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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1499th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 November 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

The regional conflict in Ukraine provoked by NATO and European Union countries has now acquired global characteristics. The repeated deployment of Western-manufactured long-range weapons to strike at Russian territory was but the latest escalatory step by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and their satellites aimed at undermining regional and global stability.

Russia responded by using various assets to strike at a major facility belonging to Ukraine's military-industrial complex, namely the Yuzhmash plant in Dnipropetrovsk. During a combined strike on 21 November, the newest intermediate-range missile system, called "Oreshnik", was successfully tested.

Subsequently, on 24 November, Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared that Ukraine should not be a testing ground for weapons. The senior figure of a puppet regime that is entirely financed and controlled by NATO countries also added that today Ukraine, as he claimed, is "a sovereign and independent State".

However, only a month ago, in an interview with journalists from Ukrainian television channels on 18 October, Mr. Zelenskyy expressed satisfaction with the fact that Ukraine had been turned into a location for the battlefield testing of NATO weapons. In particular, he announced that NATO countries were studying the experience gained in using weapons supplied to the Ukrainian armed forces in order to know "what to focus on" when improving their armaments and manufacturing them.

In this context, one might also recall public statements by senior British and US defence ministry officials (for example, the then UK Secretary of State for Defence, Ben Wallace, or former deputy Pentagon chief Mara Karlin), who in 2022–2023 affirmed that Ukraine had become, I quote, "a laboratory of learning for military innovation". It is also worth recalling how Kyiv regime officials have repeatedly emphasized that they had made the territory of Ukraine available, in the interests of NATO, as a test site for the testing of various weapons under combat conditions (as was stated on several occasions by former Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov and Mr. Zelenskyy's current adviser Mykhailo Podolyak).

Yet no one thought to ask the inhabitants of Ukraine themselves whether they wanted to take part in such experiments. Or whether they wanted to become cannon fodder in NATO's confrontation with Russia. The Ukrainians continue to be force-fed propaganda narratives from Western capitals so as to discourage them from resisting Ukraine's transformation into an anti-Russian bridgehead of the North Atlantic Alliance.

The main thing that Russians and Ukrainians know from our common history is that Ukraine can flourish only in a context of harmonious relations with all the peoples of Russia. Looking for an enemy in the form of Russian statehood is a suicidal move for anyone who wishes us ill. It does not make sense to seek friends far away and enemies nearby.

The Kyiv regime does not represent the people of Ukraine, who have long been deprived of all manner of electoral rights. Acting in the Western sponsors' interests, Mr. Zelenskyy's paramilitary formations continue to commit crimes against the civilian population. Last week, shelling attacks resulted in no fewer than 64 civilian casualties in various constituent entities of the Russian Federation, specifically, in seven people killed and 57 injured, including two children.

In the Kursk region, Yulia Kuznetsova, the editor-in-chief of *Narodnaya Gazeta*, a local newspaper, was killed when a Ukrainian drone hit her car on 17 November. She was transporting the editorial desk's archives. In her next article, Yulia planned to talk about the situation in the conflict-affected areas of the Kursk region.

We stress that none of these crimes by the Kyiv regime have prompted concern on the part of the OSCE leadership. There have been no assessments whatsoever. The killing of civilians, including children, and of journalists continues to be hushed up for political reasons.

The fate of children caught up in the conflict is of concern to our opponents solely for the purpose of reproducing anti-Russian slurs. It is not surprising that they ignored the information about how, as a result of contacts between human rights commissioners, 46 residents of the Kursk region (among them 12 children), who had been taken away by Kyiv regime militants in August of this year following the attack on the border areas of the Kursk region, were able to return to Russia on 22 November.

Sustaining as it is huge losses on the battlefield, the Kyiv regime is experiencing a tangible shortage of manpower. No wonder it has been announced that, from 28 February 2025 onwards, all previously issued deferrals from mobilization will become invalid. Earlier, in order to lure citizens into registering with the military authorities, the Ukrainian Government had actively promoted the use of digital services to provide exemptions from conscription. In practice, it turned out to be a banal two-card trick aimed at enlisting additional large numbers of citizens in the "war down to the last Ukrainian" by means of deception. Incidentally, speaking recently in London, the Kyiv regime's ambassador there, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, urged Ukrainian soldiers already mobilized and undergoing training in the United Kingdom "not to be afraid of death", as there is "almost no chance of survival" on the battlefield.

Against this backdrop, many Ukrainians are fleeing, making use of various transit routes towards the liberated Russian territories. Even the most biased representatives of the Kyiv regime cannot hide this. The former deputy minister for the so-called temporarily occupied territories, Heorhii Tuka, confirmed the other day live on the Espresso television channel that 99 per cent of the forcibly displaced persons returning to their homes in Russian Donbass and the Dnieper Lowland do so because they were unable to establish a normal life in the territories controlled by the Zelenskyy regime. It is logical that these people are seeking a more congenial environment, as it turned out that the Kyiv regime simply had no need for them.

We continue to pile up data on the true role of NATO member countries in the conflict. Just the other day, another British mercenary, who identified himself as James Scott Rhys Anderson (date of birth 24 May 2002), was captured in the Kursk region. This Briton gave a detailed and rather interesting testimony. He made no secret of the fact that prior to his setting off for Ukraine he had served as a signaller in the British Army.

We frequently hear in this room that, for Western countries, their involvement in the conflict in Ukraine is a matter of fighting for certain principles. However, the speakers are unfazed by the fact that the principles they are talking about have been actively and repeatedly violated by their own governments in recent decades through military interventions in various parts of the world – in Europe, in the Middle East and North Africa, in Asia and so on. And by the fact that they have no right to lecture others about law and morality.

These champions of “fairness, justice and responsibility” are also not bothered by how their enthusiastic support for the actions of the quasi-judicial bodies they have created (for example, the so-called International Criminal Court) is suddenly not so enthusiastic when it comes to decisions by these same judicial bodies regarding specific individuals among the political elites in countries that are allies of the United States and the United Kingdom. The concept of a “rules-based world order” promoted by some here is turning more and more into an increasingly ridiculous potpourri list of opportunistic wishes that change from day to day depending on which way the wind is blowing with regard to the overlord’s geopolitical interests.

It is quite obvious that, for the West, the Ukrainian conflict is not at all about fighting for values and principles. In reality, it is just another episode in their attempt at neocolonial expansion. All of this was once again confirmed a few days ago by United States Senator Lindsey Graham, who has visited Kyiv several times this year (most recently on 12 August) and has been received by the highest officeholders of the Kyiv regime, including Mr. Zelenskyy. The other day, in an interview with Fox News, Mr. Graham put it bluntly as to why the United States needs the Ukrainian conflict. Let me quote him: “This war is about money. People don’t talk much about it. But you know, the richest country in all of Europe for rare earth minerals is Ukraine – 2 to 7 trillion dollars’ worth of minerals” (end of quote). It is noteworthy that, just a few months ago, the same Mr. Graham estimated these reserves as being worth a good deal more, namely 10 to 12 trillion dollars.

A few days ago, on 19 November, the Kyiv regime’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Andrii Sybiha, held a meeting with Mr. Graham in Washington, during which he pushed one of the points of Mr. Zelenskyy’s so-called victory plan, which involves the transfer of mineral exploitation rights in exchange for continued military and financial support. Decisions on the fate of Ukraine have long been made without taking into account the opinion of Ukrainians themselves; their role is simply to serve as cannon fodder.

The policy of hatred being pursued by Mr. Zelenskyy and other NATO puppets in the interests of a neocolonial land grab is bringing the world closer to a large-scale global conflict. At the same time, it has long been obvious that the geopolitical reality of the twenty-first century is changing for objective reasons in the direction of multipolarity, with the consolidation of new centres of power, development and growth. In this context, NATO countries are making a serious mistake by destroying what is left of the international security system in an attempt to preserve their hegemony.

All this is already understood by the leaders of some Western countries. Addressing the Budapest Eurasia Forum on 21 November, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said, I quote: “For hundreds of years, Westerners have been used to thinking that we are the finest, the smartest, the most advanced and the

richest. And once you see that we are no longer the finest, we are no longer the smartest, we are no longer the most advanced and we are no longer the richest, it is not an easy task to face up to and admit this” (end of quote). Comment is superfluous.

To sum up. Our country is open to any initiatives that are aimed at achieving, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the current crisis and that take into account Russia’s legitimate security interests. At the same time, there will be no “freeze” along the line of engagement.

Right now, the situation is as far from a settlement as it can be. This is being hindered by the actions of NATO countries in continuing to militarize Ukraine and escalate and instrumentalize the conflict. Escalation is not something we chose. Russia is focused on preventing the worst-case scenarios. However, it should be understood that we are prepared for any turn of events and are determined to defend our interests using all available military and other options. A commensurate response to the threats posed will always be forthcoming.

Thank you for your attention.