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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1139th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

10 June 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, allow me to draw attention to some pronouncements flying in the face of international humanitarian law voiced by a number of delegations that were repeated here multiple times during the previous meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

I must restate the context. During the night of 21 to 22 May, the Ukrainian armed forces carried out a terrorist attack against students at a teacher training college in Starobelsk. The attack on the college's dormitory, where teenagers were lying fast asleep, was conducted in three waves using 16 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including four heavy, fixed-wing UAVs (you can familiarize yourselves with their tactical and technical characteristics in the text of the Russian delegation's statement of 3 June). There were no military facilities whatsoever in the vicinity of the crime scene. Eighteen young women and three young men, all under the age of 22, were killed, while a further 49 students (including 19 minors) were injured. The Ukrainian armed forces' culpability was verified by some fifty foreign journalists who promptly turned up in Starobelsk. The accuracy of the information was acknowledged by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Staff from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited the town, where they saw for themselves the humanitarian consequences of the strike and met with the victims. On 6 June, materials relating to the Ukrainian armed forces' terrorist attack on the college and dormitory in Starobelsk were submitted by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the United Nations.

The Russian Federation gave the residents of Kyiv and foreign diplomats advance notice of impending retaliatory strikes against facilities in Kyiv belonging to the military-industrial complex – something that was interpreted by the representatives of several countries as a deliberate threat and provocation. Namely (in the order in which they spoke) by Ukraine, the delegation of the European Union, the United Kingdom and Canada. I apologize if we have left anyone out. If so, please let us know and we will update the list.

The reaction of some of those present at the last meeting suggests certain gaps in their understanding of the basic norms of international humanitarian law.

Article 57 in Chapter IV (“Precautionary measures”) of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 states that, in the conduct of military operations – and here I am quoting verbatim – “effective advance warning shall be given of attacks which may affect the civilian population, unless circumstances do not permit it.”

Given the particular importance of the matter, I shall cite a few more paragraphs from Article 57. All feasible precautions must be taken to ensure that objectives targeted by the armed forces are neither civilians nor civilian objects. An operation must be cancelled or suspended if it becomes clear that the objective is not a military one. In the conduct of military operations at sea or in the air, each party to the conflict must, in conformity with its rights and duties under the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, take all reasonable precautions to avoid losses among the civilian population and damage to civilian objects.

We urge that, before making accusations, the delegations familiarize themselves with the norms and principles of international humanitarian law in order to avoid misinterpretations in the future that could lead to unpredictable consequences. Surely we are entitled to expect this from those who presume to speak so assuredly on such a topic without having a proper mastery of it.

In the case of the destruction of facilities in Kyiv belonging to the military-industrial complex, the Russian Federation, acting in full compliance with the strictest requirements of international humanitarian law, waived, as a gesture of goodwill, its legal right to invoke military necessity and keep its strike plans secret. This was done to minimize harm to civilians, including civilian personnel involved in the operation of such facilities (I would remind you that the retaliatory strikes were carried out at night, when most plants and organizations were not operating). And, of course, to protect foreign diplomats.

The Kyiv regime, by contrast, attacked facilities located in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (held from 3 to 6 June this year) and the “St. Petersburg Seasons” festival held in conjunction with it, a large-scale festival that takes place every year during the White Nights period, when cultural life continues around the clock.

In the early hours of 3 June, on the eve of the opening of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Russian air defence forces shot down nearly 60 Ukrainian UAVs in the skies above the city.

Later, “in the early hours of 6 June, Ukrainian drones carried out strikes on several Russian regions at once. Nearly 150 drones attacked the Leningrad region. St. Petersburg also came under fire ...” To pre-empt any misunderstandings, I should point out right away that this was an excerpt from a report by the BBC’s Russian Service.

It is clear that these drones were by no means travelling through Russian or Belarusian territory. This raises the question of whether our geographical neighbours are actually capable of controlling their own airspace. It is not surprising that the Ukrainian UAV strikes on St. Petersburg caused quite a stir in the Finnish media, as people in Finland continue to be concerned about the risk of drones belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces “accidentally straying” into Finnish territory. Finland has even raised the alert level of its armed forces and introduced restrictions on flights and maritime traffic in the south and south-east of the country. And here I should, in particular, like to make the various delegations that have been accusing Russia of redirecting Ukrainian UAVs towards the territory of neighbouring countries aware of how Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo has said that the Finnish authorities can currently see no signs that Russia is attempting to direct Ukrainian drones towards Finland.

Let us return, though, to the Ukrainian armed forces' drone attacks on our northern capital. According to preliminary data, the main weapon used was the Liutyi UAV. This is a fixed-wing drone, 4.4 m long with a wingspan of 6.7 m. Its flight range is just over 1,000 km and its maximum speed can reach up to 800 km/h. It carries a fragmentation warhead weighing 50 or 75 kg. The assembly of this UAV model is carried out in Poland. The Liutyi is equipped with a two-cylinder Hirth F-23 internal combustion engine (50 horsepower) manufactured in Germany, which has become one of the main sponsors of Ukrainian terrorism.

At the time of the Ukrainian armed forces' UAV strikes, representatives of more than 140 countries were physically present in the city and its environs: members of the Saudi royal family, Heads of State, high-ranking politicians, around 40 foreign delegations (including a group of Members of the European Parliament), representatives of international humanitarian organizations (including Rania Machlab, the head of the ICRC delegation to Russia and Belarus), foreign businesspeople, journalists and numerous volunteers and tourists. To our opponents I would point out this: fellow citizens of many of you were gathered there.

The lives of these people were deliberately endangered by the Kyiv regime in order to generate media hype and make a splash of sorts, despite the negligible military rationale – something that constitutes a gross violation of international humanitarian law. In his address on 5 June, Volodymyr Zelenskyy publicly accepted responsibility both for the provocation that had already taken place on 3 June and for the one that was yet to come.

The criminal nature of the Kyiv regime's actions is further underscored by the fact that, at the time the strikes against St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region were being planned and carried out, "ambassadors of all NATO member States" were, as reported, in the Ukrainian capital, as was the bloc's Secretary General, Mark Rutte. This raises a logical question: were the diplomats from NATO countries informed that they were being used as human shields in the event of a retaliatory strike in response to these attacks? Did Ukraine inform its partners that, during their stay in Kyiv, the Ukrainian armed forces would be carrying out strikes that would put EU and US citizens, among others, in mortal danger?

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past week, the frequency of the Ukrainian armed forces' artillery, missile and drone attacks on Russian civilian objects has reached its highest level in a year and a half, with the weekly rate of munitions fired exceeding 4,700 for the first time between 1 and 7 June. On 5 June, the ICRC was obliged to officially state: "In recent days, there has been a sharp rise in the number of civilian casualties and attacks on civilian objects in Donetsk and Lugansk." As a result, civilian casualty figures have peaked: at least 234 people were injured, including 18 minors, while 43 civilians were killed. To make it more readily understandable: compared with the terrorist attack in Starobelsk, twice as many civilians were killed and four times as many civilians were injured.

The deadliest attack since the Starobelsk tragedy was a deliberate strike by the Ukrainian armed forces on a passenger bus travelling from Podolsk (a city in the Moscow region) to Simferopol. The attack took place early in the morning of 3 June – again, behind the back of Mr. Rutte, who had arrived in Kyiv – using a UAV that struck as the vehicle was travelling through a residential area of the town of Yenakievo in the Donetsk People's Republic. There were no military facilities near the site of the attack. The bus was carrying only civilians, the full names of whom have been published. The drone was directed at the rear of the bus, where the largest number of passengers were seated, and the vehicle was completely burned out. Eight people were killed, while a further 12 civilians sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity. Among the casualties was a ten-year-old child. The drone operator could not have failed to see that he was

attacking a civilian vehicle. According to preliminary data, a new model of Ukrainian kamikaze strike drone, either the Morrigan or the B-2, was used to carry out the attack. It is indicative that such UAVs feature an advanced target acquisition system incorporating an artificial intelligence module, which the Kyiv regime could not possibly have developed “on its own”.

Our country’s Investigative Committee has opened criminal proceedings under Article 205 (“Act of terrorism”) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. We will provide timely updates on the findings of the investigation and the measures taken in this connection to demilitarize the Kyiv regime.

Although the Kyiv regime is attempting to pass off certain drone models as “nationally produced”, it is common knowledge that most of the weapons used by the Ukrainian armed forces to carry out strikes on the civilian population of the Russian Federation were either developed or manufactured and supplied by the Western accomplices in the regime’s crimes. The European UAV manufacturing sector is burgeoning, driven by ever new investment and technologies, and production volumes are being ramped up. Ukraine has been turned into a testing ground, in particular for the development of new unmanned system technologies. This is evidenced by characteristic features of the software and markings on the components, which are being carefully examined by the competent Russian authorities.

So who, then, are the principal sponsors of the slaughtering of Russians? First and foremost, the members of the European “drone coalition”, led by Latvia and the United Kingdom – a coalition that has supplied over 215,000 UAVs to cater to the Ukrainian terrorists’ needs (in 2025, Latvia supplied 17,000 UAVs, while the United Kingdom supplied around 120,000). In total, as reported by Western sources, the Kyiv regime has received over 1.5 million drones from its foreign backers. In order to practise the large-scale deployment of UAVs, it is planned to make use of the recently inaugurated Sēlija training area, the largest of its kind in the Baltic States. Joint exercises between Latvia and the Netherlands are scheduled to take place there, involving Ukrainian armed forces personnel specialized in the use of unmanned systems.

We would once again draw the attention of the Kyiv regime’s European sponsors to the fact that, as a result of the testing of your drone “innovations”, non-combatants are being killed (to clarify: we are talking here about civilians). The Kyiv regime is carrying out not only indiscriminate but also targeted strikes on civilians. Recently, the Ukrainian armed forces have resumed the organization of terrorist attacks against railway infrastructure (just picture to yourselves how citizens from your countries too – journalists, members of the diplomatic corps, or simply tourists – might be on board a passenger train suddenly coming under fire on the territory of the Russian Federation):

- On 2 June, a Ukrainian UAV struck a passenger train at the Dzhankoy railway station.
- On 4 June, an attack was carried out against a train operating on the Azovskoye-Kerch route; people were killed and injured.
- On 8 June, drones belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces attacked the locomotive of the Moscow-Simferopol passenger train, killing the assistant train driver.

Over the past week alone, 94 per cent of the civilians in our country who were injured or killed were the victims of Ukrainian UAVs.

Why is there silence about this at the OSCE? Why does the FSC remain silent? We exhort all sovereign governments and relevant international bodies to explicitly call things by their proper names and

to strongly condemn the brutal acts of terrorism perpetrated by the Kyiv regime in violation of international humanitarian law.

We would emphatically remind the Kyiv regime's European sponsors that by handing out money to the regime so that it can acquire drones, you are also putting your own citizens at risk. A few days ago, a naval drone of Ukrainian origin exploded at the seaport of Constanța in Romania.

Earlier, on 28 and 29 May, the Greek authorities registered, through diplomatic channels, their "strong protest" with the Kyiv regime over the "illegal presence" in Greek territorial waters of an uncrewed surface vessel that was equipped with explosives and had seriously endangered maritime traffic and the civilian population. At the same time, the authorities in Athens emphasized that Ukraine's right to self-defence cannot serve as a justification for such actions. But do you, colleagues, have any guarantees that, going forward, the Zelenskyy regime will not continue to use Greek waters for sabotage activities? Does Romania have corresponding guarantees?

While the minds of the European elites remain befogged by Russophobia, the armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to demilitarize Ukraine. Since 2 June, the Russian armed forces have intercepted and destroyed at least 2,800 Ukrainian UAVs over various regions of our country. Russian troops continue to knock the tools of slaughter out of the enemy's hands by striking storage facilities and launch pads for long-range drones. We are targeting plants producing UAVs for the Ukrainian armed forces, including enterprises with foreign involvement.

The Russian army consistently holds the initiative along the line of engagement. TOS-1A Solntsepyok heavy flamethrower system crews are setting ablaze enemy strongholds in the Sumy region. Su-34 aircraft from the Russian Aerospace Forces are conducting strikes against enemy personnel and UAV command posts. Fortified positions held by the Ukrainian armed forces' formations on the Dnepropetrovsk front have been captured.

For the benefit of those in Europe who have not yet realized this, we wish to reiterate that the ongoing threats to the security of Russia and its citizens being posed by the Kyiv regime with the support of NATO and EU countries make it imperative to continue the special military operation. The organizers and perpetrators of crimes against the Russian Federation's civilian population must reckon with inescapable retribution. Those who instigated and aided the atrocities committed by the Kyiv regime will inevitably be held to account. The special military operation's goals and objectives will be accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.