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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1110th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

18 June 2025

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

Madam Chairperson,

Under the pretext of the need to counter Russia, NATO member countries and the Kyiv regime, which is under their tutelage, are stepping up their provocative activities on the European continent, completely ignoring the risk of their actions having the most serious consequences for international peace and security.

According to the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, Ukrainian intelligence agencies have established close co-operation with the British intelligence services, which are currently assisting the Kyiv regime in preparing a false-flag operation in the Baltic Sea, where, as it is, the threat of dangerous military incidents between NATO and Russian military aircraft and naval vessels is constantly looming overhead for reasons attributable to the Alliance's authorities in Brussels. One of the scenarios devised by Ukraine and the United Kingdom involves staging an alleged Russian torpedo attack on a US Navy ship, what is more with Soviet/Russian-made torpedoes already handed over to the British by the Ukrainians. The Ukrainian security forces are ready to take it upon themselves to carry out the attack, specifically to detonate some of the munitions at a "safe distance" from the US vessel, while the rest are to be presented to the public as evidence of Russia's notorious "malicious activity". Another scenario involves mobilizing Northern European countries to take part in the charade of fishing in the Baltic Sea for Russian-made anchor mines allegedly planted there to sabotage international shipping lanes.

We strongly caution the Kyiv regime and its handlers against attempts to ratchet up tensions in the Baltic region, which stakeholders in the West are keen to turn into a "NATO lake". Given the West's unwillingness to engage in dialogue, we will continue to take the necessary measures to curb the threats to our country's security.

At the same time, we are well aware of what lies behind the actions of our adversaries.

The goal of the Kyiv regime has long been to draw NATO into direct armed conflict with Russia. Everything is being put into play to that end: demands for the delivery of longer-range missiles, strikes on strategic aviation airfields, and the use of Western intelligence data of all kinds to organize terrorist attacks within the territory of our country. Recently, there were even overt attempts by Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, to whip up militaristic psychosis in Europe: “Germany doesn’t have three years to prepare. The war can get hot at any moment. It is important not only to stockpile tanks and shells, but to have the will to wage war against the veteran army that Russia has.”

Against this backdrop, the European Union and the United Kingdom – both in words and in practice – are demonstrating that progress in the Russian-Ukrainian dialogue does not suit them. In particular, the authorities in London fear that the peacemaking efforts made possible thanks to the Trump administration will result in the failure of the British strategy of “containing” Russia, at the core of which lies complete control over Ukraine. We remember only too well the Orwellian pronouncement by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer: “We are moving to war-fighting readiness ... to show them that we’re ready to deliver peace through strength” (Glasgow, 2 June 2025).

The West’s true goal of inflicting a “strategic defeat” on Russia on the battlefield using the Ukrainians as a cat’s paw has long since ceased to be hidden. Throughout all these years, and especially since 2014, Ukraine has been regarded by the West merely as a bridgehead in the confrontation with us. I emphasize: not even as a pawn, just as a square on the global chessboard. There was never any question of respect for the Ukrainian people. And so it continues to this day. The former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, described this state of affairs accurately, albeit in a consumeristic manner and with a heavy dose of cynicism: “Our war costs money and costs lives. And thankfully, it’s not our lives, but it is our money. Don’t pretend this to be for free” (29 November 2024). French President Emmanuel Macron was also very clear about his readiness to invest in the war “down to the last Ukrainian”: “Nothing should be ruled out. We will do anything we can to prevent Russia from winning this war” (Paris, 26 February 2024). In reality, what the West seeks from Ukraine is merely land (in terms of fertile black soil and a bridgehead) and human flesh that can be thrown into the storming of Russian positions. Everything else – command functions, money, weapons, advisers, instructors and missile system operators – is Western. And those who have Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s back today could not care less who will be killed by the missiles they are supplying.

While the Kyiv regime continues to carry out despicable terrorist attacks against the civilian population of our country to the telling silence of the West, NATO countries are giving priority to repelling an imaginary “Russian threat”. The Alliance has developed three regional defence plans, which envisage massive military development of member countries’ territories bordering Russia, preparation for combat operations there, and the creation of arms stockpiles, military equipment depots and other infrastructure to enable the rapid deployment of coalition troops. Aggressive intentions towards Russia – which, incidentally, are denied by delegations at the Forum for Security Co-operation – have in fact long been voiced by the leaders of European countries and those countries’ associations.

To cite former German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock: “We are fighting a war against Russia and not against each other” (Strasbourg, 24 January 2023).

Or quoting NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte: “Let’s not kid ourselves, we are all on the eastern flank now” (London, 9 June 2025). He also said: “It is time to shift to a wartime mindset” (Brussels, 12 December 2024).

We might also add that the chief administrative officer of NATO’s International Staff is now demanding that all member countries dramatically increase their military spending, including on air and

missile defence, by a record 400 per cent. In that regard, we are obliged to emphasize the following. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, in 2024, the combined military budget of the Alliance countries was 1.5 trillion dollars, or 55 per cent of global military spending. We would be interested to know: is that not sufficient for the NATO countries to sleep well at night? Or perhaps they will tell us what is really behind the calls to increase military spending to 5 per cent of their gross domestic product – whether it is a hankering to unleash an arms race fraught with unpredictable consequences or a desire to enrich Western military corporations?

The aforementioned pronouncements, aimed as they are at triggering a war psychosis on the continent, once again confirm that peacemaking and EU/NATO are two incompatible things. It is also extremely obvious that all their actions are now subordinated to the task of countering our country. One dimension of this activity is the encouragement of the Kyiv regime's attempts to shift the hostilities deep into the territory of the Russian Federation. Our country's armed forces have repeatedly thwarted attempts by Ukrainian armed formations to penetrate into the Belgorod and Bryansk regions. Meanwhile, Ukrainian crack units, equipped with Western weapons and armoured vehicles, were deployed to pave the way for the Ukrainian armed forces' incursion into the Kursk region in August 2024. We should like to go into this in more detail.

Just over a month ago, on 26 April, the armed forces of the Russian Federation completed their battlefield rout of the Ukrainian grouping in the Kursk region. The atrocities committed by the Ukrainian armed forces in this long-suffering region went on for almost nine months. As stated in preliminary reports, more than 200,000 civilians may be said to have been affected to varying degrees. According to preliminary information from the Ministry of Health, 1,238 civilians are considered to have suffered physically, with one in four losing their lives. The final extent of the damage caused by the doings of the Ukrainian armed forces will be determined precisely once demining work and a detailed survey have been conducted. But already at this stage the list of objects to be reconstructed includes 60 healthcare facilities, 105 educational facilities, 148 cultural heritage sites and 76 places of worship. That being said, there are countless civilian infrastructure facilities that have been destroyed or damaged.

There is no question in anybody's mind that the Ukrainian armed forces' terrorist "foray" into the Kursk region was carried out with the direct assistance of Western countries (as Mr. Zelenskyy's adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, whom we have already mentioned today, personally admitted), even extending to assistance with military planning and the provision of intelligence data, equipment and weapons, including US-made Bradley armoured infantry fighting vehicles and Stryker armoured personnel carriers, German-made Marder armoured infantry fighting vehicles, French-made AMX tanks, Swedish-made CV-90 armoured infantry fighting vehicles, US-made MaxxPro, Cougar and Humvee armoured vehicles, Italian-made MLS SHIELD armoured vehicles, Canadian-made Roshel Senator armoured vehicles, and US-made HIMARS and MLRS multiple-launch rocket systems and M777 artillery pieces. These weapons were used in violation of international humanitarian law, something that is at odds, specifically, with the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (1993), the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000), the Arms Trade Treaty and other international obligations pertaining to a responsible export control policy.

This attack was sold to the international community as an operation to "demonstrate the combat capability of the Ukrainian army" and "improve Ukraine's negotiating position". But the very first hours of the Ukrainian militants' presence on Kursk soil demonstrated their bestial callousness towards the civilian population. Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles targeted civilians as they were attempting to evacuate; they attacked ambulance crews, residential buildings and civilian vehicles. According to the regional register, almost 2,500 people remained on the territory occupied by the Ukrainian armed forces, and these people became witnesses to, and victims of, atrocities committed by neo-Nazis. Looting was a constant

phenomenon, with tours organized from Ukraine to villages in the Kursk region to plunder the property of local residents. There are plenty of witnesses to these horrors.

Ukrainian neo-Nazis and foreign mercenaries engaged in armed lawlessness in Plyokhovo, Malaya Loknya, Pogrebki, Russkoye Porechnoye and other population centres. In the village of Cherkasskoye Porechnoye in the Sudzha district of the Kursk region, the bodies of four civilians showing signs of a violent death were discovered in the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. In the village of Plyokhovo, less than half of the inhabitants who had stayed behind lived to see its liberation. In the village of Makhnovka in the Sudzha district, the bodies of nine civilians showing signs of a violent death were found in residential buildings and the surrounding area; most of them had been shot at point-blank range. Unfortunately, this list could go on and on. All these war crimes are being looked into by our investigative bodies, and the perpetrators will inevitably receive their just punishment.

In the first ten days of March, the armed forces of the Russian Federation launched a large-scale counteroffensive in the Kursk region, which had been preceded by a phase of thorough preparation. One of the operation's initial stages was given the code name "Stream". As a result of intense fighting, the enemy lost 76,000 military personnel wounded or killed, some 400 tanks, more than 600 armoured infantry fighting vehicles and armoured personnel carriers, and about 2,200 armoured vehicles. Our country's President, Vladimir Putin, has noted the important role played by military personnel from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the rout of the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries in the Kursk region.

Madam Chairperson,

The Kursk "foray" by the Ukrainian armed forces, organized with the direct assistance of the West, has proved to be yet another black stain on the Kyiv regime and its handlers, who have demonstrated their "consistent" position that international humanitarian law does not apply "always and to everyone", but only to those who enjoy NATO-EU protection. Colleagues, if you really want lasting and sustainable peace in Ukraine, as you have stated today, then this cannot go on.

At the present stage, the armed forces of the Russian Federation are faced with the task of safeguarding the security of Russian territory and eliminating the very possibility of such actions by the Ukrainian armed forces and their sponsors in the future. The President of the Russian Federation has set the goal of creating a buffer zone on the border with Ukraine, and Russian troops are successfully implementing this objective. In Kyiv and Western capitals they must understand that, given the ongoing terrorist attacks by the Kyiv regime against the civilian population of the Belgorod and Bryansk regions of the Russian Federation and the increasing flight range of the weapon systems used, it must be a question of expanding this security zone in order to make sure that the terrorists are as far away as possible from the Russian border.

Active offensive operations by our troops are continuing in the zone of the special operation. Last week, military successes were reported in the direction of Sumy, Kupyansk, Krasnolimansk, Konstantinovsk, Dnepropetrovsk and the southern Donetsk region. The following population centres were liberated in the course of offensive operations: Novonikolayevka and Yablonovka (Sumy region), Alekseyevka, Zeleny Kut, Komar, Koptevo, Petrovskoye and Ulyanovka (Donetsk People's Republic), and Dolgenkoye (Kharkov region).

As part of the demilitarization of Ukraine, a wave of strikes was carried out using air-launched and ground- and sea-based precision weapons and unmanned combat aerial vehicles against facilities belonging to the military-industrial complex in the Kyiv region and Zaporozhye, as well as against the Kremenchuk oil refinery in the Poltava region, which was supplying fuel to the Ukrainian armed forces' grouping in

Donbass. Since the start of the special operation, at least 663 airplanes, 283 helicopters, 63,970 unmanned aerial vehicles, 611 anti-aircraft missile systems, 23,935 tanks and other armoured vehicles, 1,572 multiple-launch rocket systems, 26,280 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 36,950 special-purpose military vehicles have been destroyed.

We have repeatedly said and wish to reiterate again that the special operation's goals can be achieved both by peaceful and by military means. Our armed forces are capable of intensifying combat operations for as long as it takes. At the same time, we have always emphasized our commitment to a political and diplomatic settlement of the crisis.

Russia has fulfilled the promises it made in Istanbul on 2 June. President Putin informed US President Donald Trump of this during their recent telephone conversation. A total of 6,060 bodies of deceased officers and soldiers of the Ukrainian armed forces were handed over to the Ukrainian side. In return, we received the bodies of 78 deceased Russian servicemen. We confirm that a further 2,238 bodies are ready to be handed over. We note the continuation of the exchange of prisoners and the establishment of co-operation with the Ukrainian side on the issue of urgent medical transfers of the seriously wounded from the front line. We are ready to continue negotiations with the Ukrainians, as agreed, after 22 June.

Today is the moment when everyone must make a choice – whether to pursue the path of peace or escalation. We made this choice long ago, when we stood up in defence of our country and Russian people who were being subjected to armed violence by the Kyiv regime. Russia does not start wars, it ends them. It is of fundamental importance to us that the root causes of the conflict be resolved once and for all. We will not allow the continued existence of security threats related to the spread of neo-Nazism near our borders and the creation of a NATO military bridgehead. And if Ukraine continues to be guided by the national interests of other States, we will be forced to respond.

NATO member countries should also be aware that destabilizing actions, including hostile acts in the context of the Ukrainian crisis, are triggering the most serious security risks and have the potential to lead to direct armed conflict between major powers. We are able and ready to take countermeasures of a political, diplomatic, military and military-technical nature, but we still consider the solving of security problems through dialogue in the OSCE area to be the more palatable option for everyone. We are prepared to pursue that option. Now it is up to you.

Thank you for your attention.