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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 1043rd PLENARY MEETING  
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

3 May 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

Before turning to the main part of our statement, the delegation of the Russian Federation believes it is necessary to point out the following.

Last night, the Kyiv regime attempted to carry out a drone strike against the residence of the President of the Russian Federation at the Kremlin.

Two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) targeted the Kremlin. Timely action by the military and the intelligence services involving the use of radar tracking systems allowed them to disable the devices. They crashed in the Kremlin grounds, scattering fragments without causing any casualties or damage.

We regard these actions as a planned terrorist attack and an assassination attempt on the President carried out ahead of Victory Day and the parade on 9 May, at which foreign guests are also expected to be present.

The President was unharmed by this terrorist act. His work schedule remains unchanged and continues as normal.

Russia reserves the right to take countermeasures wherever and whenever it deems it necessary.

Madam Chairperson,

The North Atlantic Alliance is suffering defeat in Ukraine. The relentless attempts by the United States of America and its satellites to inflict strategic damage on Russia and to pose a threat to China so as to retain a monopoly position in the world are boomeranging back on them, having a negative effect on stability in Europe and prolonging the death throes of the Kyiv regime. But we know for a fact that no one in NATO has any doubts that the objectives set by the Russian leadership for the special military operation will

be accomplished, and that the plans to achieve a comprehensive weakening of Russia will not produce the desired results.

In order to justify – in the eyes of their electorate and allies – the large-scale pumping of weapons and money into Ukraine, the country’s handlers on the other side of the ocean are openly demanding that the Ukrainian armed forces launch a counteroffensive in the zone of the special military operation. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that it would begin “in the coming weeks”, and the Commander of the US European Command, General Christopher Cavoli, confirmed that the United States had been working together with Ukraine on its plans for a counteroffensive operation. These statements give a full picture as to whose vested interests and stakes are being served by the junta in Kyiv, which is directed against the people.

Western strategists must understand that any military exertions by the Ukrainian armed forces will be repulsed by Russian troops and are invariably doomed to failure. Remember the first years of the Great Patriotic War, when the aggressive operations by the Nazi German invaders ended in the encirclement and destruction of enemy groupings.

A distinctive feature of the current phase is that the collective West’s involvement in the preparation of a counteroffensive by the Ukrainian armed forces is tipping the situation in Europe towards the downward path of open confrontation. We see a blatant desire on the part of the Ukrainian-NATO “coterie” to move further along the spiral of escalation. This is evidenced by the daily slogans coming out of Kyiv, Washington, D.C., and Brussels that there can be no cessation of hostilities and no transition to negotiations in Ukraine.

The NATO allies are behind wars, nations being reduced to rubble, war crimes going unpunished, the killing of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. And now everything is following a tried-and-tested cynical scenario. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg reported that more than nine brigades of the Ukrainian armed forces have been trained and 98 per cent of the aid promised to Ukraine has been delivered, including 1,550 armoured vehicles, 230 tanks and significant amounts of ammunition. In addition, the Bundeswehr continues to train special forces of the Ukrainian armed forces at ten German bases, and the Latvian Ministry of Defence has sent military personnel to Ukraine to perform “support functions”. It is clear that it will be the Ukrainians, whose colossal combat losses are of no concern to the United States and its satellites, who will be doing the fighting for NATO.

The international community looks on in amazement as the United Kingdom applies its rich colonial experience in its work with the current leadership in Kyiv. Earlier, the UK Ministry of Defence confirmed the shipment to Ukraine of thousands of munitions containing depleted uranium, but cynically absolved itself of any obligation to deal with the consequences of their use. So, do the British military experts recognize the risks of using these munitions after all?

In case anyone at this OSCE politico-military platform still has any doubts that the Ukrainian leadership has meekly agreed to turn the country into a radioactive wasteland, we should like to cite the following data.

During the Gulf Wars in 1991 and 2003, some 1,200 tonnes of depleted uranium munitions were expended by NATO forces. As a result, the general incidence of cancer and lymphoma among the residents of Baghdad, Basra and Mosul was found to have increased two to threefold.

Armour-piercing rounds with uranium cores were used by the “Western conglomerate” in the Balkans in parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. In a November 1999 order for NATO troops, they were forbidden from touching equipment damaged by depleted uranium projectiles or drinking the water in

areas where these shells had been used. Subsequently, numerous cases of leukaemia and tumours have been reported among military personnel. Data from toxicological studies revealed that the genetic changes following the use of such munitions in Serbia reached a level of 20.7 per cent, compared to a normal rate of between 1 and 2 per cent. It is not surprising that the United Nations Environment Programme has described the situation in the former Yugoslavia as a “regional environmental disaster”.

It is clear that the munitions in question can be classed as environmental weapons with a lasting impact on the biosphere in areas contaminated with uranium oxides. In the past, the European Parliament has repeatedly adopted resolutions to impose an immediate moratorium on the further use of such weapons. However, now the United Kingdom and European Union countries, which call themselves civilized, have apparently decided, in their manic quest to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia, to bury Ukraine under ashes in the truest sense of the word.

Madam Chairperson,

We have stressed, time and again, that arms deliveries to Ukraine are dragging out the conflict and resulting in new casualties. The military capabilities of virtually all the NATO States are being harnessed against the civilian population of the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions of the Russian Federation. Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, stated that Ukraine “legally has the right to destroy everything” in the aforementioned territories. The same politician previously said that the Ukrainian side was fighting for “Western values” and “democracy”. Let us take a look at how the Kyiv regime defends the interests of the civilized West using NATO weapons.

On 28 April, Ukrainian neo-Nazis carried out a monstrous shelling attack on the Kyivskiyi district of the city of Donetsk, and a taxi minibus full of people was hit by artillery. The bus was completely gutted by the ensuing fire. Nine people were killed, including an eight-year-old girl, and 16 people sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity. An expert examination showed that the shelling was carried out using JROF-HEAP high-explosive fragmentation rockets with 1,050 diamond-shaped fragments for multiple-launch rocket systems – rockets that had been manufactured in Slovakia. These munitions were also used by Ukronazis in shelling near the city’s cathedral during an all-night Easter service. A total of 15 people have been killed and 59 injured by Slovak rockets in Donbas since 15 December 2022. How would the citizens of Slovakia react if they learned that rockets supplied by their Government were being used by the Kyiv regime to strike densely populated residential neighbourhoods? How is this consistent with “Western values” and “democracy”?

We see that our Slovak colleagues are following in the footsteps of the US strategists, for whom the annihilation of women and children in Donbas with M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems has become the new normal. The images you can see on your screens speak for themselves. We are receiving reports that HIMARS munitions are now being filled with glass beads to increase their lethal effect. In the fight against the “species”, which is what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the civilian population of Donbas, apparently all means are acceptable for the Ukrainian-NATO forces.

We demand that the participating States and OSCE structures formally assess the systematic targeting of densely populated residential neighbourhoods by the Ukrainian armed forces in violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

Ukrainian war criminals and their accomplices should not be allowed to develop a sense of impunity.

An international public tribunal documenting witness testimonies is already operating in the Russian Federation. At least three Ukrainian neo-Nazis who had committed particularly grave crimes against civilians in Donbas have already been sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 8.5 to 18.5 years by courts in the new regions of our country. The Russian Investigative Committee for the Luhansk People's Republic continues to establish the circumstances of deaths among the civilian population as part of a criminal case on the use of prohibited means and methods in armed conflict, with the associated materials already filling some 600 volumes. Furthermore, work is under way to create a fully fledged international tribunal based on international law.

Similarly, foreign mercenaries from the United Kingdom, Sweden and Croatia, who are accused of fighting against the Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics and of training and recruiting soldiers of fortune, will face trial in the Russian Federation. The Investigative Committee is paying close attention to the investigation into the war crime committed by French mercenaries against Russian prisoners of war, who were shot at point-blank range sometime earlier in the zone of the special military operation. The Russian Ministry of Defence has information on every foreign mercenary involved in the killing of Russian military personnel. They will all get their just deserts.

Madam Chairperson,

All of this hardens the Russian Federation's determination to push back the "combined forces" of Ukraine and the West to a distance from which they cannot cause harm to our citizens. Russian assault units are currently driving the enemy out of Artemivsk and Marinka. Over the past 24 hours, operational and tactical aviation and army aviation strikes, artillery fire, and heavy flamethrower systems hit enemy units near the settlements of Chasiv Yar, Bohdanivka and Hryhorivka.

Despite unprecedented military assistance from Western countries, Ukraine is suffering significant losses. The Russian Ministry of Defence estimates that the Ukrainian side lost more than 15,000 people in April alone. The demilitarization of Ukraine continues, with eight aircraft, 277 UAVs, 430 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 18 mobile multiple-launch rocket systems, and 225 field artillery guns and mortars destroyed over the past month. Western military equipment, including at least 160 shells for HIMARS and Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems, 15 US-made AN-TPQ counter-battery radar stations, ten M777 howitzers, a Bradley armoured infantry fighting vehicle, seven US-manufactured Paladin self-propelled artillery systems, six Polish Krab self-propelled artillery units and a German-made Gepard anti-aircraft tank were also systematically eliminated.

However, the Ukrainian soldiers themselves are helping us to demilitarize the NATO "war machine". Suffice it to recall how two German Leopard tanks collided with one another during training exercises held in Poland for the Ukrainian armed forces. The much-lauded US Abrams tanks will apparently not reach the zone of the special military operation at all, but will instead be used as combat simulators. According to British instructor John Butler, who trained Ukrainians to operate Challenger 2 tanks in the United Kingdom, only 20 per cent of the military personnel passed the final exam, many declared their unwillingness to return to Ukraine and several people even attempted to desert. One thing that the Ukrainian "warriors" have certainly learned from their British instructors, on the basis of their experience in Afghanistan, is attempting to flee the country dressed up as women.

A little aside especially for the UK delegation, which at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) revels in talking about the "deplorable state of the Russian army". Let us cite the words of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Cavoli, at the House Armed Services Committee of the US Congress on 2 May this year: "The assessment of the state of the Russian troops taking part in the Ukrainian conflict has been seriously distorted by some media ... Much of the Russian military has not been affected negatively by

this conflict.” One further point – our country’s leadership has set the defence enterprises the task of increasing the pace and volume of the production of weapons, military equipment and munitions in a short period of time. We are building a new-generation army. Colleagues can draw their own conclusions from this.

It is perfectly clear that Ukrainian citizens do not want to die for the selfish interests of a “Western conglomerate” that is simply profiteering from their blood. They remember well how military biological experiments were conducted on them over all these past years – at least 4,000 soldiers from the Ukrainian armed forces served as guinea pigs. In this way the United States compiled databases on the resistance of different ethnic groups to pathogenic microorganisms and their reactions to drugs.

We have repeatedly made it clear to the international community that the Pentagon’s implementation of military biological programmes on national territory and beyond national borders poses a global threat. In the case of Ukraine, we see the dual purpose of these programmes and their focus on the development of biological weapons components, which is a violation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention regime. Meanwhile, these activities continue, among other reasons because of the muted reaction of some States owing to their fear of confronting the US authorities. Under these circumstances, we will carry on monitoring the US plans and informing the FSC of any biothreats that arise in this connection.

We warn the United States and its satellites about the counterproductive nature of the current aggressive course aimed at intensifying confrontation with Russia. We call upon the US Government to take steps to withdraw US-NATO military personnel and equipment from the territory of Ukraine, and likewise to desist from any hostile activities against our country. The sponsors of the Kyiv regime, a regime that is directed against the people, must be ready to rebuild, at their own expense, the civilian infrastructure destroyed by the Ukrainian armed forces since 2014.

Thank you for your attention.