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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1100th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

5 March 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

A demand for peace has crystallized in the international community. The countries of the majority world are demonstrating realism and a desire to help to swiftly end the conflict around Ukraine. Against this backdrop, some globalist elites remain determined to perpetuate instability, and these forces are attempting to disrupt or discredit the emerging dialogue on a settlement.

The proclamation by the United States of America that it is pursuing a swift resolution of the Ukrainian crisis was a bolt from the blue for EU and NATO countries. They have been pouring billions into the Kyiv regime for years. And that regime, being an instrument of the collective West, was used for the notorious purpose of inflicting a “strategic defeat” on Russia on the battlefield. As a result, civilians were killed, hospitals, kindergartens and critical infrastructure facilities came under fire. Now the Europeans – in defiance of the global majority and possibly even the United States – are making the start of negotiations contingent on Ukraine’s “battlefield superiority” being ensured. They are clamouring for “peace through strength”. Former President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose term of office has expired, is echoing them. On 27 February in Washington, with dozens of television cameras pointed at him, he demonstrated to the international community his complete inability to negotiate and his desire to continue this “dealing in death”. Later, for those who were still in doubt, he reiterated his position that the end of the conflict in Ukraine was “still very, very far away”.

The determination of the Nazi-Banderite regime to continue its terrorist war was immediately put into practice. In the early hours of 28 February, the Ukrainian armed forces attempted to attack the Russkaya compressor station on the TurkStream gas pipeline using three unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which were eliminated on their approach by air defence assets of the Russian Federation’s armed forces. On 28 February, drones from the Ukrainian armed forces were directed against the Kalinin nuclear power plant in the north of the Tver region. We call upon the Western States to rein in the Kyiv regime with a view to preventing similar attempts – these being by no means the first ones undertaken – to carry out terrorist

attacks against critical and civilian infrastructure facilities, which could jeopardize the energy and nuclear security of the OSCE area.

Despite growing disagreements in the European camp itself, the main thing that the EU and NATO allies do agree on is the need for further military assistance to the Zelenskyy regime at any price. In particular, the approach being imposed by France and the United Kingdom is aimed at escalating the conflict. But the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, went the farthest in calling for Ukraine to be turned into “a steel porcupine that is indigestible for potential invaders” by supplying it with weapons and providing economic and financial aid. EU countries are planning to agree on the allocation of hundreds of billions of euros at a summit on 6 March to make this happen. This will be done not for the sake of peace, but for the sake of prolonging the hostilities “down to the last Ukrainian”.

Throughout all these years, and especially since 2014, Ukraine has been regarded by the West merely as a bridgehead in the confrontation with Russia. I emphasize: not even as a pawn, just as a square on the global chessboard. It was never about respect for the people of Ukraine. And so it continues to this day. What the authorities in London and Brussels need from Ukraine is merely land (both as fertile black soil and as a bridgehead) and human flesh that can be thrown into the storming of Russian positions. Everything else – commanding authority, money, weapons, advisers, instructors and missile system operators – is Western. And those who have Mr. Zelenskyy’s back today could not care less who will be killed by the missiles they are supplying.

The advocates of “peace through strength” seem to be also indifferent to the fact that in Ukraine there will soon be simply no one left to do the fighting. The statistics available confirm a trend whereby the number of wounded and killed military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces regularly exceeds the number of those forcibly sent to the front line. For example, in February, fewer than 28,000 Ukrainians were mobilized (in most cases they were simply rounded up on the streets by what would have been called “press gangs” in a bygone age), whereas the total losses for that month amounted to 38,920 military personnel. It is worth noting that, despite the launch of a “new deal” for 18- to 24-year-olds by the Kyiv regime to attract young Ukrainians to the front on a voluntary basis, the Ukrainian armed forces are unable to recruit even half of their target of 4,000 “volunteers” per month. The champions of “peace through strength” should stop to think about how the wheels of war they are turning will ultimately lead to Ukraine being literally bled to death. For if the mobilization of 18- to 24-year-olds that they are calling for does come to pass, this generation of Ukrainians, small in number as it already is, will simply vanish off the face of the earth.

At the same time, NATO countries are, on the one hand, declaring that they are not involved in the conflict and, on the other, doing everything they can to harm our country. According to the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, since the special operation began, the Ukrainian side has attacked the territories of no fewer than 34 constituent entities of our country, doing so also with the aid of Western weapons. The most lethal ones are being supplied by the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Germany, Romania and Estonia. The main type of armaments used by the Ukrainian side in the Kursk region are US-made ATACMS missiles and HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems, along with Franco-British Storm Shadow missiles, various UAV models, 155 mm calibre artillery and cluster munitions. The proponents of “peace through strength” who are deciding to supply arms to Ukraine need to realize that they share responsibility with the Nazi-Banderite regime for our country’s civilian losses.

We remember only too well that, historically, more wars have come to Russian soil from the West than from all other directions combined. NATO’s geopolitical expansion eastwards, which began three decades ago, triggered the current military conflict near our borders and the total destruction of the European security architecture. NATO and EU States are climbing up the escalation ladder step by step and have already moved on from supplying Ukraine with non-lethal weapons to providing it with long-range missiles

and combat aircraft. It is clear that this has been of no help to the neo-Nazi regime. What will they venture on now? The West must understand that the appearance of any NATO troops in Ukraine, even under the flag of the European Union or some sort of coalition, is unacceptable to us.

We are currently observing not just how NATO and EU countries are being drawn into the conflict around Ukraine. It is clear for all to see that preparations have begun for a direct confrontation with Russia. However, military strategists in the West who are calling for a massive militarization of the European continent should realize that these efforts will not bring any added value in terms of stability and security. On the contrary, the focus on confrontation with Russia and the accelerated build-up of military capabilities near our borders increases the risks of incidents that could escalate into direct armed conflict, accompanied by the most tragic consequences for the OSCE area and the world as a whole.

Russia has no interest in escalation, a new Cold War or an arms race. But in response to the hostile activities of NATO and the European Union, we are obliged to take well-calibrated compensatory measures. Remember the observation made by a famous British military commander, Field Marshal Montgomery, who stated on 30 May 1962, six months before the Cuban Missile Crisis: "Rule 1, on page I of the book of war, is: 'Do not march on Moscow'. Various people have tried it, Napoleon and Hitler, and it is no good. That is the first rule." Once again, we recommend that our opponents learn this quote by heart.

Mr. Chairperson,

Without Russia, without honest and responsible dialogue between those who call for peace rather than confrontation, it is impossible to reach a negotiated solution on Ukraine and on security issues in general. If those in Kyiv and some Western capitals fail to understand this, that is their problem. Going forward, the realities on the ground will continue to shift in our favour, and their claims will look increasingly absurd.

Our vision for a settlement remains unchanged. The freezing of the conflict is unacceptable; it must be a question of ending it once and for all. Calls for common sense must be followed through with a comprehensive and long-term eradication of the root causes of the crisis on the basis of the peace proposal put forward by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, on 14 June 2024 and the Istanbul agreements.

Ukrainian troops must withdraw completely from the entire territory of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions within the administrative boundaries that existed when they were part of Ukraine. The new realities that have emerged as a result of the inhabitants of these regions making their will known and that are enshrined in the Constitution of the Russian Federation must be accepted.

There must be a reversal of the aggressive policy of expansion by the Alliance, including by drawing Ukraine into NATO, which, despite our repeated warnings, became the main cause of the conflict.

Ukraine needs to be demilitarized and its neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status reaffirmed.

Ukraine needs to be denazified and there must be respect for the rights of Russians and other national minorities, the ongoing violations of which run counter to the Charter of the United Nations and numerous conventions.

Conditions must be created for a sustainable and lasting peace and for safeguarding the security and the legitimate interests of all the sovereign States in the region.

We believe that the work begun in this area should continue unhindered.

Under these circumstances, those who have put into law a refusal to negotiate and those who, while ensconced in the capitals of NATO and EU member countries, instigate such refusal bear responsibility for the prolongation of the bloodshed.

Thank you for your attention.