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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1086th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

11 September 2024

Agenda item: Opening session under the Danish Chairmanship

Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate you on your assumption of the duties of Chairperson of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, and thank him for presenting the Chairmanship's priorities for the current session.

We trust that the Danish authorities will draw lessons from the lamentable experience of their Croatian predecessors, who attempted to impose one-sided Russophobic approaches on the Forum and consciously pursued the destruction of the sole platform for politico-military dialogue in Europe. The prospects for restoring trust and the operability of the FSC, and ultimately its future as such, will depend on the Danish team's willingness to act as an impartial and honest broker.

The FSC's functioning, undermined as it has been by the wilful actions of the NATO-EU countries holding the Chairmanship, can only be restored from within – starting with the abandonment of boorish methods of holding discussions and with the return to a culture of professional discourse on politico-military matters falling within its purview. This is all the more relevant in the run-up to the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Valletta in December. Taking into account the opinions of all 57 participating States without exception, scrupulous compliance with the Rules of Procedure, respect for the consensus nature of decisions that are adopted – these are not whims of the moment but a *sine qua non* condition for the survival of our autonomous decision-making body. The principle of the sovereign equality of States must be the alpha and omega of the Forum's work.

We expect the tentative unifying messages voiced by the Danish Foreign Minister in his statement to find a practical outlet in your work, Mr. Chairperson. We share the Chairmanship's view that the FSC was created by our predecessors in order to bring the participating States around the same table every week for "consultation, goal-oriented ... dialogue and co-operation in the field of security", even when the going gets rough. In that regard, extremely challenging work lies ahead that will call for diplomatic wisdom and steadfastness from the Chairmanship. It goes without saying that we shall assess the outcomes of that work

on the basis not of words but of specific actions, and our line of conduct at the FSC will depend directly on those outcomes.

This latest round of Forum negotiations is set to take place in historically challenging times, when the politico-military foundations of the pan-European security architecture laid down by our predecessors are being deliberately knocked out under the onslaught of the hegemonic ambitions of the United States of America and its satellites, which have unleashed a multidimensional proxy war against the Russian Federation. One of its egregious manifestations is how the West *de facto* assisted with the Ukrainian armed forces' incursion into the territory of the Russian Federation's Kursk region. Under the false pretext of the right to self-defence and with hypocritical references to the Charter of the United Nations, NATO and EU countries are justifying, with a tenacity worthy of better use, all kinds of terrorist attacks, war crimes, the murdering and abduction of civilians, and sexual violence against women perpetrated by neo-Nazis and Western mercenaries on the territory of our country.

We would draw attention to the fact that the Maltese OSCE Chairmanship has yet to condemn these actions by the Kyiv regime.

The regime's Western handlers, who persist with their intention of inflicting, at any price, a "strategic defeat" on Russia, have given Ukraine complete *carte blanche* for operations in Russian regions. We are receiving reports that British ministers are trying to convince their NATO allies of the need to allow Ukraine to carry out strikes against the territory of the Russian Federation using Storm Shadow cruise missiles, which have a flight range of up to 250 km. Similarly, the Pentagon is reportedly considering the possibility of JASSM cruise missiles, whose flight range is up to 400 km, being launched from F-16 fighter jets. In one of his recent interviews, Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, who spoke at the FSC today, in effect gave the Kyiv regime permission to use Danish weapons for strikes against our territory. It is not difficult to draw an obvious conclusion from this, namely that the pursuit of escalation by the NATO-EU conglomerate is deliberate and is being carried out as part of getting the North Atlantic Alliance ready for a military conflict on an altogether different scale and intensity. We consider it our duty to warn that such an adventure cannot end well for its instigators.

During a meeting with senior officials from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 14 June this year, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, put forward specific proposals for resolving the politico-military situation in Ukraine with a view to stopping the bloodshed and achieving sustainable peace. However, the Ukrainian armed forces' attempt, orchestrated by the West, to invade our territory nullifies *a priori* the possibility of any negotiations with these aggressors and occupiers. The Kyiv regime and its Western patrons must understand that, given how the situation on the ground is not turning to the advantage of the Ukrainian armed forces, the terms for ending the conflict later on will be quite different. The objectives of the special military operation will be accomplished in any case.

Mr. Chairperson,

In what is a truly turbulent period for European security, it is quite likely that some use may come of your proposal to turn to two of the OSCE's core documents, namely the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (1994), the provisions of which were intended to become a lodestar for all the participating States without exception. Convened during a period of *détente*, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) served the purpose of establishing the "rules of the game" in the coexistence of two systems pitted against each other. At the turn of the 1980s and the 1990s, as the inter-bloc confrontation in Europe came to an end, the process launched in Helsinki opened up the opportunity to develop a new security architecture in Europe resting on common foundations. However, the West's NATO-centric position did not allow that chance to be seized, and today the barometer of history

is once again pointing to stormy weather ahead. Nevertheless, we do hope that the forthcoming Security Dialogues will act as a stimulus for a number of participating States to revert to common sense, refrain from confrontational approaches and overcome international legal nihilism so as to avoid the catastrophic consequences that may otherwise result.

In the present circumstances we continue to be of the view that the FSC's work needs to be conducted in accordance with its politico-military mandate as approved at the CSCE Summit in Helsinki in 1992 and as enhanced in Istanbul in 1999. At the heart of this mandate are arms control, disarmament, confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), and issues related to small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. In that regard, we count on our Danish colleagues to act constructively and initiate in good time an open discussion, within the format of Working Group A, on holding the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting to review the implementation of CSBMs. It is high time to abandon the practice of holding "separate" consultations behind closed doors – a practice that is alien to the OSCE and utterly pointless.

We call upon the Danish Chairmanship to address in earnest the problem of SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile management, including extremely important aspects related to how these munitions end up on black markets. Despite there being a robust mandate and an extensive set of commitments, this topic has been artificially struck off the FSC agenda in the past few years. We know that this is because the topic as such is awkward for our opponents, but we categorically disagree with such an approach. We expect the professional consideration of practical matters related to the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (2000) to be revived at a thematic meeting – a meeting that traditionally takes place in October. Should the Western participating States thwart a consensus on holding that meeting, we will regard that as a case of their going back on agreed commitments.

In this context, we are surprised at our Danish colleagues proposing to put United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security on the agenda of the FSC. From our experience of seeing that topic considered at the Forum over the past few years, the way in which this was done can rightly be described as highly biased and politicized, essentially involving a distortion of the resolution's aims and objectives, which we consider to be absolutely unacceptable. In the long run, promoting a non-consensus agenda may well hobble the Forum's work.

We should like to emphasize that the assessments we have voiced are intended to get the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation to revert to the implementation of its original tasks, and to prevent an unnecessary duplication of efforts on various international platforms. It is important to manage the Forum's resources prudently, which means not trying to hammer a nail with a screwdriver, as it were. Although the trends towards a crisis are intensifying, the FSC still constitutes a unique politico-military platform for dialogue among the States of the Eurasian continent, whose *raison d'être* in the current circumstances is to prevent, through diplomatic efforts, confrontation from escalating out of control. This makes the responsibility of those at the Forum's helm all the greater.

You have in your hands, Mr. Chairperson, a unique instrument for multilateral diplomacy, the foundations of which were developed by our predecessors starting from, in effect, the drafting of the Helsinki Final Act in the early 1970s. Fifty years on, ensuring that there is no skewing in favour of specific groups of participating States, strict compliance with the Rules of Procedure, transparency in the Chairmanship's activities and the restoration of balanced dialogue – there you have the sole recipe that would make it possible to preserve the Forum and prevent the existing divide between participating States from turning into an unbridgeable chasm. If the Danish Chairmanship is genuinely interested in such work, we are willing to engage in co-operation based on the principle of reciprocity.

In closing, allow me to express our gratitude to Cyprus as the outgoing member of the FSC Troika, and to wish Spain as the incoming member success in working for the benefit of our autonomous OSCE decision-making body.

Thank you for your attention.