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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1379th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 June 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Yesterday, 22 June, the peoples of Russia and other republics that made up the USSR marked the Day of Remembrance and Sorrow. It commemorates all of the victims of the crimes of Nazism, which brought sorrow, suffering and death to the people. Unfortunately, neo-Nazism is now raising its head throughout Europe. With the tacit approval, and in some cases the support, of so-called “civilized Europe”, it has become normal practice to cultivate demented, delusional and dangerous ideas of national exclusivity and superiority at the State level and to continue implementing and introducing new discriminatory measures against different groups of the population on the grounds of language, political, cultural or religious affiliation.

The most egregious example, of course, is Ukraine, where today neo-Nazi militias from the Ukrainian armed formations continue to attack the civilian population, using weapons supplied by NATO countries. There are also foreign mercenaries operating there, who have come to support the war crimes of the Kyiv regime, and who, incidentally, continue to fall into the hands of the law enforcement forces of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR). This happened recently to Alexander Druke and Andy Huynh, two “lucky devils” from Alabama in the United States of America, who will appear in the prisoners’ dock in the courts of the DPR, already “frequented”, for example, by convicted United Kingdom citizens. When committing crimes against civilians in Donbas, these soldiers of fortune must have been aware of the inevitability of punishment.

Who are Ukraine’s current heroes? The Nazi collaborators Bandera, Shukhevych, Konovalts and others, stained with the blood of barbaric acts against people of different nationalities. Their modern-day followers appear to be admired by the emissaries of the Kyiv regime – a regime that does not represent all of Ukraine, although it claims to do so.

At the last meeting of the Permanent Council, Ukrainian diplomats recalled Roman Ratushnyi, a so-called “civic activist”, who died on the northern borders of the DPR. Let us recall one of his most recent postings: “The more Russians we kill now, the fewer Russians our children will have to kill.” Powerful stuff,

wouldn't you say? Will we also hear this line from Ukrainian diplomats? Do they support such statements by Mr. Ratushnyi or are they forced to smother their feelings and reproduce the propaganda theses of the Kyiv regime?

The residents of Donbas, many of whom identify themselves as Russians, are naturally and justifiably outraged at the attempts to whitewash those who call for mass murder motivated by national or racial hatred. Today, defenders of the Donbas republics are battling for the right to live safely in their native land and to preserve and develop their culture, language and traditions. The objective of the complete liberation of these territories from the occupying Ukrainian armed formations will most certainly be achieved.

Over the past week, at least 20 civilians in the DPR and the LPR have been killed by shelling, and at the latest count more than 70 have been wounded. Once again, children have been among the victims. On these same days, the Presidents of France and Romania, the Chancellor of Germany, and the Prime Ministers of Italy and the United Kingdom visited Kyiv. They have not found the strength to condemn the systematic attacks by Ukrainian armed formations on peaceful neighbourhoods and civilian infrastructure in Donbas.

We may recall, for example, how French President Emmanuel Macron commented on the alleged "Russian bombing" of a maternity hospital in Mariupol on 9 March, calling the whole thing "a shameful and immoral act of war". Where is the response to the actual shelling by Ukrainian forces of the Donetsk Republic Centre for Maternal and Child Health on 13 June? An institution in which, unlike the Mariupol maternity hospital, no one has set up combat positions. Where is the reaction to the deaths of civilians in and around Donetsk from hours of shelling by NATO heavy artillery and multiple-launch rocket systems? Or do the victims once again have the wrong nationality, appearance or political beliefs?

The blatant double standards employed by the collective West in support of the Kyiv regime only serve to convince the people of Donbas and citizens throughout Russia of the justness and rightness of defending the DPR and the LPR from Ukrainian aggression. In addition, Russia will help to rebuild Donbas. Some 2,500 Russian specialists and almost 800 units of special equipment and construction machinery are already working in the DPR and the LPR.

In an interview with Radio Svoboda on 14 June, former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who once signed a declaration in support of the Minsk agreements, confirmed that in all the previous years the Kyiv regime, supported by its Western handlers, had never sought to pursue a political and diplomatic solution to the situation in Donbas. He bluntly admitted that these agreements meant nothing to the Ukrainian Government and were only needed to "buy it eight years" to build up military capabilities and prepare for combat operations – and in that respect, he said, "the Minsk agreements have fulfilled their function". By this admission, incidentally, Mr. Poroshenko also offered a very revealing backhanded characterization of his "Normandy" partners from France and Germany – the countries that once acted as guarantors of the Minsk agreements and now supply arms to the Kyiv regime.

The situation in Ukraine is the most vivid illustration of the crisis of confidence that has developed in recent years in the pan-European space. The events in Ukraine have shown that the collective West has lost Russia's trust. It has been completely undermined. It will take a great deal of time to rebuild this trust from scratch. Of course, we will not do this with frenzied Russophobes who hate our country, but with those who seek to strengthen rather than totally destroy the pan-European security space.

By the way, the signals from a number of EU functionaries about the Kyiv regime's European prospects are growing louder. The European Union hopes to formalize the associated political undertakings

in the coming days – all of it under the banner of proverbial “European values”. Leaving aside for the moment the tragedy of the regime’s criminal war against the civilian population of Donbas, let us take a look at what these “values” are. For example, the suppression of dissent through the banning of 11 opposition political parties. The decision turned out to be so legally messy that in recent weeks the authorities have rushed to confirm it with verdicts by the Eighth Administrative Court of Appeal in Lviv, which simply rubber-stamps the ban on parties such as the Opposition Platform – For Life, Opposition Bloc and the Shariy Party.

Do the measures taken by the Kyiv regime, which are tantamount to cultural and linguistic genocide, conform to “European values”? For example, the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science’s plans to remove the works of the great Russian writers Pushkin, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Lermontov, Turgenev, Bunin, Bulgakov (who was born in Kyiv) and many others from the school curriculum. As Deputy Minister of Education and Science Andrii Vitrenko has explained, Russian literature is supposedly “too hard to read”, which means that “anything related in any way to Russia should be thrown out”. Soon there will be mass burnings of Russian books on the Maidan – following a well-known historical model.

Or, for example, the recent vote in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) to ban the performance of works of contemporary Russian culture in all Ukrainian media and public places. And what about the plans of the current leadership of the Russian-speaking city of Nikolaev (Mykolaiv), which is controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces, and the equally Russian-speaking Odessa region to ban the study of the Russian language in all teaching establishments? So that is what “European values” are all about.

Perhaps the EU representatives will once again quote Dostoevsky, who is banned in Ukraine, at us rather than giving a meaningful answer to the question of why the European Union, in seeking to establish its influence in Ukraine, is encouraging a departure from the basic tenets of human rights and the rule of law, and from OSCE principles and commitments. After all, why condone the destruction of Russian culture in Ukraine?

We should like to remind the Ukrainian representatives of the words of Pavlo Skoropadskyi, the Hetman of Ukraine, one of the interim leaders in Kyiv, who back in 1918 already tried to bargain sovereignty in exchange for military aid from foreign overlords and patrons: “If we have the free development of Russian and Ukrainian culture, we can flourish, but if we now give up the first culture, we will only be a bedding for other nations and we will never be able to create anything great.” These are the words of a man who cannot be suspected of having strong sympathies for Russia. Ukraine today offers a vivid illustration of the well-known wisdom: those who forget the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them.

One further point. Some Western representatives are very fond of speaking on behalf of the entire world community. In this room we have repeatedly heard phrases along the lines of “the whole world condemns Russia” – above all from representatives of the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom and some EU representatives. We understand that the loss of hegemony amidst the disruption of a unipolar world dominated as it was by the Anglo-Saxon world is very painful for them. At the same time, we warn against attempts to arrogate global public opinion: stop speaking on behalf of the entire world. It should be recalled that out of more than 190 States around the world, over 140 countries with a total population in excess of six billion have not supported the anti-Russian measures initiated by the collective West.

In closing, we stress once again that the objectives of the Russian special operation – the protection of the inhabitants of Donbas and the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine – will be fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.