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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. KONSTANTIN GAVRILOV, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1026th PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO OPERATION**

19 October 2022

Madam Secretary General,  
Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Russian Federation has no objection to the adoption of the agenda of the 1026th plenary meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

However, we have been instructed to state the following.

Over the years, we have regularly indicated our position of principle that attempts to apply a broad interpretation to the FSC mandate will lead to its erosion. We have called for this stagnation to be overcome in particular by reducing the preponderance of soft security issues on the agenda, which have barely any discernible impact on the politico-military atmosphere on the continent. We have not been heard. Unfortunately, the Belgian Chairmanship, which is mandated to consider the opinions of all participating States without exception, has also failed to take our opinions into account.

In view of the foregoing, we are obliged to emphasize that today and in the future, the Russian delegation will refrain from taking part in the discussion in the FSC of the artificially introduced topic of the relationship between security and the environment. We strongly oppose and will not support any decisions or initiatives designed to give the FSC additional functions in this area.

We are convinced that turning the FSC into a club for debating special interests is hardly acceptable at a time when the situation in Europe is so unstable and unpredictable. In the long run, promoting a non-consensus agenda could “hamstring” the Forum’s work. In the current situation, we believe it would be more useful to convene a special meeting on how to restore an appropriate role for the FSC in the field of hard security in Europe. This has already been done before.

The delegation of the Russian Federation remains open at all times to working constructively on strengthening the Forum’s politico-military foundations.

Thank you for your attention.