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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1098th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

19 February 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, I should like to express my deep regret that a number of participating States and one integration association present at the meeting continue to repeat confrontational slogans at the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). It is by now clear to everyone that this is a consequence of the West's panicked reaction to the top- and high-level contacts between Russia and the United States of America. At the same time, they turn a blind eye to the facts that have come to light about the atrocities committed by Ukrainian armed formations and foreign mercenaries against the civilian population, and to the increasingly dangerous false-flag operations by the Ukrainian armed forces against inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. At the OSCE we have already seen how, for eight years, the Western participating States ignored the Ukrainian Government's failure to implement the Minsk agreements and the shelling of the civilians of Donbass, and also how they pandered to the surge of nationalism and neo-Nazism in Ukraine. The catastrophic consequences of this political short-sightedness are well known. Our message is as clear as can be: the time has come to abandon the opportunistic application of double standards, especially when human lives are at stake.

However, the outcome of the 61st Munich Security Conference held from 14 to 16 February confirms the unwillingness of most EU and NATO States to abandon their militaristic madness. The cynical statement by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, is worth mentioning: "The difference between Russia and Ukraine is that no Russian civilians are dying, meaning no Russian women and children are losing their lives." She also called for continued funding for the fighting, which, as we know from her predecessor, Josep Borrell, could be over within days without Western military aid. It is clear that, in these circumstances, it is hardly appropriate to talk about the place of the European Union at the negotiating table on Ukraine. The approaches of the leadership of this association are not only staggering in their bias, but also call into question the whole peaceful purpose of the European project, which its founding fathers defined as the prevention of a major war in Europe.

Today, especially for the delegation of the European Union, we should like to display on the screens evidence of the war crimes sponsored by the European Union and its Member States that have been perpetrated against the civilian population of the Russian Federation by the Ukrainian armed forces. We have been showing such evidence at the FSC nearly every week for almost three years. In one respect, the crimes bear the hallmarks of genocide, in the other respect, they can be characterized as acts of terror against civilians. Punishment for these and other offences will be inevitable.

The most egregious atrocities committed by the Ukrainian armed forces have been documented in the Kursk region. After the Ukrainian armed forces' invasion, which was carried out with the use of US, British and German heavy military equipment, about 50 per cent of the citizens who had been living in the border areas before they were liberated by our troops remained alive. This is the result of daily shelling, direct, targeted and sometimes highly sophisticated killings and systematic looting by Ukrainian fighters, who have taken everything from people, including food, and the denial of medical care to the elderly and sick. I emphasize that all of this has been documented by the investigative bodies of the Russian Federation.

The Kyiv regime's fighters are setting fire to entire residential neighbourhoods in the Kursk region, launching strikes against cultural facilities from US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems, blocking evacuation teams, firing on civilian vehicles and ordinary citizens, raping women and beating the elderly – veterans of the Great Patriotic War. As I remember, EU Member States have claimed at various levels that the actions of the Ukrainian armed forces in the Kursk region are in line with the norms of international humanitarian law. Perhaps we will hear a substantive answer from our colleagues today – what are these norms?

The Belgorod region continues to be subjected to intensive shelling. On 11 February alone, 57 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) attacked civilian objects in the region. It is impossible to forget how, in December 2023, the Ukrainian armed forces shelled Belgorod on New Year's Eve using Czech-made Vampire multiple-launch rocket systems, as a result of which more than 100 civilians were injured, many seriously.

And these are just isolated episodes. In total, no fewer than 5,500 civilians in Russia suffered from the Kyiv regime's actions in 2024 alone, with more than 800 people killed, including 51 children. The overwhelming majority of the weapons used by the Ukrainian armed forces to attack civilians are Western-made.

It is telling that the fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces do not spare Ukrainian citizens either. Evidence has been received of deliberate shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces of civilians attempting to evacuate from Chasov Yar to the Russian side. One survivor, Andrey Dmitriev, openly admitted: "On 29 January, in the evening, the basement began to be pelted with thermites, combustible mixtures. I don't even know what was there, because even the air was burning ... We tried to flee, and a sniper wounded us." A resident of the liberated town of Novogradovka in the Donetsk People's Republic told journalists how he was cynically used by fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces to check for mines in the area. He was to be, as the militants planned, a living detector of whether it was possible to pass through certain areas or whether the areas were mined.

It is quite obvious that the regime in power in Kyiv is openly neo-Nazi and emulates in all matters its ideological "role models", who have been elevated by law to the status of national heroes – the leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, Stepan Bandera, and the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, Roman Shukhevych, who served in the armed units of the Third Reich. Both men were responsible for numerous crimes against Poles, Ukrainians, Russians, Belarusians and Jews.

We trust that the delegation of the European Union, which at some point was given a side chair at OSCE meetings, will use this resource wisely and, instead of spreading militaristic slogans, will pass on to the authorities in Brussels the information about the crimes perpetrated by the Ukrainian armed forces against the civilian population, in which their foreign sponsors are inevitably complicit.

This also applies to the information about widespread corruption in Ukraine, which has led to the embezzlement of funds allocated to the Kyiv regime, including from EU countries and the United Kingdom. In particular, there are numerous cases of financial fraud in Ukraine's Ministry of Defence, military-industrial complex and energy sector. According to former Polish Labour Minister Piotr Kulpa, the Ukrainian authorities are personally involved in organizing large-scale corruption schemes to embezzle Western financial and material resources, with the Kyiv regime embezzling up to 50 per cent of subsidies since February 2022.

One of the most illustrative examples of how the Kyiv regime is laundering money from NATO-EU "aid" is the Western "drone coalition" initiative. In order to lock in the funds allocated to them, Ukrainian officials have secured the right to accelerate the certification of equipment at their own testing grounds with the participation of Western specialists. Under this scheme, they withdraw from circulation and embezzle up to 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings. Moreover, as funds from Ukraine's State budget are used under the national "Army of Drones" programme, the participation in tenders of companies that are in fact engaged in the resale of foreign-made products at a heavily inflated price has become widespread. For example, one of the grants (about 30 million US dollars) for the production of UAVs was received by the furniture company Kreon-M (registered in Kryvyi Rih), which purchased foreign-made drones and sold them to the customer under the guise of its own development at a price twice as high as the purchase price.

This raises the question: how long will Europe continue to throw its taxpayers' money into Ukraine's corrupt "black hole"?

It is indicative that many EU and NATO member States are essentially indifferent to the fate of not only Ukrainians but also their own citizens. Soldiers of fortune are still being drawn to Ukraine from all over Europe. On 3 February, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs decided to facilitate this and posted on its official website information "for those planning or considering travelling to Ukraine to serve as volunteer fighters and for their family and friends". This is in fact a recommendation to Finnish citizens to embark on a criminal venture.

In this connection, we should like to draw the attention of Western participating States to the fact that we are well aware of the participation of foreign, including Finnish, mercenaries in the fighting on the side of the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv. Since the start of the special military operation, a total of more than 15,000 foreigners from 115 countries have arrived in Ukraine, some 6,800 fighters have been killed, and up to 6,400 of them have left the country. The most numerous groups were recorded from Poland (about 3,000 people), Georgia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Romania. Poles were particularly zealous in the lawlessness in the Kursk region. As a rule, they take part in combat operations as part of the 3rd and 4th Separate Special Purpose Battalions of the International Legion for the Defence of Ukraine, as well as the 49th Separate Rifle Battalion Carpathian Sich and the 59th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Those present can now see for themselves on the screens that these soldiers of fortune are actively sharing their bloody exploits on social media. The personal data of the mercenaries will be officially made public by us during the open trial on Ukraine's war crimes after the end of the special military operation.

We are obliged to warn all those who are planning to try to harm our country with weapons in the course of the special military operation that they should familiarize themselves most carefully with the

following paragraph of the Finnish Foreign Ministry's guidelines: "Get your affairs in order in your home country in case there is a delay in returning home, or in case you do not return at all." This is a point worth not just reading, but memorizing. Along with the fact that mercenaries are not entitled to combatant and prisoner-of-war status – they are outside the law.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the context of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation (1994), we should like to recall that, for several years, the Russian delegation to the FSC has been drawing attention to the information revealed as a result of the special military operation concerning the Pentagon's implementation of military biological programmes on Ukrainian territory in violation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. The fundamental work of the Parliamentary Commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the establishment by US specialists of biological laboratories on Ukrainian territory, as well as regular briefings by the Russian Ministry of Defence, including by the former head of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation, Igor Kirillov, who tragically died in 2024 as a result of a terrorist attack organized by the Ukrainian intelligence services, are devoted to this critical issue.

Today, it is already being recognized in Washington that the evidence we have presented has proved to be true. The recent statement by high-ranking official Elon Musk about the involvement of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in financing the development of biological weapons confirms the validity of our claims in connection with US military and biological activity in the immediate vicinity of the Russian Federation. Available documents indicate USAID's involvement in US military biological activities through the antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis programme. As part of this programme, work was carried out to identify new possible routes of infection with a highly resistant strain of tuberculosis.

Russia is making considerable efforts to clarify all aspects of the United States' military biological activities in Ukraine, including on the platforms of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the United Nations Security Council. We still have not received a response to our valid questions from the United States. We have, however, seen EU and NATO States, including at the FSC, trying their utmost to accuse us of disinformation and propaganda. We trust that the information revealed will make it possible to obtain appropriate answers to the questions we have raised from the United States, which is one of the depositaries of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and, lastly, to resolve this unfavourable situation by ensuring that the United States complies with the circumstances provided for in this Convention.

By way of conclusion. Just yesterday marked the 11th anniversary of the Western-sponsored and financed "Euromaidan" in Kyiv, which was the precursor to the anti-constitutional coup d'état in Kyiv, the beginning of the country's transition under total external control and the trigger of the Ukrainian crisis. At that time, the European States – Germany, Poland and France – as guarantors of the agreement between the incumbent, legally elected President of Ukraine and the opposition, had the opportunity to prevent large-scale bloodshed. They did not use it, but, instead, gave the Nazi-Banderite regime a blank cheque to use terror against the peaceful population of Donbass and subsequently the Russian Federation. Similarly, they did nothing to implement the Minsk agreements. Let us not forget the United Kingdom's scuppering of the peace efforts in Istanbul in 2022. After a decade, the Europeans have a good reason to get back to reality and to stop inciting the Kyiv regime to continue suicidal and senseless hostilities. The root causes of the conflict must be addressed and conditions must be created for a sustainable and lasting peace and to ensure the security and legitimate interests of all countries in the region. We believe that the work begun in this area should continue unhindered.

Thank you for your attention.