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Delegation of the Russian Federation

STATEMENT BY MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1148th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

7 October 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are closely monitoring the official pronouncements of Western politicians, who are persistently ramping up their military rhetoric. Alongside plans to keep their "Ukrainian project" afloat and to dispatch NATO troops to Ukraine, there is open talk of Europe preparing for combat operations outside the context of Ukraine, and also of stepping up multidimensional pressure on the Russian Federation. The reluctance to engage in genuine diplomacy that is grounded in reality and takes into account the interests of all parties is pushing the European Union and the notionally "defensive" NATO bloc to inflame the situation and raise the stakes. However, the more reckless the course steered by them and the more openly the aim of inflicting a "strategic defeat" on the enemy is proclaimed, the greater the likelihood that the confrontation will enter its most intensive phase.

Let us turn to specific pronouncements. Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski has openly intimated the following: "The Kremlin can be stopped and even beaten – we just forgot about it. Ronald Reagan used to say his strategy vis-à-vis the Soviet Union was simple, if not simplistic: 'We win, they lose.'" (30 June 2024). The Estonian Minister of Defence is publicly reflecting on how his country is capable of single-handedly taking on Russia: "We will blow up Russia's infrastructure" (22 September 2026). Delegations can see the other similar quotes on the screens. There are many of them; they speak volumes and give an idea of who it is that is actually posing a threat to peace in Europe at present. And yet ordinary Europeans are being scared with apocalyptic scenarios and "hybrid" threats allegedly originating from our country. It has now reached the point where NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and the commander-in-chief of the Alliance's forces in Europe, Alexus Grynkewich, have called for any (!) hostile actions to be attributed to Russia: "when able, when you are sure it is the Russians, or almost sure it is the Russians, attribute it to the Russians" (1 October 2026). Here too, under the OSCE's politico-military dimension, we have already had occasion to see for ourselves that the Western participating States have no interest in fact-based, professional dialogue. Their aim is to stoke disinformation campaigns, which are subsequently exploited by their governments to ram through convenient decisions in the interests of their countries' military-industrial circles and the militarization of the continent.

As the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, said when addressing the plenary session of the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club (1 October 2026), this is "a path to the brink of the abyss", especially nowadays, when the world's leading powers possess weapons in their arsenals that have immense destructive effects. The Russian leadership has repeatedly emphasized that our country does not seek confrontation with Europe. We are not threatening or intending to attack anyone – this is something that your politicians are also well aware of. Similarly, the truth is that we did not want and were not the ones who started to fight. Western States embarked on an effort to make Russia's neighbouring countries part of its military space; for years, they have been encouraging aggressive nationalism and Russophobia in Ukraine so as to turn that country into a tool for fighting ours. The Russian Federation was deliberately placed in a situation in which it was simply forced to take up arms and defend itself and the peaceful residents of Donbass. We are now seeing for ourselves once again that we made the right choice in launching the special military operation.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the instigation of its Western backers, Ukraine has currently stepped up its efforts to devise ways of blocking Russian shipping in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, including through attacks on our country's port infrastructure. The aim is to disrupt the logistics of Russian hydrocarbon exports and the transport of civilian cargo (and do not be surprised afterwards if, as a result of these actions, fuel prices rise not only on international markets but also in your own countries). The leadership of the Ukrainian navy has intensified its co-operation with the Chief Directorate of Intelligence and the Ukrainian Security Service to plan sabotage operations in detail. The ports of Kerch, Novorossiysk and Sevastopol have been identified as the most promising targets. Gathering information on the routes, transit times and mooring locations of ships is also considered a priority task.

Of course, Western weapons will be involved this time round too. The Ukrainian intelligence services are ramping up the procurement of mines manufactured by NATO countries, including the Murena, the Manta (MN 103), the Quickstrike (Mark 62), the FORCIT Defence Blocker, the ASTERIA and the MINEA-E shallow-water mine. When laying mines, the Ukrainians intend to divide the target waters into zones with varying densities of mines and different mine types. Such zones have already been designated for the port of Novorossiysk. In order to improve the efficiency of these operations, it is planned to prevent minesweepers and support ships from going about their work. To that end, there are plans to use the Magura-5, Magura-V7 and Sea Baby uncrewed surface vessels.

Given the Kyiv regime's further plans to destabilize the Black Sea region, its calls for a "Black Sea truce" sound nothing short of cynical. Making use of intelligence from the European Union and NATO, it is intensifying its attacks on transport and logistics infrastructure and civilian vessels in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. Here it is apt to recall that Western weapons and weapon systems fitted with components made in NATO and EU countries continue to kill Russians. Thus, for their attacks in early August on a beach in Gelendzhik, where there were holidaymakers, the Ukrainian armed forces seem to have used long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of the FP-1 or FP-2 type. These are manufactured by Fire Point, including at its plant in the town of Mildenhall in the United Kingdom.

We remember only too well how the Kyiv regime attacked facilities located in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (held from 3 to 6 June this year) and the "St. Petersburg Seasons" festival held in conjunction with it, a large-scale festival that takes place every year during the White Nights period, when cultural life continues around the clock. An-196 Liutyi drones – the UAV type used in those attacks – are assembled at, *inter alia*, a plant of the Ukrainian State-owned enterprise Antonov in the Polish city of Mielec and are equipped with a two-cylinder Hirth

F-23 internal combustion engine (50 horsepower) manufactured in Germany, which has become one of the main sponsors of Ukrainian terrorism. Other accomplices supplying the Ukrainian armed forces with drones to kill the people of our country include Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy and Czechia, which are also *de facto* taking part in the Ukrainian conflict. The Russian Ministry of Defence has published the locations of these production facilities on the territory of the aforementioned and other OSCE participating States that are catering to the Kyiv regime's needs. Like other relevant facilities, they remain the focus of our attention.

Mr. Chairperson,

It has long been clear that, to advance their own interests, NATO and EU countries will squeeze every last drop out of the Kyiv regime.

First and foremost, they need experience of conducting combat operations in a high-intensity conflict environment. Active use is currently being made of this experience during NATO's large-scale "Avenger Triad 26" exercise (6–15 October), which involves around 4,000 military personnel on the "eastern flank". This rehearsal of joint operations by the armies of the Alliance countries will focus on integrating reconnaissance drones, radars, ground sensors and weapon systems into a single network, not least taking into account information obtained from the Ukrainian military. This is broadly in line with NATO's plans, recently reported in the Western media, to defeat Russian forces using UAVs and artificial intelligence.

Ultimately, the Kyiv regime is getting paid for this combat experience, while it is ordinary Ukrainians who are getting killed. Ukraine's population has already fallen to approximately 20 million – down from 52 million in 1991, when Ukraine was part of the USSR. Moreover, according to Ukrainian economists, the current population figure includes around 10 million pensioners. Given such a dramatic drop in the population, how can one even talk of "war to the victorious end", as they like to say in Brussels and London?

In view of the catastrophic shortage of military personnel in Ukraine, discussion of the topic of the mobilization of women has picked up. On social media it is already being posted that the authorities in Kyiv's Bankova Street are willing to move on from public debate to taking practical steps in that direction. Volodymyr Zelenskyy has reportedly already handed over to his "Western partners" a list showing that, if necessary, 5.6 million Ukrainian citizens could be returned to Ukraine. Women account for 43.4 per cent of that number.

The Kyiv regime is being prodded into adopting such measures by its European backers. According to the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, considers the mobilization of women to be "a step in the right direction". The European Commission is urging the governments of EU countries to develop legally sound mechanisms to encourage Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in Europe to go back to their homeland, especially those who may be fit for military service.

Silently complying with the directives coming down from the "top brass" in Brussels, the Kyiv regime is endeavouring to shape the public mood in the way that it needs, namely so that the placing of women under arms comes to be seen as the natural order of things in Ukraine. There has been a surge in promotional material highlighting the role of Ukrainian women in the "defence of the realm", with an emphasis on their current numbers within the Ukrainian armed forces, this being at least 75,000.

At the same time, there have been dozens of cases of harassment against female military personnel in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces, where impunity is rife. In November 2024, reports emerged of sexual violence committed by Ukrainian soldiers against female graduates of Kharkiv National Medical

University who had been mobilized. Young women who have been conscripted into the army and assigned to work as sanitary instructors and military medics inevitably face violence.

In May 2024, *The Guardian* published an interview with Nadiya Haran, a 27-year-old Ukrainian female officer, who said that women were being given the "option" at military draft offices to engage in adultery in exchange for their husbands receiving deferrals from military service. Commanders openly harass their subordinates, threatening to send these women's menfolk to their deaths. When a woman tried to raise the issue, she was ordered to "shut up". In the case of another servicewoman who had filed a complaint, the attempt was made to commit her to a psychiatric hospital.

According to leaks published in open sources, in the first quarter of 2026 alone, Ukraine's military prosecution authorities recorded 1,539 complaints from women serving in the Ukrainian armed forces containing evidence of elements of offences against sexual freedom and inviolability of the person, bullying offences, and offences against honour and dignity.

Civilians in our country are also facing violence at the hands of the uniformed thugs from the Ukrainian armed forces. In particular, the thugs from the Tornado and Aidar terrorist and extremist nationalist battalions are known to have tortured and abused minors in Donbass. Tornado "fighters" set up a torture chamber at a school in Lisichansk, where they tortured and raped children, filming their "exploits" on video.

There have also been sickening crimes committed by foreign mercenaries "serving" in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces. On 6 August 2024, "fighters" from the Ukrainian armed forces invaded the Kursk region and acted in the manner of the most savage terrorists as they subjected the civilian population to abuse. In the spring of 2025, following the region's liberation by Russian troops, traces of the atrocities committed by the Ukrainian nationalists came to light one after another. Corpses of civilians showing signs of torture, sexual assault and violent death were discovered in the cellars of houses in the village of Russkoye Porechnoye. At least eight women had been abused before being dispatched with a shot to the head. In Sudzha, the Banderites raped a woman and then decapitated her. In Goncharovka, in the Kursk region, they raped and murdered a woman after learning that her son was in the military.

Behind each of these war crimes lie not only the commanders of the Ukrainian armed forces and the ultranationalist regime in Kyiv, but also that regime's Western backers, who are financing, arming and training all these Ukrainian "fighters" perpetrating outrages against the civilian population of the Russian Federation.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation will put an end to this.

Between 28 September and 4 October, our troops liberated no fewer than 14 population centres in the Donetsk People's Republic and in the Kharkov, Sumy and Zaporozhye regions. The pace is picking up: Russia brought 1,301 square kilometres of territory within the zone of the special military operation under its control in September alone.

In response to the Ukrainian armed forces' terrorist actions against our country's civilian population and civilian infrastructure, we are systematically demilitarizing military facilities in Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities. Last week, strikes were carried out against facilities producing drones and uncrewed surface vessels, ship repair infrastructure and energy facilities that were sustaining the operations of the Ukrainian military industry. The targets included: infrastructure at the Dunaysudoservice shipyard in the port of Izmail; the Bilohorodka warehouse in the Kyiv region holding UAVs; a workshop for the production of UAVs in Velykodolynske, Odessa region; a locomotive depot in Kyiv (used as a warehouse for FP-5

Flamingo missiles and their components); the Renta Logistik transport and logistics centre in Kyiv (used as a workshop for the production of uncrewed surface vessels); the Kyivska substation in Nalyvaikivka; the Kyiv hydropower plant in Vyshhorod; the Trypilska thermal power plant; and an energy storage park in Horenychi.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation will continue to conduct massive retaliatory strikes. The Russian Foreign Ministry has once again warned foreign nationals, including the staff of diplomatic missions, against staying in Ukraine or travelling to its territory. Responsibility for any adverse consequences rests squarely and fully with those who ignore this warning.

Mr. Chairperson,

Having launched the special military operation in 2022 to defend the people of Donbass and Novorossiya from extermination by the Kyiv regime, Russia continues to fight for their security and rights in full compliance with the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. We will carry through our fight for the truth and justice to the end: the goals of the special military operation will be achieved; threats to Russia’s security will be eliminated and peaceful life restored. That is how it will be, come what may.

Thank you for your attention.