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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1119th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

29 October 2025

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

Madam Chairperson,

The Russian Federation continues to ward off the terrorist actions of the Kyiv regime and the Western handlers whose support it enjoys, repulsing daily artillery and missile attacks on peaceful neighbourhoods, critical facilities and civilian infrastructure facilities.

The Russian armed forces at present hold the strategic initiative along the entire line of contact. As at the start of October, we were in control of almost 100 per cent of the territory in the Lugansk People's Republic, more than 80 per cent in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and around 75 per cent in the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions. Russian troops liberated the following population centres over the past week: Dronovka and Promin (DPR); Egorovka, Ivanovka and Pershotravnevoye (Dnepropetrovsk region); Novonikolaevka, Privolnoe and Pavlovka (Zaporozhye region); and Bologovka (Kharkov region). The Russian armed forces are successfully advancing in the southern part of the city of Volchansk. The operation to dislodge the enemy from the settlement of Yampol is being wrapped up.

In response to Ukraine's terrorist attacks against civilian objects on Russian territory, our troops have used long-range ground-based precision weapons and unmanned combat aerial vehicles to launch a wave of strikes against enterprises belonging to the Ukrainian military-industrial complex and energy infrastructure facilities sustaining its operations. Strikes have been conducted on railway facilities being used by the Ukrainian armed forces to transport weapons and military equipment, including hardware of this kind manufactured by NATO and EU countries. Going forward, our country's armed forces will continue to systematically destroy the Ukrainian armed forces' logistics. Contrary to the mantras of Western countries being parroted here, we are not targeting the civilian population or civilian infrastructure. Quite the opposite: the Russian military is on purpose not completely destroying those very bridges referred to earlier, so as to allow civilians to evacuate and receive provisions.

As ordered by our country's leadership, the systematic work on creating a buffer zone between the Russian Federation and Ukraine continues. This has to do with the fact that the Kyiv regime continues to

shell, bomb and fly unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) against Russian territory, including the Bryansk, Belgorod and Kursk regions. In that regard, we have taken note of the statement made on 27 October of this year by the Kyiv regime's leader about expanding the geographical scope of strikes deep into Russian Federation territory. The authorities in Kyiv and in the Western capitals that are inciting the Kyiv regime to continue the hostilities must understand that this would unfailingly give rise to a proportionate and quite painful response for the Ukrainian war machine being nurtured by NATO and the European Union.

We can see that the Kyiv regime's sponsors in the shape of the United Kingdom and several other European countries continue, out of opportunistic geopolitical considerations, to put the provision of "security guarantees" for Ukraine ahead of everything else. By these they, to be sure, understand not security, but the same old war "down to the last Ukrainian", since such "guarantees" involve improving the combat effectiveness of the Ukrainian armed forces, stationing a military contingent from NATO States in Ukraine and building up the military capabilities of European countries. This is no more than the continued militarization of Ukraine and preparation for a foreign intervention.

We know that such plans are not being discounted by France, in particular, which is preparing to deploy a troop contingent of up to 2,000 soldiers and officers to our neighbouring country. Reports from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service indicate that assault troops from the French Foreign Legion will make up the backbone of that formation. As a smoke screen, the plan is to designate them as "a small group of instructors coming to Ukraine to train newly mobilized soldiers from the Ukrainian armed forces". It is symptomatic that the French – aware as they are that these legionnaires will become a legitimate military target for Russian troops – are fast-tracking the setting up of additional hospital beds for treatment of the wounded in their country's hospitals. This raises the question: to what end is France consciously embarking on the escalation of military tensions in Europe?

The European Council's meeting on 23 October confirmed the intention to ramp up EU Member States' readiness for war by 2030 and to develop the "full spectrum" of modern military capabilities to complement those of NATO. This adventurist policy has already undermined the continent's prosperity, forcing Europeans to tighten their belts even more. Paying for the upkeep of Ukraine and the militarization of Europe is not what local taxpayers voted for, yet they are systematically having a proxy war against Russia foisted on them – a proxy war in which, as European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen put it yesterday, "Ukrainian forces fly fighter jets from Denmark, sail Swedish boats, fire Finnish artillery, use Norwegian drones ...".

Squeezing out money from the civilian population to meet military needs is becoming an increasingly difficult task for the European political elites. It appears that this is the reason for the weakening of military assistance to the Kyiv regime in recent months, despite the announcements made by a number of EU and NATO countries about supplying new arms "packages". The Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* estimates that the volume of aid pledged by Europe to the Kyiv regime has shrunk from 3.8 to 1.9 billion euros a month since July of this year. This is corroborated by data from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy suggesting that the monthly aid allocations to Ukraine from European countries in July and August have already fallen by 43 per cent compared to the first half of the year, even when factoring in their contributions to the Prioritized Ukraine Requirements List (PURL) initiative for the procurement of US-manufactured armaments.

We must once again stress that the West's shipping of armaments to the Kyiv regime and assistance in training the Ukrainian military will not change the situation on the battlefield. The course towards militarization being steered by the authorities in Brussels is destabilizing the situation even further. This clearly does not bode well for Europe.

Madam Chairperson,

With the conscious connivance of its Western handlers, the Kyiv regime continues its systematic violations of international humanitarian law. The Ukrainian armed forces have civilians, civilian vehicles and civilian infrastructure in their cross hairs. Over the past week alone, their artillery and missile attacks and Ukrainian UAV strikes claimed 113 Russian civilian casualties, of whom 19 people were killed, including one child, and 94 people were injured, including ten minors. The worst impacts were recorded in the Belgorod, Bryansk and Kherson regions and the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk.

On 23 October, a barrage of drone strikes hit the city of Belgorod and nearby population centres. There were no fewer than 20 civilian casualties, including children and adolescents. On 26 October, Yasinovataya (DPR) was shelled by HIMARS rocket artillery, killing a family of three, including a child. In the early hours of 27 October, a UAV strike in the city of Donetsk claimed the lives of two women and injured a young girl. On that same day, a drone belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces attacked a minibus carrying civilians in the Bryansk region, killing the driver and injuring five passengers.

The Kyiv regime is not stopping at terrorist attacks deep inside Russian territory either. In the early hours of 24 October, five civilians were seriously injured, including a boy born in 2017, as the result of a Ukrainian UAV hitting a high-rise residential building in the city of Krasnogorsk near Moscow.

Particularly concerning is the Ukrainian armed forces' use of explosive devices disguised as household items in places where large numbers of people gather, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the Inhumane Weapons Convention. For example, an elderly married couple were caught up in an explosion on a busy street near a playground in the city of Lugansk. The husband succumbed to his injuries.

The attacks on medical and rescue services continue. On 26 October, an ambulance that was on its way to a patient in the Kherson region was hit by a UAV strike. It was only by chance that there were no casualties.

In total, at least 3,250 munitions were fired at civilian objects on Russian territory by Ukrainian armed formations over the past week, including rockets from multiple rocket launchers, artillery shells of 152 mm and 155 mm calibre (including shells with cluster warheads), mines, grenades and UAV-fired munitions. The overwhelming majority of these armaments were manufactured and supplied by Western countries, these being direct accomplices in the Kyiv regime's crimes.

I must emphasize once again that the Russian competent authorities are methodically and thoroughly documenting facts concerning the Kyiv regime's crimes. These facts are being brought to the notice of the international community, despite the media curtain put up by Western countries for their citizens. Here in Europe there are sober voices capable of an objective perception of what is going on. We were able to see this for ourselves during, for example, the recent event entitled "On the Road to Liberating the LPR [Lugansk People's Republic]" that was organized by our delegation together with Ambassador-at-Large Rodion Miroshnik from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The authorities in Kyiv are resorting to terrorist methods in acting against civilian infrastructure as well as against the civilian population. This is clearly not taking place without the approval of their Western handlers, whose weapons are being used as part of these illegal campaigns.

Those present in this room will hardly have forgotten what consequences for the civilian population and the environment were entailed by the Ukrainian armed forces' destructive attacks on the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station in 2023 and their release of water from the Kurakhovo reservoir in 2024. The

Kyiv regime's handlers tried to lay the blame at Russia's door at the time. But what are we seeing now? Since last Friday, there has been continued shelling of the Belgorod reservoir by the Ukrainian armed forces, which have been using, *inter alia*, GMLRS missiles launched from HIMARS systems. We remember how at the last meeting our opponents rushed as one to condemn us for strikes on Ukrainian energy facilities sustaining that country's military-industrial complex, but why do they remain silent in response to terrorist attacks against civilian infrastructure? Open your eyes to what is going on.

However, we entertain no illusions on that score: Western countries are openly showing disregard for international humanitarian law within their own borders. Suffice it to say that a ceremony was held at an air base in the Norwegian town of Bodø on 10 October to mark the opening of a NATO Combined Air Operations Centre, which, should the need arise, will be responsible for combat operations in the north-western sector of the Alliance's airspace. This idea has already been criticized by representatives of the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, a human rights organization, who pointed out that placing a military objective in the immediate vicinity of densely populated areas may run counter to international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions. But what does this matter to the authorities in Oslo, who react with indifference to such incidents as the one in July 2024 when the fragments of a missile from a Norwegian-made NASAMS system hit the Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital in Kyiv?

In addition to the civilian population, ordinary Ukrainians on the front lines also suffer at the hands of the Ukrainian armed formations when they are captured or attempt to voluntarily surrender. As is well known, the Ukrainian "fighters" try in such cases to take out their "comrades-in-arms" using UAVs or simply with a bullet to the back. In that regard, as instructed by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, with a view to minimizing unnecessary casualties, our troops are taking exhaustive measures of every kind to enable Ukrainian military personnel to surrender into captivity – of course, in the case of those who do wish to surrender.

It is also worth recalling how Western countries are encouraging mercenarism in Ukraine, where their own citizens are used as cannon fodder and are even complaining to their national authorities about breaches of contract and how it is impossible for them to leave the area of combat operations. I should reiterate yet again that serving as a mercenary is a prohibited activity – criminal proceedings are instituted against "legionnaires" fighting in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces; these individuals are put on international wanted lists. No one will evade responsibility.

The goals set at the beginning of the special military operation and outlined in detail by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, in his address of 14 June 2024 will be achieved in any case. We are ready to pursue this path using both diplomatic and military means. The longer the attempts by our adversaries and their sponsors go on to draw our country into an armed confrontation or, as a last resort, to intimidate our people through terror campaigns, the harsher the "conditions on the ground" that they will have to face up to.

Thank you for your attention.