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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON
MILITARY SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL,
AT THE 1033rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

25 January 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Kyiv junta, abandoning common sense and succumbing to the illusion of victory on the battlefield, continues to call on the West for unity in its efforts to support Ukraine and the hybrid struggle against the Russian Federation.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, said in a recent interview with Spain's national radio: "The more arms given to Ukraine, the better the situation will be." However, this latest attempt by Kyiv's political elite to increase pressure on public opinion in Western countries means only one thing – forcing Europe, the United States of America and Canada to "put out the fire with petrol".

Russia has repeatedly warned that Ukraine's open incitement of member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance to raise the stakes in the conflict multiplies the risks of it escalating into a direct clash between NATO and Russia. However, the statements and actions of our former partners show more and more signs that they are following the Kyiv regime's lead and making a conscious choice in favour of escalation.

We take careful note of information coming from the administration of the President of the United States that the US Government is planning to help Ukraine elaborate a new stage in the army's counteroffensive, which will target the Crimean peninsula. According to *The New York Times*, US military commanders are already working on offensive plans and matching them with the weapons Ukraine has and its allies will provide. If the United States and NATO countries supply Ukraine with weapons to carry out strikes on peaceful cities deep inside Russia and attempt to seize our constitutionally enshrined territories, it will force Russia to retaliate harshly. Don't say afterwards that we didn't warn you.

We agree with the statement by Charles Michel, President of the European Council, that the coming weeks “will be decisive” in the Ukrainian conflict. However, it must be kept in mind that the deliveries of air defence systems and heavy tanks to Ukraine approved by the transatlantic allies in Ramstein on 20 January this year will not bring the coveted “strategic defeat” of Russia any closer, but will only guarantee more problems for Ukraine and the whole of Europe.

It is no secret how Ukraine’s air defence system works in reality, with missiles periodically falling on the territory of neighbouring countries – Poland, Moldova and Belarus. It is also known that foreign air defence systems are being supplied to Ukraine not to defend the “free world” but to kill Ukrainian civilians. Leading media outlets on the other side of the Atlantic confirm that US air defence missiles have hit residential buildings in Kyiv and Kramatorsk. Another egregious example is the destruction of the entrance to a multi-storey building in Dnipropetrovsk on 14 January this year, caused by an air defence system attempting to shoot down a Russian missile aimed at a military or military-industrial infrastructure site. The decisions made at Ramstein will allow the Kyiv regime to continue to use its own people as a human shield.

It is not without interest that we have followed the lively discussion within the North Atlantic Alliance about deliveries of German Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine. Once again, the international community has witnessed NATO’s iron discipline. In accordance with the canons of the civilized West, the allies first threatened Germany with international isolation if it refused to hand over the Leopards. Then none other than US State Department spokesperson Ned Price announced breaking news regarding the sending of German “beasts” to Ukraine. This is how transatlantic solidarity is forged.

Since Germany has made a conscious choice to have German tanks with crosses on their armour go back to attacking Russian soldiers, we should like to demonstrate what awaits Leopard 2 tanks in the zone of hostilities – they will be destroyed and burned on the battlefield, as is now happening to the rest of the NATO weapons “menagerie” in Ukraine. This fate will also befall the US-made M1 Abrams tanks after the decision to supply them. Our US colleagues can rest assured that they will have plenty of good publicity for the US military-industrial complex.

Since the beginning of this year, the armed forces of the Russian Federation have destroyed around 20 M777 howitzers and three US-made M109 Paladin systems, as well as three French Caesar self-propelled artillery units in the course of the counter-battery strikes against firing positions. As a result of missile and air strikes in the Donetsk region, launch pods for HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS) have been damaged, and four Czech RM-70 Vampire MLRS combat vehicles and ten Polish Krab howitzers have been destroyed. A total of 32 US-made counter-battery radar stations (16 AN/TPQ-50, three AN/TPQ-48, seven AN/TPQ-37 and seven AN/TPQ-36) have been put out of action. Russian air defence forces have intercepted over 137 HIMARS, Vilkha and Uragan rockets, and shot down ten US-made HARM anti-radar missiles. This is just the beginning.

Mr. Chairperson,

The systematic destruction of Western military equipment in Ukraine is forcing the Kyiv junta into dangerous provocations, the price of which will be paid by hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians and Europeans.

According to the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, the Ukrainian armed forces are stockpiling military equipment and ammunition provided by NATO and the European Union on the sites of nuclear power plants. They include the already mentioned expensive missiles for the HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems and foreign air defence systems, and also large-calibre artillery ammunition. The logic of Kyiv’s terrorists is simple: just as Banderites fire on towns in Donbas and other regions of Russia from

behind the civilian population's backs, weapons depots will now be deployed under the shelter of nuclear reactors. And if the depots and nuclear power plants happen to be destroyed as a result of a large-scale detonation caused by yet another stray missile launched by the Ukrainian air defence, the tragedy can, as always, be blamed on Moscow. Remember – this is exactly what Ukraine did when it carried out systematic artillery strikes with NATO weapons on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

We warn Western sponsors of Ukraine's war machine against encouraging nuclear provocations and blackmail. We know that the Leopard 2 tanks, like the Bradley and Marder armoured infantry fighting vehicles, are armed with sub-calibre armour-piercing rounds with uranium cores, the use of which lead to contamination of the immediate environment, as happened in Yugoslavia and Iraq. If Ukraine is supplied with shells of this kind for NATO heavy military equipment, we will regard it as the use of dirty nuclear bombs against Russia, with all the consequences that this entails.

Mr. Chairperson,

The agreed arms deliveries to Ukraine will further tarnish the reputation of the EU and NATO member States as parties to the conflict doing everything to prolong the suffering of civilians, with regular strikes by the Ukrainian military against residential areas, grain silos, schools, hospitals, kindergartens and other social infrastructure. Dozens of shells and missiles fall every day on the capital of the Donetsk People's Republic. The Ukrainian armed forces are hitting places where there is not a single person in military uniform. Civilians in Donetsk and Luhansk are killed by US-made, French, Czech, German, Polish and other heavy weapons.

At the end of December 2022 the enemy started to use Slovak JROF-M high-explosive missiles with an extended range of up to 40.2 km and increased striking power, and also JROF-HEAP fragmentation missiles against civilian residential buildings in the Donetsk People's Republic. On New Year's Eve in the city of Donetsk, this resulted in three casualties and damage to 23 buildings.

Two civilians were killed and six others injured in the Leninskyi district of the city of Donetsk on 21 December 2022 as a result of the use of NATO large-calibre M982 Excalibur guided artillery shells. The fact that the Excalibur belongs to the class of high-precision weapons is evidence of the targeted nature of the Ukrainian armed forces' artillery attack.

As for the notorious US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system, there were 185 rocket attacks on Donbas between 28 June and 10 December 2022, with 81 per cent of the attacks targeting social, industrial and civilian infrastructure in the Luhansk People's Republic. The US representatives can see the monstrous consequences of their "arms diplomacy" on their screens.

It is revealing that Ukrainian representatives have admitted that not a single shot from the HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems is fired without the agreement of the United States. We deplore the revival of fascist traditions across the ocean, where the term "Untermensch" is assuming its former meaning in relation to Russians. This is confirmed by the frenzied campaign to dehumanize our citizens in the US publication *The Times*, which systematically justifies the murder of the Russian-speaking population under the headlines "Kill!", "A day without dead Russians isn't a complete day" and "For us they are not people."

All of this once again confirms that the Russian Federation's sovereign decision to launch a special military operation for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine was justified and well considered in view of the scale of the threats to our country's national security within its constitutionally enshrined borders. We pay tribute to the brave people of Donbas, who have been resisting the Kyiv junta and its

Western handlers for almost nine years. The aims of the special military operation set by Russia's supreme leadership, which include protecting people from the NATO-sponsored policy of genocide, will most certainly be fulfilled.

Mr. Chairperson,

Anticipating the customary attempts by the Anglo-Saxon delegations to turn upside down the real situation in the area of the special military operation, I should like to state the following.

Currently, Russian troops have broken the Ukrainian armed forces' line of defence in some parts of the front in the Zaporizhzhia region and are advancing in almost all sections of the line of contact in the Donetsk People's Republic. The Ukrainian armed forces are rushing to redeploy units en masse to Artemivsk and Marinka to hold the positions there. The strategic high ground around Klishchiivka south of Artemivsk is almost completely occupied by Russian Federation forces. The German Federal Intelligence Service has confirmed that the enemy is suffering heavy losses in the area.

Ukraine's large-scale forced mobilization is taking its toll on the morale of the Ukrainian armed forces. Ukrainians do not want to take part in a war that serves the interests of a Western conglomerate of States. The morale of the troops is also affected by the poorly equipped recruits and the officers themselves, who throw soldiers into combat as cannon fodder. Ukrainian fighters recently recorded a series of video appeals to the Ukrainian military and political leadership about their refusal to take part in the hostilities. According to soldiers of the 116th Territorial Defence Brigade, they have "no leadership, no doctors, nothing".

It is not surprising that in these circumstances the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers are reliant on foreign mercenaries. In particular, some 13,000 soldiers of fortune or fighters from NATO member States have been concentrated in the Soledar area alone. We would remind you that mercenaries sent by the West to assist the nationalist regime in Kyiv are not combatants under international humanitarian law and are not entitled to prisoner-of-war status. The best they can expect is voluntary surrender and imprisonment. Otherwise, they will be liquidated as part of the demilitarization of Ukraine. This year alone, high-precision weapons strikes by the Russian Aerospace Forces against the temporary deployment sites of units of the "foreign legion" on the territory of the Donetsk People's Republic and in the Kharkiv region have killed over 200 soldiers of fortune and wounded more than 100. It is high time for our Western colleagues to realize that mercenaries or foreign instructors have never been a decisive factor on the battlefield.

To sum up, I should like to stress that the Kyiv regime and its US masters spare neither the population of Ukraine, nor the Ukrainian military personnel, nor the citizens of Western States, whom they are prepared to sacrifice to their own greed and overwhelming desire to harm Russia. Our country has never set out to destroy Ukraine as a State. However, we do not intend to tolerate a hate-filled US- and NATO-sponsored anti-Russian dictatorship on our borders.

Thank you for your attention.