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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1107th PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

28 May 2025

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

Madam Chairperson,

In accordance with the Russian-Ukrainian agreements reached on 16 May in Istanbul, a prisoner exchange was conducted from 23 to 25 May, with the two sides swapping 1,000 prisoners each. A total of 880 Russian servicemen and 120 civilians, including residents of the Kursk region, were returned from Ukrainian captivity as a result of the exchange. I should like to believe that this step will help to create a favourable atmosphere for discussing the conditions for a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian crisis.

At the same time, the Kyiv regime, with the support of European countries, has taken a number of provocative steps aimed at disrupting the direct Russian-Ukrainian contacts that have been resumed with the assistance of the US administration.

For example, since 20 May, the Kyiv regime has significantly increased the number of attacks using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and Western-made rockets against civilian objects on the territory of the Russian Federation, notably outside the zone of the special military operation, including the Belgorod, Bryansk, Ivanovo, Kaluga, Lipetsk, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Novgorod, Oryol, Ryazan, Smolensk, Tula, Tver, Vladimir and Yaroslavl regions, as well as Tatarstan and Crimea.

From 20 to 27 May, our air defence assets intercepted and destroyed 2,331 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), including 1,465 outside the zone of the special military operation. Unfortunately, there have been injuries and deaths among the civilian population as a result of these terrorist actions.

During the week of 19 to 25 May, strikes by the Ukrainian armed forces claimed 126 civilian casualties: 117 people were injured, including nine minors, and nine people were killed. No fewer than 2,187 munitions were fired at Russian civilian targets by the Ukrainian armed forces.

I would remind you that, in April, the Ukronazis carried out around 2,000 strikes per week on civilian objects. At least 478 civilians were affected by the Ukrainian armed forces' actions last month: 419 people were injured, including 21 minors, and 59 people were killed, including five children.

The Ukrainian armed forces used barrel artillery (mostly NATO standard), various models of UAVs, 122 mm and 227 mm calibre multiple-launch rocket systems, anti-personnel mines and explosive devices to commit their crimes. Munitions with cluster warheads and missiles equipped with shrapnel-filled fragmentation warheads were employed widely.

In response to the Kyiv regime's actions, the Russian armed forces carried out strikes with air-launched and sea- and ground-based precision weapons and UCAVs solely on facilities and enterprises belonging to Ukraine's military-industrial complex.

For example, on 20 May, infrastructure facilities at the Ozernoye airfield in the Zhytomyr region and depots for ammunition, equipment and fuel in the Dnipropetrovsk region were hit.

On 21 May, a temporary base and a missile/artillery armament warehouse of a mechanized brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces were hit in the Sumy region, as were a temporary base for foreign mercenaries near the settlement of Svyatogorsk in the Donetsk People's Republic and an ammunition depot belonging to the Operational Tactical Group Kharkiv in the Kharkiv region.

On 22 May, strikes were carried out against a Ukrainian defence industry enterprise (the Pavlohrad chemical plant in the Dnipropetrovsk region), an aircraft repair workshop, military airfield infrastructure and air defence radars in the Kryvyi Rih and Mykolaiv regions, and a temporary base for foreign mercenaries in the Kharkiv region.

An Iskander-M tactical missile destroyed a Patriot surface-to-air missile system, including the multifunctional AN/MPQ-65 radar set, the combat command vehicle and two missile launchers, near the settlement of Ordzhonikidze in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

On 23 May, a strike was carried out on an unloading site and a warehouse of containers with military equipment and ammunition at the port of Odessa. As a result, around 100 containers filled with components for uncrewed boats, UAVs and ammunition were destroyed.

Infrastructure facilities and sites for preparing UCAVs at the Kislichevataya airfield in the Dnipropetrovsk region and at the Kanatovo airfield in the Kirovohrad region were hit, as were ammunition depots belonging to the Tactical Group Vovchansk in the Kharkiv region.

On 24 May, the Russian armed forces launched a strike on a military-industrial enterprise producing UCAVs and missiles, the Ukrainian Security Service's electronic intelligence centre and aviation centre in the Kyiv region, along with a temporary base of the Separate Special Operations Centre South near the settlement of Chernomorsk in the Odessa region and a temporary base of the 3rd Azov Assault Brigade near the city of Izium in the Kharkiv region. A firing position of a Patriot surface-to-air missile system was also hit in the Kyiv region.

On 25 May, a massive strike was launched against enterprises of the military-industrial complex that produce missile components, communications electronics, explosives, rocket fuel and UCAVs (13 major factories in total). Electronic intelligence centres in the Kyiv region were hit, as were workshops for the production of UAVs, explosives and ammunition for UCAVs in the Sumy, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Kyiv regions and UAV production sites and command posts at the Gogolev temporary airfield in the

Kyiv region. In addition, the strike targeted electronic intelligence and satellite communications centres in the Kyiv region, a mooring site for combat boats and an assembly workshop for putting together uncrewed boats in the Mykolaiv region, infrastructure facilities at the Shkolny airfield in the Odessa region and the Vishnevoye temporary airfield in the Kharkiv region.

On 26 May, infrastructure facilities at the Starokonstantinov airfield in the Khmelnytskyi region, ammunition depots of two heavy mechanized brigades in the Kharkiv region of the Donetsk People's Republic, a command post of an S-300 missile division and a temporary base of Ukraine's special operations forces in the Odessa region were destroyed.

I should like to emphasize once again that the targets were exclusively military facilities and enterprises of Ukraine's military-industrial complex.

In addition, our troops have continued to inflict a defeat on the enemy along the entire line of engagement. Personnel losses suffered by the Ukrainian armed forces currently come to more than 1,000 servicemen per day. Russian units in the main operational areas have liberated numerous population centres.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, since the beginning of the special military operation, the Ukrainian armed forces have lost:

- 663 aeroplanes;
- 283 helicopters;
- 59,856 UAVs;
- 607 anti-aircraft missile systems;
- 23,607 tanks and other armoured vehicles;
- 1,565 multiple-launch rocket systems;
- 25,314 field artillery guns and mortars;
- 36,044 special-purpose military vehicles.

Madam Chairperson,

Russia remains committed to a constructive search for ways of resolving the conflict peacefully. We are actively working on a document setting out the conditions for reaching a sustainable, long-term and comprehensive agreement on a settlement, which is the second part of the Russian-Ukrainian Istanbul agreements.

At the same time, we draw attention to the fact that all the goodwill gestures that Russia has made, including the truces on the occasion of Orthodox Easter and Victory Day, and the ceasefire in the form of a one-month moratorium on attacks on energy infrastructure, which was announced after the conversation between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump, have been respected by us. All of them were scuttled by Ukraine, which continued its aggressive and criminal actions during the pauses

announced by us in the conduct of combat operations. The Kyiv regime's European handlers are playing not least a role in this, but perhaps also a primary one.

They are hysterically trying to set our approach to a settlement – the elimination of the root causes of the conflict – against their idea of declaring an immediate ceasefire without any preconditions, intending that such a formulation will allow them to continue to ply Ukraine with weapons (despite the fact that the Kyiv regime has long been firmly entrenched in the role of a “notorious” supplier of weapons to the black market).

It is clear from recent public comments made by the “grandees of Europe” that they do not intend to back down from their positions, thereby fuelling the conflict and encouraging Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his team to continue their criminal actions.

Take, for example, the recent statement by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz that “there are no longer any range restrictions on weapons delivered to Ukraine – neither by the British, nor by the French, nor by us [the Germans], nor by the Americans.”

Are such steps aimed at resolving the conflict as quickly as possible? Absolutely not.

A closer analysis of what is happening reveals an even more unsavoury picture. In London, Paris, Berlin, Brussels, the capitals of the Baltic States and Warsaw they have staked their entire reputation on dragging the “old continent” into a war against our country. Under the guise of fighting the Russian “threat”, they are planning to militarize Europe, allocating vast sums of money and conducting military exercises, rehearsing scenarios for the seizure of Russian territories.

Alarmingly, Germany is leading the way in these discussions. The very same Friedrich Merz, speaking in the Bundestag, said: “Strengthening the Bundeswehr is our top priority.” In future “the German Government will provide all the financial resources the Bundeswehr needs to become Europe’s strongest conventional army.” Does that ring any bells? Let us remember who had the mightiest army in Europe 85 years ago, and how did it end?

There is one last thing that we should like to touch on today.

Now, thanks in part to the efforts of US President Trump, hope has arisen for a resolution of the Ukrainian conflict. Unfortunately, this does not sit well at all with Europe’s ossified political elite, which is used to enjoying a comfortable existence with the support of the previous US administration. It is these people at the top who are keen to fight the Russian Federation, as they declared, with the aim of inflicting a “strategic defeat” on Russia “on the battlefield”. Active, albeit futile attempts are being made to make Russia look like a “pariah” and to persuade US President Trump to abandon peace initiatives and join the anti-Russian camp. A perfect example is the aforementioned justified retaliatory strike against legitimate targets on Ukrainian territory, which a number of mainstream Western media outlets were quick to call “barbaric” and “unjustified”. As we see it, the truly barbaric strikes by the Ukrainian armed forces against Russian civilian objects and civilians that preceded this are not on their radar.

The European Union has cynically adopted its 17th package of anti-Russian sanctions, which once again confirms the purpose of its collective efforts against any sensible progress in resolving the Ukrainian crisis.

The European line is methodically and persistently unfolding into the worst possible scenario. Any development in a constructive direction is a cause of irritation, as it could bring down the schemes conceived

to deepen the crisis around Ukraine with the aim of weakening Russia. Hence the insistence on the so-called unconditional ceasefire. I should like to cite the words of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, to the effect that there will be no more “let us have a ceasefire and then we’ll see”.

Madam Chairperson,

The goals set at the beginning of the special military operation and outlined in detail in the address by the President of the Russian Federation on 14 June 2024 will be achieved in any case. The longer the attempts of our adversaries and their patrons to “inflict a strategic defeat on Russia on the battlefield” and to frighten our people through acts of intimidation go on, the bleaker the actual “conditions on the ground” will be.

Thus, the incursion by the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries into the Kursk region and the massive strikes on civilian objects on Russian territory have put on the agenda the creation of a buffer security zone along our country’s borders with Ukraine.

We hope, however, that common sense has not finally deserted our opponents and that a peaceful settlement with the obligatory elimination of the root causes of the conflict is still possible.

Thank you for your attention.