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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1375th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 May 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol, within which a group of Ukrainian fighters from the Azov regiment, a Nazi formation, had been holed up since 21 April, has been completely liberated. Between 16 and 20 May, 2,439 members of the Azov regiment and military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces emerged from the plant's underground facilities, laid down their arms and surrendered to the law enforcement authorities. The so-called Azov commander was removed from the plant in a special armoured vehicle – this was necessary to preserve his life given the hatred of Mariupol's citizens towards him and their desire to punish him for the many atrocities committed. At the moment, the Azov fighters are actively co-operating with the investigative bodies and helping to shed light on the Kyiv regime's crimes against the civilian population. The information obtained will be given a proper legal assessment, the results of which will be communicated to the public without fail.

Today, the city of Mariupol in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) is free of Ukrainian Nazi armed formations. These are no longer firing on civilian homes using foreign weapons, no longer engaged in looting, no longer hiding behind civilians, no longer driving patients out of hospitals and schoolchildren and students out of educational institutions, and no longer setting up storage depots for Stinger man-portable air defence systems and Javelin anti-tank missile systems in kindergartens. The citizens of Mariupol are wandering its streets freely. Demining work is being carried out by Russian and DPR sappers in a number of residential areas where the Azov fighters had previously set up combat positions. In addition, more than 50 kilometres of the Sea of Azov coastline have been surveyed and over 300 different munitions defused. Following demining and demilitarization, the port of Mariupol has resumed daily operations. In total, experts from the International Mine Action Centre team have destroyed more than 6,000 explosive hazards since the start of their work on DPR territory.

The city of Mariupol has considerable work ahead of it to restore its destroyed infrastructure. Russian doctors, construction workers, engineers, rescuers from the Ministry of Emergency Situations and other specialists have responded to the call for help from its citizens. On 24 May, twin-city relations were

established between Mariupol and St. Petersburg, the Hero City of Leningrad, which heroically withstood Nazism during the Second World War.

After the so-called evacuation of Nazi fighters from the Azovstal plant, which saw them ending up directly in DPR detention facilities, Ukrainian armed formations stepped up their targeted attacks on the civilian population in other areas so as to accuse the Russian armed forces of indiscriminate shelling. The latest such monstrous provocation was carried out in the village of Mykolaivka, which is temporarily occupied by the Ukrainian armed forces, in the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR). On 20 and 21 May, Ukrainian journalists from the 1+1 television channel and correspondents from *The New York Times* were taken there, whereupon Ukrainian formations used artillery pieces to shell residential buildings, resulting in fatalities and casualties among the civilian population.

Another egregious incident occurred in the Kherson region, where on 22 May Ukrainian formations shelled the settlement of Bilozerka from the direction of the Mykolaiv region – the barrage came in the form of cluster munitions from Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems, with eight unguided missiles being fired in total. Two people, including a 14-year-old child, were killed, ten people were wounded and more than a dozen houses were damaged.

New instances of international humanitarian law being violated by Ukrainian armed formations continue to be recorded, including the setting up of firing positions and strongpoints in schools, hospitals and kindergartens. In temporarily occupied Lysychansk (LPR), units of the Ukrainian armed forces have placed tube artillery and multiple-launch rocket systems inside the building and hangars of a rare-gas plant, and have attached explosives to containers holding hazardous chemicals. The Mariupol scenario is in effect being worked through there – the Ukrainian militants are forcibly detaining the plant's employees and local residents in its basements, once again turning them into human shields. What happens next – will the militants offer to exchange their hostages for food and medical supplies, just as they did in Mariupol?

The situation near the now liberated city of Svitlodarsk in the DPR is also telling: before abandoning their positions there, the Ukrainian armed forces mined and attempted to blow up the dam at the Vuhlehirska power station. The Ukrainian forces had been preparing in advance for this crime against the civilian population – as early as mid-April, special-purpose machinery arrived there and was used to dig a pit for the explosives. Fortunately, the attempt to blow up the dam on 23 May was unsuccessful and its integrity was not compromised. Criminal proceedings have been instituted in this regard. The DPR authorities will carry out repair and restoration works at this critical infrastructure facility.

Instead of helping to end the armed violence, the United States of America and its satellites continue to invest in destabilizing Ukraine. They are bankrolling the Kyiv regime and sending weapons that end up in the hands of Ukrainian neo-Nazis. It is NATO's *de facto* steering of the Kyiv authorities that has led the country towards a catastrophic scenario. If Ukraine were really a sovereign and independent country, rather than being ruled by foreign handlers who have imposed a militaristic course on its Government and sought to drag it into NATO, it would have expelled all the Nazi scum from its lands long ago and invested in civil accord rather than a war with its own people and in threats to its neighbours. The total amount of Western aid provided to Ukraine since the beginning of this year has already exceeded the Ukrainian military budget for 2022, which the "peace-loving" regime in Kyiv had planned to raise to 12 billion dollars through loans and credit.

The continued large-scale militarization of Ukraine by the North Atlantic Alliance led by the United States shows that the West needs an endlessly simmering conflict on this territory. They want to use the latter against Russia and as a dumping ground for weapons that are past their shelf life with a view to then

supplying Europe's depleted arsenals with goods from the US armaments industry. The inhabitants of Ukraine are seen as expendable material in the process.

The fact that weapons in Ukraine are going missing is also recognized by the members of the Kyiv regime themselves. The other day, the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitalii Klitschko, confirmed that a large number of weapons were not under the authorities' control. Incidentally, some of these weapons ended up in the hands of gangsters and criminals released en masse from prison at the end of February on the initiative of President Zelenskyy.

The US Government, pumping money into the country's military-industrial complex, is profiting from human suffering far from its borders. Is it any wonder that on 19 May the US Congress approved a new package of so-called aid for Ukraine? The relevant document has already been signed by President Biden. In addition to funds for the *de facto* upkeep of the Kyiv regime's State apparatus, it envisages multi-billion-dollar allocations for military spending, including further deliveries of lethal weapons to Ukraine.

It is noteworthy that, on the same day, the US Senate blocked the earmarking of 48 billion dollars to help small businesses. In other words, one priority for the United States is to maintain instability on the European continent to the detriment of support measures for its own entrepreneurs affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Of course, the funds envisaged for Ukraine are not "aid" as such but loans and credit. Already now, the Kyiv regime is actively exporting natural commodities, including agricultural produce, to the West by way of paying off the arms deliveries. This is despite the fact that, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) alone, some 22.8 per cent of children under the age of five in Ukraine are suffering from malnutrition, and 8.7 million people as a whole are experiencing a shortage of food. What is the West aiming for in seeking to fast-track the exporting of grain from Ukraine? To create a real "Holodomor" there as opposed to a mythical one?

Against this backdrop, the rhetoric about a "global food crisis" appears strange to say the least, for the West does not seem to care about other people's problems. Neither do they care what Ukraine's storage facilities will be filled with. How else is one to interpret the US President's words about his intention to "get" 20 million tonnes of grain "out of the country", or the words of the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, about the desire to "empty the storage capacity" for grain in Ukraine? Incidentally, amid a food crisis that has been brewing for years, grain from Ukraine is apparently being used by Western countries to replenish their own reserves rather than to help those countries in greatest need of food, for example, the countries on the verge of famine in Asia and Africa.

At the same time, Mr. Borrell does not forget to emphasize the volume of the European Union's investments in the exacerbation of the crisis in Ukraine: since the beginning of the year, some 2 billion euros have already been allocated for the military provisioning of the Kyiv regime. Surely it was these funds that enabled Ukrainian formations to obtain weapons that they subsequently deployed, for example, on the territory of a grain mill in the village of Vrubivka (LPR) under their control, from where they are firing and provoking retaliatory fire? Or to obtain explosives, with the aid of which nationalist formation fighters mined an elevator full of grain in the settlement of Prosiiana in the Dnipropetrovsk region?

We draw particular attention to the hostile statements by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Zbigniew Rau, made in Berlin on 24 May. When talking about Ukraine, he called for the establishment of a pan-European security system that would be directed "against Russia". Moreover, he invited Germany to play a leading role in this geopolitical fantasy. It is disappointing

that, in the current circumstances, Poland is not only failing to fulfil the responsible function of OSCE Chairmanship – its officials are, instead, trying to stir up confrontation among the participating States in every possible way. We trust that the people of Poland will have the wisdom not to allow themselves and their neighbours to be dragged into the military hysteria fomented by politickers.

We know to whose tune these “statesmen” are dancing. An arrogant and disrespectful tone, disregard for the legitimate interests of sovereign States, hypocrisy and mendacity have long been the hallmarks of Anglo-Saxon geopolitical practice. Unfortunately, some diplomats are also guilty of this. Just look at what the former US ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul, said at a public debate in Canada on 20 May: speaking about Ukraine, he admitted that the promises so generously held out by the West to the Ukrainians were empty words. Mr. McFaul summed it up in true American style: “Yes, our diplomats are lying, that’s the real world, guys.”

Right away we should like to say to our Western partners: sorry, but we do not need such a world – a world of lies promoted for the sake of achieving geopolitical goals. One cannot but recall the apt description given by Russian President Vladimir Putin in March of this year when referring to the US actions in the international arena and those of the Western bloc that the United States has fashioned after its image – not for nothing did he describe the whole lot as an “empire of lies”. Now we see US diplomats themselves publicly confirming it. Sooner or later this will be realized by people not only in Ukraine, but also in Europe and even in the United States.

With regard to Ukraine, the West has long based its policy on lies: the bloody coup d’état of February 2014 is called the “Revolution of Dignity”, the punitive operation to suppress dissent in Donbas an “anti-terrorist operation”, and the battalions of armed neo-Nazis and out-and-out thugs “freedom fighters”. Similarly, the external steering of Ukraine and the economic plundering of the country is called “support for sovereignty and the promotion of economic reforms”. We would remind you that amid all these phrases and while being steered externally, Ukraine had already by 2020 become the poorest country in Europe with a colossal level of corruption.

Today they are trying to foist a delusional myth on Ukrainian society about some kind of “centuries-old resistance to Russian imperialism”. However, these words seem merely to be a cloak for the desire to fight “down to the last Ukrainian” for the interests of US hegemony in Europe. We hasten to disillusion our partners: such hegemony is impossible because Russia is part of the European continent. We would advise above all the representatives of a country that is thousands of kilometres from the westernmost shores of Europe, and whose history of statehood is at least five times shorter than the thousand-year history of Russia, to reflect on this.

Once again we emphasize that, regardless of the global situation, the objectives of the Russian special military operation, namely the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, will be fully implemented.

Thank you for your attention.