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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1540th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 October 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Eighty-one years ago, on 28 October 1944, the Red Army completed the liberation of Ukraine from the German fascist invaders. This victory was bought with the blood of more than 3 million Soviet soldiers of all nationalities who laid down their lives for the freedom of the Ukrainian land. Yet, today we are witnessing a monstrous paradox of history. Those whom Soviet soldiers rescued from the clutches of Nazism, that is, the descendants of Banderites and their ideological disciples are now destroying the memory of their liberators. The situation is particularly cynical in that Ukrainian statehood as such within its contemporary borders is a fruit of the Soviet era. It was the Soviet Government that handed over Transcarpathia and the western regions to Ukraine. It was the entire Soviet Union that rebuilt the destroyed cities and towns of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and built up its industry, from the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station to the factories of the Kherson region. Today, though, just like 81 years ago, Russian soldiers are again obliged to liberate Ukrainian soil – only this time round they are liberating it from neo-Nazism and Bandera’s legacy. And tanks sporting Teutonic crosses are again killing Russian people today.

The revival of Nazism in the once liberated lands was a direct consequence of the policy of Western domination, which is not only condoning historical revisionism, but also deliberately using it to undermine the foundations of Eurasian security. We are witnessing a fundamental historical shift, namely the end of the era of Western domination. However, the NATO and EU countries refuse to acknowledge this objective reality; they continue to cling to the outdated model of a unipolar world. NATO’s unfettered expansion eastwards, in spite of all the assurances previously given, has destroyed the existing system of international security.

The Western-planned conflict in Ukraine has fully laid bare the crisis of the Euro-Atlantic security model. For it is the European members of NATO that are purposefully prolonging the conflict in Ukraine by providing the Kyiv regime with multifaceted support and blocking peace initiatives. Whereas they originally demanded a “strategic defeat” of Russia and categorically rejected a ceasefire, they have now suddenly started talking about an “immediate ceasefire without preconditions”. However, when French President

Emmanuel Macron was asked whether this meant the cessation of arms deliveries to Ukraine, his answer was an emphatic “No.”

On 24 October, the latest meeting of the “Coalition of the Willing” took place in London, with Volodymyr Zelenskyy in attendance. The joint statement issued by the “willing” contains some extremely destructive provisions, including a refusal to acknowledge territorial and legal realities, calls for anti-Russian sanctions to be ramped up, plans to use frozen Russian assets for the benefit of the Kyiv regime and the intent to deploy foreign troops to Ukraine after a ceasefire. Of particular concern is the fact that plans are being openly floated to confiscate not only sovereign assets, but also Russian private assets worth around 25 billion euros that have been immobilized in European banks.

The claim made in London that Russia and its President are the only ones who do not want peace warrants urgent clarification. Here is a reminder of the facts. In 2014, the President of Russia supported an agreement between the government and the opposition that was meant to stop the bloodshed. However, the agreement was scuppered through the Western scenario of a coup d'état that brought forces to power whom the West did not even try to rein back. Then there were the Minsk agreements of 2015. Years later, European leaders publicly admitted that it had never been their intention for the Kyiv regime to implement those agreements – they needed time for the build-up of Ukraine's military capabilities. Moving forward to 2022, shortly after the start of the special military operation, Russia and Ukraine sat down at the negotiating table. A draft document was initialled in Istanbul. But what happened? Boris Johnson, then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, directly ordered the Kyiv regime to stop negotiating and continue the war. So who is actually blocking peace here? The one who has been undermining diplomatic solutions for years, or the one who has always been willing to engage in dialogue? When we hear talk nowadays of a “desire for peace”, all we can discern is just a demand that Russia capitulate. That is not the path to peace.

The relevant Russian agencies are in the possession of alarming information about France preparing for a military intervention in Ukraine. According to the reports received, President Macron has issued orders for a military contingent consisting of up to 2,000 troops to be deployed to Ukrainian territory. The hard core of that formation will be made up of fighters from the French Foreign Legion, recruited chiefly in Latin American countries. These units are currently stationed in areas of Poland that border on Ukraine and they are undergoing intensive combat training there and receiving weapons and military equipment. It is planned to redeploy them to central regions of Ukraine in the very near future. Significantly, the French leadership, being fully cognizant of the risks associated with the steps it is taking, is already bracing itself for potential losses. Additional hospital beds are being set up in France, and medical staff are receiving specialized training to enable them to work in field conditions. There is an obvious historical parallel to be drawn here: it would seem that Monsieur Macron, dreaming of Napoleonic laurels for himself, has not properly digested the lessons of history concerning the lamentable finale of the march undertaken into Russia by the Emperor of the French.

Equally alarming signals are coming from other EU countries too. The Netherlands is openly calling for strikes against Russia without restrictions, thereby inciting the commission of war crimes. Germany has announced unprecedented militarization: 377 billion euros are to be splashed out on rearmament, despite the country's economic problems. Belgium is already threatening to “wipe Moscow off the map”, calling for fresh militarization and proposing to wage war against Russia “down to the last Ukrainian”.

In response to all this, we must reiterate that Russia is not planning and has not planned to attack NATO and EU countries. We have repeatedly proposed to consolidate this position in legally binding security guarantees. However, European leaders are not talking about security with Russia, but about security against Russia. Let us put the question directly: do the Europeans feel safer now that their ruling elites have taken up the hatchet or axe of war?

We can see that the European Union intends to ramp up its economic warfare against Russia. On 23 October, the latest package of anti-Russian sanctions was adopted, this being no less than the 19th such package. However, even in Brussels they have little faith in the effectiveness of these measures, the best proof of this being a statement by an EU representative to the effect that work on the 20th package is already under way. The ban on the provision of services related to tourism activities in Russia is particularly telling. They are restricting their own citizens' freedom of movement. Moreover, to counter the circumvention of sanctions, the EU authorities are imposing restrictions that target companies from China, Belarus, Kazakhstan and other countries. They are thus laying claim to the role of "international *gendarme*", something that is meeting with growing resistance from the rest of the world. Further sanctions pressure will merely speed up the process whereby the European Union is losing ground in the international arena. Instead of hurting the Russian economy, these sanctions are above all boomeranging back on the EU countries themselves. A case in point is France. The findings of the most recent survey commissioned by the office of France's Energy Ombudsman indicate that around a third (36 per cent) of French households had encountered serious financial difficulties in paying their gas and electricity bills this year. As reported by 85 per cent of French households, energy bills eat up a hefty chunk of the family budget. This is the highest share of respondents giving such an answer since 2007.

What is taking place with Russian assets situated in European jurisdictions can only be described as wilful theft and a sure path towards the undermining of the entire system of international flows of capital. The European Union's reputation as a safe haven for investments is being dealt a shattering blow. The consequences will not be long in coming. Institutional investors are extremely concerned about what might happen to their funds in Europe. This fundamental blunder will cost the economy of the European Union itself dear; a heavy price will also be paid specifically by those countries in whose jurisdictions Russian assets are located. And the first to feel the weight of retaliation will be Belgium, where the central securities depository Euroclear is based.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are obliged once again to draw attention to the heinous crimes being committed by Ukrainian armed formations against Russia's civilian population. During the week of 20 to 26 October, their criminal attacks claimed 113 civilian casualties, of whom 19 were killed, including a 13-year-old girl in Yasinovataya who lost her life together with her parents as the result of a HIMARS rocket strike. An additional 94 people were injured, and what is particularly horrifying is that ten of them were children aged between eight and 17 years. A specific human tragedy lies behind every one of these figures: in the Belgorod region, an attack on a reservoir dam has created the risk of flooding, potentially leading to a humanitarian disaster; two elderly women, one of whom was 98 years old, were killed when a high-rise building in the city of Donetsk came under fire; a 68-year-old woman in the Kherson region who had gone out to fetch water was deliberately targeted by a drone operator.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are taking the utmost care when conducting operations to degrade the Kyiv regime's military capabilities, minimizing the risks to the civilian population to the greatest possible extent. We reject the accusations about alleged violations of international humanitarian law in relation to Ukrainian prisoners of war. During a meeting with the Chief of the Russian General Staff that took place recently, President Vladimir Putin reiterated the importance of humanely treating Ukrainian military personnel who have surrendered: "Historically, Russia has always shown mercy to a defeated foe, and we will act true to that tradition."

Western propagandists are persistently trying to hush up the fact that the systematic demolition of democracy in Ukraine continues apace. It is now the turn of local government to experience this too. Under

the pretext of martial law, the Kyiv regime has cancelled the local elections that were due to have been held on 26 October, extending the term of office for functionaries who have sworn fealty to the regime. Most revealing of all, though, is the episode involving the mayor of Odessa, Gennadiy Trukhanov. After stripping him of his citizenship under a spurious pretext, the authorities appointed a general from the Security Service of Ukraine in his place. What we are dealing with here is the installation of military dictatorship in a given city. The Zelenskyy regime has evidently decided to eliminate any political opposition in the regions. Has this reached the ears of anyone at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights?

We are again compelled to draw the Permanent Council's attention to the mechanism whereby the Kyiv regime is destroying the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC). First, a discriminatory law, the Act on Protection of the Constitutional Order, was passed. Then the State authorities ruled that the UOC was "affiliated" with the Russian Orthodox Church. Now a court will hear a petition for the UOC to be banned altogether. This legal smokescreen is masking some truly abominable methods of exerting pressure: clergymen are being arrested and placed in punishment cells for engaging in personal correspondence on messaging apps; they are offered "deals" such as going over to a schismatic structure or being swapped for prisoners of war. The violent, raid-like seizures of churches continue, as does the forced mobilization of priests.

Let us cite just a few recent examples of such lawlessness. On 8 October, the police and security forces stormed the Holy Dormition Lavra in Pochaiv; they cut the locks on the gates and tried to seize the places of worship on the monastery's premises. The seminary students who stood up in defence of this holy site are now facing criminal prosecution. On 9 October, a cathedral in Konstantinovka was attacked by drones and left gutted by fire, with the blame then sacrilegiously pinned on Russia. That same day, "church raiders" from the schismatic Orthodox Church of Ukraine took advantage of the rector's illness to illegally take over the Transfiguration Church in Cherkasy. On 10 October, the Dormition Cathedral in Volodymyr-Volynskyi was seized with direct police involvement and believers were roughed up. On 24 October, proceedings were initiated, under a spurious pretext, for the dissolution of a convent in Korets – merely on account of its spiritual ties with the Russian Orthodox Church.

In closing, we would remind you of Russia's principled position. Our country stands ready to engage in diplomatic efforts for a sustainable settlement, which must eliminate the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis and take Russia's security interests into account. The addressing of ultimatums to Russia is merely making the prospects for peace even more distant.

Thank you for your attention.