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**STATEMENT BY
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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: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

On 16 May, at the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, direct Russian-Ukrainian talks took place in Istanbul – we see these as a continuation of the peace process that, through no fault of our own, was interrupted in 2022. As an outcome of the meeting, the delegations agreed to conduct a large-scale exchange of prisoners, specifically to swap 1,000 prisoners each, as proposed by the Russian side, and also that each side would present its detailed vision as to the conditions for a potential future ceasefire. In addition, we have taken note of the Ukrainian side's request that direct talks be held between the leaders of the two States. We are satisfied with the results of the recent talks and are ready and prepared to continue the dialogue.

During a substantive and quite candid telephone conversation on 19 May with the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, President Putin thanked him for devoting his personal attention to the Ukrainian settlement process and for his sincere desire to facilitate a cessation of hostilities and the establishment of a sustainable and lasting peace. We for our part have also noted the positive role played by the US leader and members of his administration in getting Ukraine to, finally, return to the negotiating table. Russia is willing to engage with the Ukrainian side on drafting a memorandum regarding a potential future agreement, which would include outlining a number of aspects, such as the principles for a settlement, the time frame for a possible peace deal, and a potential temporary ceasefire, should specific agreements be reached. As President Putin subsequently emphasized, "Russia supports a peaceful settlement", but it is necessary to "identify the most effective ways towards achieving peace" and it is important to "forge a compromise that would be acceptable to all parties".

At present, contacts among participants of the Istanbul meeting and talks have resumed, which gives reason to believe that we are on the right track overall. Having said that, our position remains unchanged: the root causes of the crisis must be eliminated. For us it continues to be a matter of priority to safeguard the security of the Russian Federation and of the people who consider the Russian language to be their native tongue and who regard Russia as their motherland.

Madam Chairperson,

The moment of truth is upon us. It is now the turn of the authorities in Kyiv to make the next move. The musings voiced earlier by Volodymyr Zelenskyy about his desire for peace must be backed up by real facts. We note, though, that, immediately after the conclusion of the meeting in Istanbul, he held talks with his Western handlers and called for pressure on Russia to be ramped up for its refusal to yield to the ultimatum-like demand for a 30-day ceasefire – something that the Kyiv regime and its sponsors have been attempting to push through as some kind of step towards a settlement.

Indeed, the “grandeets of Europe” are trying their utmost to prevent the flames of the Ukrainian conflict from being extinguished. While hypocritically calling for peace, the EU leadership continues to invest in the militarization of Ukraine. First and foremost, of course, by bankrolling the Kyiv regime, by supplying it with the most advanced types of weapons, including weapons for strikes deep into Russian territory. All this is taking place to the accompaniment of Nazi slogans. The most “battle-worthy” (as they put it) combat units of the Ukrainian armed forces are the Nazi battalions Azov and Aidar, which are recognized as terrorist organizations and banned in the Russian Federation. What is particularly cynical is that, in transferring all this money as “aid” for Ukraine, Western countries are not acting disinterestedly. For they are, in fact, placing Ukraine under debt bondage. While funds are ostensibly earmarked for the development of Ukraine, resources are being removed and the country itself indentured.

Aware that the suspension of arms supplies to the Kyiv regime is one of Russia’s conditions for a ceasefire, EU governments deliberately – in a markedly provocative manner – keep taking further steps to ply Ukraine with weapons and military equipment. Suffice it to say that on 17 May (I must again stress that this was immediately after the Russian-Ukrainian talks), the Danish Defence Ministry announced its latest military aid package for Ukraine – no less than the 26th such package – to the tune of 4.2 billion Danish kroner (around 630 million US dollars), which will be used over 2025–2028 to procure artillery systems and shells within the framework of a joint initiative of Denmark, Czechia and the Netherlands aimed at funding arms supplies for the Kyiv regime. They are, in effect, pursuing the goal of securing a respite for the Ukrainian armed forces at all costs in order to re-establish their military potential and prolong the confrontation with Russia.

Moreover, in keeping with notorious Western double standards, these European “paladins of peace” apparently consider the Kyiv regime’s terrorist sorties against the civilian population of the Russian Federation to be par for the course, nay a fact of everyday life. If that is not the case, then why have we still not heard any reactions from them to the Kyiv regime’s major provocations that, in particular, are being committed by the Ukrainian armed forces during holiday periods and are directed against the most vulnerable civilians? Maybe this corresponds to their notions about international humanitarian law and the implementation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as regards the protection of civilian populations? Or perhaps it tallies with the Western interpretation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security?

On the 1 May holiday, the Ukrainian armed forces used unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to launch a lethal attack on a crowded market in the town of Alyoshki in the Kherson region – its aftermath was captured in the present video. Eight people lost their lives and 19 were injured.

After our country had announced a truce to mark Victory Day, threats of terrorist attacks were prevented in the area of the Kremlin and Red Square, where high-ranking figures from nearly 30 countries, representatives of foreign armies and numerous onlookers were due to gather. All in all, during the ceasefire, which was essentially rejected by the Ukrainian side, that is, from midnight of 8 May to midnight of

11 May, there were more than 14,000 ceasefire violations. The Ukrainian armed forces attempted five times to penetrate the State border of the Russian Federation in the Kursk and Belgorod regions and launched 37 attacks and one offensive reconnaissance operation in the vicinity of population centres in the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk – all these were repelled. Along the entire line of engagement, Ukrainian units carried out more than 4,000 shelling attacks on positions of our troops, using tube artillery, tanks and mortars, including 62 attacks by means of multiple rocket launchers. In addition, the enemy carried out around 10,000 strikes and munitions drops using UAVs. And all this at a time when the entire civilized world was celebrating the day that humanity was liberated from fascism.

The very next day, on 10 May, the Ukrainian armed forces used UAVs to carry out a targeted attack on the building of the regional administration of the Russian Federation's Belgorod region.

On 11 May, the city of Rylysk in the Kursk region endured a missile attack, leaving at least three people injured.

It is characteristic that the negotiation process launched in Istanbul and the statements by the Ukrainian side about their desire for a peaceful settlement have not led to a reduction in the intensity of the Ukrainian armed forces' strikes against Russian civilian objects. Over the past week there have been at least 104 civilian casualties, including 87 people injured and 17 killed. No fewer than 1,996 munitions were fired at civilian objects by the Ukrainian armed forces. Half of these casualties were people killed or injured as a result of the neo-Nazis' deliberate use of unmanned combat aerial vehicles.

We exhort the OSCE participating States and, more broadly, the international community to unequivocally condemn the Kyiv regime's crimes and to call for the immediate cessation of attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces against the civilian population in breach of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

Madam Chairperson,

We note that the issue of mines is increasingly being overlooked by our politico-military platform. Proper international assessment has not been forthcoming for the instances of anti-personnel mines being used in violation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction ("Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention"), to which Ukraine is a signatory.

Between 4 and 5 May alone, there were three civilian casualties caused by exploding mines in the city of Donetsk and in the Kursk and Belgorod regions.

A 57-year-old man residing in the town of Lgov in the Kursk region suffered numerous mine blast injuries after coming into contact with an explosive device.

A civilian was injured in the settlement of Belovskoye in the Belgorod region as a result of the detonation of a submunition from a NATO-calibre bell-shaped cluster munition. This man was taken to the regional clinical hospital. His condition is assessed as moderately severe.

A man born in 1983 was seriously injured in the Petrovsky district of the city of Donetsk by the blast of a PFM-1 Lepestok mine on Finskaya Street. There have already been at least 177 civilian casualties caused by Lepestok anti-personnel mines in the Donetsk People's Republic alone.

And Ukraine as a violator of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has not been held accountable at all.

In view of this, the imminent withdrawal by a number of Eastern European countries from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, as announced by them, will inevitably lead to a further escalation of tensions on the continent and further deterioration of the regional and international security situation. For us, though, all these developments serve to confirm Russia's assessments about the Convention regime being weak and not to be relied upon. The Convention does not possess the mechanisms required to exert leverage on countries that are evading implementation of its provisions.

Madam Chairperson,

Our attention continues to be focused on the facts revealed in the course of the special military operation regarding the implementation, with US support, of a military biological programme on Ukrainian territory in violation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. Here it is fitting to recall the tremendous work carried out by the Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov, who was basely murdered at the behest of the Kyiv regime.

We have taken note of President Trump's executive order on improving the safety and security of biological research, which provides for the termination of US federal funding for gain-of-function research on dangerous pathogens to enhance their infectivity conducted outside the United States without adequate US oversight and without complying with US standards or conducted in foreign countries with a poor reputation when it comes to ensuring proper oversight of biological research findings and applications.

We consider the efforts by the United States to strengthen the control of biological activities to be a step in the right direction. The issuing of a relevant executive order implies, in effect, an admission by the United States as to the conduct of research involving dangerous pathogens in various parts of the world, including in direct proximity to Russia's borders.

Nevertheless, we take the position that the announced measures are insufficient to allay Russia's concerns and criticisms regarding the military biological activities being carried out by the United States outside its national territory. In accordance with the aforementioned executive order, there will continue to be US federal funding for biological research conducted abroad under the aegis of the Pentagon and its affiliated organizations, which may well entail risks and threats to international security, not least with regard to implementation of the BTWC.

We hope that the current US administration will take the necessary steps to get to grips with this unpalatable situation. Especially given that high-ranking US officials have previously pointed to the conduct of research involving dangerous pathogens at US-controlled biological laboratories on Ukrainian territory that may be linked to the development of bioweapon components. We reiterate our openness to bilateral contacts with the United States on this topic with a view to tackling the sore spots in question and ensuring full compliance with obligations under the BTWC.

Madam Chairperson,

By way of summing up what has been said, we should like to strongly emphasize that our vision for a settlement remains unchanged. A freezing of the conflict is unacceptable; it must be a question of ending it once and for all. The calls for common sense must be backed up by the comprehensive and long-term eradication of the root causes of the crisis on the basis of the peace proposal put forward by President Putin

on 14 June 2024 and the draft of the Istanbul agreements on which a preliminary understanding was reached by the two sides in April 2022.

There must be a reversal of the aggressive policy of NATO expansion, including the drawing of Ukraine into the Alliance, which, despite our repeated warnings, ended up becoming the main cause of the conflict.

Ukraine needs to be demilitarized and its neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status reaffirmed.

Ukraine needs to be denazified and there must be respect for the rights of Russians in that country and those of other national minorities – rights that are currently being violated, contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and numerous Conventions.

The way must be paved for a sustainable and lasting peace and for ensuring equal and indivisible security and safeguarding the legitimate interests of all the sovereign States in the region.

We believe that the work now under way in this direction should continue unhindered.

Thank you for your attention.