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**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1520th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 May 2025

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in  
further confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 9 May, the peoples of the former Soviet Union and representatives of the leadership of global majority States and also some European countries marked the 80th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War and the defeat of German Nazism in the Second World War.

In anticipation of this date and in the context of the current conflict in and around Ukraine, the Russian leadership announced a comprehensive ceasefire from midnight on 8 May until midnight on 10 May. The Russian armed forces strictly observed the ceasefire regime and remained at the previously held borders and positions. At the same time, during the truce period, the Ukrainian armed forces violated the ceasefire more than 14,000 times, made five unsuccessful attempts to break through the Russian border in the Kursk and Belgorod regions, and launched 37 tactical offensive operations. In addition, the Zelenskyy regime attempted to disrupt the celebrations by significantly increasing unmanned aerial vehicle attacks on areas near Moscow.

Last week, shelling of Russian regions resulted in more than 90 casualties, with 21 killed and at least 70 injured, including six children. In the light of the prevailing situation and in order to protect the civilian population, Russian military forces effectively neutralized the military activity of the Ukrainian armed forces.

While the entire civilized world commemorated the anniversary of the victory over Nazism and spoke of the need to counter the threats posed by neo-Nazism, which is rearing its head in some places, representatives of the leadership of the group of countries sponsoring the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv and political handlers of that regime attempted to speak to Russia in the language of ultimatums. They engaged in devising ways to prolong the Ukrainian conflict, in particular by allocating funds for the purchase of ammunition for the Ukrainian armed forces and supporting arms production, including through the theft of revenues from Russian assets that had been illegitimately frozen in Western jurisdictions. For example, the European Commission announced that it would allocate another 1 billion euros to Ukraine for its military needs and introduce a new package of anti-Russian economic restrictions. We would point out strongly that

the decisions made by EU leaders are bound to have consequences not only as regards retaliatory measures by Russia, but also for the economic climate in the European Union as a whole.

It is quite obvious that the Kyiv regime's Western sponsors are delaying the conclusion of peace in Ukraine for fear that they themselves will have to answer for their failed and short-sighted anti-Russian strategy. In an attempt to shift all responsibility for the Ukrainian conflict, which they provoked and continue to fuel, on to others, they are once again trying to come up with pseudo-legal and entirely meaningless arrangements and to create various "damage registers", "mechanisms", "tribunals", and so on. All these efforts by our opponents have one clearly unattainable goal – to replace international law with their own version.

The club of current supporters of the Kyiv regime is united by one common theme – hatred of Russia, the desire to weaken and break up our country by any means, and to achieve geopolitical and geo-economic advantages by stirring up conflicts along our borders, and ultimately, the desire to establish and consolidate its hegemony in the world.

That said, the West's initiatives regarding Ukraine have been one fiasco after another. Both the "Zelenskyy formula" and the so-called Bürgenstock process, within which the previous United States administration promoted a "rules-based world order", have sunk into oblivion. A similar fate awaits the stillborn "coalition of the willing", consisting of the most rabid Russophobes led by the United Kingdom. Ad hoc "rules" are once again being rewritten on the fly – and these schemes are also doomed to failure, as they not only run counter to the Charter of the United Nations, but are also not supported by the countries of the global majority. The West, and above all the EU countries, are backing themselves into a position of international isolation with no clear way out.

Following the conclusion of the official ceremonies and commemorative events marking the 80th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War, Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the media on 11 May on the Ukraine issue, outlining a number of initiatives aimed at bringing about a comprehensive and lasting peace as soon as possible.

In particular, Ukraine was asked to resume, without delay and without preconditions, the direct contacts between authorized representatives of Russia and Ukraine that it had suspended in April 2022, and to hold a meeting in Istanbul today, 15 May, for that purpose. It was suggested that the joint draft document, which was initialled by the head of the Ukrainian delegation, Davyd Arakhamia, in spring 2022, be taken as the basis for dialogue. As is known from subsequent public statements by Mr. Arakhamia, work on this document was unilaterally suspended by Ukraine in April 2022 under pressure from the British leadership.

The resumption of direct contacts between authorized representatives of Russia and Ukraine would make it possible to revive serious and considered work aimed at eliminating the root causes of the Ukrainian conflict. Such contacts could lead to agreements on the parameters for establishing an unlimited ceasefire, which would form the basis for genuine peace. We would point out in particular that the idea advocated by NATO countries to establish an enduring ceasefire before the start of any negotiations, with the aim of restoring the military potential of the Kyiv regime, allowing it to accumulate resources and prepare for the next round of military escalation, is not consistent with the goal of establishing long-term peace.

We emphasize that the President of Russia has renewed the proposal for consultations without any preconditions to be held in Istanbul. Today, the Russian delegation arrived in Türkiye with all the necessary powers to engage in dialogue with representatives of the Kyiv regime. We are grateful to the Turkish leadership for providing this platform for Russian-Ukrainian contacts.

At the same time, we should not forget the statutory self-imposed ban on any contact with the Russian leadership on settlement issues that is currently in force in Ukraine. We would like to remind you that, on 4 October 2022, Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed Decree No. 679 enacting the decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine (NSDC) of 30 September 2022. Paragraph 1 reads as follows: “[The NSDC decision] envisages the impossibility of holding negotiations with the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin.” No legal exceptions to this prohibition are known to have been made.

Despite the chronic intractability demonstrated by the Kyiv regime, the breakdown of the ceasefires previously announced by Russia, the violation of the 30-day moratorium on strikes against energy infrastructure facilities, and Mr. Zelenskyy’s obvious desire to prolong the armed conflict as the only way to ensure his own political survival, the Russian leadership – we emphasize this once again – has expressed its readiness for direct dialogue without preconditions. This should be remembered every time absurd claims are made by the Kyiv regime that Russia is eschewing diplomacy.

Countries hostile to Russia cherish the false hopes that our country’s leadership will choose not to protect national interests and security. In expressing the will of the peoples of our vast multinational fatherland, to whose unity and strength a large number of ethnic Ukrainians contribute, the leadership of our country is not seeking a “temporary peace” with the NATO puppets in Kyiv. We are interested in a long-term settlement and sustainable peace that will ensure conditions for the stable and peaceful development of the Russian State for decades to come. The interests of our country will have to be taken into account in any case.

As for the future of the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime, it should be determined directly by their inhabitants, not by the Zelenskyy regime’s foreign handlers, who are unfamiliar with our region and our land. It is important to recognize the dangerous nature of attempts to escalate military confrontation in and around Ukraine, and to abandon the clearly futile plans to continue military action against Russia, which will only lead to unnecessary casualties.

We should also like to note the following. Even as another attempt to restart the diplomatic process is under way, the authorities in London, Brussels, Berlin, Paris and their allies are stepping up their militaristic rhetoric, for some reason believing that Russia cares about the ultimatums issued by their leaders. However, Russia expects from them an adequate assessment of the situation and effective measures to achieve peace. The Finns too are proving amazingly out of step with the times, using the megaphone their place at the OSCE helm gives them to bellow anti-Russian scare stories on “special tribunal” lines. Moreover, it is not in line with the historical process, but following in its wake, lagging behind by roughly an era of foreign policy. We begin to fear for our northern neighbours: at this rate they might just sleep through everything.

In the interests of peace, the root causes of the Ukrainian conflict need to be addressed urgently and comprehensively. The main elements of a settlement should be Ukraine’s neutral, non-aligned and nuclear-free status, its demilitarization and denazification, recognition of geopolitical realities, and measures to fully ensure the rights and freedoms of Russian-speaking citizens. We strongly warn the advocates of the militarization of Europe and the scaling up of the armed confrontation not to ignore initiatives that are aimed at achieving sustainable peace.

Thank you for your attention.