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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1059th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

18 October 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

Before moving on to the main part of my statement, allow me to draw the attention of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to the following. The discussion that took place in this room one week ago showed once again that our Western “non-colleagues” are attempting, on the basis of time-tested templates, to portray the state of affairs in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as if a terrorist cell had attacked a neighbouring State’s civilians out of the blue. However, the unprecedented upsurge of tensions in the Middle East did not arise in a vacuum. Otherwise, protests against Israel’s actions would not be taking place in the West Bank and Muslims the world over would not be supporting the Palestinian cause.

Israel was subjected to an attack that was unprecedented in its cruelty and, without a doubt, it has every right to self-defence. But one must not overlook the fact that, for years on end, Palestinians have been suffering displacement from their land and the destruction of their houses. Their sovereign and independent State has so far not been created. Incidentally, by no means everyone in the Gaza Strip supports Hamas, yet as a result of the current indiscriminate operation by the Israel Defence Forces, it seems that everyone without exception is meant to suffer, including women and children, who are at the epicentre of a tremendous humanitarian catastrophe. In that regard, we are shocked by the heinous strike on the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, which claimed the lives of more than 500 people. It is important to understand that all these events are the tragic consequences of around seventy United Nations Security Council and General Assembly decisions having been violated with the systematic connivance of the United States of America and other Western countries.

The Russian Federation categorically condemns violence against civilians, acts of terrorism and the launching of indiscriminate strikes against the Gaza Strip; it calls for an immediate ceasefire and for the hostages to be released at once. We stand ready to engage in mediation efforts so as to prevent the current escalation from spilling over into a full-scale war. We are taking every possible measure to end the conflict in close contact with regional players, including with a view to opening humanitarian corridors. That being said, our country’s contacts with some Hamas representatives should not be interpreted as support for

terrorist activities. It has been established that at least one Russian citizen is being held captive by that group.

Regardless of where armed violence flares up, the Russian Federation has always proceeded on the basis that it is important for each of the parties to a conflict to be heard. At the 1058th plenary meeting of the FSC we heard a lengthy report by the Ambassador of Israel, Mordechai Rodgold. In connection with that, we call upon the Canadian Chairmanship to invite a Palestinian representative to this venue to present an assessment of the evolving situation in the escalation zone in the Middle East. We invite delegations to share their views on that score and we expect you, Madam Chairperson, to take a fair and balanced decision.

Madam Chairperson,

The protracted crisis in Ukraine and what is currently happening in the Middle East ought to force the West to take a fresh look at its practice of using sanctions to try to stifle and crush those who are pursuing an independent and sovereign foreign policy. However, over in Washington, D.C., where they have always preferred to exploit the tragic plight of millions of people to satisfy their economic interests, they still have no desire to reassess their approaches. After the drastic exacerbation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the value of shares in major US arms companies has skyrocketed. It was exactly the same in the cases of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Ukraine. And now, US aircraft carriers and 2,000 marines have been deployed to the shores of Palestine and Israel by no means with a view to ensuring peace. This is clearly confirmed by the obstructionist position of the United States and its satellites with regard to the draft United Nations Security Council resolution on the Middle East proposed by Russia. As the saying goes, “one man’s war is another man’s fortune.”

The White House is currently hoping to receive tens of billions of dollars from Congress for the continued funding of the conflicts in Ukraine, Israel and the Asia and the Pacific region. However, these frantic attempts to project power around the world, along with the declarations by the Strategic Posture Commission of the United States Congress about the need to prepare for a “simultaneous” war against Russia and China, including nuclear war, are leading to a deterioration of international security and bringing it to the brink of collapse. If the United States has come to believe that it can control the escalation without putting itself in harm’s way, that is a dangerous delusion. The risk of conflict between nuclear powers is thus being created – something that the five nuclear-weapon States undertook to prevent in accordance with a joint statement on 3 January 2022.

The United States maintains its course aimed at weakening its competitors, retaining control over resources and preventing those who disagree with it from coming together. Through US efforts, a front is being formed in Asia and the Pacific for the “containment” of China. After the precipitous withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan, the United States is attempting to restore its military presence in Central Asia under the pretext of assistance in the fight against terrorism. In Ukraine it is leveraging the military potential of virtually all of the Alliance’s member States against our country. All this is being done to weaken Russia and pose a threat to China by blocking new regional formats for military co-operation.

However, we are firmly convinced that the collective West’s scope for imposing its interests in various parts of the world will continue to decrease. The preliminary outcomes of the Belt and Road Forum (Beijing, 17–18 October) confirm that a common vision for a new international order is taking shape in which there is no longer any place for domination by the United States and its allies.

With regard to the OSCE area, where the United States is persistently attempting to foist its “rules” and erect new “iron curtains”, it may be noted that the West’s plans to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia have failed. Despite the transatlantic bloc’s comprehensive assistance, the puppet regime in Kyiv is not managing to obtain results on the battlefield. Let us cite just a few facts.

Firstly, it is becoming obvious that the counteroffensive by the Ukrainian armed forces has collapsed. This is already being acknowledged by the Euro-Atlantic authorities themselves. The spreading of distorted information on the condition of the Russian Federation's armed forces by NATO and European Union countries has led to dashed expectations among Western taxpayers. Judge for yourselves. As part of the special operation, our troops continue to engage in active defence, improving their position along the entire front line. You expected the stocks of Russian weapons to run out, but in practice one can observe a sustained increase in the production of artillery systems (tube artillery and multiple-launch rocket systems) and the associated ammunition, together with a reduction in the time frame for supplying troops with them. In these circumstances we are not surprised by recent remarks by the Ukrainian Finance Minister, Sergii Marchenko, who spoke of the "tiredness" of Ukraine's partners and how "they would like to forget about the war." As for President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's pronouncement about the conflict with Russia being in its "final phase", we regard that as an admission of frustration on the part of that junta, which is pitted against the people.

And what about the United States? By means of unilateral anti-Russian sanctions that run counter to the Charter of the United Nations, it has increased its shipments of US liquefied natural gas to the European Union and further ramped up its profits from the sale of weapons to European countries, which have depleted their military arsenals in the expectation of a swift victory by Ukraine. The market has, in effect, been primed for goods from the US military-industrial complex. However, the partners are having to pay the United States considerable sums for these new armaments and they must agree to restrictions on their sovereignty in the security realm. Defence policy in Europe is already completely subordinated to the US Government's interests.

Secondly, Ukraine, the collective West's tool in its confrontation with Russia, has turned into a blood-soaked testing ground for the disposal of obsolete NATO and EU weapons. Things have got to the point that, according to the German publication *Der Spiegel*, representatives of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence refused Leopard 1A5 tanks on account of their being in a state of total disrepair. On the other hand, they will gladly accept defective S-300 missiles from the Bulgarian Government, the transfer of which had been approved "in view of the great risk that they pose to Bulgarian military personnel". The sponsors of the post-Maidan regime in Kyiv, and indeed the regime itself, are utterly indifferent to the fact that these missiles are a threat to civilians. As a result of the Ukrainian armed forces hiding, in violation of international humanitarian law, air defence systems within urban areas, tragic incidents have already occurred in Odessa, Mykolaiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporozhye and Konstantinovka.

Equally symptomatic is the fact that expired Western weapons are being directed against the civilian population of the Russian Federation. Since September 2022, the Donetsk People's Republic has been experiencing the regular use of US-made AGM-88 HARM high-speed anti-radar missiles, whose warranty period expired between 1991 and 1997. These missiles are intended to knock out air defence facilities, yet their defectiveness means that they regularly miss their target and hit blocks of flats, educational institutions and shops, wreaking havoc among the civilian population.

The Russian Federation has repeatedly emphasized how the shipping of NATO weapons to Ukraine means that responsibility for their inhumane use and for the death of civilians in Donbas and the liberated territories rests with the Western countries as well. We are reliably informed that not only are the co-ordinates of targets for strikes being provided by their intelligence services: the inputting of such data into weapons systems is also being carried out under the supervision of specialists from these countries. As these facts are increasingly made public, Ukraine will continue to be supported less and less by the global community as a "bulwark of democracy" and a "champion of European values".

Thirdly, at the instigation of its foreign handlers, Ukraine has turned into a terrorist State and a source of illicit trafficking in arms, which have been detected in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East

(significantly, in the last-named case the diversion of weapons is from a military unit of the Ukrainian armed forces that is stationed in the city of Mukachevo in the Zakarpattia region, where the Ukrainian Security Service has conducted a series of searches and arrests). We also remember very well how, in the past, external pressure and then direct armed aggression by the United States and its allies was the root cause of the myriad terrorist threats emanating from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Libya. Nowadays, according to the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, Western intelligence services are training Ukrainian sabotage and terrorist groups to carry out attacks against nuclear power facilities on our territory. In that regard, it is understandable why NATO and EU countries react with indifference to the Kyiv regime's attempts to inflict damage on the Kursk, Smolensk and Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plants and to the associated catastrophic risks.

Fourthly, the Kyiv regime, whose military resources are to all intents and purposes exhausted, is deliberately waging a war against civilians. Border areas in the Belgorod, Bryansk and Kursk regions of the Russian Federation are subjected to daily shelling from mortars and grenade launchers, and also to massive raids by kamikaze drones. Last week, as a consequence of a strike on the city of Donetsk by a US-made artillery shell with a cluster warhead, a ten-year-old boy was lethally injured – his arm was torn off and he subsequently died on the operating table. A girl died under the wreckage of a Ukrainian drone on the outskirts of Belgorod. As the result of a strike on a Donetsk city hospital, a nurse who was attending to injured patients died after suffering shrapnel wounds to her chest. Public transport vehicles have come under shelling: in the village of Suzemka, in the Bryansk region, a shrapnel-riddled taxi minibus went up in flames, while four civilians were seriously injured. All in all, the shelling attacks by these Nazis resulted in 39 civilian casualties over the past week, with 14 people killed, including two children. However, something tells us that the OSCE Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict will not mention these minors who were killed when it issues its next statement.

The Russian investigative and judicial authorities are applying the principle of no impunity for the war crimes perpetrated by the Kyiv regime. Last week, the Supreme Court of the Donetsk People's Republic sentenced five Ukrainian soldiers to terms of imprisonment ranging from 26 to 28 years for the killing of civilians. Two Ukrainian soldiers who had gunned down civilians in Mariupol in March 2022 were given life sentences. The Supreme Court of the Lugansk People's Republic sentenced a soldier who in Severodonetsk had fired away at a block of flats from a grenade launcher to 14 years in a strict-regime penal colony. They are all being held accountable not simply for having taken part in hostilities, as the delegation of Ukraine here is trying to argue, but for war crimes against civilians and violations of international humanitarian law, which are being hushed up by the West. We will continue our systematic work to bring criminals to justice.

Madam Chairperson,

The Western States have already discredited their fabled "values" through their blind support for the Zelenskyy regime, which has lost all autonomy. Against this backdrop, the skilful operations of the Russian Army, its cohesion and high level of training make it possible to respond flexibly to the Kyiv regime's implementation of its military handlers' plans. It is high time the United States and its allies realized that the Russian Federation is here to stay. Instead of fuelling hotbeds of international tensions, they should, finally, start thinking about how we can all coexist in future, focusing on the maintenance of global strategic stability and the construction of a new international security architecture.

Thank you for your attention.