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FSC.DEL/412/22
7 November 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1027th PLENARY MEETING
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

2 November 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Ministry of Defence assesses that the situation in Ukraine is tending towards further uncontrollable escalation. New evidence is coming to light of the NATO member countries' implacable striving to intensify confrontation in Europe, not least by using Ukraine as a "battering ram" against Russia. In a recent interview with the television channel MSNBC, the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, stated: "We spent a lot of money helping Ukrainians. And it's so much more than Ukrainians. It's about NATO, it's about Western Europe. It's about making sure that Putin is not able to succeed." The West's priorities are clear. However, our colleagues are not taking into account the fact that their precipitous anti-Russian gambit is leading to serious consequences for pan-European and international security.

In an attempt to inflict as much damage as possible on Russia, the Kyiv regime is actively resorting, with the blessing of key NATO member countries, to nuclear blackmail. We call upon the Western sponsors of Ukraine's leadership to call the regime to order and prevent a provocation involving the use of a "dirty" bomb on territory not controlled by the Ukrainian Government. It is time to put an end to the sabotage attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces against the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which could lead to a human-made disaster potentially comparable in scale to the tragic accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima. Naturally, the Ukrainian Government, as on numerous occasions in the past, expects to be able, with the support of its NATO handlers, to shift responsibility for the consequences on to Russia. The only snag is that completely innocent European citizens will have to pay the price for that criminal regime's escapades. Western countries have so far not responded to our grave concerns about the efforts that are being undertaken in Ukraine to create a "dirty" bomb – concerns that were relayed to them through the upper echelons of the Russian Ministry of Defence. We would hate to think that silence in this case is a sign of consent for the Ukrainian Government's plans.

It is telling that while Ukraine makes preparations for a provocation, the NATO member countries are touting the argument that Russia could use nuclear weapons. Speaking at the concluding plenary session of the 19th Annual Meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club on 27 October this year, the President of the

Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, signalled most clearly that our country was not intending and does not intend to use an “atomic bomb” in Ukraine. Russia continues to consistently maintain that a nuclear war must never be unleashed and that there can be no winners in such a war.

At the same time, we are obliged to take all the necessary measures to safeguard our national security in view of how the nuclear aspect is becoming more prominent in NATO’s military plans. The evolving doctrinal documents of Western countries, including the United States, now envisage a whole range of scenarios allowing for the use of nuclear weapons. Reports are coming in of how the time frame has been reduced for supplying US-made B61-12 upgraded nuclear bombs to European countries that are a short flight time away from Russia’s borders. It is evident that de-escalation and tasks related to strengthening the security system in Europe continue to be low on the list of the NATO members’ priorities. All of the aforementioned factors remain a focus of our attention, not least in terms of military planning.

Mr. Chairperson,

We note with regret that the foreign sponsors of the Ukrainian war machine continue to use our neighbouring country to test NATO’s military tactics and strategy in combating a comparable adversary. This includes the carrying out of armed provocations that exploit humanitarian agreements reached under the auspices of the United Nations as a springboard. It is well known what their utilitarian attitude towards the Minsk agreements, which were endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, led to in the past.

On 29 October this year, the Ukrainian armed forces made use of the “grain corridor” established as part of the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative to launch a massive strike involving unmanned aerial vehicles against infrastructure and ships of the Black Sea Fleet in the city of Sevastopol. According to information from the Russian Ministry of Defence, military personnel from the 73rd Naval Special Operations Centre of the Ukrainian Armed Forces were trained to carry out this act of terrorism by British military instructors based in the city of Ochakiv, in the Mykolaiv region. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with competent agencies, is currently working on practical steps in connection with the involvement of representatives of the United Kingdom in this terrorist attack in the Black Sea.

In a context where Ukraine, supported by its Western handlers, is using the “grain corridor” to conduct combat operations against Russia, our country can understandably not guarantee the security of civilian bulk carriers participating in the Black Sea Initiative. In this regard, we are indefinitely suspending its implementation. It is our view that the initiative must not be carried out without Russia, and that decisions adopted without our participation are not binding on us in any way. To rectify the situation, what is required of the Ukrainian side is that it should make additional commitments not to use for military purposes the humanitarian corridor and the Ukrainian ports brought into play to ensure that agricultural produce can be exported.

It is highly revealing that the Western countries not only failed to condemn but did not even express their concern over these latest terrorist attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces, even though it is no exaggeration to say that this time they affected the whole of humanity. It is high time for our colleagues to make up their mind what actually matters most to them: “guns” against Russia or “butter” for States in need. For us the priorities here are obvious. On top of the 10.5 million tonnes of cereal crops that have already been sent, the Russian Federation is willing to provide the poorest States in the world with an additional 500,000 tonnes free of charge. So far, just 3 to 4 per cent of the grain shipped out of Ukrainian ports has been handed over to Asian and African States. The rest was lapped up by the European “heavyweight” countries.

Mr. Chairperson,

The involvement by the United States and NATO on Ukraine's side in the armed conflict poses a direct threat to the security of the Russian Federation. More importantly, however, the experience thus gained could in the future be applied to other regions of the world.

The rehearsal in Ukraine of methods for using civilian satellite constellations as part of a command element of the US Air Force is fraught with considerable risks. To enhance Ukraine's military potential, the US Government and its NATO allies are using more than 200 Earth remote sensing satellites. About 20 analytical centres are involved round the clock in analysing the data from these satellites to help the Ukrainians to detect where Russian troops are based and the routes along which they are moving. Given the global coverage of these commercial devices, the Pentagon is in effect expanding its capabilities to command and control troops anywhere in the world.

We are talking here about devices used for various purposes, including satellites manufactured by the US companies Maxar Technologies, BlackSky, Planet Labs and Spire Global. Among other civilian spacecraft being used to advance the Ukrainian military establishment's interests are satellites from the Spanish company GeoSAT, the Canadian company MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates, and many more. It would not be amiss to recall that in March this year, the European Union approved an agreement on providing the Ukrainian Government with data obtained by means of the Sentinel Earth remote sensing satellite system.

As for the practical dimension of this work, we would note that the Pentagon is actively using the GPS satellite network to refine intelligence data for the benefit of the Ukrainian armed forces, and also to guide precision weapons, including M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems. It should be stressed that, according to information received, the co-ordinates used to launch the strike against the cruiser *Moskva* were, without a doubt, transmitted to Ukraine from the United States, which shamelessly bragged afterwards at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), together with the UK delegation, about the "sinking" of the flagship of the Russian Federation's Black Sea Fleet.

A very difficult situation is developing that warrants extensive discussion in relevant multilateral forums and, should threats to international peace and security arise, also at the United Nations Security Council. The problem for the international community has to do with the fact that in practice no one can guarantee that a given satellite originally declared to be a commercial one will not be used for military purposes. As a result, the base level of predictability regarding outer space activities drops dramatically. Russia is willing to engage in professional dialogue on these issues on the basis of the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and other instruments that underpin the international legal framework for the regulation of activities in outer space.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has for a long time been expressing fundamental concerns about the military biological activities conducted by the Pentagon and subordinate entities at laboratories in the post-Soviet space. Copious evidence has been gathered in the course of the special military operation that sheds light on the non-compliance by the United States and Ukraine with the provisions of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). We note that our questions about the US Government's military biological activities in the context of the operation of biological laboratories on Ukrainian territory continue to remain unanswered. Instead of careful study of the material presented by Russia in Geneva and New York, which runs into hundreds of pages, we have heard merely perfunctory accusations from our colleagues, who accuse Russia of "propaganda" and "disinformation". But with this boilerplate response by our Western colleagues

it is not possible to eliminate the risks created by the programme on “joint biological threat reduction” that the US military establishment is implementing in violation of the Convention.

In these circumstances, given the lack of a constructive response by the two countries to the issues raised by us, the Russian Federation has lodged, in accordance with Article VI of the BTWC, a complaint with the President of the United Nations Security Council with a view to initiating an international investigation. Our démarche was accompanied by a relevant draft Security Council resolution aimed at establishing a commission under the Council to examine the claims against the US and Ukrainian Governments made in the complaint regarding the fulfilment of their Convention-related obligations. We shall strive for the realization of our legitimate rights, based on the provisions of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the BTWC. We consider it important that discussion of the issues raised by us be continued at the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, to take place in Geneva later this year, from 28 November to 16 December.

Mr. Chairperson,

The armed forces of the Russian Federation continue unflinchingly to perform the tasks of the special military operation aimed at denazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine, and also at eliminating NATO’s military bridgehead on Ukrainian territory.

Some 87,000 mobilized military personnel have been deployed to the areas of combat operations in Ukraine: they are bolstering units of the allied troops along the entire front line. They are currently conducting a large-scale offensive near Vuhledar and Marinka in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR), continuing to catch units of the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries in a pincer near Avdiivka, and warding off the barbaric attacks by the Kyiv regime against the civilian population in the Kherson area. At the same time, through strikes with high-precision weapons they are knocking out military infrastructure effectively. As stated by the Russian Minister of Defence, Army General Sergei Shoigu, all necessary measures are being taken to prevent loss of life among Ukrainian civilians.

While ever new packages of military aid keep being provided to the Ukrainian Government, the Russian military continues to methodically “grind down” the weapons supplied by EU and NATO countries. A rich “harvest” was gathered over the past two weeks. In the course of counter-battery warfare near the village of Shevchenkivka in the Kherson region an artillery battery consisting of US-made M777 howitzers was knocked out, while a further two units were destroyed by Russian unmanned aerial vehicles near the village of Novohryhorivka. Four launch pods for US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems were struck near the city of Zaporizhzhia and the village of Starovirivka in the Kharkiv region. A launch pod for a German-made MARS II multiple-launch rocket system was destroyed not far from the village of Mishkovo-Pohorilove in the Mykolaiv region. A German-made Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled artillery system was likewise destroyed. Two US-made AN/TPQ-37 counter-battery radar systems were knocked out near the settlements of Mykolaivka and Berkhivka in the DPR. More than 200 shells from HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems and at least 23 HARM anti-radar missiles were intercepted in the air.

Russian-manufactured unmanned aerial vehicles (“drones”) are proving to be highly effective in combat operations: they are used to knock out the enemy’s military equipment and to incapacitate units of the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries. We are actively using Orlan-10 reconnaissance drones, lightweight Lancet-1 loitering munitions, heavier Lancet-3 strike drones, which are capable of accelerating to 300 km/h whenever an enemy drone is spotted, and also the latest weapons systems such as Geran drones, which are powered by an engine that can make about 50 horsepower.

In this regard, we categorically reject the groundless accusations made by participating States at the FSC concerning purported shipments of drones from Iran to Russia in violation of Annex B to United Nations Security Council resolution 2231. We regard as categorically unacceptable a situation where Western States that blatantly violate their obligations under that resolution are organizing an unscrupulous campaign to camouflage their own unlawful actions. It must be pointed out that the United States was and remains the principal offender against the aforementioned resolution. The recent pronouncements by US representatives indicating that the question of the United States rejoining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is currently not on their agenda are deeply regrettable. The US Government is thus signalling that it intends to continue acting contrary to resolution 2231.

We stress that there is no evidence – and, indeed, there cannot be any – in support of what the Western countries are trying to impute to Iran and Russia at the FSC.

What is really worth talking about is the massive pumping of Western armaments into Ukraine, including heavy weapons and long-range systems, which is taking place in contravention of international law and the national legislation of these very countries. There are countless examples of this. The alarm is already being sounded by the Finnish criminal police, which reports that weapons supplied to the Ukrainian Government have ended up in the hands of criminals not only in Finland but also in Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands. Similarly, the plan published by the US presidential administration for monitoring the weapons allocated to the Ukrainian armed forces confirms that there are all too real problems with the diversion of US “hardware”, even though the Minister of Defence of Ukraine, Oleksii Reznikov, and also the US delegation to the FSC had previously claimed otherwise.

The Russian Federation will continue, alongside its allies and international partners, to uphold the principles of an equitable and truly democratic world order, in which there is no place for a unilateral diktat, the rule of force and treating as absolute the world view of a narrow clique of States. The objectives set by the Russian leadership for the special military operation will most assuredly be accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.