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**STATEMENT BY  
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY  
AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1106th PLENARY MEETING OF THE  
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

21 May 2025

**Agenda item: General statements  
Subject: NATO's provocative military activities**

Madam Chairperson

We see that, under the pretext of providing “military transparency”, OSCE participating States that are members of NATO have increasingly begun to use the platform offered by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to aggressively promote that bloc’s military exercises in Europe, which envisage scenarios involving large-scale armed conflict with a comparable adversary. At the same time, just as in the world of George Orwell, the rehearsal of such offensive operations near Russia’s borders is being hypocritically presented by delegates from NATO countries as “measures for strengthening stability in the OSCE area”, while the briefings themselves are portrayed as a means of “de-escalating the politico-military situation”. In this regard, we should like to state the following.

The unfounded argument being imposed by the politico-military elites of NATO member countries regarding an “imminent” war with the Russian Federation is a sure path to confrontation – a path that is fundamentally at odds with the objective of ensuring international peace and security. At the same time, one cannot help but notice how cunningly these wheeler-dealers are taking money away from their own population for the benefit of the military-industrial complex at a time of serious economic downturn, which, by the way, was triggered by the anti-Russian sanctions rubber-stamped in Brussels. Now it seems that the only way to achieve growth that the authorities of most European countries can conceive of is to ramp up their military spending and pursue militarization at the expense of ordinary taxpayers. This is precisely why they need the mythical construct about a “long-term Russian threat”.

While demonizing Russia’s intentions, the North Atlantic Alliance has itself launched preparations for a major war. The process of building NATO forces has been reoriented from crisis response to the conduct of large-scale, high-intensity military operations against a comparable adversary. The preparation stages include the deployment of combined arms groupings on the bloc’s “eastern flank” (or is it already the “eastern front”?), the stationing of additional strike forces and air defence/anti-missile defence assets in the Baltic and Black Sea regions, and the development of transport and logistics infrastructure.

As follows from the briefings provided by NATO country delegations, the main focus during the operational and combat training of NATO forces is on the deployment of coalition task forces against the Russian Federation. Some fifty activities involving more than 300,000 NATO military personnel are conducted each year near Russia's borders. Brigade- and division-level formations are being co-ordinated, operation plans refined, and new tactical methods and technical solutions tested.

The bloc's "ironclad" focus on confrontation with Russia and the accelerated build-up of military capabilities increase the risk of dangerous military incidents occurring. Here in Vienna, however, our interlocutors disingenuously claim that the information they are providing on the NATO countries' combat training exercises is a means of reducing military risks. I should like to have clarified: how does the demonstration of military preparations against Russia serve this purpose? It seems more like an attempt to "deter" or "intimidate" a potential adversary.

If the current situation in our Organization's area of responsibility is of genuine concern to all the participating States, it would be logical to focus on work to reduce military confrontation, rein in provocative military activity, improve mechanisms for preventing incidents and dangerous military activities, and restore military contacts. This is exactly what we suggested doing at our Vienna-based Forum from 2017 to 2021, but the representatives of the NATO country delegations did not consider it necessary to respond to those proposals.

In these circumstances, the information on military exercises with an anti-Russian offensive thrust which we heard here last week, and which added nothing new to what we already know about the preparations for war against our country, is nothing but a mockery of the principle of military transparency that is so important for the politico-military dimension of the OSCE's activities. The true purport of this principle, as laid down by our predecessors, is to demonstrate the political will to reduce politico-military tensions. On the part of NATO, however, we see diametrically opposed tendencies, which strike at the pan-European regime of confidence- and security-building measures and conventional arms control, and debase the significance of the FSC, where Western countries are trying, under specious pretexts, to give a veneer of "legitimacy" and "justification" to the militarization of the continent. In fact, the "flowering garden" is turning before our very eyes into a "jungle" surrounded by barbed wire and minefields.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me emphasize once again that it is not Russia, but the North Atlantic Alliance that has embarked on the path of confrontation. It was NATO that, long before the start of the special military operation, abandoned dialogue with us and the joint search for ways of responding to real rather than imaginary threats and challenges to regional and global security. It is the Alliance's deliberate policy that has led to a major crisis in European security and to the destruction of the tools for safeguarding that security.

The direct risks and threats to security being generated by the Alliance are factored into the development of our military capability and the defence planning process. Russia's security will be ensured whatever the scenario. The necessary measures to that end are already being taken and will be taken so as to nullify all the attempts by the bloc to project power vis-à-vis our country. At the same time, there is also corresponding transparency. Those who wish to see this for themselves can visit the official website of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation ([www.mil.ru](http://www.mil.ru)).

In addition, the Russian Federation adheres with full responsibility and consistency to its policy of not allowing a direct military clash to happen. We need lasting peace based on the mutual consideration of interests and the OSCE's core principle of the indivisibility of security.

Thank you for your attention.