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**STATEMENT BY
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FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1140th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

24 June 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

To begin with, we feel it is necessary to respond to the insinuations that have been made in this room. Western delegations have once again seen fit to cite unsubstantiated figures for “Russian battlefield losses”, drawn from unreliable or deliberately false sources, or without giving any sources at all. We regard this as a crude psy-ops ploy designed for the self-reassurance of those who still vainly believe in the possibility of Russia’s “strategic defeat”. Let us set the record straight. The numbers of military personnel killed or wounded are, as a rule, not disclosed by the parties involved. At the same time – however cynical it may sound – there are several indirect indicators that can be used to gauge the ratio of combat losses. Statistics on the repatriation of the bodies of those killed constitute the key indicator in that regard.

As stated in a post published on an official platform of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) following the May briefing (given on 15 May this year) by Trisha-Jean Mahon, head of the forensic team at the ICRC’s regional delegation in Moscow, “repatriation of the bodies of fallen military personnel is an important step in helping to identify those killed and transmit information to their relatives anxious for news. It enables people to give their loved ones a dignified burial.” The ICRC is directly involved in the process for the return of the remains of the deceased.

Since the start of the year – specifically on 29 January, 26 February, 9 April, 15 May and 8 June – the bodies of at least 4,048 Ukrainian soldiers killed in action have been handed over to Ukraine, with the assistance of the ICRC and logistical support from Belarus. Our side has received the remains of 188 Russian soldiers.

The ratio of losses since 24 January 2025 is as follows: 19,826 versus 547 repatriated bodies of, respectively, Ukrainian and Russian armed forces personnel.

The concealment of bodies may attest not only to a deliberate and gross violation of international humanitarian law, but also to criminal offences of the gravest kind, such as organ trafficking, for example.

However, that would fall outside the remit of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). An interesting breakdown of this issue is to be found, in particular, in an article dated 7 August 2023 by Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova entitled “The world leader of black transplants: in Ukraine, organs are traded online and offline”. The article has been posted in English, Spanish, French, German and Portuguese on the Russian Foreign Ministry’s official platforms.

The figures we have just cited regarding the repatriation of remains reflect the ratio of battlefield losses. They serve to dispel any fanciful notions about the Russian armed forces allegedly having lost the initiative and about the Kyiv regime’s sudden new-found military “might”.

In this connection, we have taken notice of an interview published in June in the *Berlingske* newspaper with Jens Erik Hjort, the Danish military attaché in Kyiv, who completed his posting in Ukraine a month ago. He admitted that the Ukrainian armed forces were not in a position to launch a large-scale offensive and achieve a “breakthrough” in the course of the hostilities, adding that the front line was being held solely thanks to the high morale of Ukrainian military personnel. As for the second part of his remarks, in view of the statistics we have presented, we may attribute that to poetic licence. Over the past two weeks, the Russian armed forces have liberated the following population centres in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) from the neo-Banderites: the village of Artyoma and the settlements of Kutuzovka, Novy Donbass, Priyut, Rai-Aleksandrovka, Roskoshnoye, Khimik and Yurkovka. Okhrimovka in the Kharkov region has been denazified. The enemy is being successfully pushed back in Krasny Liman and Konstantinovka (both in the DPR).

Against this backdrop, the Kyiv regime, in revenge, continues to ramp up the intensity of its strikes against civilians and civilian objects on the territory of the Russian Federation.

On 17 June, a Ukrainian drone operator attacked a double-decker bus in the Bryansk region carrying Belarusian citizens who were heading from Homiel and Rechitsa to Gelendzhik for their holiday.

The strike was premeditated. A drone packed with submunitions was deliberately steered towards the front wheel of a civilian vehicle. This terrorist attack took place amid an intensification of anti-Belarusian rhetoric from the Kyiv regime – something that we have all witnessed, not least here at the Forum. There is every reason to believe that the Ukrainian side knew perfectly well that Belarusian citizens were on board, including a large number of minors (the children had openly posted their location and travel route on social media).

Of the 44 passengers on the bus, 28 were pupils from a sports school for children and young people in the city of Rechitsa. Eight people, including six young athletes, sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity. The coach’s pregnant wife, a native of the Lugansk region, was killed. In 2014, this woman had lost her home as a result of the aggression unleashed against the civilian population of Donbass by the coup leaders who had come to power in Kyiv. She had moved to Belarus, where she was granted citizenship, but, unfortunately, even that could not save her from the Ukrainian death squads.

We express our sincere condolences to the deceased woman’s loved ones and to our Belarusian colleagues. We wish the injured a speedy recovery.

The Russian Investigative Committee has opened a criminal case under the article on terrorist acts in the Criminal Code. Forensic examinations have been commissioned; fragments of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and other pieces of physical evidence have been recovered. It has been confirmed that Brovdi, commander of the Unmanned Systems Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and Ivashchenko,

head of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, were involved in organizing the terrorist attack.

According to preliminary expert assessments, the instrument of the crime was a Hornet combat drone – a fixed-wing UAV with a wingspan of around two metres. The Hornet was developed by a consortium of companies associated with Google’s former Chief Executive Officer, Eric Schmidt (Swift Beat, Volya Robotics, Perennial Autonomy). In its standard configuration, this drone carries a shaped-charge fragmentation warhead weighing around five kilograms. Reaching a speed of approximately 120 km/h, it is capable of covering a distance of up to 150 km from the front line and of remaining airborne for around one and a half to two hours. It is equipped with an advanced target acquisition system, specifically a computing module that contains a library of visual images. The software displays potential targets on the operator’s screen. Nevertheless, it is a human who makes the choice about where to strike.

Deployment of the Hornet UAV has of late been actively practised in exercises at military training grounds in Germany (Grafenwöhr), Lithuania (Pabradė) and Poland (Bemowo Piskie). Since mid-May, the Kyiv regime has been regularly using this drone to strike civilian targets on Russian Federation territory.

The Kyiv regime’s “fighters” are not confining themselves to intimidation campaigns against civilians in the style of the Ukrainian neo-Banderites. Becoming quite indistinguishable from their ideological forerunners, they attempted, through a targeted UAV strike on 10 June, to destroy a symbol of the Russian people’s courage and resilience, namely the panorama museum dedicated to *The Defence of Sevastopol 1854–1855*, a cultural heritage site. An extensive fire broke out. Just as in the distant days of 1942, the historic painting was damaged. The attack took place on the eve of the opening of an exhibition featuring authentic fragments of the panorama painted by Franz Roubaud – fragments that had been saved from the flames 84 years ago. History is repeating itself. The panorama will be restored again, as will other cultural treasures damaged or destroyed through the fault of what is yet another criminal regime.

Mr. Chairperson,

This is now the umpteenth successive meeting at which we are obliged to note that the frequency of artillery, missile and drone attacks on Russian civilian infrastructure by the Ukrainian armed forces has reached record levels and continues to rise. I must emphasize that we are talking here about strikes on civilian targets, no less. Over the past two weeks, more than 95 per cent of all civilian casualties have been caused by Ukrainian drones. In the overwhelming majority of cases, the Ukrainian armed forces’ UAV operators had a clear view of the target and were fully aware of who they were striking. Issued with criminal orders, Ukrainian drone operators are shamelessly hitting civilian objects and vehicles.

I shall share just a few examples.

On 8 June in Lugansk, a UAV belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces struck a glamping site (a leisure area with small cabins almost like Wendy houses) where a hen party was taking place. The bride’s girlfriends were injured.

On 11 June, a Ukrainian drone attacked a grocery in the settlement of Razumnoye in the Belgorod district. Three women, a five-year-old girl and a nine-month-old girl sustained shrapnel injuries.

On 16 June, a three-year-old girl and her mother were injured in Svatovo, in the Lugansk People’s Republic, as the result of a strike by a Ukrainian UAV. The child was admitted to hospital in a serious condition.

On 18 June, in the village of Churovichi in the Bryansk region, a kamikaze drone attacked a car in which a woman was travelling with her two daughters, aged 10 and 11. The drone deliberately pursued the car, and the family were unable to avoid being struck. Both girls were injured; one is in a serious condition.

On 22 June, in the Kalininsky district of Gorlovka (DPR), 15 civilians, including 11 women and a 17-year-old lad, were injured when a Ukrainian UAV attacked city bus No. 2. The drone hit the rear of the vehicle, which was packed with people.

Within the space of just one week, between 15 and 21 June, we recorded the highest rate of civilian casualties in 18 months: at least 250 people were injured, including 20 children, while 41 civilians lost their lives, including a child, specifically an eight-year-old girl. She was killed in a fire triggered by a Ukrainian UAV attack on a residential building in Ramenskoye, near Moscow. Her mother and grandmother were unable to save her.

The Kyiv regime is not even trying to deny its involvement in strikes against civilian targets. Volodymyr Zelenskyy refers to them as “long-range sanctions”, as, by the way, does Ukraine’s representative at the FSC, taking their cue from Zelenskyy. A disgusting joke, don’t you think?

Mr. Chairperson,

Suffering defeat on the battlefield, Ukraine has adopted a strategy that is utterly unacceptable from the point of view of international humanitarian law and undermines the prospects for a settlement, namely the conduct of terrorist strikes against civilians. We do not know for certain whether this was an independent decision or whether Zelenskyy is acting at the instigation of certain “well-wishers”; however, the West’s unapologetic abetting of crimes and its grandiloquent verbal assurances of unconditional support speak volumes in themselves. We are obliged to reiterate that the use of extreme forms of violence against civilians for political purposes does not demonstrate competence to act or, for that matter, to negotiate. It is a hallmark of terrorism and extremism.

We are inclined to believe that the Kyiv regime’s employment of terrorist methods is not the result of inept planning, but rather part of a malicious calculus in which Ukraine has been assigned the unenviable role of a proxy – serving simultaneously as both bait and sacrificial victim (the first in line). Let us not mince words: for more than two and a half decades now, not only our neighbouring countries but the whole world, too, has been well aware of the Russian Federation’s firm conviction as to just how terrorists should be dealt with.

We regularly inform those present of the deaths and injuries suffered by civilians on Russian territory as a result of Ukrainian strikes. This is being done to facilitate understanding of the nature of the Zelenskyy regime, but also to facilitate understanding of our retaliatory measures – both those already taken and those still to come – against Ukraine’s military and military-economic infrastructure.

Thus, in the early hours of 15 June, outside the working hours of most civilian personnel, the Russian armed forces, in response to the Kyiv regime’s acts of terrorism, used precision weapons to launch a barrage attack against facilities belonging to the military-industrial complex in the cities of Kyiv, Kharkov and Dnepropetrovsk, and also against military airfields and territorial recruitment centres.

The following facilities were hit in Kyiv: the Radar plant, which develops and manufactures components for long-range UAVs and produces and repairs military radar systems; a workshop, located on the premises of the Dovzhenko Film Studios, where long- and medium-range drones are manufactured and prepared for operational use; Bezpilotni Tekhnologii (unmanned technologies), a company engaged in the

semi knock-down assembly of long-range unmanned combat aerial vehicles using foreign components; the Mayak plant, which produces warheads for drones and launch boosters for Flamingo cruise missiles; the Burevisnyk plant, a State-owned enterprise that manufactures long- and medium-range UAVs and radar equipment for the Ukrainian armed forces; and Ukr Armo Tech, a company that assembles warheads for drones and various types of missiles. Over in Dnepropetrovsk the Dnipro Electrical and Mechanical Equipment Plant was hit, as were two industrial enterprises in the city of Kharkov, namely Greenhouse Solution and DT-1 Group, which assemble warheads for UAVs and various types of missiles, along with other hubs of Ukraine's military infrastructure.

The recommendations concerning the evacuation of foreign diplomats from Kyiv – which were issued well in advance and in full compliance with the strictest requirements of international humanitarian law – remain in effect. The demilitarization of the terrorist regime in Kyiv will continue until the threat posed to the security of the Russian Federation has been completely eliminated.

Thank you for your attention.