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**STATEMENT BY
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FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 96th JOINT MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 September 2025

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

Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,

First of all, we should like to dwell today on the interim results of the special military operation as at the start of September 2025.

The joint force grouping of the Russian Federation armed forces continues its non-stop offensive along pretty much the entire front line in the zone of the special military operation. More than 3,500 square kilometres of territory and over 150 population centres have been liberated since March.

To date, the Russian armed forces have liberated 99.7 per cent of the territory of the Lugansk People's Republic (with less than 60 square kilometres still left to liberate) and 79 per cent of the territory of the Donetsk People's Republic. Russian troops control 74 per cent of the Zaporozhye region and 76 per cent of the Kherson region. The tasks related to the creation of a security zone in the Sumy and Kharkov regions that stretches along our border are being successfully implemented. Our military is also advancing in the Dnepropetrovsk region.

One of the most significant events was the Russian troops' liberation of Chasov Yar in the Donetsk People's Republic. The Ukrainian armed forces lost around 7,500 military personnel, 11 tanks, 55 armoured vehicles and 160 field artillery pieces and mortars during the fighting for that city.

An analysis of the state of the Ukrainian troops indicates that, during the spring and summer period, the enemy concentrated all his efforts on slowing down our advance, taking heavy losses in the process. As a result, the Ukrainian armed forces are compelled to move the most combat-capable units from one critical axis to another in order to "plug the gaps". In this year alone, the Ukrainian armed forces have lost more than 340,000 military personnel and over 65,000 pieces of assorted weaponry. The Russian troops completely hold the strategic initiative at present.

Massive firepower continues to be used to exclusively target military objectives and facilities belonging to the Ukrainian military-industrial complex. This year, 35 separate barrage attacks and waves of strikes have been conducted against 146 critical enemy facilities. As a result, the infrastructure of 62 per cent of the key enterprises from the Kyiv regime's military-industrial complex has been damaged. It is worth noting, in particular, the strikes that are reducing the scope for production to be ramped up and the strikes launched against logistics centres and launch platforms for long-range unmanned combat aerial vehicles.

Given that the initiative on the ground is now completely with Russia, the Ukrainian armed forces, seeking to somehow make up for their military setbacks, continue to carry out planned, large-scale attacks on civilian objects and the civilian population. It is symptomatic that unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and components required for their production supplied in both cases by the members of the NATO-EU "drone coalition" are being increasingly used for these purposes. With the help of drones, these "fighters" are hunting down defenceless people almost round the clock, cynically targeting children, women and the elderly. Strikes are being deliberately launched against residential buildings, medical and community facilities, schools and shops. In the Kherson region alone, 27 out of its 55 ambulances have come under fire from UAVs and been destroyed.

We shall cite just instances from the summer period and early September to illustrate the Ukrainian armed forces' use of drones.

On 10 June, strikes by enemy UAVs on the village of Maryino claimed three children as casualties; they were seven, nine and 13 years old. The glazing was damaged in two first-aid and obstetric units, the local cultural centre and a sanatorium. The windows in a primary school were blown out.

On 23 June, a drone attack by the Ukrainian armed forces on residential areas in the village of Novaya Zburyevka and the town of Aleshki in the Kherson region claimed four casualties. A strike was launched against an ambulance in the city of Golaya Pristan. Drones carried out a night-time attack on a first-aid and obstetric unit in the village of Kudintsevo, causing damage.

On 27 June, the Ukrainian armed forces launched a UAV strike on a group of staff from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant who were cleaning a canal as part of maintenance work in the area of the plant's hydraulic structures. The distance to the reactor units was between 350 and 400 metres or so. A company vehicle was damaged as a result.

On 8 September, the anniversary of the day in 1943 when the city of Donetsk was liberated from the German fascist invaders, the Ukrainian armed forces used Anglo-French Storm Shadow missiles along with combat drones to launch a barrage attack on the capital of Donbass and the neighbouring city of Makeevka. Two people were killed and 16 injured as a result of the shelling. Eighteen residential buildings and 14 civilian infrastructure facilities, including a school and a kindergarten, were damaged.

All in all, there were more than 50 such incidents during the period in question, claiming 132 casualties, of whom 16 people were killed and 116 people sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity. After the meeting we will circulate a list of facts regarding the Ukrainian armed forces' use of UAVs against Russia's civilian population and civilian objects. Unfortunately, it is not an exhaustive list.

The members of the "drone coalition" supplying Ukraine with UAVs, which comprises 20 countries, ought to take a hard look at these truly indisputable facts concerning the crimes committed daily by the Ukrainian armed forces, which are deliberately using drones to strike at civilian objects and the civilian population in Russian regions. But it seems that the "champions of international humanitarian law" could

not care less about all this. Or about the Ukrainian armed forces' UAV strikes on the Druzhba oil pipeline in August, which led to disruptions in energy resource supplies to European countries.

Then again, war profiteering and double standards have become the new calling card of NATO and EU countries.

In that regard, we may single out the steadily growing efforts of Norway to militarily “pump up” the Kyiv regime while cynically invoking the renowned humanist Fridtjof Nansen, after whom the relevant Norwegian support programme for Ukraine is named. Norway has focused its efforts to a considerable extent on supplying Ukraine with UAVs, both within the framework of a number of international funds and coalitions and through targeted allocations handed out directly to the Kyiv regime. Furthermore, instructors coming to Norway from Ukraine are engaged in training, on Norwegian territory, future Ukrainian drone operators – and future Norwegian ones into the bargain.

Against this backdrop, the moralizing by the “coalition” States and all their démarches regarding Russia's alleged violation of international law appear downright hypocritical and out of place. By delivering drones to Ukraine, the countries of the “drone coalition” are making themselves accomplices to the crimes committed by the Kyiv regime by means of these devices and must bear full responsibility for this.

Silence in response to the Kyiv regime's unbridled barbarity is a manifestation of complicity in its bloody doings. Russia reserves the right to deliver a matching response to the Kyiv regime's terrorist attacks. That being said, our fundamental commitment to a constructive search for a peaceful settlement through dialogue remains unchanged.

Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,

Europe is quite brazenly trying to secure a place at the negotiating table, although it has no business being there, coming as it does with a revanchist stance and with futile hopes of inflicting a “strategic defeat” on Russia. The NATO and EU countries are talking about sending contingents of their troops to Ukraine (we have already declared that these will be considered legitimate military targets); they are trying to push through security guarantees for Ukraine that are being formulated without our involvement and, what is more, in such terms as to pose military threats to the Russian Federation.

“Security guarantees” in the form in which they are being articulated by our former European partners can merely contribute to a further deterioration of strategic stability at the regional and global levels. The instigators of such ideas are striving to pull Ukraine into NATO's orbit in contravention of the neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status of that country according to its 1990 Declaration of State Sovereignty. This course is undermining Ukraine's statehood. Moreover, it violates the principle of the indivisibility of security, entrenches Ukraine in the role of a “strategic provocateur” on Russia's borders and heightens the risk of the Alliance being drawn into an armed conflict with our country.

The provision of security guarantees is not a condition for, but, rather, the result of a peaceful settlement once the root causes of the conflict in Ukraine have been eliminated.

In connection with this, it is fitting to recall the proposal put forward by the Ukrainians themselves in Istanbul in April 2022. Back then, the Ukrainian negotiating team outlined the basic principles for an agreement on the cessation of hostilities and on ensuring a sustainable settlement. These principles included Ukraine's renunciation of future membership of NATO or any other military blocs and confirmation of its neutral and non-nuclear status. In that context the Ukrainian side proposed, and our delegation agreed, to

draw up security guarantees in which all the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council would be involved, along with certain States that might be interested in joining that group.

Such security guarantees must be fully in line with the West's obligations and commitments as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the OSCE documents adopted by consensus in Istanbul in 1999 and in Astana in 2010. They must be based on the principle of the indivisibility of security, in accordance with which no country is entitled to strengthen its security at the expense of the security of others.

It is our understanding that such guarantees should comprise, among other things, the following:

- demilitarization;
- denazification;
- a neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status for Ukraine;
- recognition of territorial realities;
- safeguarding the rights of the Russian and Russian-speaking population;
- stopping the persecution of canonical Orthodoxy.

As the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, has stated, the security guarantees must be for both Russia and Ukraine, and our country will observe them.

Any options for a settlement should be based on geopolitical realities and aimed at achieving a sustainable and just peace. As long as this stance is not met with due understanding, the special operation will be continued by military means until all its objectives have been implemented.

Thank you for your attention.