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**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1517th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 April 2025

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

Madam Chairperson,

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, on 4 April, a high-precision strike by a high-explosive missile was launched on one of the restaurants in Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region), where a meeting of representatives of the Ukrainian armed forces with unit commanders and Western instructors was taking place. As a result of this missile strike, the enemy's losses amounted to up to 85 servicemen and officers from foreign States, and up to 20 vehicles.

The Kyiv regime is deliberately concealing these losses. Instead, it is playing around with the names of cafes and restaurants in an attempt to pass off the failure of its own air defence systems – deployed, incidentally, in residential neighbourhoods in violation of international humanitarian law – as an “incoming Russian strike”. At the same time, it is alleged that the Russian missile was initially aimed at a children's playground and residential buildings located on Sodruzhestvo Street, and that it was equipped with a cluster warhead. We firmly reject these insinuations.

We understand that the creation of the “necessary” emotional backdrop at international forums is vital for the Kyiv regime on the eve of the Ramstein-format meeting on the military provisioning of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations, which will take place tomorrow. By the way, not all the sponsors of the Ukrainian armed forces will be taking part in that meeting, and that is why the Kyiv regime is seeking, by any means, not to lose support. Especially in the light of the current global geo-economic upheavals, in which Western States are increasingly obliged to pay attention to their own internal development problems.

Incidentally, it was in this vein that the Kyiv regime's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Andrii Sybiha, spoke in Brussels on 3 April. During a joint press conference with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, he urged people not to forget about Ukraine “while the media attention is on global trade wars”. We regret that the Finnish Chairmanship, in violation of its collectively agreed mandate, decided to participate in this campaign and organize another propaganda event on 8 April, hiding behind the authority of the OSCE decision-making bodies. The special meeting of the Permanent Council was convened with a deliberately

warped agenda that failed to provide equal and non-discriminatory opportunities for all participating States to discuss and thoughtfully analyse the facts.

The objective monitoring data, available to the Russian Defence Ministry, related to the Russian strike of 4 April on Kryvyi Rih confirms the success of the strike on the venue of the meeting of Ukrainian armed forces' officers and the deaths of dozens of foreign military instructors. By the way, in Kyiv they continue to conceal from ordinary Ukrainians and the international community the real facts about these losses and in general about the depressing situation of the Ukrainian armed forces along the entire line of engagement. In an interview on 5 April, the head of the regime's military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, openly admitted this, saying that people did not need to know "the whole truth" about the current armed conflict. Evidently, there is no reason for cannon fodder to know the real state of affairs and understand in whose interests they are being used in this conflict against their kith and kin.

Over the past week, shelling attacks in various regions of Russia by the Kyiv regime's armed formations have resulted in 114 civilian casualties, of whom 106 were injured, including one child, and a further eight were killed.

We would point out that the Finnish Chairmanship continues to keep silent about all these victims, demonstrating double standards and unprincipled political bias. Let us emphasize the main point here: every tragedy involving the death or injury of innocent people on both sides of the line of contact as a result of a conflict deliberately provoked and fuelled by NATO member countries is deeply painful to Russia.

We draw particular attention to the fact that the Kyiv regime is deliberately derailing any initiatives for de-escalation. The situation regarding the 30-day moratorium on the shelling of energy infrastructure facilities announced as a follow-up to the US-Russian bilateral contacts of 18 March 2025 is typical.

Against the backdrop of the Russian armed forces' strict compliance with this moratorium, the Kyiv regime's formations carried out no fewer than 63 strikes on various energy facilities on Russian territory between 18 March and 8 April. Of these facilities, 15 were oil and gas processing, transportation and storage facilities, 20 were transformer substations, 27 were overhead power lines and one was an underground power line. Most of the damage was recorded in the Belgorod, Bryansk and Kursk regions.

In the early hours of 9 April, unmanned aerial vehicles carried out an attack on the Korenovskaya compressor station, which is located in the Krasnodar region and supplies power to the TurkStream gas export pipeline, and on the Temryuk gas distribution station. That is to say, since 18 March, the Kyiv regime has for all practical purposes not stopped its strikes on Russian energy infrastructure facilities for a single day.

The Zelenskyy regime cannot carry out such attacks on its own. To that end, it uses satellite intelligence provided by NATO countries, and high-tech long-range weapons that are operated by foreigners. All this once again demonstrates how much the words about striving for peace differ from the real actions of the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers.

The United Kingdom and several European NATO member countries are endeavouring to obstruct Russian-US dialogue and efforts to de-escalate the Ukrainian conflict. It is obvious that they are banking on prolonging their proxy war, continuing military support for the Kyiv regime and pushing uncompromising, unrealistic and deliberately unfeasible demands.

Given the measures to militarize the European Union, speculation is increasing about the preparation of some kind of military contingents from European NATO member countries for the purpose of occupying

territories controlled by the Kyiv regime. We stress that the deployment of foreign troops in Ukraine is an extremely dangerous manoeuvre fraught with uncontrolled armed escalation. This will lead not to indirect clashes between Russian and NATO military personnel but to direct ones. Our country will regard any foreign military personnel on Ukrainian territory as a direct threat to our security and, it goes without saying, as legitimate military targets within the framework of the special military operation.

At the same time, even now a number of European ministers have realized that, over the past few years, the Europeans, together with the previous US administration, had been loath to take a realistic view of the situation in Ukraine. Russia is ready for serious dialogue on Ukraine, but it will not allow the negotiation process to be used in the interests of strengthening the Kyiv regime militarily. The objectives of the Russian special military operation, which include the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine, will be achieved.

Madam Chairperson,

The Kyiv regime has long since stopped hiding its terrorist nature. According to the National Antiterrorism Committee of Russia, 47 terrorist attacks involving young people, including teenagers, have been prevented since the beginning of 2025. Over the past three years, more than 2,500 people have been detained for organizing or carrying out terrorist activities. Many of them ended up in terrorist networks as a result of recruitment work by the Kyiv regime's intelligence services, which was carried out mainly via social media and messaging services.

The forced mobilization of Ukrainians into the armed forces of Ukraine continues. The hideous methods involved in carrying out this mobilization do not trouble the Kyiv regime's Western sponsors, who pretend – at the OSCE and elsewhere – to be concerned about various aspects of the protection of human rights.

The outcome of their empty words in defence of such rights, the extrabudgetary programmes and other meaningless tightrope walking on human rights issues is demonstrated by the situation in Sukhyi Lyman (Odessa region): as people were being captured in the streets there, a man ceased to show vital signs after military enlistment officers (from a “territorial recruitment centre”) used physical violence against him. While waiting for the ambulance to arrive, passers-by attempted to protect the man in question, but this did not help. The regional military enlistment office then claimed that the man had “feigned loss of consciousness”. A similar story occurred on 5 April in the centre of Kharkiv when another man was detained – he died after having had dealings with the police.

The head of the Rivne regional military enlistment office (“territorial recruitment centre”), Yuriy Kovalyuk, summed up the Kyiv regime's policy no less eloquently in an interview with the 4vlada online publication. He noted that Mr. Zelenskyy and his sponsors had overestimated their own capabilities and human resources in the armed confrontation with Russia. In addition, he admitted that he would not let his 22-year-old son join the army because “many had died for nothing.” These are the words of the head of a “territorial recruitment centre”, whose “people-catchers” right now, at this very moment, are continuing to terrorize people in the streets, forcibly mobilizing them to fight for the interests of NATO countries.

Earlier, including in this room, the argument that NATO countries are waging a proxy war against Russia was labelled by some Western diplomats as “manipulation of the facts”, “false propaganda” and so on. They completely refused to accept this point, seeking to misinform the international community and conceal the true nature of the processes taking place. But then US President Donald Trump, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and others spoke out about the proxy war with Russia being conducted by NATO countries.

Just the other day, the Zelenskyy regime's current ambassador to the United Kingdom, former Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Valerii Zaluzhnyi, also opened up publicly on this issue. He confirmed that, since April 2022, the Kyiv regime, together with a number of NATO countries, had set up a "co-ordination centre", first located at the US European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, and then moved to Wiesbaden. Subsequently, with the United Kingdom playing an active role, this headquarters was tasked with planning military operations, conducting war games, determining the needs of the Ukrainian armed forces and transmitting them to Washington and European capitals. Mr. Zaluzhnyi emphasized that the Ukrainian armed forces' needs were met on the basis of NATO standards.

And now a blunt question: will some propagandists continue to claim that military provisioning and the planning of the Ukrainian armed forces' operations is not evidence of the undeclared participation of NATO countries in the conflict against Russia? A confrontation that has resulted in the deaths of Russian citizens among military personnel, along with civilians, including women and children, on both sides of the line of contact.

To realize how opportunistic the position of Western countries is, it is enough to cast a glance at the statements that many of them have made here in the Permanent Council over the past three years. There have been many politicized insinuations heard, a host of which simply did not withstand the test of time or fact-checking.

One need merely ask, for example, what has become of the rhetoric about the "rules-based order". Hardly anyone talks about it nowadays. In this context, the observation by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on 6 April is noteworthy. Commenting on the ongoing geopolitical and geo-economic shifts in the world, he said: new rules need to be adopted because "the world as we knew it has gone." And the "new world" no longer relies on "established rules". We believe this would be useful to hear for all those who for three years have been persistently promoting here the concept of a "rules-based world order" that had not been formalized by anyone and have been setting it up in opposition to a world order founded on the norms of international law.

Against this backdrop, the Russian position regarding the resolution of the current security crisis in the OSCE area remains unchanged and consistent. In particular, Russia advocates a truly comprehensive, just and sustainable settlement, which is possible only through the complete and irreversible eradication of the root causes of the Ukrainian conflict.

For effective agreements to be reached, it is necessary that concrete practical steps be taken, which include putting an end to the forced mobilization in Ukraine and to the provision of weapons and intelligence to the Kyiv regime's formations, and also the discontinuation of measures aimed at rearming the Ukrainian armed forces. As we can see, so far no practical signals have been sent to the Kyiv regime that would indicate the desire of the regime's handlers to stop the hostilities.

When it comes to protecting its interests, Russia is prepared to – and will – use all the means and resources at its disposal, including, to be sure, military ones.

Thank you for your attention.