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**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY  
REVIEW CONFERENCE**

17 and 18 June 2026

**Special session: Security situation in the OSCE area**

Mr. Chairperson,

Since our previous meeting, the security situation in the OSCE area has deteriorated significantly. NATO and EU countries are actively preparing for a direct military confrontation with Russia, steadily expanding the front and employing increasingly sophisticated methods in the hybrid war they themselves have unleashed against our country – a war that has gone so far as to include attacks on student dormitories, acts of piracy on shipping routes and the reburial of Nazi ideologues. Judging by the public and diplomatic response, the drone that crashed in Romania shook NATO and the European Union to the core, while the uncrewed surface vessel (USV) intercepted by Greek fishermen in the Ionian Sea carrying 300 kilograms of explosives; the USV that exploded in the waters off Constanța; the gaping hole in the wall of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant resulting from an attack by the Ukrainian armed forces, which brought the whole of Europe to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe; and the numerous other instances of war crimes, terrorist activities and the most flagrant violations of fundamental humanitarian norms by the Kyiv regime were shamefully swept under the rug.

The volume of resources allocated to military purposes is growing rapidly. The aggregate defence expenditure of NATO countries already accounts for more than half of the global total. And if the agreed targets for increasing military appropriations to 5 per cent are met, NATO's share of expenditure will reach 65 per cent within the next five to ten years. In other words, the remaining 131 countries of the world will account for just 35 per cent. Global domination – that is the true aim of NATO's policymakers.

One more thing. A few days ago, Chief of the Luftwaffe Lieutenant General Holger Neumann stated that Germany was already prepared to “fight” against Russia and, if necessary, would, alongside NATO, strike the Kola Peninsula, Kaliningrad and the Black Sea. Let us open the Treaty on the final settlement with respect to Germany of 12 September 1990. Let us read Article 2: “... only peace will emanate from German soil.”

Given that NATO's and the European Union's military preparations are increasingly reminiscent of Operation Barbarossa, it is worth noting that this Conference is taking place in the run-up to the 85th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War, which became not only a tragic chapter in the

history of the Soviet people, but also a symbol of their courage, resilience and unshakeable will for victory. On 22 June 1941, Hitler's Germany, backed by its European allies, launched a treacherous attack on the Soviet Union, seeking to destroy the country and enslave its people.

In addition to the 4.1 million-strong army deployed by Hitler for the "war in the East", troops from Romania (380,400), Finland (340,600), Italy (61,900), Hungary (44,500), Slovakia (42,500), as well as units from Norway and Croatia, invaded the territory of the USSR alongside the Wehrmacht. Following the occupation of the Soviet Baltic States and Ukraine, battalions of nationalists and collaborators were formed from among the populations of these republics. To give an overall picture, the Wehrmacht comprised 22 so-called national SS divisions made up of volunteers. The total number of foreign volunteers stood at 522,000 – 57 per cent of the total strength of the Waffen-SS. I shall list just a few of these volunteer units: "Wiking", "Skanderbeg", "Langemarck", "Dirlewanger", "Karstjäger", "Wallonien", "Flemish Legion", "Handschar", "Free Arabian Legion", "Hunyadi", "Nordland", "Landstorm Nederland", "Free Corps Denmark", "Schalburg Corps", "Goral Legion". The "Galicia Division" committed atrocities against Poles, Belarusians and other nationalities.

They all met the same fate. Let me cite just a few facts. The Spanish "Blue Division", which took part in the siege of Leningrad, sustained losses of around 5,000 killed and 8,800 wounded. The Hungarian Second Army lost 150,000 men. Total losses among Italian troops amounted to more than 180,000 men. The SS "Nederland" Mechanized Brigade and the SS "Wallonien" Assault Brigade were almost completely wiped out in 1944 near Narva and in the Korsun-Cherkassy Pocket, respectively. Part of the French "Charlemagne Division" surrendered to the Americans, whilst its other units met their end at the walls of the Reich Chancellery. Finland's participation in the war came to a halt thanks to the Leningrad-Novgorod, Vyborg-Petrozavodsk and Svir-Petrozavodsk offensives launched by Soviet forces in 1944.

States engaged in collaboration with fascism supplied natural resources, industrial goods and weapons: one in five German tanks was produced in the Czech Republic by the Škoda automotive group; half of Dutch industrial products were manufactured to order for the Reich; and one in three German tanks came about as a result of supplies of Swedish iron ore. France alone, by January 1944, had supplied the front with 4,000 aeroplanes, some 10,000 aeroplane engines, more than 4,500 artillery pieces and 52,000 lorries from its 15,000 factories. Drawing on Europe's industrial and human resources, Nazi Germany was able to mobilize for war, arm and maintain almost a quarter of its military contingents, numbering 1 million men, equipped with 42,601 artillery pieces, 4,171 tanks and assault guns and 4,846 aeroplanes.

Today in Europe, the arms race is gathering pace once again; the number of military exercises is on the rise, and industry is being channelled into military production. What is even more dangerous is that, through a comprehensive brainwashing campaign, the minds of European citizens are being deliberately conditioned for an "inevitable" confrontation with Russia. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte is warning that a conflict is looming, the likes of which several generations of Europeans have not seen. NATO and EU member States are doing everything they can to ensure that their "prophecy" comes true. They are plying Ukraine's neo-Nazi regime with weapons and military equipment. This unbridled support for the Kyiv regime is an affront to the memory of our allied brothers-in-arms, the soldiers of the national units of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition who fell in battle against the fascists – the Polish First Army, the Czechoslovak Battalion, the "Normandie-Niemen" squadron, the partisan units in Greece and the Baltic States, the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia, the French and Norwegian Resistance, the participants in the Slovak National Uprising and many others.

We had no intention of attacking anyone back then, nor do we have any intention of doing so now, contrary to what high-ranking European and NATO officials are trying to convince their citizens of. It was we who, 85 years ago, were visited by uninvited guests, almost entirely from Europe. At the cost of

unprecedented sacrifices – the loss of 27 million lives – the Soviet Union fulfilled its mission of liberation by putting an end to fascist rule in Europe. More than seven million Soviet soldiers took part in the liberation of ten European countries. Almost one and a half million people gave their lives for their freedom. Without the Red Army, the liberation of Europe from the brutal yoke of Nazism would have been impossible.

Mr. Chairperson,

Speaking at an OSCE Ministerial Council meeting, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas stated that, “as is well known”, in the last 100 years, Russia has attacked at least 19 countries, some as many as three or four times. And no one objected, no one flinched, no one questioned it; some even nodded in approval. This remark served as a sad confirmation of the well-known adage that history teaches us nothing. But, let me remind you, Mr. Chairperson, history punishes us severely for lessons left unlearned.