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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1146th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

23 September 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In the absence of any real prospects on the battlefield, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's regime continues to devise futile plans to inflict a "strategic defeat" on the Russian Federation – plans that, at the cynical instigation of the Euro-Atlantic elites, are being funded from the pockets of taxpayers in NATO and EU countries. On 20 September, at a summit in Zakarpattia, he announced yet another 40-day operation, this time aimed at "defeating Russia". The previous "40-day campaign", which was accompanied by terrorism against the civilian population of our country, ended with Ukraine losing its shipping industry, its steel industry, petrol filling stations in front-line areas and many depots – in short, all that is being used by the authorities in Kyiv to sustain the military-industrial complex and, in particular, to carry out drone strikes against the civilian infrastructure of the Russian Federation.

It should be recalled that, in 2023, the Ukrainian military and their NATO handlers spent months preparing a counteroffensive, and that the units tasked with leading it were supplied with the latest Western heavy weaponry, including British-made Challenger 2 tanks, German-made Leopard 2 tanks and US-made M2 Bradley armoured infantry fighting vehicles. However, the so-called counteroffensive turned out to be a failure for the Ukrainian armed forces, resulting in heavy personnel and equipment losses and breaking their troops' morale. None of the much-vaunted "game-changing" weapons supplied by NATO and EU countries ever managed to help the Kyiv regime on the battlefield.

Another example is the terrorist operation launched by the Kyiv regime on 6 August 2024 against the Kursk region of the Russian Federation. The "fighters" from the Ukrainian armed forces and Western mercenaries who invaded our territory acted in the manner of the most savage terrorists: they shot civilians attempting to leave the combat zone, fired on civilian cars and on ambulances, engaged in looting, attacked journalists, struck civilian objects, raped women and abused old people. Before long, Russian troops routed the enemy and drove them out of the Kursk region; the "element of surprise" never quite gave Ukraine that "decisive breakthrough".

It is most telling that the Kyiv regime always takes its frustration out on civilians as it seeks to undermine our country's unity. On 19 and 20 September, with the aim of disrupting the democratic expression of our citizens' will in the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Ukrainian armed forces attempted to conduct a large-scale attack using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and Flamingo cruise missiles. Thanks to the actions of our surface-to-air missile system crews, mobile artillery teams, and the crews of our fighter aircraft and army aviation, 1,951 unmanned combat aerial vehicles and eight long-range cruise missiles were shot down over Russian regions within the space of 24 hours. All the Flamingo missiles launched by the Kyiv regime were destroyed by air defence assets as they approached civilian objects in the Moscow region.

To paraphrase the Russian historian Vasily Klyuchevsky, history has taught the Kyiv regime and its backers absolutely nothing. Once again, their objectives were not achieved. In response to attacks on civilian objects, the armed forces of the Russian Federation will continue and intensify their strikes on military objectives in Kyiv. Between 1 August and 22 September, our troops used precision weapons and UAVs to conduct strikes against more than 160 enterprises belonging to Ukraine's military-industrial complex; fuel and energy facilities and transport and port infrastructure sustaining that complex; sites where combat drones and attack uncrewed surface vessels are assembled, stored and prepared for launching; and temporary bases of the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries. We have repeatedly warned (and sent out relevant notes to the diplomatic corps in Moscow and via our embassies abroad) of the need for foreign nationals, including diplomats and their family members, to leave Kyiv owing to the shift towards systematic and sustained strikes against Ukraine's military-industrial complex facilities, command and decision-making centres, and other facilities used in the interests of the Ukrainian armed forces. We would also draw attention to the fact that the Zelenskyy regime is cynically using high-ranking foreign guests as human shields to cover for its military convoys.

We can also see how, amid the swift advance of Russian troops on all fronts, the authorities in Kyiv are once again trying to convince their Western backers that the Ukrainian armed forces are capable of offering resistance. At the same time, with the help of the Western media and "military experts", the Kyiv regime is seeking to portray the actions of its "fighters" as major successes on the battlefield and as evidence of their seizing the initiative from our troops. In reality, however, the enemy's small assault groups attempting to break their way through our combat formations near the line of engagement are suffering significant personnel losses. We would note, in particular, that, since the start of this year, the armed forces of the Russian Federation have liberated over 5,300 square kilometres of territory and more than 220 population centres. Between 1 August and 21 September, no fewer than 69 population centres came under Russian control. Our troops made successful advances in four regions, gaining control over 25 settlements in the Donetsk People's Republic, 25 in the Kharkov region, 15 in the Zaporozhye region and four in the Sumy region.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European globalist elites have already staked their "political capital" on confrontation with Russia, spending hundreds of billions of dollars on propping up the Kyiv regime and on increasing the military budgets of EU and NATO States. The plan in Europe is to achieve "combat readiness" for a conflict with Russia by 2030. Until then, they want to play for time using various methods. As the Belgian Chief of Defence, Frederik Vansina, cynically stated in April, "we still have a few years ahead of us. Thanks to the ... blood of the Ukrainians, who are buying us that time." Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski has made similar remarks, describing Ukraine as a "functional ally" that helps to keep Russian troops as far away from the Polish border as possible. Essentially, a horrific concept of war down to the last Ukrainian is being put into practice here before the eyes of the whole world.

During the 36th meeting of the Ramstein-format contact group on Ukraine, held in September, the Netherlands pledged to supply the Kyiv regime with 300 missiles, ostensibly for the purpose of countering drones, and to contribute 300 million dollars towards the “Drone Line” project. Germany committed to supplying further interceptor missiles for the Patriot system and additional missiles for F-16 aircraft, and also to financing further drone purchases for the Ukrainian armed forces. The United Kingdom pledged to supply, by the end of this year, 95,000 of the 125,000 UAVs of various types it had previously promised, to arrange for the delivery of tens of thousands of extended-range artillery shells purchased with funds from other States, and to allocate 100 million pounds sterling (approximately 135 million dollars) under the NATO initiative for the emergency procurement of US weaponry, including missiles for the Patriot system. The intensity of cargo flights to the Polish airport of Rzeszów – which serves as a logistics hub for arms deliveries to Ukraine – bears witness to the virtually daily shipments of military hardware to the Kyiv regime.

In addition to the weapons used on a daily basis to launch attacks on our country’s civilian infrastructure and its civilian population, NATO and EU member States are making their territory available to the Kyiv regime for the establishment of joint arms production facilities. The ongoing “merger” between Ukraine’s military-industrial complex and that of Western countries indicates that these are becoming entrenched as *de facto* parties to the conflict, and that Europe is unwilling to pursue de-escalation. We should like to emphasize that the Russian Federation reserves the right to take commensurate and proportionate action in exercise of its right to self-defence: any military installations belonging to NATO or EU countries in Ukraine that are used for strikes against Russian territory constitute a legitimate military target. In this regard, full responsibility for any further adverse developments lies with the States in question.

We would also point out that the supplying of weapons to the Kyiv regime and the rendering of assistance in their use, along with other forms of material and non-material support for the regime, including the provision of financial resources, are not helping to settle the conflict, but rather leading to its prolongation and escalation, and encouraging Zelenskyy to commit ever more war crimes and other kinds of crimes. On 1 September, he publicly announced his intention to use UAVs to carry out attacks against civil aviation in Russian airspace. Connivance with such criminal schemes, which pose a direct threat to civilian lives, is categorically unacceptable.

Between 14 and 20 September alone, attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces left 338 non-combatants injured, including 18 children, while 41 people were killed, including four minors. All in all, with the complicity of NATO and EU member countries, the Ukrainian armed forces fired at least 8,889 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory during that period.

Let us take a look at how the Kyiv regime selects targets for its strikes.

On 24 July, a warehouse belonging to the Russian online retailer Wildberries in the municipal settlement of Shushary, in the Leningrad region, was attacked by Ukrainian UAVs. At the time, more than 230 employees were on-site at the facility. A total of 14 drone strikes were recorded: the drones pierced the roof, struck the facility’s power substation and set fire to the warehouse itself, which contained millions of consumer goods ranging from food products to children’s toys and toiletries – as you can see on the screens. Another Wildberries facility, in this case one located in the village of Krasny Bor, was attacked by seven Ukrainian armed forces drones on 4 August. At the time, 189 employees were present at the warehouse. The main thrust of the UAV strike was, again, directed at a facility housing consumer goods. In both cases, long-range drones carrying high-explosive fragmentation and incendiary warheads were used to attack civilian objects. Each of these attacks lasted between one and a half and two hours. Ten people were killed and 128 were injured as a result. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who

visited the scenes of the incidents, were able to see for themselves that these warehouses did not contain any military goods or components for the production of such goods.

On 1 September, humanitarian workers found themselves in the cross hairs of the Ukrainian armed forces. You can see a video of this on the screens. On the approach to Alyoshki in the Kherson region, UAVs attacked a convoy of four motor vehicles carrying food and medicines. A Ukrainian drone hovered in front of the lead vehicle, forcing the group of volunteers to stop. After the drone had flown around all the vehicles and its operator had satisfied himself that there were only non-combatants and civilian cargo inside the vehicles, the lead vehicle was attacked by a Ukrainian UAV. There followed strikes one after the other in quick succession until the vehicles were left severely damaged and the cargo destroyed.

As we have already mentioned today, the Kyiv regime attempted to exert targeted armed pressure on our citizens in the run-up to the recent elections. On 15 September, a UAV attack against the village of Oktyabrskoye, Tokmak district, claimed the life of Yelena Astanina, the chairwoman of District Election Commission No. 394. On 16 September, a targeted strike on a residential building in the village of Lyubimovka, Mikhailovsky district, injured the chairwoman of District Election Commission No. 595, Viktoriya Maksimova, along with members of her family, including a nine-year-old child. This was nothing less than a co-ordinated attempt by the Zelenskyy regime and its Western sponsors to intimidate civilians in the Zaporozhye region and disrupt the voting in a territory whose people, freely expressing their will in a referendum back in 2022, had said a resounding “no” to neo-fascism and spoken out in favour of reunification with the historical motherland.

Western States must surely realize that these attempts to deploy UAVs on a massive scale against Russian territory, which are causing the practice of deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to become more widespread, cannot, even in theory, be put down to considerations of “self-defence”. Nor do they confer on the Ukrainian side a definite military advantage within the meaning of Article 52 of the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. On the contrary, these attacks by the Kyiv regime’s formations against the civilian population and civilian objects are, from the outset, intended to intimidate civilians (Article 51(2) of Additional Protocol I) and to inflict maximum damage on non-military infrastructure.

They constitute terrorism and war crimes, which are being perpetrated with the knowledge and connivance of NATO and EU member countries. Through the aforementioned actions, they are rendering themselves accomplices to these war crimes within the meaning of Article 85 of the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Responsibility for these acts lies both with these countries and with their individual citizens, including officials who issue orders, incite or encourage people to commit crimes, or otherwise aid and abet their commission.

We once again call upon the European countries that are “feeding” the Kyiv regime and dragging NATO and the European Union into a confrontation with Russia to weigh up the real risks and potential consequences of unchecked militarization, and also to consider the futility of their efforts in view of the firm hold that the armed forces of the Russian Federation have on the strategic initiative in the zone of the special military operation, whose objectives will most assuredly be achieved.

Thank you for your attention.