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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 98th JOINT MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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

Madam Chairperson,

Four years ago, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the decision was taken to launch a special military operation in order to protect people in our historical territories, safeguard the Russian Federation's national security and eliminate the threats posed by the ultranationalist regime in Kyiv. As was stated by Russian President Vladimir Putin on 24 February 2022, "any further expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance's infrastructure or the incipient efforts to gain a military foothold on Ukrainian territory [were] unacceptable to us. ... The problem is that on the territories adjacent to ours – I should note, on our own historical territories – an 'anti-Russia' hostile to us is being created. Placed under full external control, it is being commandeered by the armed forces of NATO countries and flooded with cutting-edge weapons."

This allows one to understand why the so-called civilized world, which the NATO and EU countries unilaterally claim to represent, unapologetically ignored all the horrors to which around 4 million residents of Donbass had been subjected since 2014. They did not consider people against whom the Kyiv junta had for a good 3,000 days been deploying combat aircraft, field guns and heavy howitzers to be deserving of protection. As far as these countries were concerned, Ukraine had back then become a tool with which to work against Russia.

We are therefore not surprised that, while whipping up hysteria in early 2022 over routine Russian-Belarusian exercises, they pretended not to notice the build-up of a Ukrainian military contingent in south-eastern Ukraine and the intensification of shelling attacks on the long-suffering Donbass region, even though they were in possession of satellite imagery and had access to reports from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). Let me remind you that the SMM recorded a 15-fold (!) increase in the number of shelling attacks on the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, which were being conducted by a 182,000-strong grouping of armed formations from the Ukrainian armed forces. At that same time, Western countries discredited the "risk reduction" mechanisms provided for in Chapter III of the

Vienna Document 2011. The activation of that chapter's provisions in relation to Russia during a period when the Kyiv regime was preparing an offensive against Donbass was a hypocritical and immoral move. Western countries were thereby in effect trying to deflect the international community's attention from their protégés' preparations for yet another bloody military adventure.

Today, the Western-sponsored punitive policy of the Kyiv regime against the civilian population is being firmly rebuffed. Everything possible is being done to ensure the swift advent of peace for the new constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The whole country is rallying behind our territories, providing direct support to the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions. Ever since we sent the Ukrainian terrorists and mercenaries packing from the Kursk region, large-scale works have been under way there to rebuild civilian infrastructure. Every effort is being made to maintain the supply of electricity to hundreds of thousands of people in the Belgorod region, where energy facilities have become the Kyiv regime's principal target. We never abandon our own, anywhere.

We are mindful of the fact that the vast majority of wars came to our land from a westerly direction, and we can see that scenarios for a major war against Russia are currently being fleshed out in the capitals of NATO countries. Our country has never started wars – rather, it has finished them, sometimes liberating in the process a sizeable chunk of Europe from subjugation, at the cost of huge sacrifices. It has always been our premise that in this long-suffering region there is generally no such thing as irresolvable differences. However, the real state of affairs – as reflected in the growing NATO military presence on our western borders and in the use of Ukraine for a proxy confrontation with Russia – suggests that the EU and NATO countries are guided by a different approach.

Over the past few years, the Europeans have been overtly attempting to disrupt the development of our country, invoking to that end such slogans as “decolonization” and “preparing for Russia's disintegration”. We remember all too well how former US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cynically foretold “suffering” for the Russian people as a result of sanctions pressure. As EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas has admitted, over in Brussels they intend to “defeat Russia”. Our European neighbours' designs are obvious to us, namely, to channel aggression eastwards and, by hook or by crook, eliminate geopolitical rivals and gain unlimited access to Russia's natural riches. But whoever tries to “take a swing” at our country would do well to recall the fate of Napoleon and Hitler.

The preparations for implementing the goal of exerting pressure on our country began a long time ago.

To start with, seeking to gain a free hand, the West proceeded to knock out cornerstones of the international arms control and non-proliferation architecture. Suffice it to recall the unilateral withdrawal by the United States of America from the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (in 2002), the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (in 2019) and the Treaty on Open Skies (in 2020); the NATO countries' refusal to ratify the adapted Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and their use of the Vienna Document 2011 as a tool for information warfare; and the hamstringing of work under the OSCE's politico-military dimension.

In parallel with this, military threats were being generated on Russia's western borders. Citing the pretext of a military clash with our country allegedly being inevitable, NATO began to actively build up coalition forces, change its mobilization system for the deployment of troops, and ramp up the manufacturing capacities of the European military-industrial complex. Considerable attention is being paid to the rapid deployment of equipment to specific areas and the expansion of transport infrastructure capacity in Eastern Europe so that NATO personnel and military supplies can swiftly be moved towards Russia's

borders. At the same time, under the guise of strengthening societal “resilience”, ordinary Europeans (children, women, elderly people) are being sold the idea that they need to brace themselves for war.

Ukraine had long since been hand-picked by NATO and the European Union as an additional tool for the geopolitical “containment” of our country. Here it would not be amiss to recall that, in 2014, the material support provided to the so-called protest camp on Independence Square in Kyiv by the US Embassy amounted to 1 million dollars a day. Under the pretext of military exercises, troop contingents from the Alliance’s member countries were regularly to be found on the territory of Ukraine, while Ukrainian and NATO command and control systems were integrated with each other. In March 2021, Ukraine adopted a new Military Security Strategy that talks about “geopolitical confrontation with the Russian Federation”, which was to be pursued “with the military support of the international community” and was supposed, “with the assistance of the international community”, to end “on favourable terms for Ukraine”. That was back in 2021! Have you forgotten? Everything had been planned in advance.

In addition, not only did the Kyiv regime proclaim NATO accession to be a strategic objective – it was “shepherded” in that direction by the authorities in Brussels themselves. There is only one thing to be said here: the means chosen to safeguard one’s security must not pose threats to other States, yet Ukraine joining NATO constitutes a direct threat to the security of Russia. Did you not know? We have been talking about this for decades. For 30 years, we persistently and patiently sought to reach agreement with the leading NATO countries on the principles of equal and indivisible security in Europe. In response to our proposals, we constantly encountered either cynical deception and lies or attempts to exert pressure.

This also makes it clear why European countries did everything they could to hinder the peace process in Ukraine. At first, Poland, Germany and France ignored the breakdown of the agreement between President Viktor Yanukovich and the opposition, an agreement that in 2014 could have extricated Ukraine from the abyss of civil war. Then, with the encouragement of Germany and France, the Minsk agreements were trampled underfoot. Later on, in 2022, the United Kingdom scuppered the negotiations taking place in Istanbul on a draft agreement to settle the Ukrainian crisis. Nowadays, EU and NATO countries are touting security guarantees for Ukraine as a priority in the settlement process, with these guarantees being specifically formulated against Russia. In other words, they will guarantee Ukraine’s security as long as it remains an enemy of the Russian Federation and continues to wage war against us. We are aware of the quite concrete “parameters” that the authorities in Brussels have in mind: firstly, to maintain the Ukrainian armed forces at the requisite level for waging war, and secondly, to integrate the Ukrainian war machine into EU military structures. However, this has nothing to do with peace – it is merely setting the stage for prolongation of the armed conflict.

Colleagues, given what has been said, we may well ask: what next?

What conclusions can the international community draw from the fact that EU and NATO countries are giving the green light for the dismantling of arms control regimes, taking part in the planning of combat operations against Russia and, last but not least, trying to throw a spanner in the works when it comes to negotiations on a diplomatic settlement?

Everyone can see that it is not Russia which is moving its military infrastructure closer to the borders of NATO member countries. Russia is not establishing Russian military bases all over the world, nor is it waging a proxy war against the members of the North Atlantic Alliance. On the other hand, the whole world is witnessing a new chapter in the anti-Russian policy of the collective West, which, draining the pockets of Western taxpayers, is seeking to get the conflict in Ukraine to spill over into a phase of global confrontation.

It goes without saying that those who are thwarting peace in Ukraine and sponsoring war in that country cannot count on a seat at the negotiating table for talks convened to end the war.

We are grateful to the US side for their sincere striving to facilitate the search for peaceful solutions to the conflict. Since the current occupant of the White House, Donald Trump, took office, there have been several telephone contacts at the highest level between our countries, and also a summit in Alaska. Following telephone conversations between Presidents Putin and Trump on 28 and 29 December 2025, we supported the US proposal to set up a working group on security issues that would bring together representatives of Russia, the United States and Ukraine. Three meetings of that working group have been held so far, namely in Abu Dhabi on 23 and 24 January and on 4 and 5 February, and in Geneva on 17 and 18 February. If President Trump's team succeeds in bringing the Kyiv regime, which is suffering defeat on the battlefield, down to earth and persuading it to seriously engage in resolving the crisis through talks, as opposed to engaging in bellicose propaganda, we could ask for nothing better.

As long as the West continues, though, to give the Kyiv regime carte blanche to carry on conducting combat operations and perpetrating terrorist attacks against our country's civilian population, we will continue to work to achieve the special operation's objectives on the battlefield. In 2025, the strategic initiative definitively passed to the armed forces of the Russian Federation. All the attempts by the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers to halt the advance of our troops have failed. In total, our troops liberated more than 300 population centres and over 6,700 square kilometres of territory last year. Since the beginning of this year, a further 900 square kilometres or so and 42 population centres have come under our control.

Last year, in response to the Kyiv regime's terrorist attacks on civilian infrastructure in Russia, we ramped up the intensity of strikes conducted using long-range precision weapons and unmanned aerial vehicles to hit plants forming part of the Ukrainian military-industrial complex along with the energy infrastructure sustaining their operations. This has led to a significant reduction in the ability of the Kyiv regime's defence industry to manufacture weapons and military equipment with which to equip the Ukrainian armed forces.

Overall, the military capabilities of the Ukrainian armed forces have been significantly degraded thanks to the successful combat operations of Russian troops. In 2025, the Ukrainian armed forces' materiel losses amounted to some 6,700 tanks and armoured combat vehicles and more than 12,000 guns and mortars, while in terms of personnel they lost over 520,000 troops. All in all, Ukrainian troop losses since the start of the special military operation are in excess of 1.5 million. As a result, the Kyiv regime has largely lost the ability to replenish its formations through the forced mobilization of the country's citizens. The number of people mobilized monthly has, on average, decreased by almost half. A steady trend is thus emerging where the Ukrainian army's personnel strength is dwindling and the Ukrainian armed forces' scope for offering resistance to the Russian force groupings is being whittled down.

They are aware of this in Brussels, but over there they have already made up their mind that Ukraine is some kind of "shield" to protect the European Union and NATO against imaginary threats from the east. They have no intention of preserving anyone's life to the detriment of their geopolitical ambitions.

Moreover, realizing that there is no chance of delivering a defeat to Russia on the battlefield courtesy of the Kyiv regime, the British and French authorities apparently see fit to help Ukraine acquire a "game-changing argument" so that the Kyiv regime is able to aspire to a cessation of hostilities on terms more favourable to itself. And to that end, they need to equip their protégés with a "Wunderwaffe" (miracle weapon).

According to the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, what they have in mind here is, at the very least, a “dirty” bomb, but the option of fully fledged nuclear weapons, including their means of delivery, is also being considered in earnest. Moreover, the authorities in London and Paris are working on the secret transfer of European components, equipment and technologies to Ukraine. Yet, Ukraine as a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons undertook not to acquire nuclear weapons, while the United Kingdom and France undertook not to transfer nuclear weapons to any recipient whatsoever, and not to encourage or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture or acquire such weapons.

We strongly warn that any steps towards the acquisition of military nuclear capabilities by Ukraine will be regarded by us as an attempt to pose a direct threat to our country’s security and will inevitably meet with a firm response on our part. We already spoke about this back in 2022, when Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced his readiness to reconsider Ukraine’s non-nuclear status. At the time, that proved to be one of the catalysts for the launching of the special operation. Subsequently, Ukrainian politicians of every hue have repeatedly been toying with the idea of possessing nuclear weapons.

We exhort the international community to take this information very seriously and to bring the British and French authorities, who have got carried away by their anti-Russian frenzy, back to their senses. The consequences of this reckless policy by no means constitute a threat just to Russia’s security.

Madam Chairperson,

A few words in connection with Western delegations’ insinuations and digs at Russia. It has been increasingly said of late that there never existed such a thing as a rules-based world order – a concept that we have heard mentioned in pretty much every statement by EU and NATO countries at the OSCE. And likewise that there was never any isolation of Russia, which you have defined as an integral goal at our Organization. Three quarters of the countries around the globe have not joined in the anti-Russian sanctions. They have adopted a balanced position with regard to the situation in Ukraine, which they rightly consider in terms of a European security crisis that had been long in the making on account of the aggressive course steered by NATO.

At the same time, the heightened confrontation with the West has served to catalyse the transition to a polycentric model of international relations, in which the role of regional centres of power is becoming stronger. As a Eurasian power, Russia has historically sought to develop relations with all its neighbours, especially when faced with a crisis on its borders. At present, partly owing to the need to find new solutions in the context of the crisis, such processes as the structural transformation of our economy, the diversification of foreign economic ties and the strengthening of co-operation with our neighbours are gathering speed. The development of our relations with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Global South and the East has been given a significant impetus.

A lot has been said today about the relations between Russia and the Republic of Belarus, which is our closest ally and strategic partner. Our extensive co-operation is steadily evolving in all areas, as is the integration-oriented construction of the Union State. Together with our Belarusian allies, we are countering the onslaught of the collective West’s sanctions and its legal aggression in an effective manner. In view of NATO’s growing military activity in Europe, the establishment of a common defence space aimed at ensuring strategic stability was but a logical step. In accordance with the Treaty on Security Guarantees within the framework of the Union State, which entered into force in March 2025, Russia and Belarus have assumed mutual obligations to defend each other’s sovereignty, independence and constitutional order, along with the inviolability of the Union State’s external border, deploying to that end all capacities and capabilities, including nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Western countries are being left on the sidelines of international processes. It is important for them to understand that they simply cannot carry on putting up a bold front – that is, flagrantly violating the principle of the indivisibility of security and steering combat operations against Russia on the one hand, and, in stark contrast to that, calling for peace and vociferously stating the need for dialogue with Russia on the other. Make up your mind. You cannot eat your cake and have it.

We warn the European Union and NATO about the counterproductive nature of their current aggressive course aimed at exacerbating confrontation with Russia. We urge them to take steps to secure the withdrawal of Western military personnel and equipment from Ukrainian territory, and to desist from any hostile activities against our country. The objectives of the special military operation will be accomplished in any case. We stand ready to respond to any security challenges, trusting in the strength and support of the Russian people. At the same time, we are as ever open to dialogue and negotiations, provided that our country's interests are taken into account.

Thank you for your attention.