukraine to the detriment of ordinary European citizens' essential needs are not being wasted in vain.

Secondly, NATO strategists should be drawing an unequivocal conclusion from the Ukrainian armed forces' failed attempt at a counteroffensive, namely that massive arms deliveries cannot turn the military situation around to their advantage. These deliveries have not managed, nor will they manage, to change the balance of power on the battlefield. Our armed forces continue to engage enemy targets effectively, which is

significantly reducing the enemy's offensive capacity. At least 15 airplanes, three helicopters and 920 armoured vehicles have been destroyed in the direction of South Donetsk, Zaporozhye and Donetsk. Sixteen Leopard 2 tanks have been knocked out – that is, virtually 100 per cent of the vehicles of this type shipped from Poland and Portugal (it is not surprising that the EU authorities have already forbidden the Ukrainian Government from using these tanks in offensive operations, since the numbers lost have dealt a painful blow to the reputation of their manufacturer, the Rheinmetall concern, and to that of the German army as a whole). In total, the Ukrainian troops have lost around 2,500 weapons of various kinds in all directions since 4 June. Not to mention the captured Western weapons systems, including those of US-made Oshkosh armoured vehicles, which will be studied thoroughly and in depth by our specialists.

We know that, in view of the Ukrainian Government's military fiascos, the Americans are seriously considering the possibility of handing over ATACMS operational-tactical missiles with a range of up to 300 km that are capable of hitting targets deep inside Russian territory. If the White House does take leave of its senses and confirms a decision to that effect at the forthcoming NATO summit, it will be the most eloquent testimony to the US Government being absolutely unwilling to engage in a diplomatic settlement – something that will call for a principled assessment by the Russian Federation.

As we understand it, if the Ukrainian armed forces' hunger for ammunition should become even more acute, the White House may even hand over to Ukraine lethal cluster munitions, whose effects are indiscriminate. Moreover, unexploded cluster munitions will lead to further numerous casualties among the civilian population on both sides of the combat line. We remember very well how the US Government has already been disregarding the humanitarian component when providing military support to the authorities in Kyiv – for example, how it remained silent when the Zelenskyy regime began using Lepestok anti-personnel mines. Will the US Government venture into yet another provocation? Will it risk undermining the unity of NATO, many of whose members have signed and ratified the Oslo Convention?

It is high time that the European member countries of NATO realized what the real objectives of the United States in this confrontation are and, likewise, the fact that the US Government is pursuing escalation of the conflict in Ukraine with no regard for the security of its allies.

The third aspect that we would recommend taking into account in connection with the North Atlantic Alliance's summit is that the NATO member States that are involved in supplying the Ukrainian Government with weapons and military equipment, in the planning of military operations and in providing combat support to the Ukrainians cannot lay claim to a "neutral" status – they count as parties to the conflict under international law.

That is why the Russian Army will continue to carry out precision strikes on "gatherings" of the Ukrainian military with Western mercenaries and generals, as was the case on 27 June in Kramatorsk (Donetsk People's Republic) near the deployment site of the 56th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. We will also continue holding foreign mercenaries accountable for the massive war crimes committed against our country's civilian population and military personnel. In co-ordination with the Russian Ministry of Defence, the Investigative Committee is systematically collecting evidence of the participation of mercenaries from Georgia, the United States, Latvia, Sweden and other countries in armed actions against the Russian Federation: 160 foreigners from 33 States are already facing criminal prosecution.

In addition, the NATO countries have sullied their own reputation once and for all by engaging in State sponsorship of terrorism. Without their advice, assistance and encouragement, the terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge would have been impossible, as would the attempted strikes by Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles against the Kremlin, civilian infrastructure in the Moscow region and an international airport

on the outskirts of the capital. The entire international community knows that terrorists are currently held in high esteem in the United States: whereas such neo-Nazi structures as the Azov regiment were labelled as terroristic and disreputable by the US Congress just a few years ago, they are now welcomed as heroes in that country, where they are taken on tours of prestigious educational institutions.

Those responsible for abuse, murder and terrorist activities on the territory of the Russian Federation, including members of the Azov regiment, will be brought to justice without fail. Courts in the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk have already handed down lengthy prison sentences, including life sentences, for crimes against the civilian population to more than 30 Ukrainian fighters – and that number will most assuredly continue to rise.

Fourthly, during the NATO summit the Alliance's member countries should give priority attention to the consequences of Western weapons being used against civilians in Donbas, and also to the risks of the illicit and uncontrolled diversion of those weapons to other parts of the world. NATO armaments are not only feeding into the black market for weapons: they are also being used for large-scale violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Ukraine. A recent report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights confirms a sharp increase in offences in that Western-sponsored country. However, it seems that even the word of the United Nations does not carry weight with the United States and its satellites at present.

We invite the North Atlantic Alliance's member countries to examine in detail how and against whom the "warriors of light" and "defenders of Ukraine" are deploying the much-touted NATO weaponry. Take a look at the consequences of the shelling of Genichesk in the Kherson region on 23 June by means of Anglo-French Storm Shadow missiles, which killed two civilians and destroyed civilian infrastructure facilities. Show your other NATO colleagues these images of 25 June from the Kievsky district of the city of Donetsk, where fragmentation missiles launched from M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems claimed the lives of a teenager and four adults. On 27 June, shells of exactly the same type killed five children in the settlement of Dachnoe in the Donetsk People's Republic. Last night, HIMARS strikes on Makeevka and Donetsk triggered horrendous fires, left 46 people injured and resulted in the destruction of 13 civilian infrastructure facilities and nine medical facilities. These are the consequences of a policy aimed at exterminating the civilian population of Donbas that has been pursued for nine years with every possible encouragement from NATO.

I repeat once again that evidence of the war crimes committed by the Ukrainian armed forces with the assistance of their Western handlers is being painstakingly gathered in Donbas. The "targeted messages" for the people of Donetsk and Lugansk in the form of US missiles bearing threatening inscriptions in the Ukrainian language that are now being displayed on the screen will eventually be presented at a future trial of war criminals.

Now to my fifth and final point. The NATO member countries would do well to assess the consequences of the staged provocations they are sponsoring, such as the blowing-up of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, as these have implications for regional and international security. With the West's support, the criminal regime in Kyiv is currently making large-scale preparations for a terrorist attack on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP), trying to deliberately pin on Russia the blame for their actions. What we are dealing with here is yet another attempt to discredit our country, to attribute non-existent intentions to us while at the same time covering up their criminal plans to create an emergency situation that could endanger the whole of Europe.

Russia has circulated a letter at the United Nations confirming that we have no intention of blowing up the Zaporizhzhia NPP, which is under our control. After a recent visit to the facility, the Director General

of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, refuted the claim by the Chief of the Ukrainian Main Intelligence Directorate, Kyrylo Budanov, that the Zaporizhzhia NPP, including its cooling pond, had been booby-trapped with mines. Moreover, on 29 June, in an interview with the television channel France 24, he said that he had not seen any evidence there supporting the allegations by the Ukrainian leadership that Russia was intending to “attack” the Zaporizhzhia NPP.

Against this backdrop, preparations for provocative actions are in full swing in Ukraine: additional instruments for measuring radiation have been set up in the capital, while drills have been conducted in several regions to prepare for the eventuality of an accident at the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Radioactive contamination control equipment and special devices are being transported to the Polish city of Rzeszów. The WC-135R Constant Phoenix special-purpose aircraft of the US Air Force, which is used to conduct radiological monitoring, has arrived in Europe. In short, the Kyiv regime is actively planting the idea in Europe that a nuclear catastrophe is inevitable.

We note that this latest provocation by the Kyiv regime tallies, in terms of both substance and timing, with the draft resolution put forward by US senators Lindsey Graham and Richard Blumenthal, calling for the emergence of a source of radioactive contamination in Ukraine to be treated as grounds for invoking Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and launching the mechanisms for a political and military response by NATO that are provided for in such a case. In other words, to consider that as justification for turning the “hybrid” war currently being waged against Russia into a direct military confrontation. The two senators’ hypocrisy has manifested itself clearly here: they openly state that US troops should not take part in such a conflict, thereby landing the European allies of the United States with all the catastrophic consequences of their provocation.

In these circumstances, we once again caution the Ukrainian Government – and the Western handlers supporting it – against any potentially serious incidents at the Zaporizhzhia NPP. We call upon the IAEA and its leadership to make use of the on-site presence of its experts to record all instances in which the plant is attacked by the Ukrainians and to indicate clearly from which quarter the safe operation of that facility is in fact being threatened.

To sum up: we are obliged to note that the situation in Ukraine is a tragic consequence of the geopolitical engineering of the United States and its satellites, which for decades have been making themselves at home in Ukrainian territory with a view to creating an anti-Russian military bridgehead. Most European countries have been assigned merely the role of pliant tools in the Great Game of the United States: after all, they are blindly aligning themselves with a world order based on US rules. It is time that the Europeans took responsibility for their continent’s future and security into their own hands, for otherwise they will be the first to suffer the consequences of the US Government’s destructive policies in Ukraine.

Thank you for your attention.