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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE 1480th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 July 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

On 14 June, during a meeting with senior officials from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, proposed a number of specific initiatives to ensure a political settlement of the situation in and around Ukraine. These initiatives are not only duly adapted to the current realities but, above all, take into account the will of civilians living in the territories affected by the conflict.

Their key message is that in order to avoid further armed escalation, new casualties and destruction on both sides of the line of engagement, the authorities in Kyiv and the Western capitals involved in the conflict in one way or another must stop the bloodshed from continuing. It is important to ensure a ceasefire and a complete withdrawal by the Kyiv regime of its troops from all the territories of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions. The effective initiation of this process will enable negotiations to begin without delay.

Our country's position with regard to the parameters for a settlement, which it is important to make sustainable, has not changed since the start of the special military operation. Ukraine's neutral non-aligned non-nuclear status, its demilitarization and denazification must be fully ensured. Discriminatory practices against Russian-speaking citizens must cease, and their rights and freedoms must be guaranteed and ensured. All these basic and essential provisions should be further enshrined in the form of fundamental international agreements.

Mr. Putin's statement at the meeting with senior officials from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was distributed by us at the OSCE on 18 June (SEC.DEL/247/24).

Preliminary assessments suggest that the Russian President's initiatives have been rejected at the present stage by both the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors. Moreover, they have tried to present them as a "capitulation formula" for Ukraine, which it is not at all the case.

The Kyiv regime and its Western patrons have thus chosen to further escalate the conflict. We emphasize that, in such a situation, responsibility for all the casualties and destruction rests entirely with those who refuse to talk seriously about a sustainable settlement that would take into account the interests of the sovereign actors in the region. It is also important to realize that, given the progressively worsening situation of the Kyiv regime itself, any subsequent conditions for the start of a settlement process will be much less favourable for it.

On 15 and 16 June, a high-level conference on Ukraine was held in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, which its organizers sought futilely to present as some kind of “peace summit”. The talk there was about anything but peace and a lasting political settlement. Quite the opposite: on the eve of the conference and after the event, NATO countries, including the United State of America and Germany, announced new arms deliveries to the Kyiv regime. At this meeting in Bürgenstock, the Polish President Andrzej Duda even suggested the dismantling of Russia into several small States.

The NATO leadership made inflammatory statements. There was serious discussion about sending a special military mission to Ukraine, the details of which are expected to be outlined during the forthcoming summit of the North Atlantic Alliance in Washington from 9 to 11 July. By the way, the NATO leadership has announced that a new scheme for co-ordinating arms deliveries to the Kyiv regime has been agreed at the NATO-wide level. Against this background, the US Government has stated that the United States and its allies should step up efforts to supply weapons to the Kyiv regime, as the Ukrainian conflict has entered a “key stage”.

At the conference in Switzerland itself, most of the foreign sponsors of the Kyiv regime opposed an immediate ceasefire and favoured the continuation of hostilities. On the margins of the conference, representatives of the leadership of the Kyiv regime are known to have held talks with foreign delegations on increasing the supply of weapons to the Ukrainian armed forces. Plans to set up production of artillery shells directly in Ukraine were discussed. The corresponding plans were announced the other day by the US company Northrop Grumman.

The organizers of the Swiss conference are not interested in peace in and around Ukraine. They need further confrontation, armed escalation and scaling up of hostilities in an attempt to inflict some kind of “strategic defeat” on our country.

It is revealing that the communiqué that concluded the event was basically meaningless and lacking in practical steps towards peace. The attempt to pass it off as the opinion of the international community does not stand up to scrutiny. We note the failed attempts by Western countries to involve a wide range of representatives of the Global South in the Swiss gathering. Moreover, a number of participants took the opportunity to speak directly at the event about the damage caused by the promotion by Western countries of the idea of global domination based on the concept of a “rules-based order”.

It is important to understand the futility and absurdity of the meeting held in Bürgenstock, the organizers of which had the temerity to determine the fate of Russia and the Russian world in the absence of Russian representatives and without taking into account the interests of safeguarding the unity and security of our fatherland. The declaratory rhetoric is legally and politically meaningless and is essentially on a par with the equally meaningless efforts to organize pseudo-legal anti-Russian exercises on other platforms. These include illegitimate decisions of the International Criminal Court, the creation of a “register of damage” and the launching of various kinds of “mechanisms”. Similarly, the recent decisions by the EU leadership to transfer (actually to steal) the proceeds from Russian sovereign assets to purchase ammunition for the Ukrainian armed forces and to support the production of weapons in the interests of continuing the conflict are also contrary to international law.

We draw attention to another violation of his mandate by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta Mr. Ian Borg, who took part in the event in Bürgenstock. It should be noted that no OSCE decision-making body authorized him to attend, much less to speak on behalf of our Organization with deliberately confrontational statements aimed directly against the security and development interests of Russia as a fully fledged OSCE participating State. Mr. Borg exceeded his authority and violated the provisions of Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/02 on the role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office and of Permanent Council Decision No. 485 on OSCE statements and public information.

What the “peaceful intentions” of the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers actually mean can be seen from the events that unfolded immediately after the “forum” in Switzerland.

The shelling of peaceful neighbourhoods in Russian population centres has not ceased for a day. On 23 June, the Kyiv regime carried out a terrorist attack against the residents of Sevastopol, shelling the city using a US-made ATACMS tactical missile system. The missiles fired were equipped with cluster warheads. Four were shot down, and the fifth deviated from its flight path with the warhead detonating in mid-air over a beach area crowded with holidaymakers. The attack resulted in 153 casualties, 27 of them children. Two children died – girls aged two and nine. Justifying the strike against the civilian population, Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to the ringleader of the Kyiv regime, publicly stated that “there are not and cannot be” any signs of peaceful life in Crimea.”

This attack is an element of the hybrid “Anglo-Saxon” war against the civilian population of our country, a war that is being waged using proxy formations of the Kyiv regime. We emphasize that target designation and input of flight mission data when using ATACMS tactical missile systems is carried out by US military specialists, who bear equal responsibility with the Kyiv regime for this atrocity. At the time of the attack on Sevastopol, a US Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was operating in the airspace near Crimea. On 24 June, US Ambassador Lynne Tracy was summoned to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow and told that the actions by the United States, which is inciting its Kyiv underlings to carry out strikes against the civilian population deep inside Russian territory, will not be without consequences.

Today, none of our opponents in this room have said anything about this terrible crime. The lack of reaction on the part of the OSCE leadership is also shocking. It is unacceptable to hush up the atrocities of the Kyiv regime and to ignore the Russian civilian casualties.

Over the past two weeks, since the so-called “peace conference” in Bürgenstock, more than 320 civilians in various constituent entities of the Russian Federation have been hit as a result of shelling by the Kyiv regime using NATO weapons. Of these, 23 people have died, including five children. A further 303 people, including 120 minors, sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity.

The declarations by the Kyiv regime and the West about their desire to safeguard the security of nuclear facilities are also worthless. A few days after Bürgenstock, the Luch substation, which is a key piece of infrastructure near Energodar, a satellite town of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP), was hit and put out of commission. On 22 June, Ukrainian drones attacked Energodar itself. Two drones exploded in residential areas, and one drone was brought down using electronic warfare equipment near the Raduga electrical substation. After one of the attacks on Energodar, the radiation monitoring post of the Zaporizhzhia NPP in the settlement of Bolshaya Znamenka was destroyed. Yesterday, 3 July, the Raduga substation was attacked three times by UAVs: eight Zaporizhzhia NPP employees were injured, both substation transformers were damaged, and the regular power supply to Energodar was disrupted.

In short, the so-called “peace conference” in Switzerland turned out to be just a smokescreen for continuing the military beefing up of the Kyiv regime, encouraging it to commit crimes against civilians and fulfilling NATO countries’ attempts to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia using Ukraine’s territory and resources. We should like to emphasize that the real path to peace lies through substantive and considered work on the initiatives of the President of Russia, which will open the way to a sustainable settlement.

There is more. On 13 June, as a result of a targeted attack by armed formations of the Kyiv regime near the settlement of Golmovsky (Donetsk People’s Republic), journalists from the NTV television company – the correspondent Aleksey Ivliev and the cameraman Valery Kozhin – were seriously injured. Both were taken to hospital, where Mr. Kozhin died and Mr. Ivliev underwent amputations to save his life.

On 16 June, another Russian journalist, Nikita Tsitsagi, who worked with a number of publishing houses and news agencies, was killed as a result of a further Ukrainian armed forces attack near Ugledar (Donetsk People’s Republic).

We note that there has been no condemnation or any reaction at all from the OSCE to these crimes. We firmly believe that the leadership of our Organization has a direct obligation to respond immediately to attacks on, and the murder of, media workers. The hushing up of such crimes once again testifies to the lack of professionalism and incompetence of the leadership of the OSCE and its relevant structures. Furthermore, this cannot be seen as anything other than demonstrative pandering to the Kyiv regime.

We call upon the participating States to support an unbiased approach to ensure that all cases of killings, attempts on the lives and harassment of correspondents, regardless of their nationality and citizenship, are immediately condemned and censured.

In conclusion, we stress once again that Russia has no historical, economic or any other reasons to forswear its indissoluble ancestral ties to everything connected with Ukraine. Nor are there any reasons for sacrificing the interests of our State’s security and stability for the sake of the neocolonial ambitions of a number of NATO and EU countries. A suitable response will be given to all the threats that these are generating from Ukrainian territory.

Thank you for your attention.