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**RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. KONSTANTIN GAVRILOV, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1056th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

27 September 2023

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: On co-operation with North Korea**

Madam Chairperson,

With reference to the statements by a number of delegations groundlessly trying to cast suspicion on Russo-North Korean co-operation, I should like to declare the following.

In the wake of the visit by the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Jong Un, to the Russian Federation, the fruitful development of genuinely friendly, good-neighbourly ties between our countries is being confirmed in practice. No force in the world is capable of stopping that process. You will yet have occasion to witness the constructive power of Russo-North Korean co-operation.

Apropos the numerous Western speculations about North Korea transferring weapons to our country. As pointed out by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, our country has long since stopped paying attention to what is being said in the West and to what is being written by media outlets under the thumb of neoliberal governments. Especially after all possible contractual obligations have been breached west of Vienna – in particular, through the transfer of a huge quantity of Soviet and Russian military equipment that had remained in the West (tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery) to the Kyiv regime in flagrant violation of end-user certificates, whereby these armaments may not be shipped anywhere without the original seller's permission.

Moreover, taking into account the new stage of relations with North Korea, I would point out that the sanctions against that country were adopted in a completely different geopolitical situation. At the time there were problems in facilitating dialogue and quite earnest debates at the United Nations Security Council. However, ever since the last resolution was adopted (I recall that this was in 2017), we have firmly stated that there would be no more sanctions against North Korea. The same position was adopted by our Chinese friends. Above all because, alongside the measures taken by the United Nations Security Council, all our Western opponents promised to move simultaneously along the political track as well and to address

humanitarian issues. That was yet another lie, though. We and our Chinese partners and North Korean colleagues were duped.

Thank you for your attention.