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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1420th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 April 2023

**On the ongoing crimes by the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policies of the Western
alliance countries to escalate tensions**

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past calendar week, at least eight people have been killed and 15 injured as a result of shelling by Ukrainian formations in territories liberated from the Kyiv regime in the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. In other parts of Russia – the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions – NATO shells launched on the orders of Volodymyr Zelenskyy killed one person and injured a further five. In total, over the course of a week, damage has been recorded (in places where it was possible to keep a tally) to around one hundred houses and ten civilian infrastructure facilities.

On the advice of its Western sponsors, the Kyiv regime is rejecting the prospect of a diplomatic solution to the current situation, a solution that should be implemented with account taken of the realities on the ground. Instead, it continues to bank on the conduct of hostilities and nurture futile hopes for a military breakthrough in its favour. It continues to attack peaceful neighbourhoods in a bid to cause fear and panic among the local population. It has no qualms about engaging in terrorist practices.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of our Chinese friends, who on 26 April this year made an attempt to get Mr. Zelenskyy to return to diplomacy. It is important to understand that every day of missed diplomatic opportunities is measured in terms of human lives and suffering. The conflict will come to an end in one way or another, but the price of peace and the number of unnecessary victims depend directly on the determination of the West to continue its hybrid confrontation, particularly the military aspect of that confrontation, with Russia from the territory of Ukraine.

The sooner the West realizes that its expansionist geopolitical aspirations and its attempts to sever Ukraine's traditional historical ties have brought to the country's inhabitants nothing but suffering and misery on a historic scale, and the sooner the NATO countries cease their destructive meddling in the life of the region, the sooner lasting peace will be achieved. However, this was also probably the true aim of our ill-wishers – if not to destroy, then at least to weaken and divide our historically united society.

Let us take a proper look at the facts: certain Western countries have been actively dismantling Ukraine's sovereignty for many years. Today, its economy is practically wrecked, and the country is barely hanging in there on artificial respiration, as it were – administered in the form of cash handouts from Western-controlled international financial institutions. And all this is in no way the result of the Russian special military operation, but a direct consequence of inept external control and what is in effect the neocolonialist plundering of Ukraine, once one of the most prosperous former Soviet republics. To a large extent, this is also a consequence of the nurturing of the neo-Nazi and militaristic ambitions of the puppet regime in Kyiv, which, following the February 2014 armed coup d'état orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad, *de facto* usurped power from the people of Ukraine in violation of the Constitution.

A number of European Union countries are, by the way, already unashamedly demonstrating their consumer-like attitude towards Ukraine. For example, the so-called economic support measures pompously announced last year appear to have been very short-lived. Recently, Poland and a number of other Central and Eastern European countries hastily closed the much-lauded overland “solidarity lanes” for Ukrainian grain exports. It would be interesting to learn from our Polish colleagues, who were promoting these “corridors” a year ago in this very room, what has happened to the celebrated “Polish solidarity”.

There is a clear message behind all this: nobody in the European Union is going to introduce a genuinely free market for Ukrainian goods, about which they were pontificating so loudly, enticing Ukraine with an EU Association Agreement and demanding that it break off a profitable economic partnership with Russia and other republics of the former USSR. The “European dream” turned out to be a deception, and that insight will prove to be very costly, above all, for the Ukrainians themselves.

On the other hand, the volume of military supplies being pumped into the Russophobic Kyiv regime by members of NATO shows no sign of dwindling, as long as the regime is able to keep on fighting the Russian military contingent taking part in the special military operation. The latest Ramstein-format meeting dealing with military supplies for Mr. Zelenskyy's formations took place last week. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg proudly reported that, over the years, NATO allies have provided training for tens of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and, since February 2022, member countries of the Alliance have delivered to the Kyiv regime more than 150 billion euros of support, of which around 65 billion euros went on direct military expenditures.

For his part, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, who achieved notoriety for his racist arguments about “a garden and the surrounding jungle”, described how the EU countries had delivered over 600 million [euros' worth] of ammunition to Mr. Zelenskyy's formations. Also in a similar vein are recent statements by John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House, who reported that the United States was training tactical units of Mr. Zelenskyy's formations outside Ukraine, namely battalions for a so-called combined arms manoeuvre – all with the aim of launching a military offensive into Russian Federation territory, creating new threats to the lives and safety of Russian citizens and undermining the territorial integrity of our country.

And this against the backdrop of false claims that neither the NATO alliance nor its individual member countries are allegedly parties to the armed confrontation with Russia on the territory of Ukraine, which they have stripped of its sovereignty.

In short, these individual members of the Euro-Atlantic community need Ukraine only as an instrument of hybrid aggression against Russian statehood and the prospects for the prosperous development of our society. We must stress that, right now, as we speak, the NATO countries are providing military, political and financial support to the puppet regime, whose officials, such as Secretary of the National

Security and Defence Council Oleksii Danilov, have repeatedly and publicly declared the goal of “destroying Russia as a country” or have admitted, like Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov, that they are carrying out some kind of “NATO mission”, helping to realize the West’s “historic chance” to defeat Russia. Or whose representatives, for example Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, publicly set out to “eradicate everything Russian” in the territories that the Kyiv regime considers its own.

How do they react in the West to these policy guidelines of their protégés in Kyiv, who are copying the monstrous practices of the Nazis during their first years in power? In the West, they are openly encouraging a crackdown on everything Russian – both in Ukraine and beyond its borders. And sometimes they themselves are actively involved in disgusting Russophobic campaigns to demonize our country and its inhabitants, or they exuberantly attempt to cancel the great Russian culture. They dream of isolating our country and do not hide their irritation, also in this room, when these delusional fantasies are not supported by the global majority. They want to see Russia as a pariah, while they themselves are losing ground on the world stage, including their importance in international trade.

The Kyiv regime gets away with all its crimes – whether it be the abuse meted out to the civilian population of Donbas over a period of many years by members of the so-called “Joint Forces Operation”, including the shelling of civilian objects, the killing of children, the forcible detention and displacement of civilians, extrajudicial executions and torture, and all manner of blockades in the form of depriving ordinary citizens of access to the basic necessities for life. Or the discriminatory policies against Russian-speaking citizens and members of national minorities, harassment on the grounds of language, culture or religious affiliation, censorship of the media and so on. All of these atrocities have been possible and for now remain unpunished because the United States of America and its satellites, with the connivance of international human rights institutions, are systematically covering them up, in effect giving the Kyiv regime carte blanche to commit any such act. Where is the voice of the OSCE leadership in all of this? That is a fair question. There is only shameful and even ignominious silence.

Let me say a few words about the so-called Black Sea Grain Initiative. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, in violation of the written commitments given by the Kyiv regime in 2022 not to use the humanitarian corridor and Ukrainian ports for the conduct of hostilities against the Russian Federation, repeated attacks were launched by unmanned boats against the permanent base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in the city of Sevastopol and civilian infrastructure in Crimea on 23 March and 24 April this year. These attacks were repulsed. However, an analysis of the situation showed that all the boats were launched from the waters of the port of Odessa, which was designated for the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative. They were deployed in the area of the humanitarian corridor also involved in the export of agricultural products from Ukrainian ports. The terrorist actions by the Kyiv regime jeopardize a further extension of the grain deal after 18 May this year.

One final point. With the permission of its Western handlers, the Kyiv regime continues to bombard the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant (NPP). We periodically hear some feigned concerns in this room about the situation around the Zaporozhye NPP, as well as unsubstantiated speculation. However, we see no appeals to Mr. Zelenskyy’s formations to stop their shelling. Now for a concrete fact: on the eve of the 37th anniversary of the terrible accident at the Chernobyl NPP, Ukrainian formations carried out an attack on the Zaporozhye NPP using an unmanned aerial vehicle. In the course of this attack, the turbine hall of the plant’s fourth power unit was damaged by an explosion. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries. The Zelenskyy regime is putting the entire continent at risk of a major accident with the possible release of radioactive substances. But the leaders of the European countries are turning a blind eye to this amidst their daydreams about inflicting a “strategic defeat” on Russia.

It is important to understand that our country will continue to consistently defend its legitimate national interests for as long as it takes; it will protect its people by all available means. To prevent a new round of escalation and achieve sustainable peace, it is necessary to stop supplying NATO weapons and mercenaries to Ukraine and using them to kill Russians and Ukrainians, to end the hostilities in order to save lives, and to return to substantive dialogue on a demilitarized and denazified future for Ukraine, taking the current realities into account.

Thank you for your attention.