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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1090th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

9 October 2024

Agenda item: General statements

**Subject: The Kyiv regime's terrorist incursion into the Kursk region of the
Russian Federation, undertaken with the support of a number of Western States**

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past few weeks at the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, we have been regularly witnessing almost swaggering attempts by unfriendly States to interpret the Kyiv regime's terrorist incursion into the Kursk region of the Russian Federation pretty much as a "military exploit" by the Ukrainian armed forces. In reality, though, the aggression by the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv against the civilian population of that border region, which is being carried out with complete support from NATO and the European Union, has proved to be a gross strategic blunder. Above all, it has revealed to the entire international community the true criminal face of those who don the robes of peacemakers on global diplomatic platforms and in the global information space, but who in practice are unapologetically using others as a cat's paw to train Western guns on Russian citizens with a view to inflicting a "strategic defeat" on our country.

From the very outset, the terrorist incursion into the Russian Federation's Kursk region was conceived by the Kyiv regime's leaders as a way of demonstrating pseudo-successes on the battlefield to their "Anglo-Saxon" handlers so as to avoid a reduction in funding and arms supplies. By early August, Ukraine had lost the battlefield initiative along the line of engagement and, indeed, over many weeks, under pressure from the armed forces of the Russian Federation, it had been compelled to withdraw towards Pokorsk, Toretsk, Ugledar and Chasov Yar on the Donetsk front and towards Kupyansk on the Kharkiv front. This threatened to turn into an all-round disappointment for the regime's NATO-EU sponsors. Accordingly, a terrorist incursion through a segment of the Russian-Ukrainian border that had until then been outside the combat zone was launched on 6 August, with the participation of the best trained armed formations, all duly equipped by the NATO and EU member States.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy's "Kursk adventure" – just like the attempt at a much-touted "strategic counteroffensive" undertaken by the Ukrainian armed forces one year ago (a "counteroffensive" that, incidentally, was also prepared with the West's full-blooded reconnaissance, military and financial support) – has once again brought home to the entire world that the use of Western weaponry and supposedly

advanced NATO methods of operational planning cannot secure supremacy on the battlefield for the Ukrainian troops. The interim results of the incursion into Russian Federation territory are lamentable for the Kyiv regime and clearly show that its military resources are considerably depleted.

Let us look facts in the eye. At the cost of tremendous losses in personnel and materiel (including equipment manufactured in NATO countries), the Ukrainian armed forces are currently holding on, for no purpose, to one small town and a few villages in the Kursk region, for which they had to divert reserves that are already in short supply as it is.

All in all, over two months of fighting on that front, the enemy has lost more than 21,000 military personnel, at least 136 tanks, 66 armoured infantry fighting vehicles, 98 armoured personnel carriers, 891 armoured combat vehicles, 589 cars, 179 pieces of artillery and 33 multiple rocket launchers, among other equipment. The Kyiv regime's sponsors must understand that the Russian armed forces are, as a matter of priority, knocking out the best weapons models that the Ukrainian armed forces have at their disposal, including much-sought-after Stridsvagn 122 tanks manufactured in Sweden and German-made Leopard 2A6 tanks, along with the HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems from the United States of America that were once so highly coveted. By the way, according to the US magazine *The Atlantic*, Russia's innovative electronic warfare assets have reduced the effectiveness of HIMARS systems by 90 per cent. The Ukrainian military themselves admit that, in response to any innovations that they try to adopt, Russia is able to develop countermeasures in the space of a few weeks.

Most galling for the Kyiv regime is the fact that, after moving troops to the Kursk region, the Ukrainian military's positions on key fronts were severely weakened. The state of affairs was succinctly described by *The Washington Post*, which noted that the collapse of the Ukrainian armed forces' eastern front had allowed the armed forces of the Russian Federation to pursue their offensive in Donbass "at a pace not seen since 2022". It is not surprising that Ukrainian armed forces commanders consider Mr. Zelenskyy's "Kursk adventure" to be an act of betrayal.

Since the start of August alone, the Russian army has liberated Timofeyevka, Novoselovka Pervaya, Veseloye, Lisichnoye, Ivanovka, Sergeyevka, Sviridonovka, Artemovo, Zhelannoye, Zhelannoye Pervoye, Mezhevoye, Orlovka, Kamyshevka, Nikolayevka, Novozhelannoye, Vyyemka, Skuchnoye, Konstantinovka, Zavetnoye, Pervomayskoye, Netaylovo, Novgorodskoye, Kirovo, Ptichye, Karlovka, Zhuravka, Kalinovo, Novogrodovka, Galitsynovka, Memrik, Vodyanoye, Ostroye, Grigorovka, Georgiyevka, Ukrainsk, Marinovka, Verkhnekamenskoye, Nelepovka, Krutoy Yar, Zolotaya Niva, Zoryanoye Pervoye and Grodovka in the Donetsk People's Republic; Stelmakhovka in the Lugansk People's Republic; and Sinkovka in the Kharkiv region. The average area of land liberated by our forces over the past two months has ranged from 11 to 30 square kilometres a day.

A significant victory of the Russian spirit and of the might of our arms was the capture, on 3 October, of Ugledar, a major fortified area for the Ukrainian armed forces, situated on high ground and comprising multi-echeloned defence lines and positions on the outskirts of the city. Its loss greatly complicates the operations of the enemy's forces in Donbass. We can tell that from, in particular, the feverish construction of fortifications to the rear of Pokrovsk, the liberation of which by our troops is but a matter of time. Here you have the latest vivid confirmation of the fact that the endless supplying of weapons to the Kyiv regime at the expense of US, Canadian and European taxpayers does not make any sense whatsoever. It is high time for those blinded by Russophobia in the capitals of NATO and EU member States to realize that these efforts are futile and leading merely to numerous additional casualties among the Ukrainian people, who have been turned – not by their own choice – into a handmaid to the interests of Western neocolonialists.

Ugledar is at present gradually returning to a peaceful life. “We are alive” – that is the main message which civilians who stayed behind in the city are passing on to their loved ones through the Russian military. The Ukrainian fighters had been carrying out targeted strikes on buildings where people were sheltering in order to force them to leave for areas controlled by the Kyiv regime and receive a good deal of money for that. However, neither shelling attacks, nor threats of physical reprisals, nor a most grave humanitarian situation were able to break the spirit of these people, who were awaiting the liberation of Ugledar. Our troops are providing the civilian population with all necessary assistance.

Mr. Chairperson,

To come back to the situation in the Russian Federation’s Kursk region, we should like to highlight that the Ukrainian armed forces’ invasion plan included capturing and mining the Kursk nuclear power plant. If the Kyiv regime had succeeded in capturing the plant, Europe would have had to brace itself for an environmental and humanitarian disaster on a par with the Chernobyl accident. Information in the possession of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation credibly indicates that Western countries’ intelligence services, above all MI6 in the United Kingdom, have long been engaged in training sabotage and reconnaissance groups to carry out false-flag operations at a number of nuclear power plants on Russian territory. There should be no doubt that, in justifying and sponsoring the Kyiv regime’s terrorist activities, the United States and the United Kingdom automatically turn into State sponsors of terrorism. They will be held accountable for this.

Given the lack of military expediency for the Ukrainian armed forces’ incursion into the Kursk region, it is becoming clear that civilians were the enemy’s principal target. Instances have been recorded of the Ukrainian fighters deliberately using first-person view (FPV) drones and large-calibre machine guns against non-combatants. Hundreds have been killed. Their houses have been destroyed and civilian infrastructure facilities damaged, including the St. Nicholas Monastery in Belgorod. More than 120,000 people have been forced to abandon their homes and property.

The terrorist methods that these neo-Nazis and their accomplices are using on Russian soil are similar to those they began employing in Donbass in 2014. Back then, the Kyiv regime launched a so-called “anti-terrorist operation” against those who rejected the policies of a regime that had come to power as the result of a bloody coup d’état. Significantly, the International Court of Justice recently refused to grant the Kyiv regime’s request to declare the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk to be “terrorist organizations”. That whole “anti-terrorist operation”, which was unleashed by those who had usurped the reins of power in Ukraine, was thus a lie intended to mask a conventional military campaign – a campaign that would be conducted for a full eight years with the complete approval of the West, including Germany and France as mediators in the internal Ukrainian settlement process. Not for nothing did the residents of Donbass refer to that initiative as a “terrorist operation against the people”.

The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation continues to work with those who have suffered as a result of the Kyiv regime’s aggression in the Kursk region. More than 8,000 people in temporary accommodation centres for refugees have been interviewed by investigators and officially recognized as victims. They have told investigators and journalists about the first days of the Ukrainian armed forces’ incursion into the Kursk region, also mentioning the high number of civilian casualties.

The first thing they note is the savage behaviour of foreign mercenaries. Eyewitnesses spoke of how the Ukrainians themselves had warned the local inhabitants that, unless they left, “foreign mercenaries will come and not leave a living soul”. According to Vladimir Maltsev, a resident of the town of Sudzha, “Georgians, Poles, Frenchmen – all these mercenaries were simply exterminating people as if they were cockroaches.” He added that “lots and lots of women were killed; they were subjected to abuse and raped.”

A resident of the village of Kulbaki emphasized that the fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces were deliberately using drones to drop an incendiary mixture on residential buildings in border areas. As she said, such strikes cause entire streets to burn down. These militants are not bothered by the fact that inside such buildings there may be people who have not managed to evacuate. During the Great Patriotic War, Hitler's forces and their Banderite henchmen behaved in exactly the same way on occupied Soviet territory.

Spine-chilling testimony was given by Valery Moiseyev, a resident of Sudzha: "On 6 August, there was a mass shelling. Never before had there been such brutal and massive shelling... I got the impression that it was like 1941... That's the picture that came to mind and I realized ... I said to myself: so I, too, have been fated to live through this day just as when Soviet people had to live through 22 June 1941."

Among the recent evidence of the crimes committed by the fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces is the footage that has been published of a number of civilians being murdered, one of whom was wheelchair-bound. In addition, Russian soldiers found a branding iron shaped like a "tryzub" [the trident on Ukraine's official coat of arms] on the body of a member of the 73rd Naval Special Operations Centre of the Armed Forces of Ukraine; the Ukrainian soldier in question had been liquidated in the forests of the Kursk region. Perhaps the Kyiv regime's representatives would like to tell us who that Ukrainian militant on Russian soil had been intending to mark with his device?

Of course, it would be naive to expect any sort of objective assessment of the Ukrainian killers' actions from the United States and its allies. The Western States that are overseeing this truly terrorist war against Russia are not in the least discomfited by the mass shootings, executions and multiplying instances of sexual violence, looting, use of civilians as human shields, and shelling of journalists and volunteers perpetrated by Ukrainian armed groups and foreign mercenaries sporting Nazi symbols and gear. The reason for this is clear. In 2014 they began sponsoring, arming and training the murderous regime in Kyiv, and now, ten years on, they have given the green light for the occupation of a neighbouring State's territory – territory that they themselves have recognized as belonging to that State – in violation of the fundamental principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. Those very delegations that only a few hours ago spoke in this room about the overriding importance of international humanitarian law in relation to Ukraine will now most tellingly remain silent about their protégés' violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which proscribes the wilful killing of civilians. For our part, we solemnly declare that all those guilty of crimes against the civilian population of the Russian Federation will ineluctably be brought to justice.

Mr. Chairperson,

The West's boot stomping on the earth of the Kursk region awakens most distinct historical associations throughout Russian society. Along the Russian soldiers' line of defence we are once again seeing German tanks (though, instead of Tigers, it is Leopards this time round); Ukrainian armed forces personnel are being ferried to their attack positions in armoured vehicles with iron crosses painted on their sides. The Ukrainian fighters are equipped with small arms that are pretty much from the same factories that manufactured those brandished by the fascists 80 years ago. And the atrocities against our country's civilian population are being committed with Nazi-like cruelty.

However, with historical parallels one must also look at the other side of the coin. Much-vaunted German armoured vehicles are, once again, going up in flames on minefields; the modern-day Nazis and their henchmen are being eliminated. We also remember very well how after the Battle of Kursk in 1943, which ended in a rout of the German fascist forces, the military situation of the Soviet Union picked up considerably. In London and Washington it began to be understood how dangerous it was to ignore the

Soviet Union's interests when addressing issues of common interest to the members of the anti-Hitler coalition. Victory in the Battle of Kursk meant that the Red Army would continue rapidly pushing westwards.

Eight decades later, the Kyiv regime's ignominious "Kursk adventure" supported by its Western handlers – among whom, by a bitterly ironic twist of fate, we find the United States and the United Kingdom, both of which helped to nurture that neo-Nazi regime – is similarly heading for a crash. This is forcing the Western handlers to weigh up the approaches they take in attempting to control the escalation in Ukraine, specifically to engage in agonizing deliberations over whether to lift the restrictions on using long-range missiles to launch strikes deep into Russian territory – something that it is also planned to discuss on 12 October at yet another NATO-Ukrainian "get-together".

In connection with this, we would recommend that they take the following into account.

Should the Americans and their allies permit the Kyiv regime to use their weapons against Russian objectives, let them be under no illusion that these unceasing attempts to "put us to the test" will not lead to tough countermeasures. We recommend that they familiarize themselves carefully with the statements made on 12 and 25 September by Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding, on the one hand, our response to potential NATO actions involving the launching of strikes deep into our territory and, on the other, the updating of the "Foundations of the Russian Federation's State Policy on Nuclear Deterrence".

In closing, I should like to emphasize in no uncertain terms that for the Russian people – who are currently faced with multidimensional hybrid aggression from the collective West, which is using Ukraine as a battering ram against our statehood – it is as clear as day that the enemy will be defeated and that Russia will be victorious. The West's "Ukraine project" has no chance of success and is striking a blow to international security.

Thank you for your attention.