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PC.DEL/1310/22
22 September 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1390th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 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,

On 21 September, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, addressed the citizens of Russia and all their compatriots, including those living in the territories of Ukraine liberated from the neo-Nazis. We recommend that you carefully familiarize yourselves with the content of his speech and consciously read every single word.

The developments in recent months show that as they become increasingly actively and militarily involved in the events in Ukraine, the NATO countries led by the United States of America and the United Kingdom have ceased to disguise their main objective, namely to weaken, divide and ultimately annihilate our country. To use Ukraine as a tool to destroy Russian statehood. The stakes have been raised extremely high, but it was not we who raised them.

You may remember the recent call by a former commander of the US troops in Europe, Ben Hodges, to bring about “the beginning of the end of the Russian Federation as it looks today”, along with bellicose statements by irresponsible leaders from the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union about wanting to “tear apart” and “smash” the Russian economy, fresh comments by NATO’s puppets in Kyiv Andrii Yermak, Oleksii Danilov, Oleksii Reznikov and a number of others about their desire to ensure some kind of “decolonization” of our country and their intention to finally “solve the Russian question ... by force” and eliminate our country.

We are beyond the point of no return. The current situation is a direct result of the actions of the collective West in Ukraine, where since 2014 a bloodstained puppet regime has been nurtured and maintained, the essence of which does not depend on the changing faces of the nominal leaders – Oleksandr Turchynov, Petro Poroshenko, Volodymyr Zelenskyy and all the rest. They came with a fanfare of slogans of peace, but always chose war – first and foremost against their own population, against all dissent.

Foreign handlers have been sponsoring this toxic regime for years, investing in its militarization, helping with military planning, notably with regard to the territories of neighbouring States, providing military intelligence and supplying it with arms and ammunition. They send specialists to ensure that these weapons can be used against the population of Donbas and the liberated territories, and directly encourage the killing of civilians, including women, the elderly and children. They focus on the cultivation of Russophobia and lobby in every possible way for the hostilities to be carried over into the territory of the Russian Federation. And all this amid fine talk about the development of democratic reforms.

NATO's unprecedented involvement in the military activity in Ukraine poses additional threats to our country. Ladies and gentlemen, your geopolitical games are taking a dangerous turn.

The Russian President has decided to approve the proposal by the Russian Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Armed Forces to conduct a partial mobilization in our country. It began on 21 September and is being carried out with a view to increasing the operational capabilities of the grouping of allied forces within the framework of the tasks being implemented to protect Donbas from the war of annihilation unleashed by the Kyiv regime, and the tasks of demilitarizing and denazifying Ukraine and eliminating the threats to the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country created by the collective West on Ukrainian territory.

We hear various propagandists saying that the decision to conduct a partial mobilization is due to some kind of military weakness. We must stress that this decision was dictated solely by the need, among other measures, to provide a proportionate response to the growing security threats that the Western alliance is engendering in Ukraine. The number of individuals to be called up is a minimal part of our country's total mobilization pool, and not a significant proportion, as some are trying to make out. We recommend that you study again President Putin's address of 24 February, the day on which the start of the special military operation was announced: we are prepared for all scenarios and warn our former Western partners against dangerous meddling in the situation in Ukraine.

Ultimately, the main goal is to prevent geopolitical actors from outside the region from undermining regional and global security through the situation in Ukraine, whose inhabitants they have now *de facto* converted into cannon fodder. It is important to curb destructive attempts to turn the pan-European space into an arena for a large-scale full-blown military confrontation with countless casualties and destruction, as has happened more than once in history.

Through its actions in Ukraine, the collective West long ago crossed a dangerous line, pushing the continent and the entire world to the brink of a situation with unpredictable consequences for all of humanity. This is not bluster – this is a call to reflect right now on where the unbridled neocolonial, neo-imperial expansionist ambitions of those Western elites who continue to lay claim to global hegemony may well lead all of our countries. Of those who, having forgotten about international law, are forcibly imposing some kind of “rules-based order” that is not prescribed anywhere, who, to establish their hegemony, are willing to lay thousands, if not millions, of lives on the altar of geopolitical confrontation, to rob subsequent generations of a peaceful and prosperous future.

Our enemies have no qualms about using the dirtiest methods in this struggle. How many times in this room have we heard about Bucha, Irpin and a number of other population centres, where dilettantish stagings were presented as real facts and to where ostentatious “VIP tours” by politicians were most swiftly organized.

Today we are already hearing something similar about some “mass graves” in Iziom, where military personnel from our allied forces buried the bodies of fallen Ukrainian soldiers that had not been retrieved

from the battlefield by their commanders, along with the bodies of civilians killed in the city as a result of, as it happens, Ukrainian shelling. And no one is discomfited by the fact that journalists from the British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* who were the first to arrive at the scene did not note any signs of mass killings and were told by local residents that “there weren’t detentions, torture or executions”. Afterwards, journalists from Radio Svoboda and a number of other media outlets set to work on their assignment there together with Ukrainian investigators and presented the world with the “right” picture, complete with photographs of the alleged massacres. Many people were immediately sceptical of this material. Then, on 20 September, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets, was already preventing Western correspondents from going there under the pretext of an alleged mine threat; moreover, he was lost for answers to their questions about the apparent inconsistencies in the version presented by the Kyiv regime.

Let us recall the fake stories about the alleged Russian air strike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol in March, when Marianna Vyshemirskaya, who was directly involved in those events and photos of whom had made the rounds in all the Western media, denied that there had been an air strike and confirmed that Ukrainian formations had set up a stronghold in the hospital building and had taken food from women in labour. Or what about the alleged hundreds of casualties as a result of the “Russian air strike” on the Mariupol Drama Theatre, which, as witnesses later confirmed to the investigating authorities, had been blown up by Ukrainian militants from the inside, while most people had managed to leave the building beforehand. Or what about the rocket attack in April on the square in front of the railway station in Kramatorsk, for which the militias were blamed by all and sundry – then the propaganda apparatus of the Kyiv regime and the Western countries clearly messed up by allowing Italian journalists to approach the missile wreckage and capture its serial number on film, which indicated that the Ukrainian armed forces were unequivocally responsible for the shelling.

The task of demonizing the actions of Russian military personnel in Ukraine is being carried out by a large propaganda machine of lies – in fact, an entire “media empire” controlled by Western elites. This includes the much-publicized accusations of the “rape of infants with teaspoons”, which the author of these fake stories – the former Ukrainian Commissioner for Human Rights Liudmyla Denisova – herself later refuted. And all the talk about looting and pillage, the organization of numerous disappearances, the setting up of “torture chambers” and the “deliberate mining” of Kyiv’s suburbs with anti-personnel mines.

And the Russian military is even accused of “shelling itself”: just think of the tales about members of the Russian National Guard who are ensuring the security of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) and Russian military personnel who are guarding the nuclear workers’ city of Enerhodar firing on themselves and the plant itself. Could it be that they have secretly disguised themselves in the uniforms of Ukrainian formations and taken up combat positions in the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets on the other side of the Dnieper, from where they carry out shelling using NATO weapons and Western kamikaze drones?! One such instance of shelling with high-explosive fragmentation shells on 20 September resulted in fresh infrastructure damage, notably to the cooling system, at the Zaporizhzhia NPP.

Ukrainian formations continue to use weapons supplied by NATO countries to target entirely peaceful civilian objects. This morning, the centre of the city of Donetsk was shelled, and several civilians lost their lives. On 19 September, also in Donetsk, French-made 155 mm Caesar self-propelled artillery system shells hit a bus stop on the Baku Commissars Square, killing at least 13 people, including two children, and injuring many more. Another instance of brutal shelling by the Ukrainian neo-Nazis occurred on the same day in the settlement of Krasnorichenske (Luhansk People’s Republic): a residential building was destroyed, killing a family of six, including three children, along with their neighbour. What is this if not criminal acts with the aim of exterminating the civilian population? There were no military facilities there!

Have we ever once in this room heard a word of condemnation or regret from our former Western partners and from the OSCE leadership, including the Secretary General, in connection with the Ukrainian targeted shelling of civilian objects which has resulted in casualties among the civilian population? No, just as we have not heard them all these past eight years while the Kyiv regime was conducting its punitive operation against the people of Donetsk and Luhansk.

On the day of the brutal shelling of Donetsk and the settlement of Krasnorichenske, the OSCE leadership found only words to express its concern about the legal proceedings against citizens of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk accused of collaborating with Western intelligence services. Yes, the dead children will not be able to answer you in any way – they were killed by Ukrainian formations with weapons supplied by NATO countries. But it is impossible to ignore these facts.

We remember how there were no words either in connection with the horrific shelling of the centre of the city of Donetsk by the Ukrainian armed forces on 14 March using a Tochka-U operational and tactical missile system, which resulted in dozens of people killed and injured. And in connection with many, many other incidents. We are forced to point this out publicly: the disregard for the civilian casualties of Ukrainian shelling is no longer, in our view, an annoying “Freudian slip” on the part of the OSCE leadership – it has become a systematic hushing up of crimes. All this only encourages the Kyiv regime to commit more atrocities.

The indifference of the West, for all its “values”, to the value of human life in the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions is pushing the inhabitants of these territories to take more decisive steps to determine their future. It is absolutely clear that the more the Kyiv regime's formations bombard civilian neighbourhoods “for the glory of Ukraine”, the fewer people want to have anything to do with such a Ukraine.

Russia will continue its efforts to protect the civilians in these territories and will respectfully accept their choice. Our country is consistent in its actions and will responsibly take into account the public expression of will of the inhabitants, voiced through democratic procedures, which, for example, did not happen in the Serbian province of Kosovo, forcibly torn from Serbia by the West in violation of international law, without any referendums.

To sum up, Russia has never closed itself off from mutually respectful dialogue based on equality and mutual consideration of one another's interests. Our country has always advocated substantive, meaningful discussions aimed at practical results. We believe that there are still opportunities in this regard. At the same time, we can see how some participants in the meetings are not only not ready for a discussion based on facts and arguments, but are deliberately avoiding such a discussion by demonstratively leaving the room. We regard this as a sign of weakness and of a lack of counter-arguments, and likewise as a manifestation of an irresponsible approach in the current special historical context.

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.