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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1134th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

29 April 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In violation of the politico-military commitments adopted within the framework of the OSCE, including the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (1993), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (1994) and the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000), NATO and EU member States are continuing to supply weapons, military equipment and intelligence, and to send instructors and military advisers, in order to sustain the Kyiv regime's combat capability. In doing so, they are aggravating the confrontation with Russia going forward and, as a result, deliberately destabilizing continental security. Potential political and diplomatic efforts are clearly not part of this plan.

In mid-April this year, the Ukrainian General Staff publicly announced the creation of an "advisory" body called ARES (Allied Reform and Expert Support), which reports to the high command of the Ukrainian armed forces and is headed by General Richard Shirreff from the United Kingdom, a former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (2011–2014). This "expert" group includes former CIA Director David Petraeus; Admiral Manfred Nielson, a former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation; the Canadian generals Andrew Leslie and Patrick Carpentier; a representative of the Royal Norwegian Navy, Hans Helseth; and other NATO "movers and shakers". Among the official tasks of ARES are assisting with institutional reforms, improving logistics efficiency and providing "consultation" on key governance issues. Given that the aforementioned individuals were directly involved in strategic planning within NATO, it is clear evidence of an intensification of the Alliance countries' complete supervisory control over the Ukrainian armed forces' operations, with all the implications that this entails.

The geopolitical thinking behind such actions was revealed by the Belgian Chief of Defence, General Frederik Vansina, in an alarmist interview with the newspaper *Le Soir*. He confirmed, in effect, that Ukraine has been assigned the utilitarian role of weakening our country while Europe prepares for war: "In 2030, if we continue on this path, we will be much stronger than we are today. And by 2035 ... such (European) strategic autonomy is within reach, as long as budgets continue to increase. ... We still have a few years ahead of us. Thanks to the courage and blood of the Ukrainians, who are buying us that time. That is

precisely why we support them to such an extent.” At the same time, he acknowledged that Russia had no intention of attacking Europe “whether today, tomorrow or in a month’s time”.

Amid such fabrications about a “Russian threat” (the sole purpose of which is to justify the continent’s frenzied militarization), the leadership of a number of European countries has decided to ramp up the production and supply of weapons and military equipment to Ukraine, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). There are plans to increase funding for “Ukrainian” and “joint” ventures based in European countries (in particular, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom) that manufacture attack drones and components for these. Russia regards this decision as a deliberate move leading to a sharp escalation of the politico-military situation across the European continent and to a creeping transformation of these countries into Ukraine’s strategic rear. In order to inform the European public about these real security threats, the Russian Ministry of Defence has published the locations of the companies in question.

The citizens of European countries must be absolutely clear that, rather than strengthening security, the actions of the European elites are causing these countries to be drawn into war with Russia at breakneck speed. Implementation of the scenarios announced by representatives of the Kyiv regime with regard to terrorist attacks against Russia involving the use of notionally “Ukrainian” UAVs manufactured in Europe will lead to an escalation of the situation.

This is a warning that should also be heeded by the participants in the recent Ramstein-format meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group that took place in Berlin. We would remind you that, following the meeting, the United Kingdom undertook to supply the Kyiv regime with 120,000 drones (including strike drones, reconnaissance drones and logistics drones); it also promised the Kyiv regime that it would provide “thousands” of anti-aircraft missiles and “hundreds of thousands” of artillery rounds in the course of the year. Norway will allocate over 500 million dollars for drones to be used by Ukrainian armed forces brigades and 150 million dollars for logistics. The Netherlands will procure UAVs to the tune of over 200 million euros. Belgium, Canada, Estonia and Lithuania will make further contributions towards the implementation of the Alliance’s programme known as PURL (Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List). All this alongside calls from NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte to allocate an additional 60 billion dollars to Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s regime, on top of the 90 billion euro loan from the European Union (two thirds of which is earmarked for the Ukrainian armed forces’ needs). Incidentally, he was given the go-ahead last week.

On the eve of the Ramstein-format meeting, a new package of German-Ukrainian military-related agreements worth 4 billion euros was concluded. The funds will be used to supply and produce missiles and drones, including long-range ones.

All this is clearly not about “defending” Ukraine, as Western politicians are so fond of saying, but about prolonging the conflict “down to the last Ukrainian”. No less telling in that regard is the cynical remark made by Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz at a recent meeting with Mr. Zelenskyy, namely that he would help him to bring back Ukrainian men currently in Germany. And all this against a backdrop of endless evidence of the widespread use of brutal mobilization methods in Ukraine, where, for the sole purpose of meeting the quota for the delivery of cannon fodder to the front, people are being maimed and beaten to a pulp, where tear gas and stun guns are deployed, where individuals – including persons with disabilities or serious illnesses – are physically restrained and then held in unhygienic conditions. Ukrainian and Western colleagues at the Forum for Security Co-operation have repeatedly questioned the accuracy of this information. However, it has in effect been confirmed by the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets. And such evidence will keep coming in, for

Mr. Zelenskyy has proposed that general mobilization and martial law be extended for another 90 days (from 4 May to 2 August).

Surely Europeans can see what this plying of the Kyiv regime with military hardware is actually leading to? It is leading to Western countries becoming complicit in the regime's crimes.

According to data from Rodion Miroshnik, the Russian Foreign Ministry's Ambassador-at-Large working on the crimes committed by the Kyiv regime, the total number of civilian casualties claimed by the Ukrainian armed forces' operations since February 2022 has already reached 27,873, including more than 8,000 killed. Over the past month alone, from 23 March to 26 April, at least 755 people were injured, including 41 minors, and at least 108 non-combatants lost their lives, including nine children. Overall, the Ukrainian armed formations fired no fewer than 16,541 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory during the period in question. Supplied and manufactured mainly by Western countries, these munitions included rockets from 122 mm multiple rocket launchers, artillery shells of 152 mm and 155 mm calibre (some of them with cluster warheads), mines and grenades. The enemy also made active use of unmanned combat aerial vehicles, first-person view (FPV) drones and small arms.

Nor did the truce announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin on the occasion of Orthodox Easter induce the Kyiv regime to make an exception from "business as usual". During the 32-hour period that it was in effect from 11 to 12 April, the Ukrainian armed forces violated the truce at least 6,500 times. By way of comparison: the number of violations in the corresponding period in 2025 was lower by 25 per cent, with around 5,000 violations recorded then.

We invite our colleagues to acquaint themselves with some facts illustrating the Kyiv regime's employment of terrorist methods to intimidate the civilian population, in breach of the rules of international humanitarian law during a conflict.

The Ukrainian armed forces are conducting targeted strikes on residential areas, wiping out and maiming entire families and leaving these with no future by exterminating their children as well. On 3 April, in the village of Mikhailovka in the Lugansk People's Republic, an entire family – both parents and their eight-year-old child – were killed in one of the various private homes that came under attack from Ukrainian UAVs. On 11 April, a couple similarly lost their lives in Yasinovataya in the Donetsk People's Republic. Ukrainian UAV strikes on Tuapse in the Krasnodar territory on 16 and 20 April claimed the lives of three people, including a 14-year-old girl, and left seven others injured, including a child. On top of that, around 60 residential buildings and three educational facilities were damaged. On 22 April, a UAV strike on Syzran in the Samara region caused the partial collapse of a stairwell in an apartment building – a 12-year-old girl and her grandmother were killed, while a further 12 people, including two children, were injured.

Public transport and private civilian vehicles are frequently targeted in Ukrainian attacks. On 17 April in Belgorod, a ten-year-old girl was seriously injured during an incoming drone strike on a car park. On 18 April, in the village of Chernookovo in the Bryansk region, one woman was killed and another injured when an FPV drone struck a passenger bus carrying civilians. On 25 April, in the village of Novolyubimovka in the Zaporozhye region, an eight-year-old child was killed and his parents and ten-year-old brother were injured when a passenger car was struck by a UAV.

Healthcare staff and facilities are not being spared by the Ukrainian armed forces' UAV strikes. Among the casualties claimed by the Kyiv regime's attacks between the start of the year and 31 March are 39 health workers. Of these, 24 were injured and 15 were killed in the line of duty. To give one recent example: on 13 April a medical vehicle was hit in the Belovsky district of the Kursk region, injuring the personnel from the central district hospital who were on board. On 18 April in Novokuibyshevsk in the

Samara region, the crash of a drone belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces shattered windows in a maternity hospital and damaged interior areas of the building, as well as damaging some ambulances.

As you can see, colleagues, the majority of civilians are being injured or killed as a result of none other than UAV strikes conducted by the Ukrainian armed forces. Perhaps the Kyiv regime has now introduced a system of awarding “points” for the killing of civilians as well? We would remind you that the Kyiv regime has long been running an outrageous programme called the “Army of Drones Bonus System”, under which war becomes a video game-like competition among UAV operators while human life is reduced to a mere “plaything”! Ukrainian armed forces personnel on the front lines have the opportunity to earn points through drone strikes against our soldiers, including wounded ones – something that is categorically prohibited by international humanitarian law. Under the rules of the programme, “players” are rewarded with points for wounding or killing and those points can be traded for new weapons, among other things. Just think of it. The lives and fortunes of human beings – these have all become points to be scored as part of a “game”, while the boundary between virtual reality and the all too real consequences of combat operations is blurred. And what if “bonus” points actually start being awarded for killing civilians as well? Will this be deemed acceptable by the West?

The aforementioned flagrant violations of international humanitarian law by the Kyiv regime are, naturally, being disregarded by representatives of Western countries at international platforms. Otherwise, they would have to openly admit that they are sponsoring an inherently terrorist regime, one that has been waging war against civilians since 2014.

Accountability for the atrocities committed is inescapable. According to data shared during a briefing session in the city of Lugansk by First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Investigative Committee Eduard Kaburneyev, nearly 10,000 criminal cases have been opened since 2014 in connection with the Kyiv regime’s crimes. The investigation of around 1,000 cases has been completed, and approximately 850 have already been heard in court. More than 1,000 foreign mercenaries have been prosecuted.

Unlike the Ukrainian military, the Russian armed forces are conducting strikes exclusively on military targets. Since the start of the special military operation, a total of 671 aeroplanes belonging to the enemy have been destroyed, along with 284 helicopters, 138,166 UAVs, 656 anti-aircraft missile systems, 29,061 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 1,711 multiple-launch rocket systems, 34,632 field artillery guns and mortars, and 60,276 special-purpose military vehicles. In the course of March-April this year, Russian troops liberated no fewer than 34 population centres and some 700 square kilometres of territory. In total, Russia has gained control over more than 80 population centres and upwards of 1,700 square kilometres of territory since the start of the year. The formations and military units of the Joint Group of Forces are advancing in all directions.

To sum up. It is already clear to any impartial observer that the cessation of hostilities is a question that will be decided not so much by Ukraine as by its Western handlers. However, as we are seeing and hearing here, that does not fit in with the geopolitical interests of most European countries: instead of addressing the root causes of the conflict, they are helping to exacerbate them by continuing to militarize territories contiguous with Russia. Egged on by its European sponsors, the Kyiv clique is feathering its nest with the billions pouring in while demonstrating a commitment to armed escalation. Russia, in contrast, continues to defend the legitimate security interests of the country and its citizens honestly, firmly and unswervingly. You may rest assured that the special military operation’s goals and objectives will be achieved.

Thank you for your attention.