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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE
VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL AT
THE 1067th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR
SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

24 January 2024

**On the adoption of the agenda for the 1067th Plenary Meeting of the
OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation**

Mr. Chairperson,

In the present challenging circumstances in the OSCE and at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), confrontational rhetoric is prevailing over constructive approaches. Given these factors, the Chairmanship in particular has a growing role to play: it is called upon to endeavour to bring the FSC back to a culture of dialogue. Of course, this requires considerable diplomatic efforts, a desire to seek compromises, a neutral and impartial approach in dealing with the most complicated tasks, and also respect for the interests of all participating States without exception.

We note with deep regret that so far we are not seeing the aforementioned approaches being put into practice.

The Russian delegation is obliged to object, as a matter of principle, to the manner in which the Cypriot Chairmanship is organizing today's discussion on the topic of humanitarian mine action. We consider as inappropriate any attempts by the country chairing the FSC to exploit its position in order to promote narrow bloc-based approaches or the national interests of specific participating States while discriminating against the rest. In particular, the Chairperson of the Forum is meant to take a careful approach when selecting the keynote speakers, whose presentations should assist in the search for compromises and not advance patently controversial and confrontational assertions.

We insist that the FSC Chairmanship adhere strictly to the collectively agreed norms and that it stop aggravating the atmosphere of hostility at the Forum.

We recall that the powers of the FSC Chairperson are exhaustively defined in the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, and would strongly recommend that the Cypriot Chairmanship keep strictly within the limits of these.

Gravely concerned about the evolving situation at the Forum, Russia will carefully analyse the activities of the Cypriot FSC Chairmanship, and it reserves the right to take action, as appropriate.

We request that this statement in the form of a formal reservation be reflected in the journal of today's FSC meeting in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.