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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1389th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 September 2022

**On the ongoing crimes by Ukraine against the civilian population with the support of a
Western alliance of OSCE participating States**

Mr. Chairperson,

The inhabitants of the territories where there are Ukrainian armed formations present continue to flee from the Kyiv regime. All of this, of course, is in no way consistent with the Ukrainian Government's attempts to paint a rosy picture of how the civilian population allegedly extends a joyful welcome to the Ukrainian armed forces in those areas where they succeed in gaining a temporary foothold. Thus, as of today, over 20,000 residents of Balakliia, Kupiansk, Izium, Volchansk and other population centres in the Kharkiv region have left for the territory of the People's Republics of Luhansk and Donetsk or for Russia, so as to escape the reprisals being meted out by Ukrainian neo-Nazis. They are fleeing from the so-called "filtration measures", essentially punitive measures by the Kyiv regime that have been officially announced in these cities and towns.

Thus, the regime, through representatives of the intelligence services and the State Bureau of Investigation, has declared that it will "hunt down" all those believed to be engaged in so-called "traitorous co-operation with the enemy". It should be stressed that even the act of receiving humanitarian aid from Russia is considered over in Kyiv to be collaboration. At the same time, the Kyiv regime has no qualms about staging cheap propaganda stunts in the style of the stories about Bucha and Irpin. As we can see, the information effect of these emotional stagings has diminished to such an extent that over in Kyiv they are still hesitant to roll them out on a "Bucha scale" just yet. But, as we understand it, there will be such attempts.

In fact, it is in the territories where the Kyiv regime is trying to hold on to power that repressive measures, extrajudicial executions and torture are being widely employed. Furthermore, ever new measures aimed at intimidating the civilian population are being unveiled. In particular, just a few days ago, the Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister, Iryna Vereshchuk, announced the start of criminal proceedings against the heads of social institutions and teachers in the Kharkiv region who, with consultation and support provided by their colleagues from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and from Russia, were seeking to organize teaching in the local educational establishments. Incidentally, these repressive plans by the Kyiv regime vis-à-vis the civilian population have not received any public assessment on the part of the leadership

of the OSCE and its relevant institutions. Nor have we heard anything on this subject from those of today's participants in the discussion who are representing the Kyiv regime's foreign handlers.

Moreover, just the other day, the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, stated that the Kyiv regime intended to deliberately disenfranchise civilians in the territories controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces in eastern Ukraine. In particular, in a recent interview, he promised "harsh Ukrainization" with no account taken of their opinions: "There is no need to ask them what they want or fancy."

The Ukrainian Government has proclaimed a policy of terror against all those who disagree with its nationalist agenda – both in the territories controlled by Ukrainian formations and in the territories that are not. Artem Bardin, head of the civil-military administration of the city of Berdiansk (Zaporizhzhia region), which had been liberated from the Ukrainian armed forces, was added to the tragic list of political murders in early September. Mr. Bardin's car was blown up near his home. The headquarters of public associations working for the development of ties with Russia were blown up in a number of towns and cities in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. Against this backdrop, Russian specialists are, to the extent possible, assisting the local authorities in warding off such aggression by the Kyiv regime. For example, the Russian Federal Security Service recently foiled a series of sabotage and terrorist acts against the senior figures in the Kherson regional administration which the Ukrainian Security Service had been preparing.

Military officials from the United States of America have stopped hiding the fact that they have invested heavily in the training of Ukrainian special operations forces, which, according to our information, are involved in the organization of sabotage forays into territories liberated from the Ukrainian armed forces in south-eastern Ukraine, including planned attacks against the civilian population. A corroborating confession by General Richard Clarke, Commander of the United States Special Operations Command, recently appeared in the pages of *The Washington Post*.

Ukrainian formations continue to use foreign weapons to target the civilian population. For example, on 14 September, a teenage boy and a girl were killed at a college in Perevalsk in the Luhansk People's Republic, and six other children and a teacher were injured as a result of a strike from US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems. Orphaned children, left without parental care because of the ongoing conflict, were housed in this educational institution. Take a look at the awful images published by the media. They show half-naked, barefoot, injured girls and boys, immediately after the missiles had hit, searching for their classmates in the ruins of the college in order to rescue them.

Do our former US partners, who not only supplied HIMARS systems to Ukraine and trained members of Ukrainian formations in how to use them, but also provide technical assistance in the identification of targets for strikes, feel their share of responsibility for this terrible crime? We would remind you that in an interview with *The Telegraph* on 1 August, a representative of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, Vadym Skybytskyi, admitted that the Ukrainian Government consults with officials in Washington, D.C., ahead of the launch of such missiles, which allows the United States to "stop any potential attacks if they were unhappy with the intended target".

Well, explain to us right now – is the United States happy with this target that was identified and hit? Did US experts co-ordinate with the Ukrainian military to target a college for orphaned children? Your silence in this room will be regarded by us as an endorsement and encouragement of the Kyiv regime's heinous crimes.

The data we currently have at our disposal allows us to draw a clear conclusion about the lack of autonomy of the Ukrainian political leadership and military command. In fact, on the proverbial "battlefield"

where they are locked in combat with Donbas militiamen and the Russian army that has come to their aid, a protracted armed conflict is being deliberately fomented, in which NATO representatives and foreign mercenaries act as advisers, field commanders and even operators of high-precision weapons, while members of the Ukrainian armed formations are set to become cannon fodder in a geopolitical confrontation that has nothing to do with them and which the leadership of Western countries is foisting on Russia.

Clarification from the US representatives would be helpful – can you say with confidence that your Government is not a party to the conflict in Ukraine, given the ongoing deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Ukraine, the training of Ukrainian fighters, the provision of intelligence to the puppet regime in Kyiv, the assistance in planning military operations and the co-ordination with US military specialists when using US-made weapons to strike our allied forces and civilian infrastructure facilities?

Let us take a broader view of the situation. In an attempt to hang on to its fading hegemony in world affairs, the collective West has long been waging an undeclared war on the Russian economy, on our values, on our development and on our future. This struggle entered a particularly acute phase in 2014, when, after the coup d'état orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad, events in Ukraine began to unfold in a way that was not in line with the script that had been written by the West. This was largely due to the truly patriotic stance of the residents of the south-eastern regions of that country in not accepting the results of the armed overthrow of the Government and standing up for the Constitution.

Russia's efforts to facilitate internal Ukrainian dialogue came up against opposition from the external patrons of the Kyiv regime, who *de facto* encouraged the establishment of a dictatorship made up of a militaristic nationalist minority that relied on armed squads of rabid neo-Nazis for support. Moreover, the protégés in Kyiv received no criticism whatsoever from the West for their sabotaging, over a period of many years, of the international efforts to secure a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, a settlement which should have been implemented on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 that endorsed the Minsk Package of Measures.

It is absolutely obvious that the events in Ukraine are merely a formal pretext to intensify the multifaceted geopolitical antagonism between several NATO countries and Russia and to transform this, no holds barred, into an open confrontation. To put it bluntly, these events have become one of the constituents of this confrontation. Yet another attempt at “economic blitzkrieg” against Russia was made this year, after our country was compelled to launch its special military operation to protect Donbas. In total, according to various estimates, more than 11,000 illegitimate restrictions have been introduced against our country's economy, aimed at reducing the standard of living of the Russian people, creating problems in economic development and provoking socio-political tensions. However, reality shows that the Western strategists have miscalculated by ignoring the interconnectedness of economies in a global world.

The shooting of oneself in the foot that we warned about has essentially created an economic boomerang. But here, too, Western functionaries are operating according to their worn-out manuals, continuing to pin the blame on someone else. Take, for example, yesterday's address by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, before the European Parliament in Strasbourg, where she declared that Russia was waging “a war on [Europe's] economy, a war on [Europe's] values and a war on [Europe's] future” and prophesied that sanctions would remain in place until Russia's economy was “torn apart”. We would remind you that for years our country has been living under the West's illegitimate, politically motivated restrictions – both in the economy and in other spheres of public life. I repeat that the collective West has long been waging an undeclared war on the Russian economy, on our values, on our development and on our future. We urge you not to forget the fine Russian proverb either: “He that digs a pit for another will fall into it himself.” Incidentally, the negative consequences of this large-scale economic

aggression against Russia have already been felt to the full by citizens of European countries, who have ever more questions for their own governments in this regard.

We emphasize that the actions of some NATO countries which continue to persistently invest in the creation in Ukraine of threats to Russia's security cannot have any effect on the resoluteness with which the special military operation will be continued. It will be completed only when its objectives have been achieved.

We note, however, that the stillborn ideas coming from the Ukrainian Government, such as the plans for some kind of security guarantees for the Kyiv regime, cannot be taken seriously. These ideas, co-authored by specialists from the inner circle of NATO, are directly aimed at escalating regional tensions and essentially involve bringing the Alliance's military infrastructure closer to the Russian border, to the detriment of our country's security interests.

Not surprisingly, according to the plans of NATO strategists, Ukraine is meant to fight "down to the last Ukrainian". In this regard, we might recall a recent quote by the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Alliance, Jens Stoltenberg, to the effect that "if Ukraine stops fighting, it will cease to exist". In reality, however, a sad and dramatic denouement for Ukraine will come about precisely if the current Kyiv regime continues its militaristic course and the cultivation of neo-Nazism.

One further point. For the sake of geopolitical goals, the Kyiv regime is being allowed to play with fire. For example, the provoking of tensions around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) is not meeting with condemnation on the part of the regime's external handlers. This invites the conclusion that such tensions benefit the Ukrainian Government's foreign sponsors. The fact that the well-being and health of millions of inhabitants of European countries are thereby being jeopardized does not seem to bother them. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, Ukrainian formations have shelled the plant and its infrastructure over 30 times since 18 July, firing more than 120 artillery shells and using at least 17 kamikaze drones. At the same time, the Ukrainian armed forces are aiming their shells at the most vulnerable areas of the Zaporizhzhia NPP, deliberately creating the risk of a large-scale radiation accident. Furthermore, the Russian military has neutralized attempts by armed Ukrainian saboteurs to attack the plant on the day when the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, visited the Zaporizhzhia NPP (1 September), and also after he had left the plant. All this, of course, could not but affect the stable operation of all the reactor units. We share the IAEA Director General's conclusions that the main threat to the safety of the Zaporizhzhia NPP is the shelling of the site of the plant. We emphasize that the United States and the European Union are encouraging the Kyiv regime's dangerous provocations with their silence about the attacks on the plant.

We stress once again that the Russian special military operation is aimed at protecting Donbas, denazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine, and eliminating threats to the security of the Russian Federation created by the West on Ukrainian territory. These objectives will be accomplished fully.

Thank you for your attention.