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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1129th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

4 March 2026

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

Madam Chairperson,

Exactly 80 years ago, on 5 March 1946, the former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, once an ally of the Soviet Union within the anti-Hitler coalition, gave a public lecture at Westminster College in the US city of Fulton, in which he took the liberty of making remarks about the USSR that were strongly tinged by ideology and also called upon the “fraternal association of the English-speaking peoples” to save the world from tyranny. Many historians and political scientists agree that it was the Fulton speech which marked the beginning of the Cold War and triggered a rivalry between two political and military systems that was often on the brink of spilling over into an outright military confrontation between nuclear powers.

As the decades passed, the populations of European countries recovered from the devastating consequences of the Third Reich’s aggression and a prosperous Europe was able to flourish. However, declassified files from the archives show that as early as 1945–1946, the “Anglo-Saxons” were planning “Operation Unthinkable” and “Operation Totality”, which envisaged waging an offensive war against the USSR. And now the new generation of politicians who have come to power in Europe and know nothing of the horrors of war are calling for preparations for large-scale combat operations on the continent and for increased military spending under the spurious pretext of the “Russian threat”, which NATO has hyped up to the level of collective hysteria.

EU and NATO countries are mainly focused on the intensive militarization of Eastern European States, which are at the forefront of the aggressive designs on Russia.

In Latvia, the first phase of development of the Selonia military training area – the largest such training ground in the Baltic, covering more than 15,500 hectares in the Jēkabpils and Aizkraukle municipalities – has been completed. Moreover, the second phase is scheduled to run from 2026 to 2029, neatly coinciding with NATO’s stated timeline for military conflict against Russia. It seems that NATO countries will in the future be able to master there the use of anti-tank mines in combat operations. As Latvian Defence Minister Andris Sprūds has put it, the Selonia training area is expected to become a

“unique” facility in Northern Europe for testing the weapons capabilities of various types of military equipment, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Multinational military exercises with a provocative anti-Russian thrust are scheduled to be conducted there already this year. The construction of such a huge training ground in areas adjacent to our country’s border is demonstrably one further link in the chain of NATO’s military preparations along Russia’s eastern frontier.

Meanwhile, Lithuania won the praise of NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte for its new defence budget for 2026, which at 5.38 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) exceeds the target share of 5 per cent approved by NATO countries at their summit in The Hague. Lithuania is also the third-biggest sponsor of the Kyiv regime by GDP share. Moreover, President Gitanas Nausėda has promised to continue providing all kinds of support to Ukraine and to allocate 223 million euros towards “military aid” for the Kyiv regime this year. However, while the Lithuanian authorities continue to gamble on Ukraine’s “victory”, their own capabilities, including economic ones, for providing Ukraine with real, as opposed to token and propagandistic, support are steadily waning. At some point, they will probably have to decide which is more important: guns or butter.

Political initiatives by EU Member States aimed at demonstrating their resolve to harm Russia are limping along.

Last week, on 24 February, Kyiv was “graced” by a visit by a delegation comprising European Council President António Costa, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the leaders of the Nordic countries, the Baltic States and Croatia. This demonstration of solidarity and “enduring commitment to Ukraine’s just fight” was meant to be backed up by yet another package of sanctions against Russia (the 20th such package), a “war loan” of 90 billion euros (almost two thirds of which being earmarked for the needs of the Ukrainian armed forces) and practical assistance with EU integration. However, these expectations did not materialize, even though EU representatives talked about them so loudly here at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). Volodymyr Zelenskyy was left waiting in vain for promises regarding the timeline and modalities for accession to the European Union. The latest package of anti-Russian sanctions, which the delegation of Ukraine here had been dreaming about, failed to be adopted by the deadline set.

As a result, the latest meeting of the “Coalition of the Willing”, which took place in Kyiv on that same day – with French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz participating via videoconference – was merely an attempt to raise Mr. Zelenskyy’s spirits and somehow bolster the combat capability of the Ukrainian armed forces.

At the same time, the statements and, more importantly, the actions of a number of European politicians once again demonstrate that, as far as NATO is concerned, Ukraine will continue to serve as a tool for waging what is still a proxy war against Russia. As they go about reviving their own military industry, the Europeans, seeking to buy time, are pushing the Zelenskyy regime to carry on and to continue the hostilities against Russia, regardless of Ukrainian personnel losses.

Last week, Canadian Defence Minister David McGuinty announced another assistance package for the Ukrainian armed forces. During 2026–2027, the Kyiv regime is slated to receive a tranche of military aid worth 1.47 billion dollars. In addition, Ukraine will get 449 armoured combat vehicles free of charge (383 Senator armoured carriers manufactured by Roshel and 66 LAV 6 light armoured vehicles made by General Dynamics). If over in Ottawa they believe that this will help the Kyiv regime on the battlefield or at the negotiating table, then they are sorely mistaken.

Denmark also intends to continue combat operations against Russia by proxy. In an interview with the newspaper *Berlingske* on 24 February, Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said that Denmark was not interested in the war ending in such a way that there would only be a “brief pause”, which would give Russia the opportunity to “rebuild its military machine”. He is convinced that even after the conclusion of a peace agreement, it would be impossible to “lift the sanctions against Russia”, and that a powerful armed forces presence, which the Europeans would be ready to support, must continue to be maintained in Ukraine. The overall message coming from Copenhagen is that the ultranationalists should fight for the interests of Europe.

We have also carefully noted the statement by outgoing Defence Minister of the Netherlands Ruben Brekelmans regarding his country’s intention to jointly procure, together with the United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden, a batch of US weapons worth 420 million euros for the Kyiv regime under the PURL (Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List) initiative, with the contribution from the Netherlands being 90 million euros. This package will include Patriot surface-to-air missiles, munitions for F-16 fighter jets, artillery shells and spare parts. In addition, according to *Intelligence Online*, a French publication, veteran Dutch pilots are already involved in patrolling the airspace over Kyiv. It seems that in The Hague they have already begun to test the limits of what is possible in terms of putting “European boots” on the ground in Ukraine. However, they must be absolutely clear about the fact that any NATO “military instructors” are legitimate targets for the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

Madam Chairperson,

At the last plenary meeting, we told participating States about information in the possession of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service regarding plans by the authorities in London and Paris to take provocative steps towards stripping Ukraine of its non-nuclear status. In that regard, we can point to what seems to be a self-incriminating revelation from Mr. Zelenskyy in an interview with Sky News on 27 February, in which he said that he would not be averse to acquiring weapons of mass destruction as part of the struggle against Russia. If the opportunity arose to “get a nuclear weapon via Britain and France”, he would do so “with pleasure”. People here at the FSC did not want to take our statement at the time seriously. What, though, is one to make of Mr. Zelenskyy’s admission now? That he knows not what he is saying? Or that he knows not what he is doing? Whichever is the case, it does not redound to the credit of the Western handlers’ protégé. He says and does exactly what he is told to.

Apropos of the United Kingdom’s so-called striving for a peaceful settlement. A recent article by the Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, sets out in detail the history of how Ukrainian nationalism was nurtured. The powers that be in London played a special role in that process. Today, too, efforts continue to be made there to preserve a hotbed of tension and instability in the OSCE area by hindering the achievement of a long-term and sustainable settlement of the crisis. In April 2022, Boris Johnson dissuaded – in effect, prohibited – the Ukrainians from concluding peace on terms that would then have been favourable to the Kyiv regime and that had been preliminarily agreed upon with the Ukrainians. We recall how UK Secretary of State for Defence John Healey expressed his hope of achieving a first by being “the Defence Secretary who deploys British troops to Ukraine”. And now the United Kingdom has allocated 200 million pounds sterling from its government budget to establish a multinational coalition force and made its territory available to host the headquarters of that outfit.

Where is all this leading to? To peace? Certainly not.

Over the past week, the Ukrainian armed forces’ artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed 153 civilian casualties, with 22 people killed and 131 injured. In addition, the Ukrainian “fighters” also attacked members of Russian humanitarian organizations, resulting in five volunteers being injured, two of

whom died. Rescue workers from the Emergencies Ministry who arrived on the scene to deal with the aftermath of the Ukrainian armed forces' attacks were targeted in criminal strikes that left five of them injured and one worker dead.

The highest casualty numbers were reported in the Belgorod, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions. Civilian objects and the civilian population in these regions were subjected to drone, missile and artillery attacks by the Ukrainian armed formations.

The Ukrainian armed forces' attacks targeted residential buildings, electricity transmission and distribution systems, medical facilities, educational institutions, social infrastructure, public service facilities and civilian vehicles.

For their barrage attacks, the "fighters" from the Ukrainian armed forces used mainly various models of short- and long-range UAVs, but also multiple-launch rocket systems, artillery, missiles, aerial bombs and mortar shells.

Strikes by Ukrainian formations using unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) were the most frequent cause of death or injury among the civilian population. The impact of these strikes left 141 civilians injured over the past seven days, accounting for around 92 per cent of the total number of casualties.

All in all, the Ukrainian armed formations fired at least 3,352 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory over the past seven days, including rockets from 122 mm multiple rocket launchers, artillery shells of 152 mm and 155 mm calibre (some of them with cluster warheads), mines and grenades. The enemy also made active use of UCAVs, first-person view drones and small arms. The overwhelming majority of the weapons being used by the Ukrainian armed forces to launch strikes on the civilian population are manufactured and supplied by the Western accomplices in the Kyiv regime's crimes.

Our armed forces are successfully countering these criminal acts by the Ukrainian armed forces, which are being perpetrated with the support of EU and NATO countries. The following population centres were liberated over the past week: Drobyshevo, Reznikovka and Dmitrovka (Donetsk People's Republic); Krasnoznamenska (Dnepropetrovsk region); Gorkoye and Veselyanka (Zaporozhye region); and Neskuchnoye and Krugloye (Kharkov region). Control was established over the village of Bobylevka in the Sumy region.

As is known, the Russian Federation is conducting the special military operation for a number of reasons that are of existential importance for our country. These reasons were clearly stated by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, during the speech that he gave at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 14 June 2024. The situation cannot be resolved unless the root causes of the conflict are addressed. That is why it is so important for OSCE participating States to realize that Western politicians' desire to harm Russia cannot be conducive to ending the hostilities.

Over the past three years, Russia's economy has shown remarkable resilience. This is acknowledged even by Western experts and reputable international media outlets. Despite the attempts by the Kyiv regime and its sponsors to stir up discontent among the citizens of Russia and to sow panic and fear through despicable terrorist attacks in border areas and deep inside Russian territory, our society remains united as ever.

The objectives of the special military operation will be accomplished in any case. Nevertheless, Russia's fundamental commitment to diplomacy as the preferred method of achieving its goals remains unchanged.

It is high time that EU and NATO countries understood that pandering to the Kyiv junta's ultranationalist ambitions, supplying it with weapons and military equipment, and equipping and training the Ukrainian armed forces and other Ukrainian armed formations will not change the situation on the battlefield, but merely postpone the Zelenskyy regime's inevitable defeat.

Thank you for your attention.