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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1380th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 July 2022

**On Ukraine's continued devastating attacks against civilians and the
adjacent regions of the Russian Federation**

Mr. Chairperson,

First, we see no point in today's hasty convening of a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council. We understand that the Polish Chairmanship, motivated by a determination to push the propaganda agenda of the Kyiv regime, is intent on disrupting the narrative of what is happening in Donbas today.

This is what is happening there. On 3 July, under an onslaught of allied Russian and LPR forces, Ukrainian armed formations were driven out of the territory of the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR). The entire territory within the boundaries defined in the 2014 self-determination referendum has been fully liberated. The occupying Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist formations abandoned their fortified positions in all areas in the LPR. A large number of them laid down their arms and surrendered to the law enforcement authorities. The liberation of Lysychansk and the surrounding villages ended a long struggle by Luhansk residents for the right to determine their own future and to live in their native land, free from Ukrainian neo-Nazism and hate propaganda.

Of course, the life of any civilian killed in the fighting is an irreplaceable loss. However, we should note straight away the hypocritical approach shown by the Polish Chairmanship and by representatives of the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers. They demonstratively and ostentatiously bewail the casualties reported in the territories under the control of Ukrainian formations. That is, those victims who are killed by Ukrainian shells and actions – for example, as a result of the poor co-ordination of air defence teams (as was the case recently with a residential building in Kyiv), the establishment of strongpoints and ammunition depots in close proximity to civilian objects (as happened in Kremenchuk in the Poltava region) or targeted Ukrainian shelling in order to create a picture of "barbarity" on the part of the allied forces of Russia and the Donbas republics. We emphasize that, according to the Russian Ministry of Defence, no civilian targets are being hit during the special military operation and only military facilities used by the Ukrainian armed forces and neo-Nazi armed formations are being targeted.

Meanwhile, the Western representatives and the Polish Chairmanship do not seem to care at all about the victims of deliberate, targeted shelling of residential areas and civilian infrastructure by Ukrainian

formations on the territories of neighbouring States – in the Donetsk People’s Republic, the Luhansk People’s Republic and in some settlements of the Russian Federation.

I do not recall that the Polish Chairmanship was as eager to convene a special meeting of the Permanent Council following the shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces of central Donetsk on 14 March using a Tochka-U missile system, when 23 people were killed and over 30, including children, injured. Or the horrific attack throughout Donetsk on 13 June, when massive shelling of various parts of the city damaged houses and social facilities, including a functioning maternity hospital, near which there have never been any military objects, killing five people and injuring over 30, including children. Will you continue to remain silent about these victims as though they do not exist for you, as though they are second-class citizens? As though they are what spoils the rosy picture in your propaganda?

A few days ago, Ukrainian resources spread the “news” that supposed Russian rocket attacks had hit an apartment building in Odessa and two recreation facilities in the Odessa region. We heard about this “news” from the participants in today’s discussion as well. There were reports of more than 20 dead and over 30 injured.

We should like to draw attention to a report issued during the same period by the Joint Co-ordination Headquarters of the Russian Federation for a Humanitarian Response in Ukraine. Here is an extract from it: “According to reliable information, the Kyiv regime is preparing another elaborate provocation in Odessa to accuse the Russian armed forces of killing civilians (including minors) and deliberately destroying civilian infrastructure using cluster munitions prohibited by international agreements. As many as 20 foreign media representatives, along with staff from the international organization UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund), were brought to Odessa from 26 to 28 June 2022 for the staging of this provocation.

As intended by the military administration of the Odessa region, when units of the Russian armed forces fire at sites where Ukrainian armed formations are deployed, the Ukrainians plan to stage a simulated attack on a social facility, where a ‘crowd’ of up to 30 people made up of anti-Russian activists pretending to be dead or injured has been prepared in advance. All participants in the staged scenes will receive a cash payment of 500 US dollars after the filming, and they have already been paid 100 dollars each in advance.

We warn the world community and international organizations in advance that this and other similar fake news of alleged Russian atrocities fabricated by the Kyiv authorities with the support of their Western handlers are soon to be widely disseminated in the media. We emphasize once again that during the special military operation the armed forces of the Russian Federation are not carrying out strikes against civilian infrastructure facilities and treat civilians with the utmost humanity.”

Finally, with regard to actual casualties as a result of live shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces, in the early hours of 3 July, Ukrainian formations using a Tochka-U tactical system launched a missile attack on a residential area on the outskirts of the Russian city of Belgorod. All three missiles with cluster warheads were shot down, but fragments of one of them fell on houses. Five people were killed and around ten injured – the figures are still being verified. Among the dead is a family of Ukrainian citizens from Tsupivka in the Kharkiv region. This information was also confirmed by Vyacheslav Zadorenko, a representative of the Kyiv regime and head of the Derhachi territorial community in the Kharkiv region. This family took refuge in Belgorod to escape the actions of the Ukrainian armed forces, but were caught up in the shelling there as well. In addition, 11 apartment buildings and about 40 private homes were damaged.

On the same day, the Ukrainian armed forces attempted a strike against Kursk in Russia. Thanks to the air defence systems, two Ukrainian TU-143 jet-propelled drones armed with explosives were shot down as they approached the city.

On 4 July, Donetsk once again came under heavy fire as Ukrainian forces fired more than 500 shells of 152, 155 and 122 mm calibre. The Kyivskiy and Kuibyshevskiy districts of the city were hit. Dozens of residential buildings, three kindergartens and a secondary school were destroyed.

Also on 4 July, Ukrainian armed formations shelled the DPR city of Snizhne using M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems supplied by NATO countries. Apartment blocks and a children's day-care centre were damaged. I wonder if the suppliers of these lethal systems are comfortable with this use?

Last night, peaceful homes were shelled in villages in the Glushkovsky district of the Kursk region (a church was also damaged there) and the Suzemsky district of the Bryansk region. More than a hundred shells have been fired at residential areas of Donetsk alone since this morning. There are only civilians under fire, and this is a deliberate choice by the Ukrainian armed formations.

Mr. Chairperson,

We regret to say that the actions by the Chairmanship are a cynical show permeated with propaganda. You are actively playing along with the external handlers of the Kyiv regime, who have no interest in a political solution to the situation in Ukraine. This was confirmed on 3 July by John Kirby, the White House Coordinator for Strategic Communications in the National Security Council, who said in a live broadcast on Fox News that the United States of America would not persuade President Zelenskyy to resolve the situation as soon as possible because, in the US Government's view, "the time for negotiations has not yet come". For our part, we should like to add that before long there will be no one to talk to in Ukraine at all.

On 29 June, during the NATO summit in Madrid, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg gave an incredibly frank "coming-out" speech, publicly confirming that NATO had been preparing for a confrontation with Russia since 2014. Today people in Russia understand that this confrontation foisted on our country has not gone in the way NATO planned it. And it is now clear even to the average citizen unfamiliar with geopolitical philosophy that declarations by NATO and European Union officials in support of Ukraine regarding a better future for the Ukrainian people themselves are worthless.

We realize that selling glass beads and handing out empty promises to the natives and taking away their most valued possessions – freedom, land and resources – could well be a feature of certain political cultures in the West, whose statehood is built on colonialism. But against this background, another thing is also clear, as we have repeatedly stressed. Our geographical neighbour Ukraine and its inhabitants with whom we have close ties are needed by the collective West in its various guises (NATO, the European Union and so forth) only as a bargaining chip in the fight against Russia. They are intent on turning Ukraine into a testing ground so as to create military threats to our country and to undermine our statehood and sovereignty.

Be that as it may, we can only repeat that the objectives of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine – the protection of Donbas, the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, and the elimination of threats to Russia's security created by the West on Ukrainian territory – will be fully met.

Thank you for your attention.