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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1089th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

2 October 2024

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

Mr. Chairperson,

To the world majority, whose ranks are of course far broader than those of the OSCE participating States that made statements today full of politicized slogans, it is obvious that confrontation and hegemony are incapable of resolving a single global problem, all the more so in the field of politico-military security. These merely serve to artificially inhibit the objective process whereby a democratic multipolar world order is taking shape, one that must be based on the sovereign equality of States and the right of peoples to determine their own destiny. And likewise on the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of independent States, the reaffirmation of which was arrogantly blocked by the United States of America and its satellites at the Summit of the Future in New York during the adoption of the associated Pact. The reason is simple: they have been pursuing such a policy in all parts of the world from the very beginning.

We draw particular attention to the fact that it is being increasingly reported in the pan-European media space that the United States was aware of, and even involved in, the preparation of the large-scale terrorist attack in Lebanon that saw civilian technology being turned into a lethal weapon. In our view, it is necessary to investigate this tragedy, which has been the harbinger of a surge in armed violence in the Middle East. We understand that the United States will do everything it can to suppress the facts that have come to light, just as it did in response to the irrefutable proof of its involvement in the terrorist attacks on the Nord Stream gas pipelines. Together with its allies, this self-styled champion of international law is engaged in concealing evidence and covering up for the true perpetrators. No less symptomatic are the brazen remarks by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who said that all those concerned about the course of the investigation should “keep quiet”. Similarly, a veil of silence has been drawn by those once concerned about the tragedies in Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol, Kramatorsk and Kremenchuk, which in reality were nothing but staged provocations by the West and its acolytes.

The aforesaid is extremely important in the context that we are discussing at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) today. After all, the crisis in Ukraine is but the latest consequence of the hegemonic policy pursued by the United States and its satellites. In his statement during the general debate at the

79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, delivered in New York on 28 September this year, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, recalled the track record of those who demand that the rest of the world follow their “rules”. The invasion of Afghanistan by a US-led coalition led to the formation of Al-Qaida. The aggression against Iraq resulted in the creation of ISIS. The unleashing of war in Syria gave rise to the Al-Nusrah Front (now Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham). Turning to the OSCE area, the interference by the United States and its satellites in the internal affairs of Ukraine triggered the establishment of a truly terrorist regime in that country, a regime that consorts with international terrorist organizations. It is reported that instructors from the Ukrainian armed forces are training Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham fighters in the Syrian city of Idlib in the construction of home-made unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). At the same time, we have learned from French media that terrorists who entered Ukraine through the Moldovan-Ukrainian border received training on Ukrainian territory for the purposes of organizing the terrorist attacks in Mali. This once again confirms that terrorism as a method of warfare has long been employed by the Kyiv regime and has, in effect, been elevated to the rank of State policy.

One of the most potentially explosive manifestations of that policy is that the Western-nurtured terrorist regime in Kyiv continues to bank on dragging NATO into the hostilities against Russia. That is essentially the aim of Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s recently announced “victory plan”, which envisages further millions upon millions being poured down the Ukrainian black hole and permission being granted by the Alliance’s countries for the use of long-range weapons to strike deep inside Russian territory. In an interview with the Rada television channel, Serhii Nykyforov, the press secretary of the Ukrainian President, said that “it must be understood that the Russians themselves will be the first to find out about permission having been granted for strikes deep inside Russian territory. They will be the first to find out and only then will an official announcement be made. For now I don’t have a definitive clear-cut answer for you on this matter, but Zelenskyy has conducted negotiations with all the parties on whom this decision depends and who are able to provide the relevant resources, namely Italy, France, the United Kingdom and, of course, the United States.” The fact that the Kyiv regime, in carrying out terrorist attacks against Russian civilian objects by means of long-range weapons, intends to openly rely on comprehensive support from its Western handlers (we know that such support is being provided at the level of NATO and the European Union) not only reaffirms their status as accomplices in these crimes but also confirms their double standards when it comes to combating terrorist activities, for which there can be no justification.

The NATO and EU States have long since given the Kyiv regime carte blanche to target our country’s civilian population. In September of this year, the shelling of civilian objects in the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and in the Belgorod region was seen to intensify. We can trace a direct link between the defeats that the Ukrainian fighters are suffering around Pokrovsk, Ugledar and Kupyansk and their attempts to take it out on non-combatants through targeted strikes on places where civilians congregate. The shelling attacks by these Nazis claimed 140 civilian casualties over the past week: 114 people were injured, including 13 minors, and 11 people lost their lives. The Ukrainian armed formations fired at least 2,584 munitions, including Western-made ones with enhanced lethality, on civilian targets in Russian areas.

Although the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, has described the transfer of cluster munitions to Ukraine as “deeply concerning”, the United States last week announced a tranche of military aid worth 375 million dollars that again includes this type of weapon prohibited by the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Oslo Convention) of 2008. Using cluster munitions to carry out terrorist strikes against civilians has long been a customary practice for the Kyiv regime. The hazard consists in the fact that a cluster munition, while still in the air, disperses dozens of smaller submunitions. Peaceful cities, towns and villages in the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk are literally being showered with these bombs, which in the main are US-made, and this is, in effect, turning them into a minefield. In particular, the failure rate of M483A1 and M864 munitions can be as high as

40 per cent. Experts believe that the United States is supplying such munitions deliberately so as to leave the land mined after artillery shelling and increase the number of casualties while circumventing restrictions on the use of anti-personnel mines.

We remember very well how, on 19 July 2023, the delegation of Ukraine announced at the FSC that US cluster munitions would not be used on the territory of the Russian Federation, that they would be “used exclusively for the de-occupation of ... territories of Ukraine” and that their use would be eschewed “in inhabited urban areas in order to minimize the risks to the civilian population”. Those present in this room can now see for themselves what the words of Kyiv officials are worth.

On 23 June, Sevastopol was subjected to shelling by US-made ATACMS ballistic missiles. Four of the five missiles were shot down by the Russian air defence system, but one exploded over a beach, leading to catastrophic consequences: 153 people were injured, while the lives of an additional four people, including two children, could not be saved.

On 10 August, a strike was carried out on the Solnechny residential district in Gorlovka, Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR), by an M26 unguided missile with a cluster warhead containing 644 shaped-charge and fragmentation submunitions. The shelling attack resulted in 15 civilian casualties. On a separate note, we would point out that the Ukrainian neo-Nazis regularly pepper Gorlovka with cluster munitions.

On 13 August, the Ukrainian armed forces launched a strike using cluster munitions on Lisichansk in the Lugansk People’s Republic, during which a bus carrying people was hit. According to the latest data, three civilians were killed and more than 30 were injured.

On 28 August, after the Ukrainian armed forces’ invasion of the Kursk region of the Russian Federation, an engineering and reconnaissance group from the Russian National Guard received information that a downed shell from a US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system packed with 180 unexploded submunitions had been found five kilometres from the Kursk nuclear power plant. A similar cluster bomblet from a shell fired by a HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system was discovered and destroyed by members of the Russian National Guard in the courtyard of a residential building in the town of Lgov in the Kursk region.

On 30 August, the Ukrainian armed forces conducted targeted shelling of the city of Belgorod and the Belgorodsky district using cluster munitions fired by Czech-made Vampire multiple-launch rocket systems. Five civilians were killed as a result of this barbaric strike, while an additional 46 sustained injuries of various kinds. Among those injured were seven minors. A large number of residential apartment buildings and private houses were damaged, along with other civilian objects and cars. Unfortunately, the Ukrainian armed forces’ shelling attacks on the Belgorod region in September of this year using cluster munitions were of a systematic nature.

Here are once again images from Gorlovka in the DPR, where, on 7 September, the Ukrainian armed forces fired cluster munitions at a children’s hospital. There were six casualties, including one child. Staff from the Ministry of Emergency Situations neutralized the unexploded submunitions, but near the hospital there remain lots of craters containing fragments, as is characteristic of cluster munitions.

We strongly warn that US shipments of cluster munitions to Ukraine will lead to further escalation of the conflict and additional casualties among the civilian population, which constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. What is more, responsibility for the escalation caused by the shipping of cluster munitions into a combat zone rests with the Western States Parties to the Oslo Convention that, through their actions, are encouraging Ukraine to employ such munitions.

We entertain no illusions as to the current OSCE leadership and relevant international bodies opting, as they have done before in similar cases, to turn a blind eye to the crimes of the Ukrainian armed forces and their masters. The lack of any adequate response confirms their political bias. We strongly emphasize that this silence on your part means that the terrorist regime in Kyiv has been granted a licence to kill Russian citizens in the Belgorod, Kursk and Kherson regions, in Donbass and in the Zaporozhye region. The Kyiv regime's use of methods to terrorize civilians is unacceptable and Russia will continue to counter this by all available means.

Mr. Chairperson,

The aforesaid merely confirms the indisputability of the objectives of the special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine and to eliminate the threats to the national security of the Russian Federation emanating from Ukrainian territory.

At present, the Russian armed forces' offensive in the direction of Pokrovsk continues. Major fighting for Ugledar is now under way and the crumbling of the Ukrainian armed forces' defences there is becoming a mere matter of time. The Russian army is conducting offensive actions in the direction of Kupyansk and Kharkiv. The Ukrainian armed forces' garrison in Chasiv Yar is being gradually encircled from the south and north. Heavy fighting is taking place in Toretsk. Last week, operational and tactical aircraft, UAVs, missile troops and artillery from the Russian force groupings hit fuel infrastructure facilities, a signals intelligence centre, and clusters of the enemy's troops and military equipment in at least 136 districts. A wave of strikes was carried out on the Ukrainian armed forces' airfield infrastructure using long-range precision weapons, specifically the Kinzhal hypersonic air-launched ballistic missile and UAVs. An air strike using the UMPK-500 unified gliding and correction module to target workshops at an aviation engine plant of the Motor Sich company, where drones were being assembled and stored, resulted in the destruction of around 250 UAVs of different types belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces.

The enemy is suffering most substantial personnel losses as well. According to the British newspaper the *Financial Times*, the Ukrainian armed forces are losing more than half of new recruits, in terms of the numbers killed or wounded, immediately upon their arrival at the front. Ukrainian commanders point out that these newly called-up men lack elementary combat skills and motivation; what is more, most of them succumb to panic at the first sound of fire. Well, it is evident that the training of the Ukrainian armed forces through the "titanic efforts" of more than 30 countries – with the United States training 16 per cent of all Ukrainian "military students" according to a report by the US Government Accountability Office – is yielding most meagre results. This is confirmed by what Valerii Volkul, a Ukrainian prisoner of war who completed his training in the United Kingdom, said during an interrogation, namely that "the instructors have themselves only had three months of training and do not have combat experience". It would seem that this is why the First Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine, Ivan Havryliuk, is not at all hopeful about NATO training for Ukrainian pilots of F-16 jets, such training being, as he put it, "insufficient to achieve even just temporary air superiority in some segments".

Despite the tremendous personnel losses, the Kyiv junta is intent on continuing the Ukrainian-NATO "blood games" and is carrying out forced mobilization, which has already come to be popularly referred to as "mobilization to the grave". In September of this year, there was much furore over the story of 16 Ukrainian conscription-age men who attempted to abscond to Moldova from the Odessa region inside a refrigerated truck loaded with beef. Each one of them had paid between 6,000 and 8,000 dollars for the chance to escape. In seeking to flee the "mobilization to the grave" organized by the Zelenskyy regime, people are prepared to go to any lengths simply so as not to end up in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces and be packed off to be slaughtered. In that regard, another Ukrainian prisoner of war, Vasyl Kozub, summed it all up as follows during an interrogation: "Ordinary kids are being rounded up on the streets,

while those with money can sit it out at home. The West is using the Ukrainians to wage this war, and the situation in the country is just getting worse.” Small wonder that – to cite what Mykola Kniazhytskyi, a member of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament), shared in an interview of 14 September with the YouTube channel “Great Lviv Speaks” – Ukrainian embassies around the world have been inundated with hundreds of thousands of applications to renounce Ukrainian citizenship. After all, there is no intention of showing the Ukrainian people even just some of the points from the aforementioned Zelenskyy “victory plan”, which once again confirms that the Kyiv regime sees in its citizens nothing more than “expendable material” that can be sent off to the front line to serve Western interests, funded by Western money and equipped with Western weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

The direction in which the international situation is developing, the way that NATO military infrastructure is being brought closer to the Russian border, the stoking of tensions near the borders of the Union State, the involvement of nuclear powers in the conflict around Ukraine on the Kyiv regime’s side and the direct threats made against the citizens of the Russian Federation – all these factors compel us to adjust the “Basic Principles of the State Policy on Nuclear Deterrence”. In accordance with the updated version, going forward, we shall regard an attack on Russia by any non-nuclear-weapon State with the participation or support of a nuclear-weapon State as an aggression against our country. In addition, the conditions for shifting to the use of nuclear weapons have been revised to now include the receipt of reliable information about a massive launch of aerospace assets and about these assets crossing our State border, including strategic and tactical aircraft, cruise missiles, UAVs, and hypersonic and other aerial vehicles. Decisive action may also be taken in the event of an aggression against Belarus as a member of the Union State. I must emphasize that we have always approached and continue to approach this matter with the greatest sense of responsibility, considering that the use of nuclear forces is an extreme measure for protecting our country’s sovereignty. And that is why we are openly informing the international community about these imminent changes of a fundamental nature.

In closing, Mr. Chairperson, we should like to stress once again that the Russian Federation will continue to take all necessary steps to protect its citizens from the terrorist challenge posed by the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv with the support of a number of Western States. This is our immutable task, the relevance of which is felt all the more keenly in view of the second anniversary of the reunification of the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions with Russia, which was widely observed in our country on 30 September. And if the Kyiv regime’s Western handlers do not terminate their military sponsorship of that regime and fail to put a stop to the carnage that it is wreaking, if the geopolitical and economic considerations of the United States and its satellites turn out to be more important to them than saving that country, we will carry on with the special operation until its goals have been resolved by military means.

Thank you for your attention.