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**STATEMENT BY
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FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1103rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

2 April 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

With a Republican team led by President Donald Trump having come to power in the United States of America, hope has arisen for the Ukrainian crisis to be resolved through a sustainable and lasting peace. Of course, this is just the beginning. Nevertheless, in a triflingly short stretch of time it has proved possible to achieve some tangible results. Thus, following the expert talks held in Saudi Arabia, it was agreed, for example, to explore the possibility of implementing the Black Sea Initiative, which involves ensuring the safety of navigation in the Black Sea and refraining from the use of force and from using commercial vessels for military purposes. I would remind you that it was precisely owing to such actions by the Kyiv regime that the previous similar attempt failed. To avoid further incidents of that kind, it is necessary to provide for the introduction of proper control measures, namely the inspection of such vessels.

Nevertheless, whereas the Russian and US delegations in Riyadh engaged in constructive dialogue on how to untie the fiendish knot that the Ukrainian crisis has become, the “coalition of the willing” (supposedly willing to help Ukraine) that convened in Paris occupied itself with something quite different: it looked for a way of continuing to wage war on Russia. It must be said, though, that behind the semblance of unity and against a background of hawkish pronouncements by France and the United Kingdom about a so-called “peacekeeping mission”, by which they in reality mean a military intervention, sober assessments by some of the participants in the event manifested themselves more and more distinctly: Italy, Croatia, Greece and Spain thus refused to send their soldiers to Ukraine. Consequently, the summit wrapped up with the Kyiv regime getting very little out of it.

At the same time, there is no letting up in the European ruling elite’s vociferous calls for a drastic increase in military spending and for long-term confrontation with Russia. Thus, a few days ago, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte openly stated that there would be no normalization of relations with our country even after the war in Ukraine had come to an end, and he again invoked the bogeyman of a Russian invasion of Europe.

It is worth noting that, just as is the case today, a similar pre-war frenzy swept over Europe before the start of the two World Wars. A self-destructive urge is evidently intrinsic to the European ruling elites, regardless of which particular cliques hold the reins of power.

As in the days of Napoleon, the Kaiser and Hitler, there is once again a burning itch to inflict a “strategic defeat” on our country. Like in those times, virtually all European countries have been called to arms, with but a few exceptions. And even though nowadays they are seemingly not waging war against us directly on the territory of Ukraine, the fact is that, were it not for them, the Nazi regime in Kyiv would have crashed out long ago and peace would have returned to the hearths and homes of ordinary Ukrainians.

On 29 March, *The New York Times* published an extensive feature on “America’s hidden role in Ukrainian military operations”. As reported by that newspaper, the United States “was woven into the war far more intimately and broadly than previously understood”. So, for example, a joint US-Ukrainian command centre operated in the German city of Wiesbaden, while a team of US military advisers was present inside Ukraine. The Americans shared intelligence with the Kyiv regime, provided the co-ordinates of targets in preparation for strikes and worked out strategies for counteroffensives and attacks, including an attack on the Crimean Bridge.

Statements by the Russian Federation have repeatedly referred to the role of the United States and the United Kingdom in organizing the coup in Ukraine, to their actions in terms of the militarization of that country and, more recently, also to the tutelage they are providing for the launching of strikes with precision weapons. The information published by *The New York Times* serves as irrefutable evidence of these actions.

The present-day European elites are prepared to continue fanning the flames of the Ukrainian fire, even to the detriment of their own economic interests. After all, the financial injections and arms supplies to the Kyiv junta imply not just throwing money out of the window, not just a bloodbath “down to the last Ukrainian”, but also the nurturing of a threat in their own backyard. Even British newspapers have started writing about this. For example, *The Times* has argued that the uncontrolled circulation of weapons in Ukraine, the exact number of which is unknown, is becoming a security issue. Its journalists concluded that hundreds of thousands of items of weaponry may eventually end up not only in Africa and the Middle East (where they are already circulating), but also in Europe.

For now, though, the Kyiv regime headed by Volodymyr Zelenskyy is doing its utmost to try to derail the peace talks between Russia and the United States, having stepped up the number of strikes on non-military energy infrastructure facilities and thereby sabotaging the US Government’s initiative. I shall cite just a few recent examples.

On 28 March, the Ukrainian armed forces launched a repeat strike on the Sudzha gas metering station in the Kursk region. As a result of the ensuing fire, that power facility was effectively destroyed.

On 28 March, Russian air defence assets intercepted and shot down 19 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that were targeting the Saratov oil refinery.

On 30 March, transformer substations in the Bryansk region were subjected to artillery shelling and UAV attacks. As a result, residents of the Suzemsky and Sevsky districts suffered a power cut.

On 31 March, we circulated information among the participating States and within the OSCE Secretariat on the Ukrainian armed forces’ strikes against Russian energy infrastructure facilities between 18 and 28 March.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are launching strikes only against facilities that have a bearing on the Kyiv regime's military potential. Therefore, civilian casualties in Ukraine are, as a rule, either due to fragments of missiles and drones that have been shot down (since, in violation of the norms of international humanitarian law, Ukraine's air defence assets are being deployed in residential areas of Ukrainian towns and cities), or they are due to guided surface-to-air missiles falling to the ground, whereupon it is attempted to make such casualties out to be a consequence of Russian strikes.

We note the failure of Ukraine's leadership to control their armed forces, which – if we are to put the least unfavourable interpretation on it – are not obeying orders as regards not carrying out strikes on civilian energy infrastructure facilities. However, under the most unfavourable interpretation one may well speak of the Kyiv regime's utter intractability when it comes to fulfilling any of its commitments with regard to a settlement of the conflict, and of its lacking the political will for peace. In these circumstances, Russia reserves the right not to comply with the moratorium on launching strikes against Ukrainian power facilities. And our response will be firm and on a large scale.

Nor will the crimes committed by the Ukronazis and the Kyiv regime's mercenaries go unanswered.

Since 2022, in the Kursk region alone, according to preliminary data from the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, the Ukrainian armed forces' crimes have claimed the lives of at least 167 civilians and left at least 500 injured, while over 43,000 people have been recognized as victims of these crimes. Several thousand civilian infrastructure facilities have been destroyed or damaged. Among the recently established facts that highlight the bestial visage of these neo-Nazis is the way how they issued the inhabitants of Sudzha with permits for moving around the town, not unlike the *Ausweise* (identity papers) of the Hitler era. Those lacking such permits would be led off to the commandant's headquarters to be interrogated, threatened and accused of "espionage". At the same time, the Ukrainian armed forces would organize marauding expeditions in the area, launched from the Sumy region.

The Russian courts continue to hand down sentences to Ukrainian neo-Nazis and mercenaries for their war crimes. Thus, on the basis of the facts of crimes established for the Kursk region alone, 736 criminal proceedings have been instituted since 2022, with 46 Ukrainian fighters sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment. Moreover, criminal cases involving 92 individuals are being examined by the courts, while a further 58 are under investigation.

Derailing the settlement process launched by Russia and the United States and dragging his European sponsors into a confrontation with Russia are the last hopes for the leader of the Kyiv regime to keep himself in power. But he will not succeed in this.

Along the whole line of engagement the strategic initiative is held entirely by our armed formations. The Russian army continues to maintain a high level of offensive activity.

Over the past week, there have been more than 200 episodes of fighting daily. Ninety-nine per cent of the territory of the Lugansk People's Republic has been liberated, with likewise more than 70 per cent in each case for the Donetsk People's Republic, the Zaporozhye region and the Kherson region. Every day, our troops liberate one population centre after another from the enemy.

In the course of the fighting on the Kursk front alone, the enemy has in total lost more than 71,240 military personnel, 403 tanks, 329 armoured infantry fighting vehicles, 291 armoured personnel carriers, 2,238 armoured combat vehicles, 2,580 cars, 592 artillery pieces, 53 multiple rocket launchers, 26 launchers for anti-aircraft missile systems, 123 electronic warfare stations, 18 counter-battery radar stations, ten air defence radar stations and around 100 pieces of engineering equipment.

Itself in its death throes, the Kyiv regime continues to send the country's youth to be slaughtered. Newly mobilized recruits are almost immediately packed off to the front line, which means that a tragic outcome is all but inevitable.

As reported by Ukrainian sources, amendments to the mobilization laws are also in the works. In particular, a proposal is being discussed to change the age range for mobilization to 20–55 years instead of the existing bracket of 25–60 years. It is obvious why this is being planned: in Ukraine there are almost no individuals fit for military service left in the uppermost age group.

On 27 March, while on board the *Arkhangelsk*, a state-of-the-art multipurpose nuclear-powered cruiser submarine, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, made some important political observations about the Ukrainian conflict and the special military operation.

In particular, the Russian leader mentioned that, for there to be a lasting peace, it was essential to eliminate the root causes of the Ukrainian conflict. Everything could have been resolved in March 2022, when Russia and Ukraine were close to reaching an agreement. However, Mr. Zelenskyy's handlers from Europe persuaded him to continue the war. The leadership of Ukraine has now lost all legitimacy, while the neo-Nazi formations in that country are gaining in strength, receiving additional weapons and enlisting new recruits in their ranks. In other words, actual power lies with these formations. One possible scenario for finding a way out of the situation that has arisen in Ukraine is the installation of a temporary administration in that State under the aegis of the United Nations and other countries (there does exist international practice in that regard) so as to ensure that democratic elections can be held and that a competent government that enjoys the trust of the Ukrainian people is voted into office. And then one could begin to conduct negotiations with that new government on a peace treaty and sign legitimate agreements that would be recognized worldwide and that would be reliable and stable.

We are puzzled by the nervous reaction of some of our Western opponents at the prospect of such a scenario unfolding, since Ukraine has, after all, been under external control for more than ten years now.

The Russian President particularly emphasized that it was not our country that started the hostilities, but, rather, those who engineered a coup d'état in Ukraine in 2014. We are nevertheless willing and ready to work together with any interested country for the sake of achieving peace, and the most recent initiatives involving the United States and the talks with President Trump present an opportunity for everyone. However, we do not intend to make any mistakes stemming from excessive trust towards our so-called partners.

Thank you for your attention.