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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, ACTING HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1103rd PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

2 April 2025

**Agenda item: General statements**

**Subject: On the balanced participation of representatives of international and regional organizations in meetings of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation**

Mr. Chairperson,

Today the Russian delegation is obliged to raise the issue of the balanced participation of representatives of international and regional organizations in meetings of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

Our colleagues in this room will remember well that, at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999, participating States adopted the Platform for Co-operative Security with a view to promoting productive co-operation between our Organization and other international structures on an equal basis and in a spirit of partnership.

The common goals of building confidence and security through multilateral co-operation are at the heart of both the OSCE and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Today, the CSTO is an international organization with a strong track record when it comes to confidence-building in the politico-military sphere. It would not be amiss to recall the remarks made by OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid during the Security Dialogue of 9 June 2021 to the effect that “the regular participation of CSTO officials in meetings of the ... FSC ... provide[s] excellent opportunities for communication between our organizations, as well as with other regional organizations. I encourage [the] CSTO to continue this practice” (SEC.GAL/81/21). Ms. Schmid reiterated these assessments during her first official visit to the CSTO headquarters on 21 June 2021.

In view of the foregoing, in October 2024 the Russian Federation, acting in its capacity as Chair of the CSTO, requested the FSC Chairmanship to allow a representative of the CSTO Secretariat to attend the meetings as an observer via videoconference, especially since there was a precedent for this in 2022. Our request was made also in view of the fact that officials from other international organizations regularly attend meetings of this autonomous OSCE decision-making body.

However, seven months on, we have still not received a response to our legitimate request.

It should be pointed out that, back in 2020, Russia officially notified the FSC of its position of principle that the participation of a NATO liaison officer in Forum meetings was possible only if a representative of the CSTO Secretariat was also present. As of today, all previous agreements that allowed a representative of the Alliance to be in this room have been torn up by our opponents. We are therefore reverting to our original position.

Through this statement the Russian delegation is informing you, in accordance with paragraph IV.1(D)5 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, about the lack of consensus with regard to the admission of a NATO liaison officer to FSC meetings. In practical terms, this means that the Forum's doors will remain closed to them until the issue of the equal and balanced participation of the CSTO in plenary meetings is resolved. The balance of representation of international and regional security organizations on this platform must be restored.

We hope that this abnormal situation will be resolved in the interests of maintaining the effective and reliable work of the OSCE's politico-military dimension, which is much needed in the present circumstances, in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security.

Thank you for your attention.