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**Security Council
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**Letter dated 16 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the decision of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation regarding the destructive policies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since its establishment in 1949 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the statement of the Federation Council on the destructive policies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since its establishment in 1949

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hereby decides:

1. To adopt the statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the destructive policies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since its establishment in 1949 (see annex);
2. To transmit this statement to the parliaments of foreign States, the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.
3. That this decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

VI. Matvienko
Chair of the Federation Council
Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
Moscow
10 April 2019

Statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the destructive policies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since its establishment in 1949

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes that the establishment on 4 April 1949 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was one of the key events marking the start of the cold war, in which that entity acted as the main political and military mechanism created by Western States for confrontation with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and its allies in the Warsaw Treaty Organization.

Following the signature in Prague on 1 July 1991 of the Protocol on terminating the validity of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 14 May 1955 (Warsaw Treaty), which our country considered a voluntary renunciation of confrontation with NATO and the West as a whole in connection with that period of confrontation being consigned to the past, NATO not only persisted as a military bloc but, contrary to the promises made by the leaders of Western States to the USSR leadership, expanded its membership in some countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

At the end of the cold war, the collective resolve of NATO member States and former Warsaw Treaty Organization member States to build fundamentally new relations and a new security architecture in the Euro-Atlantic region was set out in a number of international instruments. Thus, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, signed in the city of Paris on 21 November 1990, noted that security was indivisible and the security of every State was inseparably linked to that of all others.

The parties to the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Russian Federation, signed in Paris on 27 May 1997, agreed to work together to contribute to the establishment in Europe of common and comprehensive security, proceeding from the principle that the security of all States in the Euro-Atlantic community is indivisible.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes that, contrary to their commitments, NATO member States placed a premium on expanding eastward, increasing their activities in former Soviet countries and supplanting the principle of universal, equal and indivisible security by building security for themselves at the expense of the security of other States. It was the rejection by NATO of previously agreed approaches to building a common security space in the Euro-Atlantic that laid the basis for the emergence of intense conflicts in the region and the current profound crisis in relations between the Russian Federation and NATO.

The meeting of the North Atlantic Council held in Washington, D.C. on 3 and 4 April 2019 confirmed that confrontation with Russian was a key factor for NATO to consolidate its ranks and for the continued existence of NATO in principle. As a cold war relic, NATO demonstrates an inability to respond appropriately to real challenges and, in its current form, continues to justify its *raison d'être* by the need for protection from a mythical threat from the East. Every stage of NATO expansion inevitably leads to the creation of new dividing lines in Europe, threatening European and global security and the well-being of all nationals of Euro-Atlantic States without exception.

The myth of NATO as a defensive alliance was definitively destroyed during the NATO military operation launched against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 24 March 1999. In statement No. 143-SF, issued by the Federation Council of the

Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 31 March 1999 in connection with NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, that military operation was described as an act of aggression against a sovereign State.

Subsequent military operations in Afghanistan and Libya, in which many NATO member States were actively engaged, did not contribute towards resolving the internal conflicts and problems of those countries but rather led to chaos and to numerous civilian casualties. NATO member States seek to replace a world based on universal norms of international law agreed by consensus with a kind of “rule-based order”, resulting in countless crises and conflicts in various regions of the world.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is deeply concerned that, on the basis of false and unsubstantiated accusations made by the United States of America against the Russian Federation with the blind support of other NATO member States, a course has been set for the destruction of the entire system of treaty-based strategic stability and global security established over decades of negotiations in the challenging context of the cold war.

The intention of the United States to unilaterally withdraw from the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles of 8 December 1987 takes Europe back to the height of the cold war period of confrontation. The groundless accusations made by the United States against Russia regarding its supposed violations of the Treaty’s obligations, while the United States and NATO have entirely rejected negotiations on this issue, are an attempt to wrongly shift the blame for the destruction of a mechanism for controlling an entire class of weapons.

Another cause for alarm is the increasing uncertainty about the fate of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 8 April 2010.

Under pressure from the United States, NATO member States derailed the ratification of the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe of 19 November 1999, which also did irreparable damage to military security in Europe and to the control of conventional arms and armed forces.

Having stepped up its activities in the previously calm Baltic region, NATO is now ramping up its military presence in the Black Sea region. NATO support to Georgia during the tragic events of August 2008 and now also to Ukraine, including on 25 November 2018 during an illegal crossing of the State border of the Russian Federation by Ukrainian naval forces in the Kerch Strait, is encouraging new misadventures by the leadership of those two countries – confident of their impunity. The passage of Ukrainian vessels through the Kerch Strait is not about power relations or NATO presence in the Black Sea region, but merely a matter of Ukraine following the established procedures which it knows full well and applied successfully before November 2018. The attempts by Ukraine to circumvent these procedures pose a risk of military conflict arising between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, in which NATO may also become involved.

Defence expenditures by NATO member States continue to increase. The combined amount – about 1 trillion United States dollars – was more than half of total global defence expenditures in 2018 and more than 20 times the defence budget of the Russian Federation. NATO member States are increasing the intensity and scale of exercises to develop their skills in offensive operations in all environments, including information.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation believes that, in the light of this aggravated situation, dialogue between politicians

and the military of Russia and NATO could play a positive role. It is regrettable that previously existing formats and channels of communication were terminated unilaterally by NATO. Cooperation has been completely discontinued in several areas of security for all Euro-Atlantic States. The destructive policy of ultimatums and sanctions being applied by NATO member States are a road to nowhere. Their assurances of an interest in de-escalation and in preventing dangerous military incidents have not translated into tangible action to restore normal working contacts with the Russian Federation on military matters.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation believes that Russia and NATO have many important topics to discuss, as well as a large number of common threats that require a common response. However, good relations between Russia and NATO, including in the parliamentary sphere, can only be built on mutual respect, on the legitimate interests of the parties being taken into account and on the renunciation of diktats and ultimatums.

Federation Council
Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
