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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 96th JOINT MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 September 2025

**Subject: The West's propaganda exercise related to an overflight by
Russian fighter jets in the airspace over the Baltic Sea**

Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,

We strongly condemn the deliberate escalation of tensions in Europe by the NATO and EU countries. This is not in keeping with the behaviour of States desirous of maintaining international peace and security.

The West's whipping up of anti-Russian hysteria is increasingly taking the form of a systematic campaign to instil into the population of Europe the idea that direct military conflict with Russia is inevitable. They thus deliberately interpret any actions by Russia as a premeditated stoking of tensions. However, the true nature of their strategy consists in shaping public demand for militarization, for a war against Russia.

The target audience of this propaganda campaign also includes US President Donald Trump, whom Europe is trying to induce to take a "hard line", its intention being to cancel out the constructive "spirit of Alaska", undermine the incipient progress in the Ukrainian settlement process and drag the United States of America deeper into confrontation with Russia. The pragmatic line taken by the new US administration aimed at ending the Ukrainian conflict is perceived here in Europe as a threat to the interests of the military-industrial lobby and the "war party" as a whole.

In view of the anti-Russian propaganda campaign being waged in the West, which involves numerous falsifications, we have no reason to take our opponents at their word. Among other things, this is attested by the recent story about the alleged Russian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in Poland, in connection with which NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, speaking after a meeting of the NATO Council held at Poland's request under Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty, did not reply to a question as to whether there was evidence – he said merely that "a full assessment is ongoing." Nevertheless, this did not stop Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Marcin Bosacki from ascribing, at a meeting of the United Nations Security Council, the destruction of a house in the Lublin Voivodeship to the "crash of a Russian UAV". In

reality, it was caused by an errant missile dropped from a NATO F-16 fighter jet. At the same time, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk has acknowledged that not a single one of the drones discovered on the territory of his country was carrying explosives or posed any threat to civilians. Despite all this, Russia has yet to see a public retraction or receive a basic apology.

The so-called “incident” in Estonian airspace on 19 September was evidently the latest information smokescreen put up by the collective West. The Estonian representatives are trying to accuse us of a “penetration” of their national airspace “up to 10 kilometres deep” by Russian fighter jets, followed by an overflight covering a distance of “100 kilometres” and lasting “12 minutes”. Moreover, it was emphasized by these officials that the jets had allegedly been pretty much on course towards Tallinn.

No serious evidence to back up their accusations has been presented by the Estonian authorities this time round either. It is impossible to assess the authenticity of the “radar screenshots” and photographs of the “violating aircraft” that were displayed today. If Estonia really had wanted to get to the bottom of the situation and resolve it, then it should have proposed holding a bilateral, depoliticized dialogue at the professional level. However, for Estonia, as for the West in general, it is evidently more important to stir up a propagandistic fuss, using that to justify the process of militarization and preparation for war with Russia.

Let us take a look at the facts.

First of all, three Russian MiG-31 fighter jets made a scheduled flight from Karelia to an airfield in the Kaliningrad region. Their flight path passed over neutral waters of the Baltic Sea, more than three kilometres from the island of Vaindloo. During their flight, the Russian jets did not veer off the agreed air route nor did they violate Estonian airspace. The flight took place in strict accordance with the international rules governing the use of airspace, without violating the borders of other States, as confirmed by objective monitoring data.

Secondly, the tactical and technical characteristics of a MiG-31 are such that its cruising speed is 950 km/h in subsonic flight. In 12 minutes it can cover approximately 190 km, that is, after around six or seven minutes it would be able to reach Tallinn and by the 12th minute it would already be approaching the Gulf of Riga. If one subscribes to Estonia’s interpretation of what happened, then our jets would have had to have almost been flying around in circles inside the airspace of that Baltic State within the specified time frame.

Thus, the Estonian version of events simply does not stand up to scrutiny, just as was the case with the earlier “drone incident” in Poland.

Incidentally, we have noticed the hypocritical appeals addressed to us by NATO urging the need to “avoid confrontation”. These appeals are being issued, *inter alia*, by those States that have long been seeking, in violation of international law, to turn Baltic waters into an “inland sea of NATO” and gain total control over the Baltic. In so doing, they are not stopping at any means. Thus, on 14 May of this year, the whole world saw how the Estonian Navy tried to detain the *Jaguar*, a civilian tanker with a Russian crew on board that was en route to Primorsk and sailing in neutral waters of the Gulf of Finland. The Estonians ordered this civilian vessel to cast anchor and threatened to ram it, and after its crew refused to comply with such unlawful demands they twice tried to board the ship by force. These attempts by the Estonian armed forces to intimidate civilian watercraft can only be described as “twenty-first century piracy”, which for some reason has been overlooked by the self-styled champions of “de-escalation of tensions”.

Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,

The extremely hostile actions by the Alliance's countries during the Ukrainian crisis indicate that they are already becoming involved in direct military confrontation with Russia and that NATO's eastern flank is essentially turning into an eastern front. There has been an observable increase in the activity of aircraft belonging to NATO and its member countries near Russia's borders in the Baltic and Black Sea regions and in the Arctic, which could well give rise to dangerous military incidents.

In particular, we know for certain that, in the course of NATO reconnaissance flights over the Black Sea, intelligence data is being gathered and transmitted to the Ukrainian armed forces so that Ukraine can launch strikes against Russian territory. The airplanes being employed for this include the RC-135V/W Rivet Joint, the RC-135U Combat Sent and the Boeing P-8A Poseidon from the United States of America, the RC-135W Rivet Joint and the Poseidon MRA1 from the United Kingdom, the S102B Korpen from Sweden, the King Air 350ER from France and NATO's E-3A Sentry. Also in use are RQ-4B Global Hawk and MQ-9 Reaper strategic reconnaissance UAVs. What we are, in effect, dealing with here is the massive complicity of specific NATO member countries in the Kyiv regime's criminal actions against the population of the Russian Federation.

In connection with what has been said, we strongly condemn the terrorist attack carried out on 21 September by the Kyiv regime against the Foros sanatorium on the territory of the Republic of Crimea, where women and children were among the holidaymakers. The strike was carried out using UAVs equipped with fragmentation warheads. According to preliminary data, three civilians were killed and 16 people sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity as a result of this terrorist attack.

Here I should like to make reference to what NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte stated on 23 September following yet another meeting convened under Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty, namely that "no immediate threat [from the Russian fighter jets] was assessed". Earlier, no one in Poland and Romania was harmed by the "unidentified UAVs". In contrast, NATO's actions to ply the Kyiv regime with massive amounts of weapons and intelligence data pose an objective threat to the citizens of the Russian Federation and are claiming the lives of women and children.

In that regard, we should like to hear today our opponents provide answers to the following questions:

- How do they weigh up the risks and threats to civilian objects when transmitting intelligence information to the Kyiv regime?
- What do they make of the fact that the intelligence they are providing is being used by the Ukrainian armed forces to kill civilians?
- Do they realize that Russia can respond resolutely to the threats being posed to our country's citizens by the Kyiv regime with the direct support of NATO and the European Union?
- Lastly, what measures are they ready to take to prevent potential military incidents from spilling over into a high-intensity conflict?

The resolving of conflict situations and the prevention of dangerous military incidents have always been based on a responsible approach by military officials and diplomats. If the EU and NATO countries were genuinely interested in lowering military tensions and reducing risks, they would not only stop using

the Ukrainians as proxies to wage war on Russia, but would also activate the existing instruments for de-escalation.

The military specialists in this room know full well that, starting in 1972, the USSR/Russia and several NATO countries have concluded a whole package of intergovernmental agreements on the prevention of incidents on and over the high seas (“INCSEA agreements”) and on the prevention of dangerous military activities (“DMA agreements”). Whereas the INCSEA agreements lay down mutual obligations aimed at preventing adverse situations from occurring, the DMA agreements provide for assistance to be rendered to personnel and equipment, including aircraft, in the event of these unintentionally entering into the territory of the other Party. However, since 2022 the relevant agreements have been unilaterally frozen by the NATO member countries. To the detriment of existing international legal mechanisms, they are currently occupied with quite different tasks in the Ukrainian theatre of operations and on the eastern flank, which is leading to further deterioration of the system of agreements in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

On a separate note, we have taken good notice of the hostile tone and certain highly reckless calls emanating from the capitals of NATO countries through which aggressive action against our country is being urged. We consider it beneath our dignity to react to these. The notion that scare tactics could work on Russia is ludicrous. However, we do consider it necessary to warn that specific actions taken under the cloak of accusations against us (including the deployment of additional forces and assets on Russia’s borders) will be taken into account in our defence planning and will, in any case, weaken rather than strengthen the security of those States on whose territory the activities in question are being conducted.

NATO’s provocative military preparations continue to be a direct threat to Russia and are significantly heightening the risk of an explosive situation developing. We solemnly affirm that the prevention of further escalation depends, above all, on the readiness of the Alliance countries to refrain from new adventures.

Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,

With regard to the holding of today’s meeting, we should like to note separately that the concentration of the authority of two Chairmanships (the OSCE Chairmanship and the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC)) in the hands of one delegation is not helpful. In order to satisfy the ambitions of certain participating States and work anti-Russian wording into the agenda, it is abusing its position and shirking the principal duty of the Chairmanships as enshrined in chapter III of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, which is to co-ordinate and consult on current business on behalf of, respectively, the Permanent Council and the FSC. This presupposes the need for consultations with all stakeholders, among which is the Russian Federation, as far as the present meeting is concerned. However, the delegation of Finland did not hold any consultations with us in advance.

The Russian Federation’s participation in this meeting shall not set a precedent for the future. If, going forward, the “dual Chairmanship” continues to abuse its powers in order to circumvent the procedures of a decision-making body whose remit comprises politico-military issues, then we reserve the right not to take part in such politicized shows, thereby affording our opponents an opportunity to flaunt their “eloquence” before one another instead.

Thank you for your attention.