

STATEMENT

**by the representative of the Russian Federation
at the 78th session of ESCAP exercising the right to reply
under agenda item 9 “Other matters”**

Bangkok, May 27, 2022

Dear Mr. Chair,

In addition to the statement made by the Delegation of the Russian Federation delivered at the beginning of the session in response to the statements made by a number of delegations on Ukraine, we would like to exercise our right to reply to focus the session participants' attention on the following.

First, regarding the accusations, direct or indirect, made against Russia in the statements of certain delegations - they are unacceptable on their merits.

The United States and its allies are pursuing a policy of containing Russia, with obvious geopolitical dividends in mind. They do not deem it necessary to negotiate with Russia on an issue the Russian side regards as crucial.

Focused on their own goals, the leading NATO countries are supporting the far-right nationalists and neo-Nazis in Ukraine in all their activities, are further expanding the infrastructure of the North Atlantic Alliance, its military infrastructure has permeated Ukraine, which is unacceptable for Russia from the point of view of its legitimate security interests.

Our country was simply left with no other choice to protect itself, its people, to protect the people's republics of Donbass, which asked Russia for help, except for the one that our country has been forced to resort to at the present time.

It is not our intention to occupy Ukraine. Russia only seeks to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine in order to ensure Russia's legitimate security interests.

And regarding another particular aspect.

Increasingly, official representatives of a number of countries, as well as biased media outlets, are promoting the idea that Russia is allegedly provoking a global food crisis. These accusations are nothing but speculations directed at our country, which have nothing to do with the real state of affairs. First, the global food

price surge has been a trend over the past couple of years caused primarily by the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic and exacerbated by the short-sighted policies and miscalculations of Western countries in forming their financial, energy, climate and food strategies. Second, the global agricultural situation has deteriorated due to illegitimate Western sanctions against Russia, with Moscow being one of the leading suppliers of agricultural products. Restrictions on trade, the closure of ports to our ships and the denial of cargo insurance have led to problems in the logistical and financial aspects of food supply chains, further destabilizing the situation and causing a spike in global food prices.

An important fact: Russia is not blocking Ukrainian grain exports through its Black sea ports - something Western media is constantly accusing us of. Kiev itself is responsible for all the arising logistical problems, since it was Ukrainian troops that have rigged their ports with explosives. The Russian side is constantly opening humanitarian corridors and even under current conditions stays committed to its obligations under commercial contracts and sends food aid to the needy population of developing countries.

In summary, all the responsibility for the ongoing crisis lies fully and wholly with the current Ukrainian regime, as well as with the US-led North Atlantic Alliance.

Second. Regarding the use of the ESCAP platform to issue such statements.

We deeply deplore attempts to politicize the work of ESCAP.

The statements made have nothing to do with the Commission's format - just take a look at its Terms of Reference to understand. They are fraught with fomenting Russophobia, undermining the normative foundations of ESCAP, politicizing the work of the Commission and unproductively diverting the attention of member states from considering issues on the agenda.

We call upon the delegations of all ESCAP member states to work towards consolidating the spirit of constructive interaction traditionally inherent in the Commission, to avoid biased political rhetoric that is not related to the ESCAP

mandate, and to focus our common efforts on solving urgent social and economic development issues and ensuring the sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region.