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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1469th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 April 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

NATO countries are continuing to use the Kyiv regime to carry out attacks against civilians on Russian territory. Over the past week, there were more than 160 civilian casualties as a result of shelling conducted by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's armed formations using NATO weapons. Thirty people were killed, among them six children; 141 civilians were injured, including five minors.

In order to reduce the military capability of the Ukrainian armed forces, Russian military personnel are continuing to carry out precision strikes (at least 48 in total over the past week) on defence industry and energy infrastructure facilities, as well as on the deployment sites of armed formations in areas controlled by the Kyiv regime. The effectiveness of these strikes is acknowledged by the Kyiv regime itself, which has launched a campaign in the West for it to be provided with additional air defence systems.

Today, we have once again heard unfounded accusations against the Russian armed forces, namely that they are carrying out targeted attacks on the civilian population. We regret to note that the Maltese OSCE Chairmanship was also not averse to reproducing these mendacious claims with regard to yesterday's strike on Chernihiv. Apparently, Malta once again blindly believed the Kyiv regime's propaganda, without taking the time to make rudimentary sense of the situation and study the photographic and video evidence.

Sometime after the targets were hit in Chernihiv, the Kyiv regime's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, posted a photograph of a hotel that had been destroyed as a result of the aforementioned missile strike. He claimed that "innocent civilians" had been killed there. We should emphasize that this hotel was in fact a temporary base for Ukrainian armed forces personnel and foreign mercenaries. This is confirmed not only by the information available. The photo published by Mr. Kuleba is evidence that the building was being used as a military barracks: clearly visible in the picture are barracks-style two-tier bunks on the first few floors. Moreover, photos from the scene circulated by the Ukrainian media showed people in military apparel with personal protective equipment being evacuated on stretchers by paramedics.

The Kyiv regime has once again been hoist with its own petard by allowing the publication of photographic and video evidence from the scene shortly after the events had occurred. By the look of things, we should also expect in the near future more obituaries mentioning the “sudden death from natural causes” of officers or former military personnel from NATO countries.

Madam Chairperson,

The date of 13 April marked the tenth anniversary of the events in the city of Zaporozhye, where a mass rally of supporters of law and order was attacked by members of neo-Nazi groups who had travelled there from various regions of Ukraine. Over 300 participants in a peaceful demonstration in support of the then prevailing Constitution, a constitution that had been trampled underfoot on the Kyiv Maidan in February 2014, were attacked in one of Zaporozhye’s central squares. Women and children were able to be escorted away, while stones were hurled at the men who stayed on, clashes erupted, and knives were whipped out. A car in which protesters were being evacuated was set on fire. Despite all this, the demonstrators remained steadfast to the end, forming a defensive cordon. Many of them were seriously injured. The heroic acts of these residents of Zaporozhye became a symbol of the tenacity of the region’s inhabitants, who took a decision in September 2022 to intensify the fight against Ukrainian neo-Nazism and to support the historic reunification with the rest of Russia.

To this day, none of the members of the Ukrainian paramilitary neo-Nazi battalions who attacked civilians back then has been held accountable. This was a “sneak preview” of the “rules-based order” that was subsequently established in Ukraine by the Kyiv regime’s Western handlers, which have encouraged massive human rights violations and armed violence against the civilian population.

Madam Chairperson,

The large-scale militarization of Ukraine, which has been carried out over the past ten years by the Kyiv regime and its sponsors, poses a serious threat. Corruption and the resale of weapons on the black market, along with their proliferation around the world, have moreover become par for the course. A few days ago, an impressive statistic was announced by the Kyiv regime itself: according to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Ihor Klymenko, up to 5 million units of weaponry of various types are currently in the hands of the population. The Minister referred to the need to take this huge arsenal away from the population as being a key issue.

It is appropriate to recall how, in early 2022, the Kyiv regime handed out firearms and ammunition without any kind of record-keeping whatsoever – there is still video footage showing how on the streets of Kyiv and other cities assault rifles were handed out directly from the back of trucks to all comers, including denizens of the criminal underworld. It is also worth noting how foreign weapon models handed over to the Kyiv regime – such as rifles, grenades, mines and anti-tank missile systems with their associated ammunition – were later detected in hotspots in the Middle East and also in some countries of the European Union. We have already spoken about this many times in this room.

In addition, the Kyiv regime has flung itself into large-scale terrorist activity aimed at instilling fear in the population of neighbouring sovereign States.

On 11 April, the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) foiled the activities of a terrorist cell consisting of six individuals who were planning to carry out a terrorist attack in the city of Donetsk. All of them were arrested. Improvised explosive devices and hand grenades were found at their home addresses and seized. The work of the cell was being co-ordinated from territories controlled by the Kyiv regime, and

the would-be terrorists themselves were planning decamp to Ukraine via Türkiye once they had committed their crime.

On 16 April, FSB officers detained a Russian citizen who had been recruited by the Ukrainian intelligence services and had carried out a car bombing in Moscow on 12 April. Inside the car was Vasily Prozorov, a former member of the Security Service of Ukraine now living in Moscow, who had refused to carry out the Kyiv regime's criminal orders. He survived the attack. In addition, a man was detained who had served as a courier delivering components for the radio-controlled explosive device in question to Russia via Poland and Lithuania.

An assassination attempt was made on the life of Akimov district council deputy Anton Yakimenko in the Zaporozhye region on 16 April. The explosive device went off as the local politician was opening the gate to drive his car into the courtyard. He survived.

Nor should we forget the horrendous terrorist attack at Crocus City Hall in the Moscow region, which was carried out on 22 March in co-ordination with the Ukrainian intelligence services.

It may be noted that the worse things get for the Kyiv regime along the line of engagement, the more attempts are made to commit high-profile crimes aimed at undermining public security. We emphasize that the Russian law enforcement agencies and investigative authorities are establishing the identities not only of the entire circle of persons directly involved in carrying out the aforementioned terrorist attacks, but also of all those who have played a role in their organization, planning and financing. The perpetrators will be held accountable.

Madam Chairperson,

It is becoming increasingly difficult for the leadership of the Kyiv regime to conceal the serious disagreements in its relations with its foreign handlers and sponsors. This also refers to statements by Mr. Kuleba to the effect that the authorities in Kyiv are not obliged to listen to the advice from NATO capitals on how to use the weapons already supplied, since the Western countries are in no hurry to make further deliveries. In a similar vein were his recent media pronouncements arguing that the West has *de facto* abandoned the Kyiv regime and is unwilling to continue its support.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy's words to the effect that the West's much-vaunted unity works for some partners outside NATO but does not work for others are also noteworthy. Speaking in this context about those in the United States of America who make decisions on the allocation of funds for military support, in a recent interview Mr. Zelenskyy gave away an open secret, and I quote: "This is pure politics. Nobody cares how many people are dying in Ukraine every day. They only care about their approval ratings."

We can only welcome the fact that Mr. Zelenskyy is beginning to say the obvious out loud: Ukraine and the Ukrainians are being used by the NATO countries as a tool in a proxy war against Russian statehood. The Western overlords of the Kyiv regime do not count the Ukrainian victims at all. It is also important not to forget that Mr. Zelenskyy, on the instructions of his handlers in Washington and London, deliberately opted for a continuation of the bloodshed by refusing to work on the draft agreement on a long-term and viable settlement of the conflict that had been agreed upon and initialled in Istanbul in March 2022.

We have already spoken about this on numerous occasions. We have highlighted and will continue to point out that what is happening to Ukraine is an enormous tragedy resulting from the inordinate geopolitical ambitions of extraregional forces that have overestimated their own capabilities. Ukrainians are our kinsfolk,

with whom we have been and remain united by a common and inseparable history, culture, faith and shared destiny. Ukraine on the one hand and the Kyiv regime on the other are semantically quite different concepts.

The people of Ukraine have long been excluded from deciding their own fate. Under the pretext of martial law, presidential and parliamentary elections have been cancelled, and a system of multilevel censorship introduced. The sole opportunity for citizens to express their opinion within the framework of a general referendum arises only after territories have been liberated from the Kyiv regime.

Today, the leadership of the Kyiv regime continues to obediently fulfil the wishes of its foreign handlers, sending thousands of Ukrainians to their death. On 16 April, Mr. Zelenskyy signed a law providing for tougher mobilization measures. Its provisions will come into effect as of 16 May. They envisage a widening of the categories of persons subject to mobilization, including those located abroad. At present, in Warsaw, Prague and other European capitals there are record numbers of Ukrainians wishing to hurriedly renew their passport documents at the consular offices, rather than returning to Ukraine for that purpose, so as not to have to take part in the fighting.

Against this backdrop, the Kyiv regime's Defence Ministry confirmed that in view of the challenging operational situation for the Ukrainian formations, the authorities in Kyiv have refused to partially demobilize citizens who had previously been sent to the front.

According to official data, in the western regions of Ukraine alone, more than 65,000 young people of conscription age are wanted for evading the "personal information check". In the more densely populated regions of central and eastern Ukraine, there are many more. In the Poltava region alone there are upwards of 30,000 such people. Not counting the millions of Ukrainians who have taken refuge in Russia and other countries.

All this, along with the evidence of mass attempts to flee through poorly controlled sections of the State border, shatters the myth being sold in the West that Ukrainians have an inherently anti-Russian attitude. It also shows that ordinary people in Ukraine are not willing to become cannon fodder to serve the interests of the Kyiv regime and its foreign handlers.

All those who still entertain illusions that new tranches of military aid for the Kyiv regime will somehow turn the situation on the battlefield around would do well to remember this. Any new supplies will only prolong the armed confrontation and make the prospects for a just peace even more distant, leading to a needless loss of life and destruction. However, many people in Ukraine have long since realized that herein lies precisely one of the goals of the Kyiv regime's foreign handlers.

To conclude. The path to a sustainable settlement of the Ukrainian conflict must run through a complete cessation of arms supplies by NATO countries to the Kyiv regime, the withdrawal of all foreign mercenaries, instructors and operators of NATO weapons from Ukrainian territory, the reversal of the Kyiv regime's decisions to prohibit contacts with the Russian leadership on a settlement, and putting in place the conditions for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine. It goes without saying that any contacts on the subject of a settlement should be based on recognition of the existing political and territorial realities and take into account the legitimate interests involved in safeguarding Russia's security. As long as such approaches are not reciprocated, the Russian special operation will be continued by military means until the objectives set have been fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.