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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1111th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

2 July 2025

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

Madam Chairperson,

While speaking to the press on 27 June, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, stated that our country was in principle ready for a third round of talks with Ukraine. It is our assumption that the agenda for that round will include discussing the draft memoranda from Russia and Ukraine on a settlement. These two documents currently stand poles apart, and the task of the talks must be to find ways of bringing the respective positions closer. At the same time, the agreed arrangements for the exchange of prisoners are being implemented, paving the way for a substantive discussion of the nature of the problems between our two countries. The Russian President also reiterated our readiness to hand over a further 3,000 bodies of fallen soldiers to the Ukrainian side in addition to the more than 6,000 bodies that have already been transferred.

We believe that any agreements on a Ukrainian settlement must be of a comprehensive and long-term nature, provide for the elimination of the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis and be anchored in the new territorial realities, which reflect the expressed wishes of the people living on that land. This fundamental vision was shared by President Putin with French President Emmanuel Macron in a telephone conversation yesterday, during which it was also emphasized by our side that the Ukrainian conflict was a direct consequence of the policies pursued by Western countries, which had for years been ignoring the Russian Federation's security interests, creating an anti-Russia staging ground in Ukraine and encouraging violations of the rights of its Russian-speaking inhabitants, and which at present were seeking to prolong the hostilities by supplying the Kyiv regime with all kinds of modern weaponry.

Madam Chairperson,

A genuine opportunity to settle the Ukrainian crisis was missed in 2022, when, just as talks were under way in Istanbul, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson – with the support, if not at the direct behest, of the Joe Biden administration – dissuaded Volodymyr Zelenskyy from signing the agreements that had been reached with Russia. They all had no need or use for peace in Ukraine. The “Anglo-Saxons”

wanted to achieve a strategic defeat of Russia on the battlefield. But what have they ultimately managed to obtain?

Ukraine has lost part of its territory. Not only the long-suffering People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, but other regions of Ukraine, too, have opted for reunification with our country.

The Ukrainian-Western conglomerate's military debacle on the battlefield is all too obvious. Our army is currently advancing in all directions and along the entire line of engagement. Over the past two weeks alone, the armed forces of the Russian Federation have liberated the following population centres: Dyleyevka, Zaporozhye, Novosergeyevka, Novoukrainka, Perebudova, Shevchenko, Chervonaya Zirka and Yalta in the Donetsk People's Republic; and Dolgenkoye and Novaya Kruglyakovka in the Kharkov region, among others.

In view of the Ukrainian armed forces' ongoing terrorist strikes against our country's border regions, we are creating security zones along the line demarcating the border. The relevant security zone in the Sumy region already extends to up to 12 km. Furthermore, our country's President does not rule out taking the city of Sumy should the circumstances require it.

NATO military equipment is being destroyed in the zone of the special operation. The combat training that the Ukrainian armed forces are receiving in European countries and in Canada is pretty much yielding zero results on the battlefield.

Against this unappealing backdrop, Mr. Zelenskyy continues to beg his Western handlers for financial and military handouts. Have these stopped to reflect, though, on the use made of the almost 250 billion dollars that have already been granted? Not a single one of the goals set by the West in terms of using Ukraine as a military staging ground for confrontation with Russia has been or can ever be attained.

Madam Chairperson,

It is quite clear to us that, given the West's failure to achieve its goals in Ukraine, our opponents have switched to stoking up a pre-war mood of panic and are now prophesying an imminent attack by Russia either on the Baltic States or on Germany at some point in the next three, five or seven years ... At the Alliance's Summit held in The Hague on 24 and 25 June this year, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte was stumped by a question in which he was asked on what basis he was drawing such conclusions. He invoked the argument that Russia is allegedly "reconstituting [its] forces". However, the numbers do not add up in this NATO fantasy about the threat of an attack: if Russia is bound to attack by 2030, then why is it not until 2035 that the transatlantic allies intend to be fully prepared to meet that threat? Moreover, passions were running so high at the Summit that it almost felt as if Russian troops were at any moment about to burst into the conference room.

It is telling that, during their get-together in The Hague, the NATO countries failed to reach agreement on many matters of fundamental importance to them, including Ukraine-related matters. Nevertheless, NATO has no intention of desisting from its support for the Kyiv regime. It was announced that the Alliance's countries had already pledged more than 35 billion euros this year to assist the Kyiv regime. They will carry on doing so in the future, since for the collective West it is important that the conflict they brought to that region should continue. They openly proclaim their goal to be, I quote, "to keep Ukraine in the fight today" so that it can supposedly "enjoy a lasting peace" tomorrow. The consequences of this strategy are well known; they were the first thing we addressed when we took the floor today. Significantly, Mr. Rutte has referred to the peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul as "not

serious”. What does this NATO strategist have in mind when he says that he expects “serious talks”? Peace through strength “down to the last Ukrainian”?

The participants in the NATO Summit probably would have done better to study the testimonies of captured Ukrainian military personnel, who regularly confirm that the Kyiv regime and the Ukrainian armed forces command, catering as they are to Western interests, regard their country’s citizens solely as expendable material that is required to prolong the conflict.

For example, during an interrogation conducted by the Russian Ministry of Defence, prisoner of war Oleksandr Lysenko recounted how soldiers from the 72nd Separate Mechanized Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces arrived at a training centre to pick out new recruits and how, upon seeing elderly people and gravely ill individuals, they referred to them as “reinforcements for the ranks of those marked for death”. Another captive Ukrainian fighter, Anton Oleksenko, noted that the Ukrainian command was constantly deceiving rank-and-file personnel about the situation along the line of engagement. However, this is not helping to avert an utter collapse in morale and fighting spirit among Ukraine’s soldiers.

Notoriously, brutality has long been the Kyiv regime’s calling card. Things have got to the point that even the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which does not stand out for being impartial when it comes to the Ukrainian crisis, was obliged, in a report that it issued on 30 June this year, to acknowledge the fact that soldiers from the Ukrainian armed forces are terrorizing their country’s citizens and subjecting them to torture for so-called collaboration with Russia. In the OHCHR report it is pointed out that at least 170 Ukrainian citizens have suffered ill-treatment at the hands of the Kyiv regime’s security apparatus for “abetting the aggressor”. We must stress that three of them were children, which, of course, did not bother the Ukrainian security forces. Quite the opposite in fact – defenceless citizens who have not come of age are a preferred target for the neo-Nazi Banderites, as such “collaborationists” are less likely to be able to stand up for themselves.

In addition, the OHCHR has confirmed instances of Russian soldiers captured or wounded in action since February 2022 being tortured and executed, which is in violation of the relevant Geneva Convention of 1949. Obviously, our soldiers were interviewed on Ukrainian territory, in conditions where they were subject to intimidation and their lives were at risk, and this influenced their psychological state and what they said in their responses. These facts were predictably ignored by Western delegations today.

Madam Chairperson,

A further despicable propaganda campaign that the West has been carrying on with at international platforms for several weeks now, including at the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, has to do with so-called systematic strikes by the armed forces of the Russian Federation against civilian targets on Ukrainian territory. The aim of these insinuations is to stall the settlement process, persuade European public opinion of the necessity of increasing this manifestly pointless spending on defence needs and, last but not least, to mislead the US Government and disrupt the dialogue between Russia and the United States of America.

We hereby inform you that the armed forces of the Russian Federation conducted multiple waves of strikes last week using precision weapons and unmanned combat aerial vehicles, hitting plants belonging to Ukraine’s military-industrial complex, energy and port infrastructure facilities supplying the Ukrainian armed forces, air defence radar stations, ammunition and fuel depots, a mine and torpedo arsenal, combat drone production workshops and storage and launch sites, military airfields, and temporary bases for Ukrainian armed formations, nationalists and foreign mercenaries. Geospatial data on the location of the

fires, determined on the basis of heat anomalies, confirms that military targets on Ukrainian territory were struck. This data is available from open sources.

Significantly, the Ukrainian armed forces and the Ukrainian authorities continue to hide behind civilians by having ammunition depots, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and other facilities and objects that are legitimate military targets placed in residential areas. So, for example, the destruction of the residential building in Kyiv that Mr. Zelenskyy spoke about last week is linked to the air defence operations of the Ukrainian armed forces. Ukrainian sources have published a photograph showing a fragment of a missile lying in the middle of the building's courtyard – the missile in question being from a US-made Patriot anti-aircraft missile system, as suggested by the characteristic fins. This indicates that the Ukrainian armed forces continue to shoot down missiles over built-up urban areas – claims are then bandied about by them alleging that Russia is “striking at civilian targets”. There are many such examples. The West is aware of this, but it prefers to systematically hush up such facts.

Similarly, the West also “fails to notice” targeted and deliberate terrorist attacks against the civilian population and civilian infrastructure of the Russian Federation. High-power explosives are being used against the civilian population, as are cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, and explosive devices with fragmentation, shrapnel-filled and high-explosive warheads that are calculated to inflict maximum damage on people. The Ukrainian fighters are tracking civilian vehicles and launching strikes against them so as to impede evacuation of the population and hinder the delivery of medicines and food. These horrifying facts are in particular described in a new report by the International Public Tribunal on the Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis entitled “Atrocities and War Crimes of the Kiev Regime in the City of Dzerzhynsk (Toretsk)”, which we will disseminate after today's meeting.

We should like to draw our Western interlocutors' attention to the situation in the city of Alyoshki in the Kherson region. This population centre is on the front line, which means it is a regular target for the Ukrainian fighters. Some 24,000 people were living in Alyoshki before the start of the special military operation. Now there are just between 5,000 and 6,000 left according to estimates by local residents. As a result of systematic shelling, the city has been without electricity, water and sewage disposal for a good two years now. Ukrainian FPV (first-person view) drones are constantly firing at residential buildings, as a result of which many such buildings have been rendered uninhabitable.

The Ukrainian armed forces' militants are particularly cynical when it comes to medical personnel and vehicles. No fewer than 12 ambulances have been destroyed [in Alyoshki] in recent memory, with the UAVs usually attacking when an ambulance sets off to respond to an emergency call. These are flagrant violations of international humanitarian law, and they warrant categorical condemnation by the international community. Will the Western delegations that took the floor today find the strength of character to speak out about this?

Again in similar fashion, embarrassing manifestations of neo-Nazism in Ukraine continue to be swept under the carpet by the West. A rare exception is to be found in a feature published by *Le Monde*. Journalists from that French newspaper studied the social media accounts of 350 Ukrainian military personnel and discovered a great deal: Nazi salutes, swastikas and SS insignia. Remarkably, 200 of the soldiers in question were members of the Third Assault Brigade, which is undergoing military training in NATO countries.

This is not the first time that the true nature of the current Kyiv regime has come to the notice of the public in the West. For example, on 15 May 2024, the German Government deported seven soldiers from the Ukrainian armed forces who had been undergoing military training in Germany and sent them back home. This was because these fighters were sporting Nazi symbols – a criminal offence in Germany. In the

autumn of 2023, during Mr. Zelenskyy's address to the Canadian Parliament, those gathered there held a standing ovation for Yaroslav Hunka, a Ukrainian collaborationist from the Great Patriotic War era who had served in the Galicia SS Division. This incident turned out to be so egregious that it elicited condemnation even among the countries of the collective West, with the Canadian authorities being obliged to apologize for their injudicious decision.

In that regard, we should like once again to draw attention to the attitude of the official Ukrainian leadership towards armed ultra-right formations with an anti-Russian bent. Members of the Azov battalion, which is steeped in overtly neo-Nazi ideas, and also members of formations of the Ukrainian armed forces and the National Guard of Ukraine established on its basis are receiving State decorations from the Head of State himself and are considered to be heroes.

We must not forget that radical armed formations such as the Azov and Aidar battalions, Right Sector, Svoboda, the Donbas battalion and so on have committed a huge number of crimes, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was obliged to acknowledge in his report for 2016.

Many of the actions of the Ukrainian armed forces and Ukrainian right-wing armed formations are characterized by a clear intent to eliminate the Russian and Russian-speaking population of Donbass as an ethnic, religious and national group. Not to mention the extensive discrimination against Russians and Russian speakers on ethnic and linguistic grounds.

The Kyiv regime's Western handlers are perfectly aware of the true state of affairs within the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces. But, of course, the narrative that is being pushed everywhere is that Ukrainian right-wing radicals are a minority and that the main threat is, instead, "Russian aggression". We regularly hear suchlike in this room from the delegation of Ukraine.

Let me dwell briefly on the cultivation of this humanity-hating ideology on the territory of Ukraine.

Back in the early twentieth century, Mykola Mikhnovsky's pamphlets *Independent Ukraine* (1900) and *The Ten Commandments of the Ukrainian People's Party* (1903) effectively laid the ground for the ideas of Ukrainian nationalism.

An important milestone in the evolution of the nationalist movement on Ukrainian territory was Dmytro Dontsov's book *Nationalism* (1926). He developed the ideology of Ukrainian integral nationalism (i.e., where the nation constitutes the highest value and the interests of the nation override all interests of the individual), its key thesis being total hatred towards Russians. It is characteristic that this perception of the "Moskals" [Muscovites] as metaphysical foes is now being espoused by his ideological successors. All this found its way into the Act of Proclamation of the Ukrainian State (Lviv, 30 June 1941), paragraph 3 of which reads as follows: "The newly formed Ukrainian State will work closely with the National-Socialist Greater Germany, which under the direction of its leader Adolf Hitler is creating a new order in Europe and the world and is helping the Ukrainian people to free itself from Muscovite occupation." Does that not sound familiar?

This conceptual framework underpinned the establishment of the infamous Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), which, together with the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) created in 1942, actively co-operated with Hitler's Germany during the Great Patriotic War. It was never a question of "fighting on two fronts" (against Germany and the USSR) – that argument advanced by Ukrainian propaganda does not stand up to official scrutiny if one turns to the archives, including German ones. In those very years, Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych (the last-named, by the way, held the rank of Hauptmann, or Captain, in the Wehrmacht), the Kyiv regime's current national heroes, perpetrated veritable

atrocities in the name of creating a “free” Ukraine. The Volhynia (Wołyń) massacre, in which tens of thousands of Poles were slaughtered, the burning of the Byelorussian village of Khatyn to the ground together with its inhabitants – these are both egregious examples (but by no means the only ones) of the inhumane cruelty displayed by the Ukrainian collaborationists.

After the end of the war, many OUN and UPA fighters were granted asylum in the United Kingdom and the United States, where, having been recruited by the local intelligence services, they worked on drawing up strategies against the USSR. The members of the Nazi underground also continued their activities on Ukrainian territory for a long time, seeking to fulfil the following command issued by Shukhevych, their very own “Führer”: “The UPA must act in such a way that all those who support it [Soviet power] are exterminated ... I repeat: not intimidated, but physically exterminated. What does it matter if just half of the Ukrainian population is left at the end? There is nothing terrible about that.”

In the 1990s, when Ukraine gained so-called independence, there began a process of justifying the Ukrainian nationalists. From criminals who had collaborated with Hitler’s Germany they gradually started to be transformed into “fighters for the freedom and independence of Ukraine” who courageously resisted the “Soviet occupiers”. As a result of the unconstitutional coup d’état that took place in Ukraine in February 2014, power fell into the hands of radical nationalists, essentially neo-Nazis. From then on, the glorification of Nazi ideology proceeded on a systematic footing.

That is the reason why the issue of denazification of Ukraine is of fundamental importance for Russia. In Russia’s memorandum on settling the Ukrainian crisis it is clearly spelled out that Ukrainian nationalist organizations and parties must be dissolved and nationalist formations within the Ukrainian armed forces and the National Guard disbanded. It also spells out the need for legislation prohibiting the glorification and promotion of Nazism and neo-Nazism.

Madam Chairperson,

In closing, allow me to make some observations. It is impossible to overlook that the hostile policies and military planning of NATO countries – all these trigger-happy strategies and plans – are creating an explosive mix that could be set off by the slightest spark. We are keeping a close eye on all this and taking all necessary measures to reliably safeguard our legitimate security interests.

The ever new packages providing all kinds of assistance to Ukraine are merely fuelling the conflict, while the European Union’s stance on the conditions for peace rules out the very possibility of achieving peace, just as it rules out any sort of role for the Europeans in that regard. We should like to stress, though, that all their militaristic exertions will not have the slightest impact on Russia achieving the special operation’s objectives, which we are prepared to work towards by both diplomatic and military means.

The Kyiv regime’s handlers ought to realize that the situation on the battlefield will continue to deteriorate for Mr. Zelenskyy. The ramping-up of military spending by NATO may well end in a catastrophe the brunt of which would be borne by the population of Europe.

Over in Kyiv and in the West they know perfectly well what needs to be done in order to get the fighting to stop. All these conditions were articulated by President Putin on 14 June 2024.

Thank you for your attention.