MOSCOW, March 23, 2022 – The All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion (VTsIOM) presents survey data on the attitude of Russians to Russia's special military operation in Ukraine and the measures taken to reduce the impact of sanctions on the Russian economy.

**The decision to conduct a special military operation of Russia in Ukraine is more likely to be supported by 74% of Russian citizens**, compared to February 25, the share of supporters increased by 9 percentage points Rather, 17% do not support the operation (8 percentage points less than on February 25). Another 9% found it difficult to answer.

**The vision of the objectives of the Special Military Operation has evolved and remains unchanged over the past two weeks. The main one is to protect Russia, disarm Ukraine and prevent the deployment of NATO military bases on its territory** (46% of respondents). In addition, the goals are to change the political course of Ukraine, cleanse it of Nazis (19%), protect the population of Donbass (17%). The fact that the purpose of the special military operation is to occupy Ukraine and annex it to Russia was reported by 5% of respondents.

**More than half of Russians believe that the implementation of measures taken by the Russian government to stabilize the economic situation in the country is more likely to reduce the negative consequences of sanctions (61%),** a quarter believe that it will rather not allow (24%). Another 15% of citizens found it difficult to answer.

**If mass protests are currently held in the region of their residence, every tenth Russian (17.III - 10%) is ready to take part in them.** In January of this year, 17% of respondents reported their readiness to participate in protests. The majority of Russians reported that most likely they will not take part in such actions (17.III - 85%).

**As of March 17 of this year, it is assumed that mass protests are currently possible in their locality by 18% of Russians**, that mass protests are unlikely (17.III - 75%).