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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1096th PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

5 February 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, we should like today to reflect on the outcomes of the special military operation in 2024, because until now we were simply deprived of such an opportunity on account of the protracted and artificially created crisis at the Forum for Security Co-operation.

The past year was a milestone year for the Russian Federation in terms of achieving the special military operation's objectives. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, 4,500 square kilometres of our territory were liberated, including 189 population centres.

The enemy's military capabilities have been undermined. The Ukrainian armed forces' losses exceeded 560,000 servicemen killed or wounded, with losses amounting to almost 1 million people over the entire period of the special military operation. The Kyiv regime lost more than 40,000 military personnel in the Kursk adventure alone.

Our armed forces destroyed over 58,000 pieces of armament and equipment, including 18,000 foreign-made items. A total of 86 Storm Shadow/SCALP cruise missiles, 215 ATACMS ballistic missiles, 1,629 HIMARS rockets and more than 27,000 aircraft-type unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were shot down.

Russian precision weapons have caused significant damage to Ukraine's military-industrial complex.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are firmly in possession of the strategic initiative along the entire line of engagement today. At present, the average daily advance by our troops has accelerated significantly and stands at around 30 square kilometres.

The enemy has been forced on to the defensive and is having to engage its remaining reserves. The manning of its front-line units does not exceed 45 to 50 per cent. Now the neo-Nazis control less than

1 per cent of the territory of the Lugansk People's Republic and 25 to 30 per cent of the territory of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions.

As the initiative on the ground passed completely to Russia, the Ukronazis, in an attempt to somehow compensate for their military defeats, began to carry out planned and large-scale attacks on civilian objects and the civilian population.

In 2024, Ukrainian armed formations launched at least 87,885 munitions against Russian civilian objects. On average, 240 strikes were carried out every day for a year, using the entire available arsenal of weapons supplied by Western countries.

The grim prize of first place in terms of the number of recorded incoming strikes launched by the Ukrainian armed forces against civilian objects is held by the Belgorod region. The region's civilian sector was struck by approximately one in three Ukrainian munitions – 32.7 per cent. The consequences of incoming strikes by virtually one in four munitions – 21.99 per cent – were recorded on DPR territory. More than 20 per cent of the shells fell on the Kursk region, 14.38 per cent on the Kherson region and 8.53 per cent on the Bryansk region.

The periods with the greatest increase in shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces of civilian objects on Russian Federation territory were directly linked to the political situation and had a political subtext pushed by the Kyiv regime or its sponsors. The shelling peaked between 5 and 11 August 2024 and coincided with the terrorist incursion by Ukrainian formations into the Kursk region, when the number of daily strikes on the civilian sector exceeded 410 in 24 hours. Another peak was due to the Kyiv regime's attempts to disrupt the holding of the presidential election in the border areas – the Belgorod, Kursk and Bryansk regions – in March 2024. In the last ten days of September 2024, the number of instances of daily shelling of civilian objects reached 370 and they were stage-managed to create a “favourable backdrop” for Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to the United States of America.

The enemy is still resorting to the cowardly tactic of shelling peaceful towns and cities.

In 2024, the number of civilians affected by Ukrainian aggression in Russian territories was at least 5,399, among whom no fewer than 809 were killed, including 51 children. This means that at least 15 civilians fell victim to the actions of Ukrainian armed formations every day. At the same time, this data does not include the deaths of civilians at the hands of fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces in the border area liberated by Russian troops.

We note in particular the neo-Nazis' abhorrent tactic of deliberately targeting ambulances and medical and health facilities, which, in accordance with the norms and principles of international humanitarian law, enjoy special protection. During the past year, for example, around 30 medical professionals came to harm while carrying out their duty of care, among them 24 injured and five dead healthcare workers.

The Kyiv regime used the entire available arsenal of weapons, the vast majority manufactured and supplied by Western countries, ranging from small arms and mortars to precision munitions for HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems and ATACMS, Storm Shadow and SCALP-EG ballistic missiles, to attack civilian objects and the civilian population.

The greatest number of civilians suffered as a result of the use of 155 mm NATO calibre tube artillery by fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces. Almost 2,000 people were killed or injured by such weapons, that is, 41.2 per cent of all the civilians affected by Ukrainian aggression over the past year. We

know that increasing the supply of such munitions to Ukraine is now being actively discussed in the countries of the collective West.

Over the past year, the various UAVs became the second most dangerous type of weaponry for civilians. More than 1,500 people, which is 31.3 per cent of the total number of casualties, have suffered as a result of Ukrainian drone attacks. It is important to take into account the significant increase in the use of drones by the Ukrainian armed forces against the civilian population. While UAVs accounted for around 15 per cent of all weapons in use at the beginning of 2024, by the end of last year that figure had reached 47 per cent.

The use of Western-made precision-guided ballistic missiles should be highlighted separately. Despite their limited numbers, they pose a particular threat because they are capable of carrying hundreds of cluster submunitions. A strike by this kind of modified ATACMS missile was carried out on 23 June 2024 over a beach in Sevastopol. Four people were killed, including two children, and 153 people were injured, among them 27 children.

Despite being a signatory to the Ottawa Convention, Ukraine has been actively using anti-personnel mines to target civilians over the course of the year. The most challenging environment as far as the threat of mines is concerned continues to be in the DPR. Twenty-seven civilians were injured there as a result of the detonation of Lepestok mines alone. By the end of the year, more than 20,000 mines of this type had been cleared in the zone of the special military operation. However, on the whole, the mine threat to civilians returning to their homes once territories have been liberated and the hostilities have ceased persists.

Mr. Chairperson,

Throughout the year, Russian law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities have been applying the principle of no impunity with regard to crimes committed by the Kyiv regime's militants and mercenaries. Over the past year, Russian investigative bodies have opened more than 1,500 criminal cases into instances involving the shelling of civilian objects, in which some 2,500 civilians are considered to have been directly affected and more than 132,000 civilians, including 24,340 minors, have been recognized as victims.

By the beginning of the current year, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation had completed initial inquiries and sent 415 criminal cases involving 558 individuals to the prosecution authorities. In 346 criminal cases, the courts have handed down sentences against 484 persons, including some 140 fighters from the Azov unit and more than 40 mercenaries from other armed formations of the Kyiv regime.

As Russian troops are liberating the constitutional territories of the Russian Federation from Ukrainian militants and entering towns, they are confronted with mass shootings of civilians by departing Ukrainian armed forces units. At the moment, the number of residents killed by punitive units of the Ukrainian armed forces cannot be accurately established. However, based on the testimony of interviewed witnesses who were evacuated from the cities of Selidovo, Chasov Yar and Avdeyevka in the DPR and the border area in the Kursk region, we can confidently speak of at least 300 to 350 civilians killed by Ukrainian fighters, who were abandoning these territories.

It is impossible to keep quiet about the crimes committed with particular brutality.

For example, on 18 January this year, Russian military personnel found the bodies of tortured and murdered local residents in the cellars of rural residential houses in the village of Russkoye Porechnoye in

the Kursk region. Signs of serious offences can clearly be seen in the visual material distributed by the Russian Investigative Committee: hands bound with adhesive tape, bruises from blows, gunshot wounds, bodies of people whose deaths resulted from hours of abuse by the perpetrators, evidence of rape and other violent acts of a sexual nature. First people were tortured and then shot in cold blood in the back of the head or blown up with grenades.

The involvement in these crimes of Ukrainian killers – it is impossible to call them servicemen – from the 92nd Separate Assault Brigade has been established. Among them are Yevhen Fabrysenko and his accomplices from the 11th Company of the 4th Battalion with their call signs “Kum”, “Motyl”, “Provodnik” and “Khudozhnik”.

In September 2024, they illegally crossed the State border of the Russian Federation and entered the territory of the Kursk region. In the course of combat operations in the Sudzhansky district of the Kursk region, Fabrysenko was detained and during interrogation as a suspect he fully admitted his guilt and gave detailed testimony about how he and his accomplices had committed these grave crimes. To start with, they killed 11 men and three women, and then a further eight women, whom they raped before killing them. The accomplices then moved the bodies of the 22 people they had killed to the basements of private residences.

It is noteworthy that the Ukrainian extremists then tried to destroy the traces of their crimes and fired a barrage of shots at Russkoye Porechnoye while Russian troops were retrieving the bodies of the tortured civilians.

Another example of the Kyiv regime savagely bearing its teeth was the missile attack of 1 February on a boarding school in the town of Sudzha, where the occupiers were holding illegally captured Russian citizens – women, the elderly and the sick.

I would remind you that the International Committee of the Red Cross also knew about this “camp”, as they assisted in the removal of the first group of civilians, and many others also knew about it. But this in no way deterred the Ukrainian militants from carrying out a strike.

The Kyiv regime’s motive is obvious: the scandal surrounding the killing of civilians in Russkoye Porechnoye, which had reached an international level, had to be “overshadowed” by a larger-scale catastrophe. At the same time, as previously in similar cases, Ukraine wasted no time in accusing Russia of this crime.

This is not going to work. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, the launch of enemy missiles from the Sumy region was detected by Russian air defence systems. The Russian Investigative Committee has opened a criminal case against the commander of the 19th Separate Missile Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Rostislav Karpusha, who gave the order to launch a missile strike on the boarding school.

What happened in Russkoye Porechnoye and Sudzha is evidence of the terrorist and neo-Nazi core of the Kyiv regime, which in its malicious impotence against the backdrop of its defeat on the front committed a literally cannibalistic act against civilians.

How much more evidence of the Ukrainian armed forces’ crimes against civilians in the Kursk region will be uncovered as our territories are liberated, we can only guess. One thing is clear – the organizers and perpetrators of and accomplices in these and other crimes by the Kyiv junta will face inevitable punishment in accordance with the law.

In closing, I should like to note the following.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are firmly in possession of the strategic initiative today. At present, the average daily advance by our troops has accelerated significantly and stands at around 30 square kilometres.

Our country is open to reasonable initiatives seeking to achieve, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the current crisis and that take into account Russia's legitimate security interests.

However, there will be no "freeze" along the line of engagement. Russia is not interested in granting the Kyiv regime a truce that would allow it to rearm and build up strength so as to subsequently, with the help of NATO countries, set about posing new threats to the security of our country's inhabitants.

Any options for a settlement should be based on geopolitical realities and aimed at bringing about a sustainable and fair peace, with account taken of the interests of all sovereign States, including of course Russia. As long as this approach is not met with due understanding, the special military operation will be continued until all the tasks set have been accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.