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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1545th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 December 2025

On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in further confrontation in and around Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

The Kyiv regime continues with its systematic terror against the civilian population in Russian regions. During the week of 1 to 7 December, there were 65 civilian casualties, of whom 58 people were injured, including one child, and seven people were killed. The highest casualty numbers were reported in the Belgorod, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions and the Donetsk People's Republic. Over 80 per cent of the casualties were inflicted by drone strikes. The Ukrainian armed forces' operators of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) deliberately steered these towards the cars and homes of civilians. In the Belgorod region alone, there were up to 80 such attacks in a 24-hour period. Emergency and medical workers continue to be hunted like prey, with medical facilities in the Lugansk People's Republic and the Zaporozhye region coming under fire. There were 270 people inside the hospital in the city of Svatovo when the hospital building was attacked. An ambulance in the Kherson region found itself the target of fire. Attacks were carried out on cars belonging to the heads of local government authorities and election commissions.

These crimes are being committed with the support of Ukraine's Western sponsors. Small wonder that no words of censure for the Kyiv regime are to be heard from the West. The OSCE, too, is silent. Apparently, neither the Finnish Chairmanship-in-Office, nor the incoming Swiss Chairmanship has any questions to put to the Kyiv regime regarding its actions to exterminate civilians.

What is more, under the pretext of a so-called "Russian threat", the European Union is being systematically transformed from an economic association into an aggressive and militaristic bloc. This is manifesting itself in the promotion of the concept of a "military Schengen area", in laws on military mobilization that encompass neutral countries, in the colossal budgets for rearmament at the expense of social spending.

At the same time, the NATO leadership, building up myths galore, is engaged in active preparations for a direct clash with Russia. The Alliance's strategic planning is entirely geared towards the "containment" of our country, as was confirmed by the outcomes of a recent meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Brussels. I am referring to the ramping up of military expenditure, the strengthening of the Alliance's

presence on the eastern flank, and escalatory statements that are sowing panic among Europeans. The failure of the West's plans to inflict a "strategic defeat" on Russia and the successes of our army are pushing NATO towards increasingly irresponsible actions. The Alliance is not ready to engage in normal dialogue, opting instead for hysterical accusations.

Answering media questions on 2 December, Russian President Vladimir Putin made it quite clear that our country is not seeking confrontation with Europe. Our actions, including those undertaken in the course of the special military operation, are through force of circumstance and are surgically precise. However, we are realists and entertain no illusions. If Europe, inflamed by NATO's rhetoric, decides to go on the warpath and initiates a war against us, we stand ready to respond thoroughly. Such a response would be on an altogether different plane in terms of its scale and consequences. By the same token, we will respond appropriately and firmly to all hostile acts, be they pirate attacks against civilian vessels or threats of any other kind.

Russia has consistently been receptive to a peaceful politico-diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. We are ready for peace – for a peace that gives legal approval to the actual state of affairs and provides reliable guarantees for Russia's primordial security interests. There will be no more illusions and decisions made on the basis of taking others at their word when they come to us with promises. Our fundamental position, which was discussed in detail during lengthy and substantive talks with US representatives, is based on several key principles. First, that the results of referendums are inviolable: the future of Donbass and Novorossiia has been decided by the will of their inhabitants. These territories are part of the Russian Federation, and the matter is therefore closed and not subject to review. Secondly, consideration of Russia's vital security interests: any settlement must once and for all eliminate the threats that have been emanating from Ukrainian territory and guarantee Ukraine's neutral status.

Russia is engaged in detailed work on the US proposals based on the understandings previously reached with the Trump administration and regards these as a potential basis for dialogue. It has not yet proved possible to reach agreement on all the points under discussion, but Russia is willing to carry on with this work. As for Europe's position, that continues to consist in derailing the peace process. There is no other way of interpreting the statements made by those who took part in the meeting in London on 8 December.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy's regime is systematically turning the Black Sea into a space marked by violence and chaos. The criminal attacks on civilian ships and the critical international energy infrastructure of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium in Novorossiysk that were carried out on 28 and 29 November and on 2 December are textbook examples of international terrorism. The cynicism of these actions is exacerbated by the fact that the regime is not only making no secret of its involvement, but is even publishing video evidence of its crimes. The regime's aim is to undermine global energy security, since it has jeopardized the key export route for Kazakh oil, which is of vital importance to the economies of a number of countries, including the United States of America and European countries.

The terrorist attacks in the Black Sea were carried out just as international diplomatic efforts to arrive at a peaceful settlement were intensifying, but also against the backdrop of a profound domestic crisis in Ukraine, which goes to show how the Kyiv regime is desperately attempting to deflect attention from its failures and corruption scandals. The Kyiv regime's actions are posing a direct threat to navigation and third-country security in the Black Sea. This is vividly confirmed by a recent operation conducted by Romanian military personnel, who were obliged to neutralize a drifting Ukrainian sea drone off Romania's coast. It is devices of this kind that the Kyiv regime uses for its terrorist attacks.

In response to such piracy by Ukraine, Russia will expand the range of strikes against Ukrainian ports and ships calling at them. President Putin has expressed himself in no uncertain terms on this score: “If the attacks on tankers continue, we will consider the possibility of reciprocal attacks against the ships of those countries that are helping Ukraine.”

A frankly gruesome topic is once again rippling through the Ukrainian information space, namely the calling up of 18-year-old youths for front-line service. It is being inculcated into public opinion that this is “inevitable”, that “children will have to go to war anyway.” Journalists from the Reuters news agency followed the fortunes of 11 young Ukrainian men who had signed up with their country’s armed forces in the spring. Six months later, none of them was still fighting. Four of them had been wounded, three had been reported as missing in action, two had deserted, one had fallen sick and one had killed himself. It is not surprising that the youth of Ukraine are voting with their feet. During this autumn alone, as Members of the Ukrainian Parliament have themselves admitted, more than 120,000 young people aged between 18 and 22 years left the country.

We have of late been hearing the representatives of certain States talk about so-called “Russian” drones or fragments of these being regularly discovered within their countries’ borders. We should like to shed light on the real origins of this “hardware”. The situation in Ukraine has reached the point where, as a result of total economic collapse and people falling into poverty, local residents are obliged to risk their lives harvesting unexploded ordnance and fragments of downed drones. As the director of one Ukrainian defence company publicly complained, official teams driving out into the fields to pick up downed UAVs find upon arrival that civilians have already carried off everything. They do this in order to somehow make a living by selling their “booty” as scrap metal or spare parts, or by building primitive home-made drones. Unaccounted-for UAV components that have been taken apart and then reassembled are thus flooding the black market in Ukraine. This deluge is beyond control. Is it not obvious that these home-made devices, assembled out of disparate elements or actually launched from front-line areas, are one and the same as those “Russian drones” that are subsequently being “discovered” in Ukraine’s neighbouring countries? Maybe the representatives of States bordering Ukraine will, finally, start posing meaningful questions to the Kyiv regime instead of putting on tacky shows and dishing out photographs at the OSCE?

Now for a few words on addressing humanitarian problems and justice in relation to the Ukrainian crisis.

The adoption, on 3 December, of a politically motivated United Nations General Assembly resolution on the “return of Ukrainian children” is yet another act of information warfare dressed up in humanitarian language. Its sponsors disregarded the fundamental principle that the protection of children should not be weaponized in geopolitical struggles. Instead of constructive work on reuniting families, the resolution was turned into a manifesto of accusations based on false narratives about “deportation”. Moreover, it completely ignores the lack of concrete evidence or of lists to back up the figures quoted, just as it fails to mention the very real practice of voluntary evacuation and provision of assistance to children from combat zones, or the fate of thousands of Ukrainian children in Europe who have lost touch with their families and with regard to whom no checks or investigations are being carried out. That document is not concerned with children. It has to do with an attempt to foist on the world a one-sided, biased view of the situation and to create the false image of an enemy. Russia was compelled to vote against the resolution, as it cannot support slander and the replacement of facts with political speculation. We continue to be open to real, depoliticized co-operation on protecting the rights of all children affected by the conflict, which should be based on verifiable data and honest dialogue.

Meanwhile, though, decisive steps are being taken to restore the rule of law. The Kyiv regime's systematic crimes against the civilian population are ceasing to be the subject of cover-ups and political speculation – they are being subjected to impartial legal examination.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation has completed an extensive investigation and confirmed the indictment of 41 senior members of Ukraine's politico-military leadership on the charge of genocide. The numbers underpinning this verdict are horrifying: almost 5,000 civilians were killed and there were over 18,500 casualties, including 1,275 children. More than 153,000 civilian infrastructure facilities were completely or partially destroyed, including residential buildings, schools, hospitals and churches. Over 2.3 million people were internally displaced.

The Zelenskyy regime's crimes have not gone unnoticed at the international level either. The International Court of Justice in The Hague has accepted in their entirety Russia's counterclaims with regard to holding Ukraine accountable for genocide. This is a historic ruling based on a body of evidence comprising 10,000 pages and including the testimonies of more than 300 victims and data on 140 instances of systematic extermination of civilians. It is important to emphasize that, already in February 2024, the Court completely rejected all of Ukraine's original accusations against Russia. Now, though, justice is bearing down on the true perpetrators of that tragedy. This is a predictable debacle for the West in its attempts to exploit international institutions as a tool of hybrid warfare. Western countries' support for the Kyiv regime's narrative is melting away: a third of the States that had joined it as co-claimants have already withdrawn from the proceedings, recognizing that these are legally untenable and morally unacceptable.

The Russian Federation has consistently called for international law to prevail. We hope that impartial scrutiny of these cases will put an end to the impunity of the nationalistic regime in Kyiv and its Western patrons, which for years have been turning a blind eye to the slaughter of civilians.

Thank you for your attention.