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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1519th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 May 2025

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in
further confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

As of today, a three-day ceasefire along the line of engagement announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin in connection with the 80th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War has come into force. Russian units have received the corresponding orders to cease all hostilities until midnight on 10–11 May 2025. At the same time, it is stressed that, in the event that the Kyiv regime's armed formations violate this truce, the Russian armed forces will have to provide an appropriate and effective neutralizing response.

We would point out that Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian armed forces command have not made any public statements confirming their commitment to the truce. On the contrary, they have begun putting forward some counter-proposals and making bellicose speeches. However, it is the observance or non-observance of the current three-day truce, which has now entered into force, that will clearly demonstrate the Kyiv regime's true attitude towards initiatives for de-escalation and will be an indicator of its readiness to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict.

For now, it is clear that in actual fact the Kyiv regime, for the sake of staying in power, has no interest in achieving a genuine and just peace. In practice, a settlement would necessarily involve putting an end to mobilization and martial law, giving back to citizens the political rights that have been taken from them, restoring the electoral cycle and addressing urgent socio-economic problems again. NATO's puppets in Kyiv live in "mortal fear" of all this.

The notion that the Kyiv regime is ready to negotiate in order to achieve a political and diplomatic solution to the conflict is absurd. We would once again remind you that substantive contacts are being obstructed by the self-imposed ban on communicating with Russia's leadership that was introduced by Mr. Zelenskyy in the autumn of 2022. This ban must be lifted. In fact, the Kyiv regime makes no secret of its interest in obtaining a respite in the form of an extended ceasefire to make up its losses, replenish its arsenals and regroup its forces.

The recent moratorium on strikes against energy facilities, agreed upon with the assistance of representatives of the United States of America, was a telling example. Russian troops were implementing the moratorium to the letter, but the Kyiv regime “distinguished itself” by its systematic violations. A total of 136 energy infrastructure facilities were hit in various regions of Russia during the period that the moratorium was in force (from 18 March to 18 April 2025). These included 66 overhead power lines, 45 transformer substations and 22 oil and gas processing, transportation and storage facilities.

The situation regarding the Easter truce, which was in effect from 19 to 21 April, was no less instructive. The Russian force grouping strictly observed the ceasefire regime and remained at the previously held borders and positions. Although they reduced the intensity of their fire during the day, the Kyiv regime’s militants committed no fewer than 4,900 violations of the ceasefire and launched strikes on facilities, including civilian objects, in the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, the Republic of Crimea, and the Belgorod, Bryansk and Kursk regions. Moreover, during Easter week, the Ukrainian armed forces deliberately conducted a drone attack on the New Jerusalem wooden church complex in the village of Sukharevo (Belgorod region) on 24 April. By carrying out double-tap strikes, the Ukrainian drone operators tried to obstruct the firefighters who had arrived on the scene. As a result, the church complex – a masterpiece of wooden architecture – was completely destroyed.

Today, the main objective of the Kyiv regime’s armed formations is to create an outcry through high-profile actions and terrorist attacks so as to divert attention from the deteriorating situation of the Ukrainian armed forces along the entire line of engagement. Nevertheless, on 26 April, the active phase of the Russian armed forces’ operation to liberate the Kursk region, which began on 6 March, was completed with the establishment of control over the village of Gornal. The Kyiv regime’s terrorist adventure has brought it neither military nor political dividends. Attempts to enter the area of the Kursk nuclear power plant failed, and the grouping of the Ukrainian armed forces in the Kursk region was defeated.

In the areas from which Mr. Zelenskyy’s formations were dislodged, ample evidence remained of crimes against the civilian population. While retreating, the Kyiv regime’s fighters used inhumane weapons posing a particular danger to the civilian population, including PFM-1 Lepestok anti-personnel mines, with which the Ukrainian armed forces contaminated vast tracts of land in the Kursk and Belgorod regions.

Military personnel from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), who showed a high level of professionalism and resilience, courage and heroism, took an active part in the liberation of territories in the Kursk region. The joint actions of Russian and DPRK units were carried out in strict compliance with international law, in particular with the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty of 19 June 2024, which provides for military assistance in the event of an attack on one of the parties.

Against this backdrop, NATO countries are continuing to conceal their true involvement in the Ukrainian conflict, which is a proxy war against Russia. They plan military operations against Russia, which was already being designated as an adversary in doctrinal documents long before the start of the special military operation. They supply the Kyiv regime’s militants with equipment, arms, ammunition and intelligence, provide them with combat training and instruction, and send so-called instructors and operators of technically sophisticated weapons. They level absurd accusations against our country for scaling up the conflict and, at the same time, they admit to seeking to achieve their geopolitical goals by means of all this – to weaken Russia by using the Ukrainian people, down to the last Ukrainian, against it. What is more, all of this is accompanied by speculation about military contingents from NATO countries being sent to Ukraine under the guise of “peacekeepers” to oppose the Russian army.

The West’s intentions with regard to the Ukrainian conflict were confirmed in April this year by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Elina Valtonen, in an interview with CBS News. Commenting on

initiatives proposing a swift settlement of the conflict, she stated that NATO countries should, on the contrary, focus first and foremost on “keep[ing] Russia at bay” through military support for the regime in Kyiv while simultaneously strengthening NATO’s military potential in Europe. Here is her quote in its entirety: “I think President Trump, who wants to have peace in Ukraine, he’s exactly right. But I think first and foremost we should have as our aim to keep Russia at bay. Because if we are able to keep Russia at bay – that means that we are able to really take care of our own defence and deterrence in the Alliance and also help Ukraine, because Russia only understands power. And if we are able to do that, then I’m sure there will be also credible and lasting peace.”

In short, what we are seeing is propaganda for militarization and dragging out the armed conflict, rather than finding solutions to achieve a swift peace. Needless to say, with an approach like this by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ms. Valtonen, Finland will fail at the helm of the OSCE when it comes to achieving the true purpose of our Organization, which is first and foremost to help strengthen security and co-operation in the pan-European area.

It should be noted that, within the leadership of NATO member countries, many, like Ms. Valtonen, continue to ignore the fact that it is precisely the ramping up of NATO military activity near Russia’s borders and attempting to draw Ukraine into the Alliance, without taking into account the will of its citizens (no referendums have been held on this issue), that have become the main causes of the current major, acute and very dangerous crisis in the OSCE area.

Other politicians in EU Member States have also echoed Ms. Valtonen’s message that the consideration of Russian interests and quickly bringing the Ukrainian conflict to an end are disadvantageous for NATO countries themselves. This was the case, notably, for Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who said that from now on his country, just like Western States, intended to profit financially from its so-called solidarity with Ukraine.

London witnessed a diplomatic fiasco on 23 April. The meeting on Ukraine between representatives of the United States, the European troika [France, Germany and the United Kingdom] and the Kyiv regime not only failed to take place at the desired level, but also did not contribute to a rapprochement of positions – as a result, no practical decisions were taken at the meeting. The special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on 24 April was clearly called in a bid to fuel the news hype surrounding this London meeting that turned out a flop. We note that the Finnish Chairmanship, in violation of its collectively agreed mandate, convened the special meeting without the prior consultations that are meant to be held with the participating States in such cases, and with a deliberately distorted agenda that failed to provide equal and non-discriminatory opportunities to discuss and analyse the facts in depth.

During the aforementioned special meeting, a propaganda spin was given to the topic of the high-precision strike on a congress centre in the city of Sumy on 13 April. We would remind you that a ceremony honouring the Kyiv regime’s fighters, who were involved in the commission of heinous crimes against the civilian population of the Kursk region of the Russian Federation, was taking place there. By organizing such an event in a civilian area, the local authorities and fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces once again used the civilian population as a human shield, a tactic that has been employed by the Kyiv regime for years now. We stress that the Zelenskyy regime bears full responsibility for all the casualties and destruction in Sumy on 13 April. By the way, the head of the region, Volodymyr Artyukh, who was dismissed by Mr. Zelenskyy on 15 April, has already admitted political responsibility.

Mr. Chairperson,

On 9 May, the peoples of the former Soviet Union will celebrate the 80th anniversary of victory over Nazism in the Great Patriotic War. However, the Kyiv regime, which relies on neo-Nazi movements as the mainstay of statehood, prohibits war veterans and ordinary citizens from honouring the victory over German Nazism on this day. In Lviv the local authorities went even farther: at the Field of Mars they destroyed the common graves of Red Army soldiers who gave their lives to liberate the city and the region from the Nazis.

Russian Federal Security Service officers have thwarted a number of terrorist acts organized by the Kyiv regime's intelligence services near monuments to the heroic soldiers of the Red Army. One of the latest cases is the detention in early May of four Ukrainian nationals who had been recruited by the intelligence services and who were preparing an explosion near the memorial to the Red Army soldiers in Kakhovka (Kherson region). They were planning to carry out this attack during a flower-laying ceremony on Victory Day itself. In addition, so as to cast a shadow over the public holiday, Mr. Zelenskyy's formations stepped up their attacks, including those involving unmanned aerial vehicles, on civilian infrastructure in various regions of Russia.

The terrorist nature of the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv is obvious, but it continues to be shamefully hushed up by the representatives of Western countries, including in this room. On 25 April, Yaroslav Moskalik, Deputy Chief of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, was killed as a result of a terrorist attack in the courtyard of an apartment building in the city of Balashikha (Moscow region). The detained perpetrator of the terrorist attack (Ignat Kuzin) testified that the murder was organized by the Ukrainian intelligence services. High-ranking representatives of the Kyiv regime also confirmed the intelligence services' involvement.

The terrorist methods of the neo-Nazis, who have become the backbone of the current so-called authorities in Kyiv, became evident immediately after the armed coup d'état in Kyiv organized by Western countries in February 2014. To intimidate the civilian population, neo-Nazi militants continued to commit crimes with impunity throughout Ukraine, with the most egregious demonstration of such violence occurring on 2 May 2014 at Odessa's Trade Union House. None of the representatives of Western countries who have spoken remembered the anniversary of those terrible events, since they continue to pander to the Kyiv regime in concealing the truth about the real instigators and perpetrators of the inhumane mass murder of dozens of supporters of the Constitution who, 11 years ago in Odessa, opposed the coup d'état.

One more thing. Just the other day, on 6 May, a prisoner exchange took place under the "205 for 205" formula. This event has a particular humanitarian subtext, as the released military personnel were able to return to their homeland and will celebrate this major holiday – Victory Day in the Great Patriotic War – together with their families and friends. On a separate note, we would point out that, since the end of 2024, the Ukrainian side has been blocking the initiative to hold a larger-scale exchange.

We must emphasize that, in order to carry out such humanitarian activities, a working relationship has been established between the Commissioners for Human Rights in Russia and Ukraine, Tatiana Mosalkova and Dmytro Lubinets. In response to the politicized insinuations by our opponents about the alleged failure to observe the conditions for the detention of Ukrainian prisoners and the violation of international norms, we should like to inform you that none of the prisoners handed over to the Ukrainian side on 6 May have made any complaints in that regard. Since November 2023, the Russian Ombudsman's office has checked the detention conditions of over 3,000 Ukrainian prisoners in Russia. These conditions were found to be in full compliance with international norms. Measures were organized for the transfer of more than 1,700 parcels and letters from relatives and friends, and there are plans to transfer a further 1,500.

In that connection, we firmly reject the propaganda reproduced by our opponents about alleged violations of the detention conditions of Ukrainian prisoners in Russia. It should be noted, at the same time, that many Russian military personnel who are returned to our country in prisoner exchanges have serious health issues resulting from the torture they were subjected to in places of detention in Ukraine. A thematic report by the Russian Foreign Ministry with evidence of systematic violations of international humanitarian law regarding the treatment of Russian prisoners of war was circulated by us at the OSCE as SEC.DEL/94/25 in early April. In addition, Mr. Zelenskyy's representatives are setting outlandish conditions and hindering the return to the liberated areas of the Kursk region of civilians from this region who had previously been taken illegally to the Sumy region temporarily controlled by the Kyiv regime.

In concluding, we once again stress that our country is open to dialogue aimed at a swift political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict in and around Ukraine. Russia is not setting any preconditions for engaging in such dialogue, which should be aimed at overcoming the destructive influence of the West and comprehensively addressing the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis so as to make it impossible for these tragic events to be repeated.

Of course, any settlement would need to include recognition of the geopolitical realities and the withdrawal of the Kyiv regime's armed formations from the constitutional territory of the Russian Federation, the neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status of Ukraine, its demilitarization and denazification, and measures to fully ensure the rights and freedoms of Russian-speaking citizens in Ukraine. We strongly warn the advocates of the militarization of Europe and the scaling up of the armed confrontation not to ignore initiatives that are aimed at achieving sustainable peace, taking into account the interests of the sovereign States of the region. Russia will continue to consistently defend its legitimate national interests for as long as it takes, and to protect its people by all available means.

Thank you for your attention.