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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1384th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 July 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In Istanbul on 22 July, representatives of the United Nations, Russia, Türkiye and Ukraine finally agreed on documents that are meant to facilitate the unhindered access of Russian and Ukrainian food supplies to global markets. This is an important step in the strengthening of food security under the “package deal” initiative of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. Despite attempts by representatives of the Kyiv regime to torpedo the work on the agreements, it proved possible to preserve and enshrine their comprehensive and depoliticized nature and to ensure that consumers who are most in need of food are accommodated as far as possible.

The agreements set out a procedure for the passage of ships and provide for these to be inspected so as to make sure that they are not carrying military cargo. They further provide for monitoring of how the humanitarian corridor is operating and set out modalities for demining and preventing dangerous incidents through a joint co-ordination centre that is to be established and that will feature representatives of Russia and Türkiye, along with representatives of Ukraine, with United Nations staff also involved. On 26 July, an advance group of Russian experts arrived in Istanbul to start work in a quadripartite format. The Russian delegation is headed by Rear Admiral Eduard Luyk.

We note with satisfaction that the United States of America and the European Union stopped obstructing the conclusion of the aforementioned agreements, which have thus managed to become a reality. Meanwhile, the signing of a memorandum between Russia and the United Nations yet again highlights the absolutely artificial nature of attempts by certain Western countries to lay at Russia’s door the blame for problems with grain supplies to global markets.

It is worth pointing out that the Kyiv regime continues to use port infrastructure – in particular, the infrastructure at the port of Odessa – for military purposes. A considerable proportion of coastal waters are still mined. We emphasize that in accordance with the agreements established in Istanbul, it is incumbent on Ukraine to ensure the safety of vessels in the territorial waters that it controls. Moreover, we caution against the deployment of military supplies and weapons in ports: these evidently pose a threat to maritime traffic.

On 23 July, long-range and high-precision naval missiles destroyed a Ukrainian warship that was in dock at a shipyard in Odessa, together with a depot containing Harpoon anti-ship missiles supplied to the Kyiv regime by the United States. The production facilities of an enterprise engaged in the repair of Ukrainian navy ships were also disabled.

In view of the attempts undertaken here and there in the West to make this out to be a strike on infrastructure used for the unloading of grain, we must point out that the grain terminal in the port of Odessa is located at a considerable distance from the military objects that were destroyed. No obstacles to the transport of grain have been created whatsoever. The ability of the port of Odessa to receive vessels has not been disrupted, nor has the exit of these from the port. Moreover, in the Istanbul documents of 22 July there is not a single clause prohibiting the continuation of the special military operation, not least through the destruction of military infrastructure, military objects and depots containing NATO weapons on the territory of Ukraine.

Apropos of weapons: despite the attempts by official NATO and EU representatives to convince the public in their countries that the military goods sent to Ukraine are in safe hands, Europol continues to observe signs that arms are being smuggled out of Ukraine. Last week, Jan Op Gen Oorth, a spokesperson for Europol, said in remarks to the German Press Agency, dpa, that the EU law enforcement authorities were in the possession of information indicating that individuals were leaving Ukraine with firearms. Investigators from EU member countries were also aware of reports of trafficking in heavy weapons. Mr. Op Gen Oorth stressed that there continued to be a risk that all this would fall into the hands of organized criminal groups or terrorists.

Meanwhile, leaked material from the classified part of a Europol report submitted to the Council of the European Union has appeared in the German media. In relation to the situation in Ukraine it is noted there that criminal networks are involved in smuggling “significant quantities of firearms and ammunition” to EU countries. Europol also surmises that caches have been set up along the Ukrainian border with EU countries to organize smuggling operations.

We would emphasize, in particular, that those weapons which do make it to the line of contact in the zone of hostilities are being used by Ukrainian fighters to shell civilian neighbourhoods, critical civilian infrastructure, schools, hospitals and kindergartens.

On 27 July 2022, the authorities of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) established a Day of Remembrance of the Child Victims of the War in Donbas. The war against the population of Donbas unleashed by the authorities in Kyiv in 2014 has taken a cruel toll on children. Over the eight years of the punitive operation in that region, hundreds of little angels have perished; several hundreds more have been injured. In the DPR alone, at least 130 children have been killed and at least 515 injured as a result of the Kyiv regime’s aggression supported by the West. The exact number of child casualties has yet to be established. The youngest fatality of the Ukrainian aggression was just 27 days old.

This week, the German Minister of Defence, Christine Lambrecht, confirmed that German-made MARS II multiple-launch rocket systems and Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers had arrived in Ukraine. In addition, the German Government has officially approved the sale of a further 100 howitzers of that make to the Kyiv regime. We would remind those who have forgotten the lessons of history of how German heavy weapons arrived in Ukraine and were used there once before. That was eight decades ago, when such weapons brought with them carnage and destruction, enabling the sacking of Ukraine by those who professed the ideas of national exclusivity. There can be no doubt that German weapons will certainly not bring anything positive this time round either, all the more so when they are wielded by Ukrainian nationalists.

We recall that it was around this date, namely in late July 1944, that the troops of the First Ukrainian Front of the Red Army crushed the Ukrainian Nazis of the SS Galicia Division near Brody. The members of that division were also using German weapons to fire at Russians and Ukrainians. Today their neo-Nazi disciples, bearing identical banners and symbols, are again essentially waging war on the Ukrainian population while currying favour with their external protectors and sponsors. History is cyclical and the denouement will be exactly the same. It goes without saying that the sponsors, too, will not be able to escape responsibility for having abetted the war crimes of the Kyiv regime.

On 24 July, the Russian military carried out a strike on an ammunition depot near the settlement of Lyubymivka in the Dnipropetrovsk region, destroying more than 100 missiles for US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems and eliminating up to 120 members of armed formations who had been guarding that facility, along with foreign mercenaries and technical specialists. Slightly earlier, from 5 to 20 July, high-precision weapons destroyed four launch pods and one resupply vehicle for HIMARS systems.

We wish to mention separately the unenviable fate of foreign mercenaries who came to take part in combat operations on the side of the Ukrainian armed formations. Some examples have already been cited. In addition to the fighters liquidated near those HIMARS systems, air-launched high-precision missiles were used to strike at a temporary base for units of a so-called “foreign legion” near the city of Kostiantynivka in the DPR, eliminating more than 40 foreign mercenaries, most of whom were Poles.

It must be understood that neither the participation of soldiers of fortune who are strangers to these lands in the fighting alongside the Ukrainian armed forces, nor the NATO military supplies are capable of having any effect on the resoluteness with which the Russian special military operation is being conducted. All its objectives will be accomplished and the destructive foreign military presence in Ukraine wiped out. Any attempts by the Kyiv regime and its handlers to achieve victory “on the battlefield” are a high road to ruin both for the marionette-like authorities in Kyiv and for those among their political and military sponsors who insist on such scenarios.

In this regard, the Kyiv regime is clearly in its death throes and becoming aware of its increasingly conspicuous loss of support among the population. The political leadership of Ukraine has thus initiated the drafting of amendments to the country’s criminal legislation, specifically to make the acquisition of Russian citizenship punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 15 years. It is also regularly mounting repressions against individuals allegedly found to be in communication with Russia.

It is worth recalling the slogans that brought President Zelenskyy and his team unprecedented popular support in the elections of 2019. They were slogans about striving for dialogue with the residents of Donbas and the regions of south-eastern Ukraine, promises to ensure implementation of the Minsk agreements and create a society of equal opportunities for all, irrespective of ethnic, linguistic or any other affiliation.

The authorities of Ukraine have not done any of these things. They have not even come close. On the contrary, at the direct behest of their foreign handlers, they chose the path of prolonging the punitive operation in the east of the country, of accelerated militarization and practical preparations for full-scale hostilities in Donbas. They introduced ever new discriminatory measures that effectively divided people into different sorts; they practically destroyed the last remnants of independence of the law enforcement and judicial systems and of sovereignty as a whole. The result is that the country’s inhabitants have found themselves monstrously deceived.

The Kyiv regime is systematically demonstrating a barbaric attitude towards its own population. For example, a few days ago, Ukrainian armed formations near Sloviansk (a DPR city temporarily occupied by the forces of the Kyiv regime) finalized their preparations for yet another provocation involving the use of potent toxic substances.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, officers from the Ukrainian intelligence services intend to blow up, in the next few days, containers at an oil and fat production plant that hold a total volume of more than 120 tonnes of hexane, a hazardous chemical. The plan is that such an explosion will result in the formation of a toxic cloud extending to more than ten kilometres, and that all the residential areas of Sloviansk and nearby settlements will find themselves inside a chemical contamination zone. In divulging information about these preparations, we are above all appealing to the foreign handlers of the Kyiv regime to bring all their influence to bear with a view to preventing the provocation and avoiding casualties among the civilian population. We address this appeal, in particular, to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, who plans to visit Ukraine very soon.

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

Thank you for your attention.