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General and complete disarmament****Security Council
Seventy-seventh year****Letter dated 11 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I have to express our grave concerns regarding intensified supplies of weapons to Ukraine by a number of Western countries, with blatant disregard of the most serious implications of such decisions, primarily for the civilian population.

The weapons in question, such as Stinger man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), Javelins, NLAW portable anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) and other portable systems are of a most sensitive nature. MANPADS pose a huge danger to civil aviation, as sadly proven by many tragedies caused by civilian aircraft being hit by man-portable air defence systems in different parts of the world, while ATGMs could pose a threat to rail transport and infrastructure facilities.

The organizers of such deliveries are fully aware of the threat of these high-precision weapons falling into the hands of terrorist, criminals and other non-authorized recipients. After all, they supported General Assembly resolution [62/40](#) in 2007 on the prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems, as well as the 2003 “Elements for export controls of man-portable air defense systems” of the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, and other relevant documents in the field of non-proliferation. These documents call for the adoption of strict measures to control the export of MANPADS, the exchange of information on the status of stocks and exports of MANPADS, ensuring the reliable storage of this type of high-tech weapons, as well as the destruction of MANPADS, the number of which exceeds the level necessary to ensure national security.

Yet now the Western countries are choosing to do exactly the opposite. Meanwhile, even the European Union itself in the European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2018 on arms exports: implementation of Common Position noted the negligence shown by a number of the European Union countries regarding re-export of military products (including its most sensitive samples), which is often carried out with gross violations of the conditions of end-user certificates. It is common knowledge that for many years, criminal structures of Europe have been receiving a significant supply of light and small arms from Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania and other



countries, where the illegal production of weapon samples of Russian/Soviet origin under expired licences or without them have multiplied.

Our Western counterparts seem to have forgotten their own efforts, including through the Partnership for Peace programme, as well as the efforts of the international community, to combat illicit proliferation and assist in the destruction of surplus MANPADS throughout the years in different countries. At that time, in Ukraine itself, about 3,000 excess MANPADS in the arsenals of the armed forces were eliminated.

Now these efforts are being wasted and the obligations undertaken by Western countries are neglected. It is obvious that the weapons they are supplying to Ukraine will inevitably fall into the hands of members of infamous Ukrainian Nazi, chevron-wearing nationalist battalions. It is also a fact that the Ukrainian authorities decided to release from prisons local criminals and arm them. There are also reports of an ongoing campaign to hire foreign mercenaries to fight in Ukraine as well. Russia does not bear any responsibility for the lives of those who decided to take part in illegal military activities in Ukraine. Moreover, given the true nature of so-called “volunteers”, their involvement greatly increases the risks of illegal weaponry overflowing not only Ukraine’s, but also European borders, creating the global threat of the proliferation of MANPADS, ATGMs and other high-accuracy weapons of a most sensitive nature, which will have most severe consequences, first and foremost for the civilian population.

It is extremely disappointing that the European countries, which for many years have been promoting measures of control over particularly sensitive types of weapons and enjoyed the continued support of like-minded countries of Africa and Latin America, now are showing their willingness to turn their backs on the principles they preached.

We call upon the European Union and NATO countries to refrain from endangering civilians and causing human suffering around the world by their reckless decisions to continue supplying weapons to Ukraine and creating long-term risks to international civil aviation and other transport communications not only in Europe, but also beyond its borders.

We would be grateful for the circulation of the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 100, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
