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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1102nd PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

26 March 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

During a Russian-US telephone conversation at the highest level on 18 March, the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, put forward a proposal for the parties to the Ukrainian conflict to mutually refrain from strikes on energy infrastructure for 30 days – a proposal that was accepted by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. The Russian leader immediately gave the relevant order to our national defence authority. Our air defence system at once neutralized seven unmanned combat aerial vehicles that were in the air at the time and had been on course to target Ukrainian energy infrastructure facilities in the Mykolaiv region involved in sustaining the country's military-industrial complex.

However, the “term-expired” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who ostensibly relayed to the US authorities his support for that constructive proposal, in practice demonstrated a complete lack of capacity to negotiate and absence of political will for peace. Over the past seven days, the Kyiv regime has drastically intensified its attacks using combat drones and HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems to strike at our country's energy infrastructure, including its international segment.

On 19 March, a few hours after agreement was reached on the US proposal, the Kyiv regime used three aircraft-type drones to carry out an attack on a facility belonging to the Caspian Pipeline Consortium that is located in the village of Kavkazskaya in Russia's Krasnodar territory and that enables the transshipment of oil into the pipeline system of that international oil transport company. This led to a fire that extended over 1,700 square kilometres. Having been destroyed by those neo-Nazis, the Kavkazskaya pumping station can now not be used to convey oil.

On 21 March, fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces who had illegally entered Russian territory deliberately blew up the Sudzha gas distribution station in the Kursk region.

On 22 March, the Kyiv regime used drones to attack the Valuyka gas distribution station in the Belgorod region.

On 23 March, Russian air defence systems repelled an attack on the Glebovskoye gas condensate field on Cape Tarkhankut in Crimea.

However, the Kyiv camarilla broke new records of political effrontery on 24 March, when it tried its utmost to create a negative backdrop for the Russian-US meeting at the expert group level in Riyadh. As the result of a drone attack on energy infrastructure in the Krasnodar territory, the “Rostov nuclear power plant-Tikhoretsk No. 2” power line had to be switched off. In the Lugansk People’s Republic, the Svatovo gas distribution station was targeted by the Ukrainian armed forces in a strike using unmanned aerial vehicles. A drone was intercepted in Crimea that had in its sights equipment at the Glebovskoye underground gas storage facility. In addition, Ukrainian drones again struck the Kropotinskaya oil-pumping station, part of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, which led to operations being shut down at one facility. As reported by the Consortium, the Kyiv regime’s actions are having a destructive effect on the financial performance of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and the financial results it is producing for all its shareholders, including Kazakhstan and companies from the United States (incidentally, Russia owns just 24 per cent of the shares in the Consortium). Mr. Zelenskyy, though, is quite indifferent, to put it mildly, to the well-being of the international community; he is more concerned about the prospects for the political survival of his regime.

The international community must be very clear about the fact that what we are dealing with here is a series of insolent provocations specially prepared by the Kyiv camarilla in order to demonstratively discredit US President Donald Trump’s peace initiatives. It is also clear that Mr. Zelenskyy has once again breached the understandings that had been reached, thereby confirming his utter intractability. Just as in 2022, provocations are being used to derail the negotiation process.

We solemnly declare that, in compliance with President Putin’s order, the armed forces of the Russian Federation are refraining from strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure, despite the Kyiv regime’s violations of the agreement reached. We warn that, should the Kyiv regime persist in its destructive course, Russia reserves the right to respond, including with symmetrical measures. In these circumstances, the European States must distinctly call upon the Kyiv regime’s senior figure to fulfil the agreement reached. We remember how at the last meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) the delegation of the United Kingdom welcomed the temporary mutual cessation of strikes on energy infrastructure. We trust that the authorities in London will work on their protégés accordingly (if only to minimize the losses of British shareholders in the Caspian Pipeline Consortium). Otherwise, the words of UK officials, who three years ago partook in the derailment of the negotiation efforts in Istanbul, must be deemed to carry no weight whatsoever.

This is a particularly pressing issue also given the fact that, while contacts on a settlement are intensifying, the Kyiv regime has, for the second week in a row, been systematically ramping up the shelling of civilian objects in the Russian Federation. Our colleagues can take a look at the figures shown in the bar chart. As before, the Kyiv camarilla is obsessed with the idée fixe of inflicting a defeat on Russia, for which purpose it is making active use of terrorist methods against civilians. Over the past week, the neo-Nazis’ shelling attacks have killed 16 people and injured 134, including four children. There have been barbaric cases of the Ukrainian armed forces’ drones deliberately targeting residential buildings and community facilities in the Kursk, Belgorod, Rostov, Saratov and other regions of our country.

The Kyiv regime is not only not letting up in its terror against Russian civilians and energy facilities but is even systematically stalking representatives of the Russian media, who enjoy protection under international humanitarian law in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol Additional I thereto. But when was the last time the Kyiv regime spared a thought for international humanitarian law

anyway? On 24 March – and I must once again stress that this happened while Russian-US expert group consultations on a settlement were under way – the Ukrainian armed forces used two HIMARS rockets to carry out a targeted strike on a group of journalists in the Lugansk People's Republic that claimed the lives of Alexander Fedorchak, an *Izvestia* correspondent, Andrey Panov, a cameraman working for the Zvezda television channel, and Alexander Sirkeli, the group's driver. Zvezda war correspondent Nikita Goldin was seriously injured. At the same time, TASS reporter Mikhail Skuratov sustained shrapnel injuries in the Sudzha district of the Kursk region. It is highly revealing that Ukrainian websites are presenting this turn of events as a "victory" for their side, gloating over the deaths of those who had been covering front-line developments. So this is how the Ukrainian "striving for peace" is making itself felt along practically the entire line of engagement.

We should also like to draw OSCE participating States' attention to the ongoing investigation into the atrocities by the Kyiv camarilla that were committed during the occupation of districts belonging to the Kursk region. The Russian Investigative Committee continues to gather facts regarding shootings and other acts of violence perpetrated against civilians. According to Tatyana Baleevskikh, the acting head of the Kursk regional forensic medical office, examination of the bodies of inhabitants of Russkoye Porechnoye who were killed by military personnel from the Ukrainian armed forces revealed that "elderly men and women had sustained blunt trauma to the chest, leading to bilateral rib fractures. They had lung contusions; there was blood in the pleural cavity. One woman had suffered injury to her knees, one man to his left hand, causing a wrist fracture. Another case that stands out is that of a woman who was found to have sustained blunt trauma to the chest and gunshot wounds, mainly to her back, and who also showed signs of having been electrocuted." Forensic medical examination of the bodies of elderly individuals indicated that they were all in an emaciated condition and showed signs of a violent death. I wish to emphasize that we are talking here about just one population centre that we have selected from among the population centres in the Kursk region that have been liberated from occupation. What happened in Russkoye Porechnoye is a result of the systematization of crimes by the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries on our soil.

Speaking at an enlarged meeting of the Board of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation on 19 March, President Putin let it be known in no uncertain terms that, in accordance with our country's laws, all military personnel from Ukrainian formations, and especially soldiers of fortune, who entered our territory and committed multiple crimes against the civilian population will be classified as terrorists. The atrocities that they perpetrated will be uncovered, documented and thoroughly investigated. All these criminals and those who issued unlawful orders, all those who abused civilians will be identified and will subsequently receive a just punishment.

We exhort the OSCE participating States and, more broadly, the international community to unequivocally condemn the Kyiv regime's crimes and to call for the immediate cessation of attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces against the civilian population and representatives of the media in violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is evident that responsibility for the Kyiv camarilla's terrorist attacks and crimes rests with all countries that, irresponsibly and in breach of international export control mechanisms, continue to ply it with lethal weapons, thereby facilitating its bloody misdeeds. It would not be amiss to recall that terrorists worldwide are currently in clover thanks to the weapons "seeping" out of Ukrainian territory. Moreover, this illicit trade is completely controlled by Ukrainian and international organized criminal groups that are operating under the patronage of Kyiv officials, the Ukrainian armed forces command and the upper echelons of the country's intelligence services. It comes as no surprise, for example, that, as reported by the African media outlet *Journal du Niger*, after a recent attack by terrorists against civilians in the Niger, a

120 mm mortar was discovered at the scene of the incident, specifically, according to the authorities, a mortar of the MP-120 Molot type, together with a Ukrainian-language instruction manual attached to it. With the connivance of its European patrons, the corrupt neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv is apparently thus extending the geographical radius of its crimes.

In this context, Europe's attitude towards a settlement of the Ukrainian conflict is paradoxical: the Europeans ought to be interested in peace, yet they stubbornly talk about a continuation of the war. In Brussels they are openly making plans for stepping up investments by the military-industrial complex in infrastructure for the movement of troops, with Ukraine being earmarked as the main testing ground for novel designs. During his recent visit to Washington, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer shamelessly sought to persuade US President Donald Trump not to end the conflict so quickly and boasted that the United Kingdom was planning on massive arms shipments for the Kyiv regime this year. At the same time, Germany is embarking on forced militarization, while Finnish President Alexander Stubb is calling for "militariz[ing] Ukraine to its teeth".

It seems that the authorities in Brussels continue to be unable to reach clarity on some questions, including the question as to what specific functions the European Union could fulfil in the context of the new dynamics around the Ukrainian crisis. Nor are they able to explain how their demonstrative support for potential ceasefire agreements can be squared with their blinkered pro-war position and pursuit of militarization in Europe. However, it is quite clear that in both Moscow and Washington there is no understanding for such a position. In particular, the US President's Special Envoy Steve Witkoff said during an interview with the American journalist Tucker Carlson: "And while I think we have to get a fair deal for Ukraine, we cannot allow that country to drag us into World War Three." He also noted the absurdity of myths fuelled by the European political class claiming that "the Russians want to march across Europe." It is evidently high time that our European colleagues recalled what Lev Tolstoy said about "the cudgel of the people's war" in his novel *War and Peace*.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today we should like to separately highlight an issue that, as we know, genuinely worries Western delegations at the FSC, namely the treatment of captive military personnel. As a rule, our colleagues here in Vienna take thematic reports issued by international bodies and exclusively quote those passages that contain the testimony of Ukrainian fighters. In so doing, they completely ignore the remarks of Russian military personnel, who are being interviewed not in their native land but inside Ukrainian dungeons, which, no doubt, cannot but be reflected in the content of their remarks. For entirely obvious reasons, two reports published last week – one by Ambassador-at-Large Rodion Miroshnik from the Russian Foreign Ministry, the other by the International Public Tribunal on the Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis – confirm this.

The interviewed Russian military personnel who returned home on 5 February following an exchange of prisoners (150 on each side) spoke about the Kyiv regime's systematic violations of international humanitarian law in relation to captives. The greatest number of abuses were documented as having occurred in "secret prisons" in the "grey zone" and several other areas some distance from the line of engagement, in the Kursk region, in areas of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk temporarily controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces, in the Sumy, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions of Ukraine, and also in Kyiv.

According to the captives' testimony, the Nazi-Banderite monsters were particularly brutal towards those who ended up in "secret prisons" controlled by the Azov and Aidar nationalist units and other formations in the Nazi mould. Ukrainian fighters set up torture chambers in places of secret detention, where Russian prisoners of war are subjected to savage beatings, threats and violence. These butchers make use of

a whole arsenal of atrocities: the electric chair, drowning, stripping people naked, threats of sexual violence, non-medical amputation of limbs without anaesthesia, mauling by dogs and mock executions by firing squad. Captives who find themselves in unofficial places of detention receive practically no professional medical treatment. The well-known facts regarding the killing and abuse of military personnel by agents of the Kyiv regime are not eliciting international outrage – this is more like the covering up of criminal practices engaged in with the tacit consent of the States sponsoring the Ukrainian neo-Nazis. Enough is enough.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, we should like to strongly emphasize that the Russian Federation, needless to say, supports the idea of a ceasefire; however, along the way towards that goal it is essential to resolve a significant number of fundamental issues. It is important to also understand that the conflict around Ukraine cannot be stopped without eliminating the root causes, including the eastward expansion of NATO and the infringement of the rights of the Russian-speaking population and other national minorities in Ukraine.

The arms shipments to the Kyiv regime must stop. These run all too clearly counter to the professed intentions to achieve peace and to direct the situation towards a political and diplomatic settlement process. Those who want peace must call for an end to the militarization of Ukraine. We trust that this message has been heard in the West.

Following the meeting of Russian and US expert groups that took place on 24 March, a meeting that was also touched upon in a number of statements by OSCE participating States today, we should like to draw particular attention to the fact that the two sides agreed to work out measures for implementation of the agreement prohibiting strikes on Russian and Ukrainian energy facilities for a period of 30 days starting on 18 March. Agreement was also reached on a specific list of Russian and Ukrainian energy facilities covered by the temporary moratorium on strikes on energy systems, which includes oil refineries; oil and gas pipelines and storage facilities, including pumping stations; electricity generation and transmission infrastructure; nuclear power plants; and dams and hydroelectric power plants. In that regard, bearing in mind the information provided by our delegation at the start of this statement, it is necessary to once again stress very clearly that in the event of a violation of the moratorium by either party, the other party is free to consider itself released from the aforementioned obligations.

Moreover, in line with the agreement reached by the Russian and US Presidents, Russia and the United States agreed to implement the Black Sea Initiative, which includes ensuring the safety of navigation, eliminating the use of force and preventing the use of commercial vessels for military purposes by organizing appropriate controls involving the inspection of such vessels.

Russia and the United States also welcomed the good offices of third countries aimed at supporting the implementation of the energy and maritime agreements.

We look forward to continuing to work towards achieving a durable and lasting peace.

Thank you for your attention.