STATEMENT
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(Section: Conventional arms)

The Russian delegation could perhaps also quietly speak, as all others do, about the short-comings and advantages of the ATT, and the tasks that we face in the context of CCW and many other neutral topics. However, we will refrain from doing so. A particular reason for this is that a number of delegations allow themselves to launch totally unsubstantiated accusations against Russia in the context of quite tragic developments in Ukraine, a country, which is close to us in many respects.

In response we would like to draw the attention not to some kind of subjective assessments but to the sheer facts.

After the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Poland signed last December the agreements on the settlement of political situation in Ukraine, these agreements have been totally violated the next day, and the US together with the European Union supported the armed and anti-constitutional coup d'Etat in Ukraine, and helped the ultra-national forces to come to power in Kiev that literally exploded the country from inside, and our world
tumed upside down. Perhaps, it is premature to make final conclusions but on the whole these horrific events in the centre of Europe of the 21st century can have an even greater impact on our world than the nuclear bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 70 years ago. One thing is already clear – the masks have been dropped and the so-called Western (European) "democratic values" have been trampled by the West itself.

Let me turn however to today’s topic. From the beginning of our work in the context of conventional arms control a lot has been said about the importance of compliance with the international humanitarian law. Russia fully shares this point but proposes not to discuss an abstract notion but to make an analysis of concrete facts.

Russia has repeatedly expressed its serious concern in connection with the use by Kiev of weapons with indiscriminative and extremely injurious effect to civilian population. The continuous shelling of cities in the south-eastern Ukraine by heavy artillery, ballistic missiles, salvo-launch systems and use against civilian population of battle tanks, air force, incendiary weapons and cluster munitions and massive extermination of civilian population including women, elders, and children and handicapped, and large scale destruction of civilian infrastructure cannot be qualified in any other different way but as a gross violation of the international humanitarian law and the basic human right to live. On this backdrop even the use of anti-personnel mines against civilian population of one’s own country – and this is a direct violation of the Ottawa convention to which Ukraine is a party – seems to be just a routine detail.

We are perplexed not only by the Kiev’s atrocities against the population of its own country but the attempts of the Western democracy to conceal all these war crimes from the international community. Collective suppression of facts of blatant violations of the international humanitarian law actually means the condoning of the dark forces which continue still in total impunity to brutally massacre unarmed people including women, elders, and children.

We took note of the attempts of some delegations that argued about the topic of responsibility for new emerging risks and threats to the European security to shift
responsibility for their own actions on Russia. This will take them nowhere. Russia is not a party to the domestic conflict in Ukraine. But politically we have insisted and will insist on complete cessation of hostilities in south-eastern Ukraine and the solution of all extremely complex issues through negotiations among the regional forces themselves in Ukraine.

As to the issues of conventional arms control in Europe we will recall that Russia for 17 years has fully implemented its obligations under the previous Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). Even despite the fact that the treaty itself was clearly discriminatory against us. Russia has even ratified the new adapted CFE and was ready to implement it but none of our western partners followed the suit.

Thus, we were simply compelled to put a moratorium on the implementation of our obligations under the CFE in 2007. We were expecting that our western partners would realize the actual situation that emerged in Europe. Seven years have already passed but nothing has been done by western partners. On the contrary, the situation continues to degrade. NATO military nuclear bloc is stably moving closer to Russian borders. NATO has adopted new doctrines aimed at deploying rapid response forces immediately in the vicinity of our borders, and the NATO military strike potential has increased which includes the buildup of systems with tactical nuclear weapons capability.

Naturally, a question comes to mind – who is the target of NATO military machine? We can find an answer to that in the statements of the countries which are again blowing up the myth of Russian threat.

As to the elaboration of a new conventional arms control regime in Europe, then, judging by the declaration of the NATO summit the members of the Alliance cannot offer anything and apparently loosing interest to this topic.

Russian on its part remains transparent as far as its military activities are concerned. However, we more often ask ourselves what is the added value of such transparency to us? I will cite one revealing example. Just early this year four extraordinary observation flights over Ukraine and Russia and 14 observer missions in the Russian regions adjacent to Ukraine were conducted. The data from objective control obtained during these missions
confirmed the obvious – no excessive military activity is happening on the Russian side. However, for the sake of political expediency no one in the west wanted to use it. The question is why at all do we need the Open Skies Treaty if the observation flights confirm one thing while the west is broadcasting absolutely different statements in quite false and distorted form for the public.

One should not forget either that back in 2005 Russia proposed to conclude a comprehensive treaty on European security. But none of western partners even considered it. In 2007 Russia launched an initiative to establish a common security space from Vancouver to Vladivostok but again this was of no interest to any one. As a result, it turns out that neither the US nor NATO and the European Union simply do not need to cooperate on the principles of equal and indivisible security.

A legitimate question suggests itself, what then our US and European partners do actually need? What system of relations with Russia would suit them? Unfortunately, the answer to this question has been reflected in the nightmare that the US and EU have orchestrated in connection with the crisis in Ukraine.

Russia makes a simple and obvious conclusion for itself – apparently, unlike us, the West (we understand by this notion the area which comprises the EU and our North American partners) has not yet matured to develop equal and truly partner relations with us in the interest of common and indivisible security for all, stability and sustainable development.

Let me reassure you that Russia will happily endure all that. For its more than millennium history the Russian State has survived much greater difficulties. While as to on what values will the so-called western democracy be built upon and whose conventional arms the west will control now and who will be awarded now the "peace prize" is a question that we will follow with interest but from aside.