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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1557th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 March 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I shall speak in exercise of my right of reply.

We are once again able to see how keeping the current non-consensus and confrontational agenda item is merely inciting a certain group of States to try to impose on the rest their view of what is happening in Ukraine, a view that is distorted and completely disconnected from reality. For them, this is nothing more than an excuse to engage in anti-Russian rhetoric. We regret that, through their actions, they are continuing to inflict damage on our Vienna platform as they rule out any dialogue with Russia within the OSCE framework, even though expressions of interest in such dialogue in the current geopolitical circumstances are increasingly to be heard from European capitals. As it happens, this is a case where there is a fundamental mismatch between what is being said and what is being done.

Today, we have again heard hackneyed and unfounded claims that the Russian armed forces are allegedly launching strikes on civilian objects. We note that our opponents are once more trying to hypocritically turn a blind eye to the fact that tragic incidents involving civilian deaths in Ukraine are occurring because the authorities in Kyiv are deliberately placing air defence systems, heavy weapons and command posts in residential areas, hospitals and schools. As for the Russian armed forces, they are exclusively using high-precision weapons to launch strikes either on facilities linked to Ukraine's military capabilities or, as a retaliatory measure, on energy facilities.

Even organizations that can hardly be suspected of sympathizing with Russia, such as Amnesty International, have repeatedly documented cases of Ukrainian firing positions being set up in schools and of hospitals being used as military bases. We are thus dealing with flagrant violations of international humanitarian law – Ukrainian civilians are, in effect, being used by Zelenskyy and his henchmen as a human shield.

However, Zelenskyy's sponsors have repeatedly shown that they will close their eyes to any crimes by him, as long as these are perpetrated against Russian people, whether in Russia or Ukraine. The selective blindness of Western governments is particularly noticeable today in view of the latest heinous crime

committed by Zelenskyy's forces against the civilian population of Russia, one which occurred the day before yesterday. On 10 March, a targeted missile strike was conducted on a bustling business district close to Bryansk State University of Engineering and Technology and located near apartment buildings, commercial and industrial enterprises, catering establishments and shops with goods for children. Seven people were killed and 42 injured as a result of the attack. One child born in 2009 has been hospitalized in the regional children's hospital.

Realizing the enormity of their crime, those in Kyiv made a frantic attempt to plant a narrative in the information space according to which the strike had targeted a military plant in Bryansk and the casualties were caused by fragments of missiles that were shot down. Zelenskyy has already even publicly briefed his masters about this barbaric act, describing it as a "successful operation" by the Ukrainian armed forces and cynically thanking commanders for its execution. However, footage from dashcams in nearby cars irrefutably proves that this was a targeted, deliberate attack on a peaceful Russian city.

The available data indicates that the strike, in which the Western sponsors of the authorities in Kyiv were direct accomplices, was carried out using British-made Storm Shadow long-range missiles. As is well known, the use of such missiles is impossible without the direct involvement of foreign specialists guiding their operation and targeting, and without the necessary intelligence data being provided by individual NATO countries. We expect the relevant OSCE bodies to condemn this crime by Zelenskyy and his sponsors, who have once again demonstrated their disregard for international humanitarian law.

The strike on Bryansk is not the only crime committed by the authorities in Kyiv against Russian civilians this year. Just in February of this year, artillery, missile and drone attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces claimed 536 civilian casualties. Seventy-two people were killed. Among those injured and killed were 20 children. Compared to January, the number of civilian casualties increased by 149.

In March, the Ukrainian armed forces' crimes continued. During the week of 2 to 8 March, 183 civilians suffered at the hands of Ukrainian armed formations. Thirty people were killed. Among those injured and killed were ten children. Entire families were affected. A family of four, including a seven-year-old boy, was killed by a drone strike in the Donetsk People's Republic. In the Zaporozhye region, a couple were killed and their six-year-old son injured. Three children were injured in Sevastopol. In Saratov, shrapnel struck patients and staff at a cardiology clinic. In Svatovo, a 71-year-old woman succumbed to her injuries in hospital after a drone attack on a pension fund office. In Aleshki, a drone deliberately dropped a munition on a crowd of shoppers waiting outside a grocery. Fourteen of them were injured. Some people were also killed. This week, regions far from the line of engagement were attacked: the Saratov, Volgograd and Novorossiysk regions and Crimea.

As the front-line situation of the Ukrainian army worsens further, so the attempts by the Ukrainian authorities to intensify terrorist activities on Russian territory are becoming increasingly apparent. However, our intelligence services are on the alert. In 2025, 423 crimes of a terrorist nature were prevented, more than 300 of which were recognized as terrorist attacks. We know not only who the would-be perpetrators were, but also who commissioned these crimes. Today in Moscow, the sentencing was announced in the case of the terrorist attack perpetrated at the Crocus City Mall in the Moscow region in late March 2024. In the course of the investigation it was established with certainty that the attack was carried out on behalf of the current leadership of Ukraine. All this leaves no doubt as to the true – terrorist and anti-human – nature of the current authorities in Kyiv and their sponsors and strengthens our resolve to accomplish, by diplomatic or military means, the objectives set for the special military operation.

Thank you for your attention.