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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1138th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

3 June 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week, during the night of 21 to 22 May, the criminal regime in Kyiv launched a targeted strike on the dormitory and college building of the teacher training college in the city of Starobelsk in the Lugansk People's Republic. As a result of the attack, the five-storey dormitory building, in which 85 students aged between 15 and 22 years were sleeping, collapsed completely down to the second floor, and a fire broke out. The total area affected by the blaze was 1,300 square metres.

The consequences of the strike are horrific. Twenty-one students lost their lives. The youngest of them, Taisiya, was born in 2008. Maksim, the oldest, was born in 2005. The full names of all these victims have been identified and published. A further 49 students (including 19 minors) sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity.

The vast majority of those killed and injured were young women who dreamed of devoting their lives to educating and nurturing future generations. Their fate was shared by three young men who had also chosen the honourable vocation of teaching. There is comprehensive photographic and video documentation showing teenagers being rescued, but also bodies being recovered from under the rubble. There are no military facilities whatsoever in the vicinity of the college.

All in all, the Ukrainian armed forces made use of 16 combat drones, including four heavy ones. According to preliminary expert assessments, they were Fire Point unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) (FP-1, FP-2), which are assembled – in part using foreign components – by the eponymous Ukrainian company (Fire Point). The Ukrainian-Czech consortium U&C UAS was involved in their development. The FP-1 is compatible with the two-stroke internal combustion engines (rated at 30 horsepower) manufactured by the German company 3W Modellmotoren. Such a drone carries a warhead weighing around 60 kg, most commonly of the high-explosive fragmentation type. With a certain reduction in the flight range, it is possible to increase the payload to 120 kg. As a rule, C-4 explosive is used for the warhead. A forensic

examination is currently being conducted at a special equipment centre in Russia to determine the type and actual explosive power of the devices and explosives used.

The FP-1's attack speed potentially exceeds 200 km/h. However, even if a catastrophic error had occurred (which is unlikely given the generous "feeding" of the Kyiv regime with foreign intelligence data), the UAV operators had more than enough time to identify the target, for the strikes against the sleeping teenagers were carried out in three waves. The Ukrainian drone operators are also known to have made repeated attempts to obstruct the search and rescue operations. Moreover, various versions of the FP-1 drone are advertised as having visual target-tracking capabilities and artificial intelligence-based image analysis. So it would be practically impossible to mistake teenagers running out of a burning building for military personnel.

This is a case of gross violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Protocols Additional thereto, which regulate the protection of civilians during conflicts, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, and several other landmark international instruments. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has instituted criminal proceedings concerning a terrorist act (Article 205, paragraph 3, of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

Mr. Chairperson,

It is obvious that we are dealing here with a demonstrative reprisal against the most vulnerable and defenceless, one that is truly monstrous in its scale but by no means the first of its kind. There are specific parallels with the atrocities committed by the Ukrainian underground in the 1940s, which was in the habit of targeting teachers and education workers. One particularly telling example is the story of Klavdiya Gruzdo, a young graduate of the Starobelsk Teachers' Institute who was killed in 1945 by nationalists for simply doing her job. Teachers, who spread the light of knowledge and prevent young people from being inculcated with primitive nationalism, were their bitterest enemies then and they still are to this day. While the nationalists of the 1940s intended in this way to paralyse the people's will to resist (as we know, they were sorely mistaken), the aim of those who commissioned and provided ideological inspiration for the terrorist attack in Starobelsk was quite different. Hushing up this egregious act of intimidation, they sought to portray the just retribution for it as unprovoked aggression, thereby reaping financial and political benefits and generating favourable media coverage.

In this connection, we should like to express our deep gratitude to the honest and principled members of the journalistic community who took up the Russian Foreign Ministry's invitation and set off for Starobelsk at short notice to see with their own eyes both the instruments of that crime and its consequences. A good fifty foreign correspondents from 19 countries accredited in Moscow acted in concert to prevent the instigators from concealing the true state of affairs.

We regret that, owing to the current political climate in certain Western States, several media workers have been denied their legitimate right to publish on-location coverage in their home countries, and that CNN and BBC reporters, along with their Japanese colleagues, were even denied the opportunity to visit the city. Since issues relating to freedom of speech and journalism go beyond the scope of our present format, we shall limit ourselves to expressing the hope that the relevant international bodies will help to reinstate the rights of these media workers.

Following the Ukrainian armed forces' strike on the Starobelsk college, the International Committee of the Red Cross publicly reiterated the need to respect international humanitarian law. Its statement reads as follows: "Our thoughts are with the victims and their loved ones. International humanitarian law obligates the parties to a conflict to take all possible measures to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure."

Statements confirming that the Ukrainian armed forces attacked an educational institution that was operational at the time of the attack have been published, *inter alia*, on the official website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Volker Türk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has expressed his sorrow at the killing of civilians by the Kyiv regime. He called for a prompt, independent and thorough investigation into the incident to be conducted, emphasizing the need for people to “do their utmost to prevent similar incidents from happening again”.

To date, the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Russian Federation, in co-operation with the Russian Ministry of Defence and the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, has established that the UAVs were launched from the Kharkov region by military personnel belonging to the 414th Separate Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (known as “Magyar’s Birds”), which is commanded by Klymenko. This brigade forms part of the Unmanned Systems Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces under the command of Brovdi. The target acquisition was carried out by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry’s Main Intelligence Directorate, which is headed by Ivashchenko. Klymenko, Brovdi and Ivashchenko have been charged as defendants. They have been placed on an international wanted list.

It would be unfair to consider the tragedy in Starobelsk in isolation from the situation in other parts of our country. In the course of just seven days, between 18 and 24 May, Ukrainian armed formations fired at least 4,300 munitions against Russian civilian objects. This is a record for the past year and a half; it is at least a third higher than the average figures, however cynical it may sound to speak of records and averages in this context. The number of civilian casualties has also peaked during this period.

In total, the Kyiv regime carried out more than 8,000 strikes (8,071 to be precise) against civilian infrastructure in the Russian Federation over the last two weeks of May. At least 381 civilians were injured, including 28 children. The death toll stood at a minimum of 86 Russians civilians, including four children.

Most of the weapons used by the Ukrainian armed forces to attack the civilian population were manufactured and supplied by the Western accomplices in the Kyiv regime’s crimes. The actions of those who, figuratively speaking, paid for and put a grenade into the hands of a regime unburdened by the ghost of a conscience – let alone by observance of the norms and principles of international humanitarian law – are tantamount to a flagrant violation of OSCE politico-military commitments and international rules of responsible export control.

In the current circumstances, the armed forces of the Russian Federation have methodically set about launching systematic strikes against enterprises belonging to the Ukrainian military-industrial complex in Kyiv, including specific sites where UAVs are designed, manufactured, programmed and prepared for operational use. Incidentally, it is in the Ukrainian capital that the headquarters of the notorious company Fire Point are located.

We reiterate once again that the Russian Federation is not striking civilian targets on the territory of Ukraine. For example, in the early hours of 2 June, precision strikes in Kyiv hit ten enterprises involved in the manufacture of military equipment, including unmanned combat aerial vehicles. Among these were the Abris PT association, the Spektr special design bureau (a radioelectronics enterprise), the Mayak plant and the State-owned enterprise Ukrspecexport. Three territorial recruitment centres of the Ukrainian armed forces were also hit. Moreover, as has been repeatedly reaffirmed at the highest level, our country’s armed forces refrain from using their most powerful weapons “so as not to cause unnecessary damage to areas where, in the main, our own people live”.

The officially confirmed tragedy in Starobelsk – coupled with clear evidence of the inevitability of punishment for the crimes committed – might have been enough to bring the ideological and financial sponsors of the Kyiv regime to their senses. However, we are seeing the opposite effect. We regard these attempts to divert attention and the deliberate stoking of military hysteria as manifestations of a “besieged fortress” mentality in a Europe that has isolated itself.

Mr. Chairperson,

NATO and EU member States should realize that destabilizing actions, including hostile acts in the context of the Ukrainian crisis, are triggering the most serious security risks. The Russian Federation considers negotiation to be the most preferable course of action; however, in the absence of willingness on the other side’s part to engage in such talks, we will continue to use military means to eliminate the threats to our country’s security. The objectives of the special military operation will be accomplished in their entirety.

Thank you for your attention.