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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1088th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

25 September 2024

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Against the background of the aggressive invasion by the Ukrainian armed forces into the Kursk region of the Russian Federation, accompanied by occupation and large-scale crimes against the civilian population of our country, the “Anglo-Saxon” handlers of the puppet regime in Kyiv are making considerable efforts to create a false impression on international diplomatic platforms and in the global information space about the Kyiv regime’s “desire for peace”. We see that they have particularly intensified their efforts in the run-up to the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly. At the same time, the unproven thesis is being dogmatically propagated that Russia has “rejected the peace option”, while Ukraine, with the support of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is all but standing guard over the stability and security of Europe.

Today we propose to analyse how much the Ukrainian authorities, who by no means represent the population of that country, and some Western OSCE participating States actually care about peace in Ukraine and indeed in the entire pan-European area.

In 2014, at the height of “Euromaidan”, Germany, Poland and France became guarantors of an agreement between Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and the opposition, aimed at forming a government of national unity. The next morning, the opposition simply trampled on these agreements, making blatantly Russophobic statements, including the demand that the Russians be expelled from Crimea. There was no reaction by the pseudo-guarantors. On the contrary, a bloody coup d’état was mounted with the support of the United States of America and the NATO and European Union countries. In that regard, it would seem unnecessary to comment on the reason why the Crimeans rebelled and held a referendum on reunification with Russia.

In 2015, talks between the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany resulted in the drafting of a Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, which was endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. However, the Kyiv regime immediately set out to sabotage these

agreements, and Western States provided it with full political and diplomatic cover. This was later confirmed by the so-called “co-mediators of the peace settlement” – former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, former French President François Hollande and former Ukrainian leader Petro Poroshenko. According to them, the aim of the Minsk agreements was to give the Kyiv regime time to prepare for a major war. It is therefore abundantly clear why NATO and EU countries have been massively plying Ukraine with armaments for almost a decade. Neither our Organization nor the collective West posing as peacekeepers have done anything whatsoever to reverse this trend and prevent the subsequent disastrous turn of events.

By 2021, the course pursued by the United States, the United Kingdom and their NATO allies aimed at creating an anti-Russian military bridgehead in Ukraine had assumed truly alarming proportions. The Russian Federation warned at the highest level that dragging a neighbouring State into the Alliance, with the potential for the presence there of ballistic attack systems comprising missiles with a minimal flight time to central Russia and other destabilizing weapons, posed unacceptable threats to our security and created serious military risks for all parties involved, up to and including a large-scale conflict in Europe. In order to de-escalate the situation, we put forward drafts of an agreement on measures to ensure the security of the Russian Federation and NATO member States, and also a treaty between Russia and the United States on security guarantees. But our initiatives were simply stonewalled and arrogantly rejected by our counterparts.

In 2022, the Russian Federation was forced to launch a special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine and eliminate threats emanating from its territory. It is significant that the possibility of reaching a concrete agreement with the Kyiv regime emerged quite soon. As a result of bilateral negotiations in Istanbul, Russia and Ukraine came close to signing a peace agreement, the main parameters of which were initialled by both sides on 29 March 2022. However, as Davyd Arakhamia, the faction leader of the Servant of the People party in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) and the main Ukrainian negotiator, later said in an interview with the 1+1 television channel, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson arrived in Kyiv on 9 April and forbade Volodymyr Zelenskyy from signing the peace agreement and insisted on the continuation of the hostilities, promising massive supplies of weapons from Western countries.

A recent revelation by one of the architects of the anti-constitutional coup d'état in Kyiv, former US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, is also evidence of the destructive “Anglo-Saxon” interference in the Russian-Ukrainian negotiation process in the spring of 2022. According to her, it was the United States that thought it would be disadvantageous for the Kyiv regime to limit Ukraine’s military capabilities without imposing similar restrictions on Russia.

Under immense Western pressure, another nail in the coffin of a peaceful settlement was Mr. Zelenskyy’s decree of 30 September 2022 banning any contacts with the leadership of our country. In that regard, the Kyiv regime’s disdainful attitude towards the peace initiatives of the States of the Global South and Mr. Zelenskyy’s categorical statements in a number of interviews are quite characteristic: “We can fight the Russian Federation for ten years. ... Our society doesn’t want us to continue talks” (CNN, 17 April 2022). And “It (negotiation) is not interesting for me. Not interesting to meet, not interesting to speak [to Vladimir Putin]. I really don’t understand who makes decisions in Russia” (26 January 2023). So, quite clearly a “desire for peace”.

In view of the aforesaid, the sham nature of Mr. Zelenskyy’s ten-point “formula”, put forward after the collapse of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations, and the “victory plan” announced recently by the Kyiv leadership, which, as the head of the regime admitted in an interview with the US magazine *The New Yorker* on 22 September, is intended to “strengthen Ukraine”, “weaken Russia” and “threaten Putin’s own position”, is even clearer. We also consider his statement that US President Biden’s refusal to support the

latest plan in Ukraine will be seen as an unwillingness to “end the war in any way that denies Russia a victory” to be quite revealing. In that connection, we regard the so-called “peace initiatives” being churned out in Kyiv as nothing other than ultimatums that do not provide for Russia’s participation in the negotiation process and, as a consequence, have nothing to do with a political and diplomatic settlement.

The same applies to the need suggested by the Kyiv regime for a second “peace summit” to be held in November this year, ostensibly with the participation of our country. There should be no doubt: under no circumstances will Russia agree to join “gatherings” in the style of the stillborn Bürgenstock format. This process has nothing to do with a peaceful settlement and is essentially aimed at demanding capitulation from Russia.

At the same time, we should like to draw attention to a statement made by Mr. Zelenskyy on 1 June 2023: “The war is on our land, so the peace formula can only be ours.” What can one say in response? If we were indeed to follow the logic of the Kyiv regime, then after the invasion of the Kursk region of the Russian Federation and the occupation by the Ukrainian armed forces of a part of its territory, we would be fully entitled to pursue our own option for peace on the basis of the proposals voiced by the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, on 14 June this year, taking into account the situation on the ground and the unfolding geopolitical realities. And the Kyiv regime would have to face up to it.

Mr. Chairperson,

The long-standing sponsorship of the hostilities in Ukraine by the United States, the United Kingdom and their allies shows that in order to achieve the West’s fundamental goal of weakening the Russian Federation in every possible way and inflicting a “strategic defeat” on it, they will continue to gamble on climbing the escalation ladder. Proof of this is the Ukrainian armed forces’ bandit-like invasion of the Kursk region masterminded by them (by the way, the Ukrainian Minister of Defence Rustem Umerov himself openly admitted the other day that the operations of the Ukrainian armed forces are co-ordinated with Western handlers), and also the discussion of strikes deep into Russia with long-range NATO weapons.

In that connection, we regard the European Parliament’s call on EU countries to immediately lift restrictions on Ukraine’s use of Western weapons as direct incitement to a new world war. As President Putin said on 12 September, the West’s indulgence of such strikes would mean the direct participation of NATO countries in the Ukrainian conflict with all the ensuing consequences. The authorities in the EU and NATO capitals are well aware that Russia has weapons whose use would have serious consequences for the Kyiv regime’s overlords. They are also weighing up the likelihood of the conflict going nuclear. According to US Department of Defense documents, the Pentagon recently commissioned a simulation of the effects of a nuclear war on the agricultural sector in Eastern Europe. As always, the United States clearly intends to sit it out behind the ocean and leave its continental allies to bear the blow.

We have repeatedly pointed out that, in addition to increasingly long-range weapons, the NATO Allies are handing over to Kyiv data from their military and space intelligence. To this end, the intensity of coalition flights on NATO’s eastern flank has already been raised to 290 flights per month. We note the involvement of strategic reconnaissance aircraft of the US and British air forces, along with US (RQ-4B, Global Hawk and MQ-9A Reaper) and NATO (RQ-4D Phoenix) strategic unmanned aerial vehicles, and the extensive use of NATO, French and Turkish aircraft with airborne warning and control systems (AWACS). The data they collect is used, among other things, to locate and engage targets deep inside Russian territory.

It is known for a fact that Western military specialists are literally involved in the manual co-ordination of strikes with precision weapons – I would like to emphasize this – against purely civilian targets in the Russian Federation. Flight missions are compiled and loaded into the system by instructors and

representatives of those NATO countries that supply these very weapons to the Kyiv regime. This policy makes the Kyiv regime's arms sponsors complicit in its crimes.

But most importantly, sending military advisers, instructors and mercenaries to Ukraine does not help the Kyiv regime to achieve any military breakthroughs, but merely tarnishes the reputation of their countries of origin. For example, foreign soldiers of fortune fighting on the side of the Ukrainian armed forces have shown themselves to be militarily ineffective during the invasion of the Kursk region. The only thing they have proved capable of doing is abusing civilians. In numerous interviews, inhabitants of the Kursk region have been telling of how English-speaking and Polish recruits engaged in looting and beat up residents, while the Georgian legion "distinguished itself" by mock executions of civilians. The egregious crime by two French mercenaries, who sexually assaulted a female civilian in the village of Glubokoye in the Kharkiv region, is a shameful stain on France's international reputation. One of them has been identified (Maxime Roger Henri Barrat, born in 1989) and faces life imprisonment. The second offender is being sought. All those responsible for crimes against the population of Russia – whether Ukrainian fighters or mercenaries – are sure to be severely punished.

Mr. Chairperson,

All the aforementioned factors should leave no doubt that, in order to protect our people in our territories, the special military operation, which is being conducted in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will continue until all the objectives set have been achieved.

The Russian armed forces have stabilized the situation in the combat zone and continue to push the enemy out of the border areas of the Kursk region and are also building on their successful offensive in Donbass. Taking advantage of the Ukrainian armed forces' weaker defence in the direction of Avdeyevka, our forces are advancing and progressively threatening to encircle and capture fortified towns. We note the retreat of the Ukrainian armed forces in the Pokrovsk, Toretsk and Ugledar areas. As part of the demilitarization of Ukraine, between 14 and 20 September, the Russian armed forces carried out 27 group strikes with precision weapons and combat drones on energy facilities that support the Ukrainian military-industrial complex and on workshops involved in the production of unmanned aerial vehicles. Maritime arms shipments to the Kyiv regime are being monitored. Last week, a bulk freighter carrying Western missiles and ammunition was destroyed.

As for the Western-made armaments being supplied to the Kyiv regime, we should like to emphasize once again that they possess nothing that is unique or that makes them invulnerable to Russian weapons on the battlefield. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, since the beginning of the special operation, the total losses by the Ukrainian armed forces in military equipment manufactured by NATO countries amount to at least 1,180 units of weaponry and military equipment: some 70 tanks (including German Leopard, US Abrams and British Challenger 2 tanks), around 600 armoured combat vehicles (including Bradley, Marder, CV90 and M-80A armoured infantry fighting vehicles; M113, M117, VAB, TAB-71, XA-185, Stryker and Spartan armoured personnel carriers; and AMX-10RC heavy armament combat vehicles), as many as 400 artillery systems of 155 mm or 152 mm calibre (including Braveheart, PzH 2000, Caesar, M109, Dana M2, Archer, M777, FH-70 and TRF1 systems), over 80 multiple rocket launchers (including HIMARS/MLRS and RM-70 types), and over 30 long-range (Patriot and SAMP/T), medium-range (NASAMS) and short-range (Avenger, IRIS-T-SLS and Starstreak) anti-aircraft missile systems. We have repeatedly warned that any other NATO weapons, including the F-16 fighter jets already delivered, will suffer the same fate of burning on the battlefield.

Incidentally, speaking of the much vaunted F-16 jets, one of which has already been ignominiously put out of service, reportedly as a consequence of the Patriot air defence system springing into action.

Information has recently emerged regarding Romania's plans to transfer the mobile maintenance stations it has received for this type of fighter aircraft to Moldova for subsequent deployment at the Mărculești airfield. This has been assessed by experts as further confirmation that Moldova is paving the way for making its aerodrome infrastructure available to accommodate aircraft transferred by the West for the needs of the Ukrainian armed forces. Once again we strongly urge the authorities in Chișinău to refrain from irresponsible steps that could turn Moldova into a party to the conflict. We strongly warn that the endeavours by the Kyiv regime and NATO to potentially expand the geographical scope of the Ukrainian conflict must stop.

This also applies to the intensification of NATO's provocative military activity on the borders of the Union State, which has already been mentioned on several occasions by our Belarusian friends in the Forum for Security Co-operation. At the moment, the bloc's combined armed forces command is transferring additional air defence and anti-missile defence assets and strike weapon systems to the region, actively developing military infrastructure and stockpiling weaponry and military equipment along with other materiel in advance. Each year, some 40 major NATO exercises are held near the borders of the Union State to rehearse the use of coalition groupings of troops (forces). More than 300,000 NATO troops are familiarizing themselves with this potential theatre of war and being trained to conduct combat operations against Russia from the Arctic to the Black Sea.

In that regard, we should like to recall once again that the Military Doctrine of the Union State, updated in 2021, provides for the joint defence of the common borders of our integration association, a point repeatedly made by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. The document emphasizes the firm resolve to safeguard the military security of the Union State with all available forces and means. As is known, a joint regional grouping of troops (forces) is currently deployed on the territory of our brother Belarus, along with modern Russian defence systems and tactical nuclear weapons. The putting into practice of any aggressive scenario directed against our ally will be fraught with disastrous consequences, not only for neo-Nazi Ukraine but also for its patrons.

By way of summary, Mr. Chairperson, we should like to emphasize once more that the cessation of military sponsorship of the Kyiv regime, the non-deployment at Russia's borders of weapons systems threatening our security, renunciation of the NATOization of Ukraine and of the posing of threats to our allies, and the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops and mercenaries from the territory of the Russian Federation remain key prerequisites for a future peaceful settlement and for safeguarding military security in Europe. This needs to be very clearly understood by those who pretend that they have not yet grasped the essence of the Russian position, and they should take concrete steps to ensure military restraint.

Thank you for your attention.