

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.DEL/409/23/Add.1
2 November 2023

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1061st PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

1 November 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

Having completely subjugated the countries of the Western bloc, the United States of America has concentrated its politico-military resources on maintaining its elusive global dominance in various regions of the world.

It is becoming increasingly clear that by establishing military bases around the world and inciting inter-State discord, the ruling elites in the United States and their allies are behind the Palestinian tragedy, the bloodshed in the Middle East as a whole and the crisis in Ukraine. They have been fuelling the conflict in Ukraine for years, and now they are discrediting those countries that are pushing for an immediate ceasefire in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. As Russian President Vladimir Putin said on 30 October: "We must realize where the root of evil lies. We must know where the spider that is trying to entangle the entire planet and the whole world in its cobweb is. It wants to ensure our strategic defeat on the battlefield."

It is through this prism that we view the riots at Makhachkala airport on the evening of 29 October, which were inspired by puppets of Western intelligence services from the territory of Ukraine. The participants in the mass riots are being interrogated and searches are being conducted for those involved in the preparation of the crime. Criminal proceedings have been instituted.

The lightning reaction of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US officials to these events is not accidental. The provocation, which caused genuine outrage among Russian citizens, representatives of regional authorities and Muslim clergy, was carried out by the US Government, backed by its vast experience in organizing protests around the world. We remember well how in the 1990s the United States worked actively in the North Caucasus, sowing inter-ethnic discord and financing underground Islamist groups in the hope of destabilizing Russia. However, both then and now, these attempts are doomed to failure. Russia's multi-ethnic and multi-confessional society has developed a strong immunity to religious, ethnic and racial intolerance. To ensure its security, by order of the President of Russia, enhanced measures are being prepared to counter outside interference in the internal affairs of the Russian Federation.

Madam Chairperson,

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine is the result of the coup d'état in February 2014, which was orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad.

The forcible removal from power of the legitimate elected president has led to a *de facto* division of the country. In the winter of 2013/2014, US Vice President Joe Biden, US Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, US Senator John McCain and others did some work in Kyiv for this purpose. All of them held meetings with opposition leaders and visited the Maidan to express public support for the protesters. As a consequence, the coup in Kyiv led to the assumption by the United States of the leading role in the governance of Ukraine – something that is unprecedented in international affairs. A country that proclaims itself a beacon of democracy has chosen to forget that international law prohibits the organization, advocacy, financing, incitement or toleration of activities aimed at destroying the constitutional order of another State.

The neo-Nazi regime that came to power in Kyiv in 2014 as a result of a bloody coup d'état stopped considering the population of Crimea, Donbas and the south-east of the country to be part of its own people and invited those who disagreed with the new orders to “clear off” out of the country, thus classifying them as second-class people. Had the coup orchestrated by the United States and its satellites not taken place, conditions would not have developed for the emergence of independent entities on Ukraine's territory, which later became part of the Russian Federation as a result of the free expression of will in referendums.

Madam Chairperson,

The more time passes after the coup d'état in Kyiv, the more obvious its consequences become. The United States is using the Ukrainian crisis to weaken our country, to achieve a rupture in Europe's economic relations with Russia and to eliminate political and economic competitors. Ukrainians are perceived in the imagined “transatlantic family” exclusively as cannon fodder. On 19 October, Margus Tsahkna, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, said at a forum under the aegis of the Atlantic Council that Ukraine is the cheapest way to get rid of Russia. Kajsa Ollongren, the Minister of Defence of the Netherlands, made similar assessments earlier. For his part, US Senator Mitch McConnell cynically noted that Ukraine was contributing to “job creation in 38 states”, referring to the increase in orders for defence enterprises and the resulting greater demand for additional labour. Finally, even Oleksii Arestovych, a former freelance adviser to the office of the President of Ukraine, openly stated that the current authorities are mired in corruption and have reached the limits of their competence, that they have brought the situation to an impasse but are persisting with their erroneous policy.

Let us take a look at its implications.

First, during the five months of the counteroffensive, the Ukrainian armed forces, prepped by the collective West, have been unable to achieve even tactical successes, let alone break through the Russian line of defence. Since 4 June, Ukraine has lost over 90,000 military personnel killed or wounded. International experts predict that in 2024 the Kyiv regime will face a catastrophic shortage of ammunition due to the lack of supplies from the West and the necessary volumes of national production. In these circumstances, it is not surprising that captured Ukrainians are themselves expressing a desire to fight against neo-Nazism and are joining Russian volunteer battalions.

Secondly, the Ukrainian leadership continues to pursue a policy of mass terror against civilians. The energy infrastructure of the border regions of the Russian Federation is being deliberately disrupted. In 2022 and 2023, strikes have repeatedly targeted 22 important power supply facilities with the aim of cutting off power to medical centres and other social facilities in the region. Do Western delegations remember who

organized the energy and water blockade of Crimea? And the energy blockade of Donbas? Who is shelling the critical energy infrastructure of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics on a daily basis? In fact, the United States and its like-minded associates showed the entire international community almost a decade ago how they can ignore attempts to blockade entire regions. This is now evident in the case of the Gaza Strip, which has been simply cut off from the rest of the world. And the most powerful strikes since the Middle East escalation began have hit the enclave's civilian population after communications were cut off.

Last week, the Ukrainian armed forces continued to carry out targeted strikes on Donbas residential areas using US-made weapons. On 25 October, ATACMS ballistic missiles with cluster warheads equipped with 950 M74 submunitions (missile type: MGM-140A BLOK1) were fired at the village of Belorechensky in the Lugansk People's Republic. A school, a kindergarten, a cultural centre, an apartment building and a private residential area were hit. Given that the missile that landed there was manufactured in 1996, it would seem that the Kyiv regime's strategic partners regard Ukrainian territory merely as a deadly dumping ground.

We have received information today about the consequences of the massive shelling of the Budyonovsky district of the city of Donetsk by the Ukrainian armed forces using cluster munitions. Fuel tanks came under fire, causing a massive blaze. Two people were killed during the firefighting operation, including an employee of the Ministry of Emergency Situations. Twelve citizens were injured, including journalists from *Izvestia*, the TASS news agency and the Zvezda television channel. One of the unexploded shells pierced the roof of an apartment block and lodged in the ceiling.

Colleagues, we are showing you here only a small fraction of the consequences of the shelling of civilian infrastructure in the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and the Kherson, Zaporozhye, Belgorod, Bryansk and Kursk regions. All of them have one thing in common: crimes are being committed against the civilian population using Western weapons with the permission, and sometimes even on the direct orders, of Western handlers.

All this confirms once again that for the Western-led regime in Kyiv, human life is not worth a penny; it leaves behind only destruction and scorched earth. It is also not surprising that a significant number of Ukrainians have fled to Russia to escape the crimes of the Kyiv regime. Since the beginning of the special military operation, more than 5 million people have arrived and are receiving all necessary assistance.

Thirdly, the environment is being degraded as a result of the massive long-term shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces in the combat zone. One example will suffice here: the constant shelling between 1 June and 30 September 2014 resulted in over 2,901 fires destroying vegetation in forest and steppe areas. Shells from Ukrainian Grad multiple-launch rocket systems alone have left up to 6.5 million fragments in the ground, preventing soil recultivation. The use by the Ukrainian armed forces of indiscriminate weapons, in particular US-made cluster munitions, has led to the destruction of ecosystems, flora and fauna in the affected areas. The ongoing bombing of industrial facilities by Ukrainian neo-Nazis is contaminating vast areas, where several hundred thousand people live, with benzene, toluene, naphthalene, hydrogen sulphide, ammonia and hydrocyanic acid.

Is there any reaction to this from NATO, the self-proclaimed "green" alliance? No. According to a study by the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, the military bloc was responsible for 226 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in 2022 alone.

These facts are being noted in detail by the Russian law enforcement agencies and other competent departments, and a list of those involved in committing environmental crimes against Donbas and the new territories of our country is being established.

Fourthly, the Ukrainian armed forces continue to target hazardous radiation facilities on the territory of the Russian Federation, not least to signal an illusory would-be victory, a typical trademark of the Kyiv regime.

On 26 October, the Ukrainian armed forces attacked the Kursk nuclear power plant with three unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), the components of which were manufactured in Western countries. One of the drones packed with explosives crashed into a nuclear waste storage facility, damaging its walls. In addition, between 17 and 23 October, 124 UAVs launched by Ukraine to conduct attacks and provocations against the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant were detected and neutralized. Earlier this year, fragments from the warhead of a US-made M777 howitzer were found in the splash pool of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. In other words, weapons and military and technical means generously supplied to the Kyiv regime by Western States united in the “axis of evil” under the Ramstein banner are being used to pursue the criminal intentions of the Kyiv regime with respect to sensitive facilities. It is easy to see why the so-called “civilized” West views the attempts of its underlings to provoke a nuclear catastrophe in the centre of Europe so dispassionately.

For our part, we intend to continue to ensure the protection of Russian nuclear power plants in such a way as to prevent the regime in Kyiv and the collective West from committing further terrorist acts that could have irremediable consequences.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, we should like to turn to our Western colleagues who are crying out in this room about the deaths of civilians and the supposedly indiscriminate strikes against Ukrainian cities, and who are also trying to question the moral character of Russian society. When the Kyiv regime shells schools, kindergartens and hospitals in Donbas, it does not arouse your emotions or criticism, any more than the Gaza Strip being wiped off the face of the earth by carpet bombing and the killing of thousands of women and children in the Middle East under the relentless shelling. You have forgotten about the victims of the aggression by the United States and NATO against Libya and Yugoslavia and are indifferent to the fate of the women of Iraq and Afghanistan who were victims of sexual violence by US and British soldiers. Here it is appropriate to quote the Spanish Minister for Social Rights, Ione Belarra: “I believe that Europe will pay dearly, very dearly, for such hypocrisy. The hypocrisy of preaching human rights around the world and then, when you have to stand up for them, we do absolutely nothing.”

As for the future world order that the United States and the representative of the Kyiv regime periodically talk about here, if it means US hegemony and a complete free hand for NATO countries around the world, this is unacceptable not only for Russia, but also for the whole of humanity.

I should like to conclude our statement with the words of the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, during a meeting with members of the Security Council, the Government and the leadership of the security agencies on 30 October: “Those who really stand up for truth and justice, who fight against evil and oppression, against racism and neo-Nazism, which the West encourages, are now fighting at the front – near Donetsk, Avdeyevka, on the Dnieper. I repeat: these are our soldiers and officers. And the choice of a real man, a true warrior, is to take up arms and stand in line with his brothers, to be there where the fate of Russia and, indeed, of the whole world, including the future of the Palestinian people, is being decided.”

Thank you for your attention.