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

Madam Chairperson,

Some of those who spoke at the last meeting confidently stated that Russia was suffering defeat on the field of battle, that the goals of the special operation would not be attained. On Monday, 13 October, the European Union's senior diplomat, Kaja Kallas, also said during a visit to Kyiv that the momentum, I quote, "is shifting to Ukraine now". We understand that the European leadership and all of you sitting here are probably forbidden from saying the truth out loud. It is therefore with pleasure that I shall share with you some information about the real situation on the battlefield.

The strategic initiative in the zone of the special operation continues to be with the Russian troops. Just since 8 October, that is, since the last meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the armed forces of the Russian Federation have liberated seven population centres in the Kharkov and Zaporozhye regions and the Donetsk People's Republic (Borovskaya Andreyevka, Zagryzovo, Vladimirovka, Balagan, Moskovskoye, Novogrigorovka and Novovasilyevka). In addition, over the past week our troops have entered a further 13 population centres, including in the Dnepropetrovsk region, and are working towards gaining total control over them. They have successfully conducted assault crossings of the Bakhmutka and Yanchur rivers and established new bridgeheads for offensive operations.

The Russian armed forces are busy occupying the city of Pokrovsk. Along pretty much the entire front line the Ukrainian armed forces are retreating, surrendering or deserting.

Now, as we have said time and again, Russia is not at war with the civilian population – very often our soldiers risk their lives to evacuate Ukrainian civilians from areas under fire. Our command staff, for its part, is anxious to conserve troops. That is why the offensive is not proceeding at a rushed pace. However, even according to the most conservative estimates, a larger swathe of territory has been liberated in the first nine months of this year than in all of last year. And the limit has not been reached yet.

The Kyiv regime's sponsors and patrons almost seem to be prodding us into speeding up this process, seeing as they are giving their blessing to the Chief Directorate of Intelligence and the Security Service of Ukraine to carry out terrorist attacks against areas of the Russian Federation and actively assisting them with this.

Just two days ago, the Russian Federal Security Service published footage showing the arrest of four individuals who had been preparing a terrorist act involving an explosion. As reported by that agency, the attack was planned by the Ukrainian intelligence services together with leaders of the international terrorist organization known as Islamic State (designated as a terrorist organization in Russia and banned there). These four malefactors had intended to commit their crime in a densely populated area of Moscow. The yield of the explosive device would have ensured a lethal radius of up to 70 metres. Thanks to the efforts of Russian State security agents it proved possible once again to avert a tragedy.

Unfortunately, our calls on the international community to stop supporting Ukrainian terrorism are falling on deaf ears. Everyone knows that Russian civilians continue to perish at the hands of terrorists.

Maybe it has escaped the notice of those present here, but the fact is that the billions of dollars and euros being transferred to Ukraine are being spent not so much on keeping its citizens alive as on nurturing a State that is an exporter of terrorism. You will not find in the Western "free press" any examples of the spiralling process whereby terrorist methods and technologies are spreading from Ukraine to Africa and the Middle East. It is a process that is being actively developed.

All this criminal activity is connected with the Ukrainian armed forces' massive illicit sale of Western weapons and munitions. Terrorist formations are known to have come into possession of these in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, the Niger, Somalia, Sudan and Syria.

In March of this year, following the investigation of an incident involving attacks by fighters from the Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin terrorist group against army units of the armed forces of the Niger, the country's leadership presented evidence of the Ukrainian origins of the military equipment used in these attacks. In particular, small arms and associated ammunition were discovered, as were Ukrainian-made Molot mortars of 120 mm calibre together with an operator's manual written in Ukrainian. According to officials from the Niger, this weaponry was spirited into their country via the "Sahel arms corridor".

We are also aware of an investigation into how Western-manufactured weapons previously transferred to Ukraine have been used in the intra-Sudanese conflict. In particular, during clashes between detachments of the Sudanese Armed Forces and units of the Rapid Support Forces in the city of Omdurman in late April, Javelin anti-tank missile systems and Czech-made BREN assault rifles and associated ammunition were seized from the rebels. The available data indicates that these weapons were delivered to the Ukrainian armed formations in October-December 2024 from the stocks of the defence ministries of Czechia and the United States of America.

You may also like to take in this statement by a spokesperson of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, which was made in June of this year and in which it is stated outright that "Ukraine's involvement in supporting other groups in Libya, Somalia and the Niger has been established. It supports organizations such as Boko Haram and Harakat Al-Shabaab ..." (end of quote). Moreover, the Ukrainians have managed to put in an appearance in Mali, too, where they have been training local terrorists in tactics for combat using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which they themselves have delivered to that country. One may well ask

why they are doing this. And do Western countries understand that, by bankrolling the Kyiv regime, they are in effect facilitating international terrorism?

Madam Chairperson,

Nor can we pass over in silence the fact that the Ukrainian armed forces have, again and again, been bombarding peaceful Russian towns and killing and maiming ordinary citizens.

On every day of last week, Ukrainian drones and missiles destroyed civilian objects and caused human casualties.

On Sunday, 12 October alone, 67 population centres in the Belgorod region came under fire from the Ukrainian armed forces. There were attacks by aircraft-type UAVs and first-person view drones, claiming six casualties, including a ten-year-old boy and a 15-year-old youth. Damage was done to 15 apartments in ten apartment buildings, to 40 houses, a garage, roads, etc.

On the very same day in the Donetsk People's Republic, more than ten UAVs hit the Sigma hypermarket in the city of Donetsk (unlike certain Ukrainian shopping centres, it was not being used for the storage of munitions and weapons, as can be seen very clearly in open-source photographs). Six civilians were injured, including a boy born in 2010. Numerous residential buildings were damaged.

On that same Sunday, the residents of the Kursk region were also roused from their sleep by UAV strikes. Three people from the Belovsky district were injured, including a 15-year-old lad. A Ukrainian drone attacked a civilian motor vehicle on a stretch of the road between the villages of Lomakino and Akimovka in the Rylsky district. Four people were travelling in that car; a woman was killed on the spot. There were a series of attempts to attack all cars driving on the road.

Residents of the Kherson region, too, perished and suffered injuries at the hands of the Ukrainian armed forces on Sunday. A direct hit by a shell killed a civilian woman in the city of Golaya Pristan. There was a further female casualty in the village of Bekhtery, in this case caused by the detonation of a mine dropped by fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces.

And all this in just one day. This bitter litany could go on and on.

Madam Chairperson,

We would very much like to get the FSC to revert to the communication format for the sake of which it was created. But, alas, those speaking here cannot come up with anything new other than to brand Russia as a violator of all kinds of international rules and laws. The special operation launched by us is absolutely legitimate. In April 2014, the Ukrainian regime unleashed a *de facto* civil war against Donbass, whose self-proclaimed republics – the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk – had declared their independence. For over seven years, Russia sought in good faith to facilitate a peaceful solution to what was at the time an intra-Ukrainian conflict, doing so on the basis of the Minsk Package of Measures endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. Russia tried to reach agreement with the United States and NATO on mutual security guarantees and invited them at the end of 2021 to conclude corresponding treaties – something that was rejected.

In January-February 2022, the Kyiv regime deliberately opted to escalate tensions by subjecting Donbass to heavy bombardment. In these circumstances we had no other choice but to recognize the independence of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, which had requested our assistance. On

24 February 2022, we launched the special military operation to protect Donbass, demilitarize and denazify Ukraine, and eliminate the threats to Russia's security emanating from Ukrainian territory.

Where do we stand now? Well, European hawks such as European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen are now announcing plans to rearm Europe by 2030 and blow 800 billion euros on that project, which she has christened the "Preserving Peace – Defence Readiness Roadmap". Ordinary EU citizens will not be asked whether it might not be better to spend all that money on socio-economic development or for peaceful scientific purposes. No. For the European elites, Ukraine is a military test site. Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark and other countries are enthusiastically opening new factories on their territory to manufacture UAVs for Ukraine, testing them out straight away on Russian civilians and then turning out further lethal weaponry. Stop. This path will come to no good end.

Thank you for your attention.