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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1032nd PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

18 January 2023

**Agenda item: Opening session under the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you on the start of the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We welcome His Excellency Mr. Josip Brkić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and thank him for outlining the priorities of the Chairmanship for the current session.

We trust that, despite the differences in the approaches of the OSCE participating States to assessing the current pan-European security situation, our joint work in the Forum will be conducted in accordance with its existing mandate. In the current context, the role of the Chairmanship is without question important. It is called upon to take into account the interests of all participating States and to help this autonomous decision-making body to revert to a culture of mutually respectful dialogue, free from attempts to aggressively pursue one-sided approaches. We hope that this is the direction that our colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina will seek to lead the FSC in over the next few months.

The latest round of FSC negotiations comes at a historically difficult time, when the foundations of the pan-European security architecture established by our predecessors are being deliberately eroded under the weight of the hegemonic ambitions of the United States of America and its satellites. The backdrop to and the thread running through the discussions at the Forum is an armed confrontation carefully planned, financed and fuelled by Western States in Ukraine, whose terrain is being used by NATO and the European Union as a military training area for waging a proxy war, although there is already no doubt that it is in fact an open war with Russia.

The crisis of the European security system has deep roots. It started when, through the efforts of the United States and the tacit acquiescence of its allies, everything that had been created as a result of the Second World War and the geopolitical changes that took place in the world in the late 1980s began to turn to ashes. The politico-military dimension of the OSCE is being destroyed altogether. The problem of conventional arms in Europe has become more acute. The relentless build-up of arms has rendered negotiations to reduce military tensions futile. The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and Open Skies

regimes, which are fundamental to Europe's security and are aimed at overcoming the material legacy of the era of confrontation, have been rendered inoperable by the United States and its cohorts merely in order to demonstrate the relevance of NATO in the post-Cold War environment.

A year ago, the Russian Federation invited its Western colleagues to sit down together at the negotiating table and take an honest inventory of the decades-long accumulated problems along the Russia-West fault line. An initiative on security guarantees was proposed whose legal framework would have prevented the exacerbation of politico-military problems on the continent. We objected emphatically to Western States viewing stability in the Euro-Atlantic area in terms of strengthening strike units on the borders of the Union State, increasing supplies of arms and military equipment to the Kyiv regime, enhancing military mobility in the European theatre of war, and NATO expansion – all in violation of OSCE politico-military commitments. However, instead of responding to our concerns, the Western interlocutors gave the command “attack”, and the regime in Kyiv set about the massive shelling of Donbas.

Mr. Chairperson,

The determined action by the Russian Federation to protect its legitimate national security interests, the lives of our citizens and compatriots, and time-honoured Russian lands has revealed the true intentions of the “Western conglomerate” with regard to Russia. However, in the totalitarian information environment in the West, the rationale behind this action has so far escaped the notice of the transatlantic public. We are always willing to provide the facts.

The citizens of European countries, the United States and Canada should be aware that the co-mediators of a peaceful settlement in Ukraine – Germany and France – used the Minsk Package of Measures and United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 of 17 February 2015 as a screen for covert diplomacy aimed at the militarization of Ukraine against Russia with the direct assistance of NATO member States. Through the efforts of the heavyweight European countries, this policy has ultimately brought the whole of Europe to the brink of an armed conflict.

The citizens of European countries, the United States and Canada should also be aware that the US Government is doing all it can to intensify the conflict even further. Ukraine has become a testing ground for Western arms, giving the United States and its allies an opportunity to study how their weapons and military equipment behave under intensive use in real combat conditions. Today, representatives of Western intelligence services cynically claim that the deployment of US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems in Ukraine has taught them some valuable lessons. We would remind you that these systems have been used by the Ukrainian military and foreign mercenaries to massacre civilians in Donbas. The price of the US military experiments in Ukraine is people's lives. Do the citizens of the United States and of NATO and EU member countries realize that they are being forced to finance the bloodshed out of their own pockets?

For Western countries to declare good intentions and call for an end to the fighting is in fact the height of hypocrisy. The so-called “friendly embrace” of Ukraine and the United States can be summed up in one succinct phrase, pronounced yesterday by former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice: “The Ukrainians are willing to fight and suffer ... [so that] America ... [can] send a lesson to the Russians.” The European Union is not far behind either, having definitively abandoned the good intentions of its founding fathers to prevent armed confrontation in Europe. Suffice it to recall how EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell unhesitatingly supported the Kyiv regime's blatant and irresponsible rejection of the Christmas ceasefire. The provocative call by Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, to “give Ukraine any weapon it can use” is in the same vein. We would ask the EU delegation to clarify: are we also talking about nuclear weapons in this context? All this confirms

once again that the Ukrainian-Western bond is determined to escalate the armed confrontation and that the “Western conglomerate” is firmly established as a party to the conflict. That is its choice. We will find a suitable response.

There is another theme, carefully concealed by our former partners, about how aggressive rhetoric and actions by NATO and the European Union undermine the international reputation of a number of their member countries. It is no exaggeration to say that some 85 per cent of the world’s population has not subscribed to the West’s anti-Russian sanctions and no longer views the West as a bastion of democratic values. The statements by the representatives of the aforementioned associations regarding the intention to “dismember” Russia and remove it from the world stage as a geopolitical actor send a clear signal to the entire international community about the consequences that any sovereign State pursuing an independent foreign policy course may face.

The Kyiv regime and its Western handlers could end the hostilities at any time. The Russian Federation’s proposals for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine and the elimination of threats from Ukrainian territory to the security of our country within the constitutionally enshrined borders are well known and remain valid. The success of the special military operation is continuing and inevitable, as is the achievement of the goals set by the Russian politico-military leadership. We will achieve them in any way we can and are prepared for any development. In that connection, we invite you to acquaint yourselves with the statement by the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, General Sergei Shoigu, at the meeting on 17 January this year on strengthening and improving the armed forces of our country.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today, the European continent is feeling the effects of the selfish policies of NATO and the European Union, whose credibility has been completely undermined in Russia. The last straw, as we have pointed out before, was the admission by former French President François Hollande and former German Chancellor Angela Merkel regarding the eight-year pretence at a constructive approach within the Normandy format. The West proved itself to be unreliable. In that context, statements by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to the effect that, once the conflict in Ukraine is over, “one should not count on the normalization of relations between Russia and the West” cannot fail to amuse. For us, it is clear: negotiation as if nothing had happened with those who are doing everything possible to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia is out of the question. We shall be guided by the fundamental interests of national security. It remains to be seen who will be extending a hand this time and to whom.

The Russian Federation will not retreat from its principled foreign policy orientation and will continue to promote a unifying international agenda despite pressure from aggressive EU and NATO alliances. A large part of the international community views Russian approaches positively, including the fostering of joint efforts to combat Western neocolonial practices.

In conclusion, let me once again thank Mr. Brkić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his detailed presentation of the priorities of his country’s Chairmanship and wish the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina every success in its responsible role of chairing the Forum. We trust, Mr. Chairperson, that you will succeed in acting as an honest broker during the current session of the FSC. For our part, we are willing to engage in a frank, inclusive and substantive discussion on politico-military security in Europe.

We thank Belarus, which is leaving the FSC Troika, and we welcome the delegation of Bulgaria as the incoming member of the Troika.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.