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**STATEMENT BY
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FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1108th PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

4 June 2025

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

On 2 June, the second round of direct Russian-Ukrainian talks took place in Istanbul – talks that were resumed in May of this year at the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. I would remind you that such talks had been derailed in April 2022 by the Kyiv regime acting at the behest of its Western masters.

As a result of this latest meeting in Istanbul, it has proved possible to reach agreement on important humanitarian actions. We are prepared to hand over to Ukraine, on a unilateral basis, the bodies of 6,000 fallen Ukrainian soldiers. This process will start next week so that their families and loved ones have the opportunity to give them a decent burial.

Agreement was reached on the largest-scale prisoner swap. As an important humanitarian gesture, we have proposed to exchange those who are seriously wounded and seriously sick on an “all for all” basis. In accordance with a similar principle, young soldiers up to the age of 25 years will be exchanged. The overall cap for this prisoner swap has been set to at least 1,000 persons from each side.

There was unanimity among both sides on establishing permanent medical commissions to draw up lists for the exchange of seriously wounded fighters, with a view to putting such exchanges on a regular footing.

In addition, we have proposed a ceasefire for two to three days in certain segments of the front line. This is dictated by the need to recover the bodies of fallen soldiers in the “grey zone”, as Ukraine is sustaining heavy losses amid the Russian offensive. Given that the summer heat is approaching, it is important to avoid an exacerbation of the public health situation.

We are sincerely grateful to Türkiye for its mediation efforts. We have submitted a detailed memorandum to our Turkish colleagues that sets out Russia’s vision of how to attain a genuine lasting peace

provided that the root causes of the conflict are eradicated, together with various options for steps to reach a fully fledged ceasefire. We trust that the Ukrainian side will duly go over the Russian document and present its own position.

Madam Chairperson,

In the context of a negotiation process it is important to preserve political and diplomatic courage and patience, to refrain from actions and utterances that could impact negatively on its course. However, we can see that a different vision of the situation holds sway within the Kyiv regime, egged on as it is by rabid European Russophobes.

Immediately after the meeting of the delegations of Russia and Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy began to turn up the heat, seeking to shift on to our country the blame for the conflict dragging on, to accuse us of allegedly lacking a desire for peace. In an evening address to the citizenry, he launched altogether into vitriolic invective against the Russian delegation, rejecting a ceasefire for two to three days to allow the sides to carry off fallen soldiers from the battlefield. In his view, a ceasefire is necessary “so that fewer people get killed”. Might the international audience perhaps have misheard something here? How do these statements square with what the Kyiv regime pulled off a day before the talks in Istanbul?

We recall that, on 1 June, the structure of a bridge in the Bryansk region was blown up just as a passenger train was passing underneath. Virtually at the same time, a railway bridge was also blown up in the Zheleznogorsk district of the Kursk region, causing a passing train to fall on to the road below. As a result, at least 113 people, including some children, were seriously injured, while seven people were killed. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has classified these bombings of railway infrastructure in the Bryansk and Kursk regions as terrorist attacks. The criminals acting on orders from the Kyiv regime planned everything with the utmost precision so that scores, if not hundreds of civilians would get caught up in their attacks.

In addition to terrorist attacks against our country’s civilian population, the ongoing strikes by unmanned aerial vehicles against Russian civilian infrastructure and the Ukrainian armed forces’ use of NATO weapons against non-military targets, the Kyiv regime also launched an attack on military infrastructure facilities of the Russian Federation 24 hours before the talks. The Zelenskyy regime has officially assumed responsibility for a series of provocations carried out by means of FPV (first-person view) drones against airfields in the Murmansk, Irkutsk, Ivanovo, Ryazan and Amur regions. What is more, these demonstrative terrorist attacks have been used as a pretext for making new demands to the West about continuing the arms supplies and funding. Mr. Zelenskyy openly stated: “Yesterday everybody saw the operation. ... That’s why we need the support of our European partners and American partners.”

In connection with these statements and actions by the Kyiv regime, we would highlight two aspects.

First, if the intention in Kyiv and Western capitals, above all London, was to derail the negotiation process, we are obliged to disappoint. It is our firm belief that military hostilities and talks are two parallel processes. The Russian Federation has never refused to engage in dialogue nor sought to break off peace efforts. As for provocations, the other side must realize that there will always be a proportional and well-considered response to them.

Secondly, is the Kyiv regime, which continues to beg for military “crumbs” from Western governments, able to account to the international community for the destination of all this so-called assistance? It is no secret, though, to anyone that the supplies involved are being pocketed by Ukrainian officials or siphoned off into the hands of terrorists and radicals around the world.

Incidentally, according to a Europol report, there have been a number of instances where Ukrainian armed forces personnel seeking to sell off foreign weapons and military equipment to third countries have smuggled camouflaged items even through official checkpoints and used caches to hand them over in border areas. The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine has noted an increasing number of attempts by Ukrainian and foreign citizens to take weaponry, ammunitions and explosives out of Ukrainian territory and into neighbouring European countries. Among others, two Norwegian nationals have been charged with involvement in smuggling of this kind. Ultimately, the high level of corruption in the Ukrainian leadership and the serious breaches in the keeping of records of military goods handed over by Western countries are having a significant impact on the surge in illegal arms trafficking. However, for the Western delegations at the Forum for Security Co-operation this problem evidently does not exist at the moment, and neither do their obligations under international export control mechanisms.

What is happening, though, with the enormous influx of financing that the West is pouring into the Ukrainian black hole? Numerous crimes have been recorded involving the embezzlement of funds allocated by the State or provided by the Kyiv regime's sponsors. In particular, an organized group linked to the company Kharkiv Heating Networks was unmasked in the Kharkiv region: it had misappropriated 528,000 US dollars allocated by the World Bank. This is not an isolated case. Who will account for the many billions of dollars' worth of public funds and Western, above all, US assistance that have been stolen?

It should no longer come as a revelation that European countries are shamelessly continuing the proxy war against Russia, hoping that they will be able to get away with everything, including the fuelling of illicit arms trafficking and the robbing of their own populations to meet the needs of Ukrainian officials. The US President's special envoy Keith Kellogg recently said that he agreed with President Putin that NATO was waging a proxy war against Russia. That is how he replied to a question about the possibility of long-range weapons being supplied to Ukraine by Germany. Droplets of truth are also seeping out of the United Kingdom, where Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch openly said that Ukraine was a tool for realizing Western interests. The attempts in this room to prove the opposite are foundering on what is quite obvious, namely the preparations that NATO countries are carrying out for an armed encounter with Russia, as publicly stated by the authorities in London, Paris, Berlin and Brussels, which continue to send arms and mercenaries for the needs of the Kyiv regime.

However, let us take a look at whose side Western countries are by now "fighting" on.

As a result of the Kyiv regime's criminal actions in relation just to the population of the Donbass republics and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions in the course of 11 years, more than 6,600 civilians have perished (including 192 minors), while over 17,000 civilians have been injured (among them 913 minors). Around 54,000 civilian infrastructure facilities have been destroyed or partially damaged, including residential buildings, schools, kindergartens and vehicles.

Preliminary investigations have identified more than 1,300 individuals from among the high command of the Ukrainian armed forces as being involved in the perpetration of crimes, including crimes against the peace and security of humankind, along with the commanders of Ukrainian military units that have been targeting the civilian population.

More than 6,200 criminal cases have been opened in the Russian Federation since 2014, including cases against Ukrainian military and political leaders, members of radical nationalist associations, and Ukrainian law enforcement and security personnel, of which 3,360 cases have to do with the shelling of areas of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions.

Behind all these statistics are the fates of tens of thousands of people who are being shamelessly ignored by Western countries while these position themselves on all international platforms as champions of human rights.

The truth is that they do not care about Ukraine either, which has in effect already been bled to death given the West's impetuous striving to fight with Russia down to the last Ukrainian. In these circumstances it is small wonder that exemption from mobilization has become a sore topic for the local population. As estimated by Ukrainian experts themselves, the overall volume of bribes aimed at securing such an exemption ranges from 700 million to 2 billion US dollars per year. Out of the personnel officially deployed to the line of engagement, only 60 per cent are actually on the front lines. The rest are paying their commanders bribes to buy themselves an assignment in the rear. For around 20,000 dollars it is reportedly possible to undergo a fictitious examination by a military medical board, followed by dismissal on health grounds. These trends are not surprising. The European sponsors of the private military company "Ukraine" are forcing the Kyiv regime to literally round up on the streets the few men who are by now left – and in some population centres the very last men – and hurl them into the senseless meat grinder.

Madam Chairperson,

All the forces of common sense – Russia, the new US administration, the countries of the Global South – are currently undertaking tremendous efforts to put an end to the fighting in Ukraine. This cannot be achieved through new arms shipments and the militarization of the OSCE area. However, that is precisely what the "war party" in Europe is striving for as it continues to pull out all the stops to derail the efforts to bring about peace. As the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Dick Schoof, emphasized in a joint press conference with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte on 21 May, the Alliance's countries will support the Kyiv regime and invest in its "defence" regardless of the outcome of the Russian-Ukrainian talks. A similar agenda for the progressive militarization of Ukraine is also to be unveiled at the forthcoming NATO summit in The Hague on 24 and 25 June.

Those behind the anti-Russian "Ukraine project" must realize that all their endeavours to defeat or isolate Russia are futile. Any measures against our country will rebound on their instigators, as has already been the case with the 17 packages of failed European sanctions.

A freezing of the conflict, as the European pseudo-peacemakers are trying to push through, is unacceptable, since it would be exploited to ply the Kyiv regime with armaments. It must be a question of ending the conflict once and for all. The calls for common sense must be backed up by the comprehensive 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 outlined in the Russian memorandum.

We believe that the work now under way in this direction should be continued.

Thank you for your attention.