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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1022nd PLENARY MEETING
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO OPERATION**

21 September 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation's special military operation has given a powerful impulse to the tectonic shifts in the international arena that had been gathering momentum over the past few years.

The "unipolar moment" proclaimed by the United States of America and its satellites has come to an end. The summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that took place in Samarkand on 15 and 16 September 2022 demonstrated the strengthened polycentrism of the modern world order – a polycentrism that rules out bloc-based, ideologized and confrontational approaches when tackling problems related to global and regional development. This fundamental tenet of foreign policy is wholeheartedly subscribed to by the SCO Member States and the growing ranks of that organization's supporters, which taken together account for half of the global population and produce one quarter of the gross world product.

Meanwhile, the unceasing efforts by the collective West to drive a wedge between Russia and the outside world are failing: 80 per cent of independent States have not joined in the illegitimate Western sanctions, which run counter to the Charter of the United Nations. This despite all the shameless pressure, blackmail and threats, including personal warnings issued by high-ranking politicians and diplomats.

The international community continues to observe how the United States and its satellites are doing all they can to try to hold on to the hegemony that is slipping out of their hands. The price of preserving that hegemony is neoliberal totalitarianism, gross meddling in the internal affairs of sovereign States, civil wars, the marginalization of international institutions and a crisis of multilateral diplomacy, not least in the OSCE framework. "Marshalled" by the US Government into an anti-Russian front, Europe is already suffering as a result of the unthinking sanctions. To please politicians on the other side of the Atlantic, it is freeing up its market to purchase goods from the US military-industrial complex and expensive liquefied natural gas from the United States instead of accessible Russian gas.

The foreign policy gambit devised by the West at the OSCE in connection with the end of the Cold War, in which it considered itself the victor, has had destructive consequences for contemporary international relations. By breaking their promises to the leadership of the USSR and Russia about NATO not expanding eastwards, the United States and its satellites trampled underfoot an OSCE principle that had been agreed on at the highest level, namely the indivisibility of security and not strengthening one's security at the expense of others. The perniciousness of this military and political practice was plain for all to see. Back in 1997, Susan Eisenhower, writing in the British magazine *The Spectator*, pointed out that "as we debate ratification of the accession of new members of Nato, brought into the alliance at Russia's expense and at the cost of her isolation, we should reflect on the lesson learned through the blood of our forebears. Security cannot be built at the expense of another nation."

But in that aggressive bloc they do not want to honour the lessons of history or their obligations. The head of the NATO Military Committee, Rob Bauer, recently admitted that the "biggest overhaul of our [the Alliance's] military structures", which is currently being implemented, had been planned several years earlier. How, pray, does this square with the provisions of the NATO-Russia Founding Act of 1997 about not stationing substantial combat forces in Eastern Europe? Or was it again planned to resort to the fig leaf of "rotational" as opposed to permanent deployment? This "rotation" has been going on for eight years now. An aphorism by the American writer Ernest Hemingway to the effect that a liar continues to be a liar in writing springs to mind.

To cling on to their slipping hegemony, the United States and its satellites need conflicts. And that is precisely why during all these years they have been assiduously moulding Ukraine into an "anti-Russia", encouraging the flourishing of neo-Nazism and undertaking the full-scale preparation of that country for a war with the Russian Federation. This NATO-Ukrainian "bonding" follows the same pattern as the Anglo-American and Nazi business circles whose financial and economic co-operation was one of the main factors leading to the Second World War and the unprecedented human toll that it exacted.

What we are now dealing with in Ukraine is the collective West, whose long-term goal is "victory over Russia on the battlefield" at any price. They are now already speaking openly about how they want to "decolonize" our country and break it up into regions that are at enmity with one another. Do the Western diplomats who diligently read out from pro-Ukrainian cue cards have any arguments to refute that their governments are waging a proxy war against Russia? Just take a look at what your colleagues among NATO officials are permitting themselves. When going to public meetings, the Director of the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Jānis Sārts, puts on socks bearing the slogan: "I trample on Russkies." Hatred of all things Russian has not only already become the norm at the day-to-day level in the pseudo-democratic States of the European Union and NATO, but is also encouraged by officials. Look up the meaning of the word "Untermensch" on Wikipedia. Europeans once put Russians and Ukrainians in this category. It is a lesson that we have learned well.

Let us now turn to the practical dimension of the Russophobic policies of the Ukrainian-NATO allies. The US military attaché in Kyiv compares notes daily with the Ukrainian command. According to Western media reports, one in three soldiers operating under Ukrainian insignia in the offensive near Kharkiv were nationals of NATO member States. Moreover, we know for a fact that instructors from the Alliance are directing the Ukrainian military in the north of the Donetsk People's Republic. One of their tasks is to establish co-operation between operational foreign units and Ukrainian troops so as to achieve, through bloodshed, their Pyrrhic victory.

In their militaristic frenzy the Ukrainian-NATO allies have cast aside all common sense. To supply the Ukrainian Government with satellite data that is used for carrying out treacherous strikes on residential areas of Donbas and the liberated territories, they are making use of elements of civilian infrastructure in

outer space for military purposes. Have our colleagues stopped to think that quasi-civilian infrastructure could turn out to be a “legitimate target” for a retaliatory strike? What we are in effect faced with here is the NATO countries’ violation of the fundamental principle of the Outer Space Treaty whereby outer space is to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. The West’s actions are putting peaceful space activities at considerable risk and warrant categorical condemnation by the international community.

The flagrant violations by the US and Ukrainian Governments are placing a strain on the framework of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). During the consultative meeting that took place in Geneva from 5 to 9 September this year and that was convened on Russia’s initiative, Ukraine again ignored the questions we raised about violations in connection with the storage of dangerous biological agents at the Mechnikov Institute. No explanations were received regarding the strains of dangerous pathogens that had been accumulated there. No convincing evidence was provided of the co-operation between the United States and Ukraine having helped to improve the public health situation, which in fact merely deteriorated. The questions about the motives for the urgent destruction of documentary evidence of military biological activities were likewise left uncommented. One thing alone remains clear: the ramping up of the military biological capabilities of the United States in circumvention of its obligations under the BTWC manifests itself in the collection of particularly dangerous strains of microorganisms and the testing of toxic preparations on humans at military laboratories situated along the borders of the US Government’s geopolitical adversaries.

Similarly, the potential supply of long-range offensive weapons to the Kyiv regime is fraught with significant risks. The consequences may be compared to the situation that would pertain if US-made ground-launched missiles, previously prohibited under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty that was killed off by the US Government, were to be stationed in European countries. If the United States does after all supply the Ukrainian Government with longer-range missiles to be used, *inter alia*, against Russian territory, it will have crossed a red line, thereby becoming a real as opposed to indirect party to the conflict.

The same applies to the nuclear blackmail by NATO countries, which are also encouraging the Ukrainian Government to carry out strikes on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. We would not recommend playing with fire.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Ukrainian authorities, having stooped so low as to engage in State terrorism, continue their aggressive war against the inhabitants of the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and the liberated territories. There is copious evidence of the Ukrainian neo-Nazis having engaged in the point-blank shelling of high-rise blocks from tanks and setting fire to what they were unable to destroy with their shelling. Over the past week, the neo-Nazi Kyiv regime has continued to carry out strikes exclusively on peaceful towns and villages. This was done using US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems, Tochka-U tactical missile systems, Uragan and Grad multiple-launch rocket systems, 155 mm calibre NATO howitzers and French-made Caesar self-propelled howitzers.

We invite our colleagues to familiarize themselves with some photographs showing the consequences of the Ukrainian-NATO aggression against civilians – women, children and elderly people.

In Kherson on 16 September, three people lost their lives and 13 were seriously injured, including children, as a result of a heinous attack on the city centre carried out using a HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system. Incoming strikes were recorded in the vicinity of the building of the city administration, a kindergarten and a school. According to Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, “specific military targets” were attacked on that occasion. Has the Ukrainian

Government introduced new military terminology? Since when are a kindergarten and a school legitimate military targets? In the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) on that same day, the Prosecutor General, Serhii Horenko, and his deputy, Kateryna Stehlenko, lost their lives as the result of a cynical, politically motivated terrorist act. In Berdiansk the deputy mayor, Oleh Boiko, and his wife were killed. The Ukrainian Government continues to eliminate those who disagree with its policies or those who know more than others about Ukrainian war crimes. Well, what can you expect? This is "worthy" conduct by a country that is a candidate for EU membership.

On 17 September, a post office and the building of the district administration in the Voroshylovskiy district in the centre of Donetsk were subjected to heavy fire from a French-made Caesar self-propelled artillery system. There were no military bases, ammunition depots or military personnel there. The Ukrainian Government was deliberately launching strikes against civilians. Four people were killed and eight were injured, including a correspondent from the Venezuelan television channel teleSUR, Alejandro Humberto Svikolos Kirk.

On 18 September, in yet another attempt to silence those in the know about the Ukrainian armed forces' war crimes, the Ukrainian Government had the penal colony in Olenivka shelled. One Ukrainian prisoner of war was killed, five were injured. The Ukrainian armed forces had launched an attack on the same facility in the summer. A missile hit the building in which fighters from the Azov gang who had surrendered in May at the Azovstal plant in Mariupol were being held. More than 50 people lost their lives on that occasion, while 75 were injured. Why did the Kyiv regime launch a strike on a pretrial detention facility? Because those held there had begun to give testimony and to talk about their atrocities against the civilian population of Donbas. These prisoners of war are now a threat to the regime of Volodymyr Zelenskyy in that they are living witnesses to crimes.

On 19 September, a massive strike on the settlement of Pryshyb in the Zaporizhzhia region from an M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system resulted in the destruction of a farm, a granary and agricultural machinery. Two people were killed and three were injured. This US-made system was also used for the heinous shelling of the Kuibyshevskiy district of the city of Donetsk. As a result of strikes on a public transport stop, a shop and a bank, 13 people were killed and eight were injured. On the screens you can see the Ukrainian passport of Alexander Leonidovich Kovalyov, a Donetsk resident who lost his life. However, this Ukrainian passport did not save him from the 155 mm NATO shell fired by the Ukrainians. Alexander Leonidovich was blown to pieces, like his passport – like the country, too, which issued this passport.

The night of 19–20 September was another sleepless night in the LPR. Alchevsk and Svatove came under fire. Kreminna was shelled using NATO-standard 155 mm shells. The cannonade in Makiivka in the Donetsk People's Republic continued unabated. In the morning alone, the city of Donetsk came under fire twice. Another woman was injured in the Kuibyshevskiy district. Three people lost their lives as the result of a strike on a market.

The Western OSCE participating States continue to respond with shameful silence to these regular instances of indiscriminate shelling of population centres, which grossly contravene international humanitarian law and all ethical principles. Everything is being done to shield the Ukrainian Government. Unprecedented pressure is being exerted on international human rights bodies, including Amnesty International, to suppress the truth about the Ukrainian armed forces' war crimes. All this once again goes to show that the Ukrainian Government and its handlers are benefiting from the prolongation of the bloodshed, from these horrendous tragedies, from the slaughter of civilians.

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, the Ukrainian “factory of lies” fostered by the Western handlers continues to operate. It has already churned out Bucha, Mariupol, Kramatorsk and Kremenchuk. As we warned last week, the Kyiv regime, with the support of its Anglo-Saxon handlers, is now putting on a staged massacre in Iziium. The leaders of the EU Member States have already given their assessment of what happened on the basis of cue cards dispatched by the Ukrainian Government. But as always, they have not taken into account several important aspects that do not accord with their ideological preferences.

First of all, Ukrainian propaganda claims that around 400 graves have been discovered in Iziium. Yes, that is true. However, a caveat needs to be made: most of these are the graves of fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces who were buried by Russian military personnel owing to the Ukrainian command’s refusal to take charge of their remains. As our colleagues can see, crosses and name plaques have been erected over the graves. Taking such care over those whom one has allegedly tortured and shot dead is rather odd, is it not? Incidentally, on the photographs of the mass graves published by Andrii Yermak, the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, the date is indicated as 9 March, yet Russian troops gained control of Iziium on 1 April. One cannot but ask who buried these people? Who was torturing and executing them in the course of a whole month, and why?

Secondly, the Ukrainian propaganda stories appeared in the media on 16 September, when “panoramic” press tours were organized for Western journalists. However, reporters from the British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* who arrived in Iziium the day before did not note any signs of mass killings. In addition, a local resident interviewed by them stated that “from what I know, there weren’t detentions, executions, torture.”

Thirdly, in view of the stories about torture and mass killings, the reaction of local residents to the visit to Iziium by Mr. Zelenskyy and staff from the Office of the President of Ukraine strikes a jarring note. They were not received with open arms, to put it mildly. One woman quite simply launched a torrent of obscenities against the Ukrainian leadership. Another wondered who actually had been shelling the city during the five months that Iziium was under Russia’s control. A small group of people with pro-Ukrainian leanings came to meet the President, yet none of them mentioned any mass shootings or torture. If the fables from Kyiv about “torture chambers” and mass shootings were true, the reaction of those people would have been quite different.

Mr. Chairperson,

While the criminal Kyiv regime continues to divert the international community’s attention towards staged massacres so as to demonize our country in the eyes of international public opinion, a disastrous humanitarian situation is playing out in the Ukrainian armed forces’ sphere of control in the Kharkiv region. Ukrainian Nazis and foreign mercenaries are settling scores with all those who received assistance from Russia. They are shooting people in the streets or tying them to trees just for having been issued with Russian passports. The passports themselves are subsequently nailed to their feet. The residents of the liberated territories are seeing and hearing about all these atrocities first-hand. They do not want to fall under the yoke of a neo-Nazi regime again.

In a context of growing aggression by Ukraine and NATO, the parliaments of the Donbas republics and the civil-military administrations of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions declared on 20 September that they would prepare referendums on becoming part of the Russian Federation. As the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, stated today, our country will do everything to ensure that the referendums can be held safely and it will support the decision taken by citizens. Partial mobilization was

announced. All the tasks set as regards defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland and protecting the population of Donbas and of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions will be fulfilled.

Thank you for your attention.