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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 1117th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

15 October 2025

**Agenda item: Security Dialogue
Subject: Strengthening resilience through comprehensive security**

Mr. Chairperson,

With regard to the Finnish Chairmanship's organization of a Security Dialogue devoted to how civil society can contribute to strengthening resilience in the military realm, our original assumption was that the Finnish representatives would make use of Finland's status as the chairing country to serve up this topic in the interests of all 57 participating States without exception. However, in the analytical material circulated by you prior to the meeting and in a number of presentations by the invited panellists one can discern quite clearly how the transatlantic political elites are being urged to tighten control over the civilian population and completely brainwash people in an anti-Russian spirit with a view to getting them ready for armed confrontation with the Russian Federation. These actions are discrediting and undermining the credibility of the OSCE, which so far has remained the sole regional platform for multilateral diplomacy. At times during the meeting we felt as if we were at a NATO conclave where measures against our country were being worked out. If this is the way you were planning to "strengthen trust" at our Forum, as you claimed, then your attempt has failed.

Given the gist of some of the statements delivered earlier, we should like to provide a forthright and honest answer regarding our views on how our opponents are trying to build up "resilience".

What we have heard from certain participating States is in keeping with some insights that the German philosopher Ludwig Feuerbach set forth in his treatise *Das Wesen des Christentums* (*The Essence of Christianity*): "For the present age, which prefers the sign to the thing signified, the copy to the original, fancy to reality, the appearance to the essence ... illusion only is sacred, truth profane. Nay, sacredness is held to be enhanced in proportion as truth decreases and illusion increases, so that the highest degree of illusion comes to be the highest degree of sacredness."¹ There you have the whole essence of the

1 Translator's note: English translation by George Eliot (pen name of Mary Ann Evans) (1819–1880). The edition quoted here is: *The Essence of Christianity* by Ludwig Feuerbach. Translated from the Second German Edition by Marian Evans, 2nd edn. (New York: Calvin Blanchard, 1857), p. 10. Available online at: <https://georgeeliotarchive.org/items/show/250>.

multifaceted antagonism deployed by the collective West against the Russian Federation and other countries not to its liking.

National and collective resilience is nowadays viewed west of Vienna chiefly through the lens of the “Russian threat”. A large-scale campaign is being rolled out to prepare the populations of European countries for a direct military clash with our country. The Secretary General of the North Atlantic Alliance, Mark Rutte, claims that “Russia could be ready to use military force against NATO within five years.” They see cyberattacks, disinformation, propaganda and manipulation of public opinion everywhere. What is more, the accusations are always directed against us – without proof. And when it turns out that Russia had nothing whatsoever to do with these things, no one ever thinks of apologizing to us for the lies and calumnies. Yet, preparations for crisis situations are based on these imaginary threats.

Europeans are being deliberately misled and indoctrinated to prevent people from being swayed by a critical attitude towards the policy of the European Union and NATO aimed at militarizing the continent and increasing expenditure on military needs to the detriment of efforts to address socio-economic problems. Industrial enterprises, including commercial firms, are being actively worked on to get them to regard as acceptable the expropriation of assets in order to meet military needs.

It is important to realize that fake news stories – which have been put on a pedestal in EU and NATO countries and are relayed by the social media platforms and media outlets under their control – have a destructive effect on public perception and behaviour. People are encouraged to believe that fake stories are an exclusively external threat emanating from non-Western countries. In several strategic documents of Alliance countries, “disinformation” is defined as “information that fits in with existing pro-Kremlin narratives, goals or activities”. In short, it is an umbrella term for anything that does not suit NATO and could potentially hinder the propagation of narratives that are beneficial to the West, regardless of how much truth they actually contain.

The Alliance for its part can hardly consider itself a vehicle of truth. It has a long history of hybrid operations; it has discredited itself many a time by spreading false information about its own conduct or about the actions of others. In the former Yugoslavia in 1999 and in Libya in 2011 we witnessed those all too familiar signs of military intimidation, covert interference, the supply of arms and military equipment, economic extortion, diplomatic duplicity, manipulation of the media and outright disinformation.

This preconfigured “virtual reality”, into which European societies are being immersed, is shaped not only through the inculcation of notions about radical liberal values, but also through Russophobia, the rewriting of history and the adoption of cancel culture. A noteworthy phenomenon is that of post-nationalism, which, as political pundit Alexander Sosnowski has aptly put it, exemplifies a perversion of the theory of democracy, where a kind of society is created in which there is no freedom of speech whatsoever.

The information space in the West has in effect been “purged” of alternative points of view. Attempts by individual political figures and activists to criticize the authorities’ actions quickly lead to their being stigmatized. A number of Russian media outlets have been banned over here and access to many Russian information resources blocked. This, too, is part of the Western reality, where States strengthen their military resilience by exposing their populations to complete disinformation.

The global information space and the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies offer unlimited opportunities for Western intelligence services to use various elements of “social engineering” to systematically influence public perception as a whole. In this way, the Euro-Atlantic elites are creating controlled chaos, which they are using to destabilize the situation in key regions of the planet by setting

some “disobedient” States against others with a view to subsequently creating Western-controlled operational and tactical coalitions around them.

We could see this scenario enacted in Ukraine, where the West worked for decades to nurture anti-Russian forces through the networks it controls. And then, through a bloody coup d’état in February 2014, the West put in power a criminal junta who unleashed a civil war and declared outlawed their Russian-speaking fellow citizens, who to this day hush up brutal crimes committed in Kyiv, Odessa, Donbass and elsewhere, who started curtailing the rights of national minorities and freedom of religious worship. For over a decade, the collective West has not only been turning a blind eye to the Kyiv regime’s crimes but also sponsoring and arming that regime and essentially steering it. Civilian casualties on Russian soil caused by the Ukrainians’ use of NATO weapons are considered to be justified over here.

At the Forum for Security Co-operation it is often to be heard that Russia “has not demonstrated any genuine openness to a just and lasting peace”. We should like to remind our colleagues that international humanitarian law (specifically Article 37 of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949) prohibits resorting to perfidy. A widely recognized and well-documented example of perfidious actions, which include “the feigning of an intent to negotiate under a flag of truce”, is to be found in the signing of the Minsk agreements, followed by years of statements made by high-level politicians intended to mislead the international community about the reasons for their not being implemented. All the resources of modern information and communication technologies were deployed to garner the broadest possible support for such statements. We are convinced that the deceit consciously employed by Germany, France and Ukraine in concealing their true intentions regarding the Minsk agreements must eventually be assessed in legal terms.

Then there was the year 2021, when Russia presented the United States of America and NATO with draft agreements on security guarantees. For us the core provisions were those that envisaged the North Atlantic Alliance refraining from further enlargement, forswearing the deployment of strike weapon systems near Russia’s borders and pulling back its military forces so as to revert to its 1997 positions. We remain convinced that such measures would have ensured de-escalation. However, the NATO countries proved unwilling to engage in serious dialogue and to take our concerns into account. In addition, it is worth recalling some recent admissions made over in Kyiv as to how the agreements on a settlement of the conflict reached in Istanbul in March 2022 between the Russian and Ukrainian sides were torpedoed by then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who, as reported, in exchange for a handy million from an arms magnate effectively forbade his Kyiv protégés to continue negotiating with Russia. It is evident that Westerners’ talk about their desire for Ukraine to enjoy independence and peace is nothing more than empty words. In reality, this post-Soviet republic is to them merely a square on the geopolitical chessboard, a tool for confrontation, while its population is in their eyes expendable material in the hybrid war against Russia.

Today you are trying to “sell” to your populations and to the international community the notion that ordinary Ukrainians are rallying in the face of the “aggressor” and are selflessly rushing into battle. However, your citizens are unaware – as it is conspicuously absent from media coverage – that the territorial manning centres are literally hunting down Ukrainian men. These are being beaten up, snatched from the streets of their towns and villages and forcibly packed off to the front lines. Moreover, according to the official data alone, there have been around 160,000 desertions from the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces since the beginning of this year. Many people are willing to pay tens of thousands of dollars in order to be smuggled across the border to another country and avoid perishing in this senseless war for the sake of the senseless interests of the West. How can one possibly speak of societal resilience in this regard? What are these citizens being asked to fight for? For “their” land, which in reality has long since been sold off to transnational corporations? For a “democracy” that only works for corrupt officials, and a dictatorial police state for everyone else?

We can also see how you propose to build societal resilience starting off by indoctrinating minors. Attempts are made to falsely accuse Russia of nothing less than “erasing the identity” of Ukrainian children. But have your citizens heard about the nationalistic children’s camps operating in Ukraine, where the younger cohorts to be “educated” are not only subjected to intense psychological pressure but also instructed in the handling of weapons and marksmanship? They include camps run by radical groups such as the “Stepan Bandera All-Ukrainian Organization ‘Tryzub’”, “Azov” and “Right Sector” (all banned in Russia), with a specific focus on training their young cadets in the art of killing “Moskals” [Muscovites] and “separatists”. You can easily find videos in the public domain showing little children demonstrating how they will, in their own words, use knives to “slash at the Moskals”. Would you want your own children to be taught to kill from such a tender age?

In the context of today’s discussion it is also important to note that, while strengthening their own “resilience”, Western countries are trying to undermine the resilience of other States.

It has been known to us for a long time that a number of NATO countries have a cherished dream about a “Russian Maidan”. Realizing that this goal is unattainable, they are trying to erode the Russian people’s resilience by organizing massive false-flag operations through the Ukrainians. For example, during the Ukrainian armed forces’ incursion into the Kursk region, the Kyiv regime, assisted by the “Anglo-Saxon” intelligence services among others, extensively used deepfakes simulating statements by local leaders. These fake statements would report how population centres had been captured, how a fresh wave of mobilization was allegedly under way, how there were food and fuel shortages. All this in order to sow panic among civilians. It did not work. The Russian people coalesced against the common enemy. The invading forces were routed.

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite the palpable setbacks in the destructive course it is pursuing in the post-Soviet space, the West has not abandoned the habit of flagrantly interfering in the affairs of countries belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in a bid to disunite them, rob them of their political will and economic potential, and prevent the development of an alternative centre of power in Eurasia capable of challenging the waning Western hegemony. Lacking the strength to act in the open as they did in the past by means of so-called humanitarian interventions, the Western bloc is trying to undermine the existing authorities across the CIS area by fomenting ethnic separatism and xenophobia. A radical nationalist agenda goes hand in hand with a pro-Western, anti-Russian and anti-Chinese agenda.

The attempt to “cancel” Russia has already landed the European Union and NATO with snowballing socio-economic problems and security risks. The level of public support for the leaders of the Western anti-Russian coalition has already fallen to historic lows. In contrast, in our country, which you so dream of bringing to its knees, public support for President Vladimir Putin remains consistently high. We threw out Napoleon’s *Grande Armée* and marched into Paris, we liberated Europe from German fascism and now we will make short shrift of the vain attempts by the Ukrainian-Western coalition to inflict a strategic defeat on us. The full weight of responsibility for the consequences of their anti-Russian policies will fall on the shoulders of the EU and NATO elites.

While the collective West lacks the maturity and courage to stand on the right side of history, other countries and peoples – the global majority – are mapping out their own future. Working together with our friends from the Eurasian Economic Union, the CIS, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS group, we will continue along the path of building a collective security architecture in Eurasia, which is designed not to prepare our societies for a war but to

ensure their prosperity. I am confident that the healthy forces in Western countries that are aware of the risks facing the international community will themselves also join in this process ever more actively.

Thank you for your attention.