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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1377th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 June 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

This past weekend, residential areas in the central part of the city of Donetsk and its suburbs were subjected to brutal strikes by Ukrainian artillery using cluster munitions. These massive attacks on districts in which there are no combat positions were carried out deliberately and knowingly. According to the data available so far, at least 15 people were killed and more than 30 injured. The figures continue to be updated.

While expatiating on their willingness to help bring about a diplomatic solution to the situation, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and their NATO partners are in practice seeking to drag out the armed confrontation. Plans have already been announced to send US-made long-range multiple-launch rocket systems to Ukraine. Over in Kyiv they hastened to assert that they intended to use these systems as they saw fit and that they were unwilling to give assurances that they would not use them to attack neighbouring States. That being said, it must be understood that if long-range rockets are shipped to Ukraine, Russia will employ its weapons to strike at facilities that have not been attacked so far.

The weapons that are being sent are, as we see it, intended to make up for the losses of the retreating Ukrainian armed formations. However, they are incapable of having any effect on the resoluteness with which the Russian special military operation will continue to be conducted. Since the start of the operation, the United States alone, according to its own estimates, has delivered approximately 24,000 anti-tank systems, more than 1,000 air defence systems, around 1,500 missiles, 90 artillery systems, dozens of helicopters, over 30 radar stations and around 8,000 firearms to Ukraine. None of this has been able to save the Ukrainian formations from the inevitable day of reckoning, for over the same period the allied armed forces of Russia and the Donbas republics have liberated significant areas of the Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv regions and the entire Kherson region from the Ukrainian neo-Nazis. The encirclement of the Ukrainian formations on the territory of the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) and the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) is close to complete. The operation will be continued until all the tasks that were set have been fully accomplished.

Meanwhile, the Western countries were mistaken in their assessment of the level of responsibility of their protégés in Kyiv and of the ability of the latter to control the situation, including the distribution of the weapons being sent to Ukraine. Not all of these weapons are being destroyed in the course of combat operations. A certain proportion is already being sold on the black market and falling into the hands of criminals: large quantities could well end up stocking the arsenals of cross-border criminal groups. A bleak outlook in this regard was depicted by the head of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Jürgen Stock, in an interview with the *Daily Express* on 3 June.

On that same date, the US media outlet Politico published a piece in which high-ranking members of the US military admitted that they were in close contact with Ukrainian armed formations, and also that they were co-ordinating and training the latter in tactics for the conduct of hostilities in the current circumstances. Such revelations were made, for example, by Major General David Baldwin, one of the heads of the California Military Department. He said that he was communicating daily with the leadership of the Ukrainian armed forces on the operational and tactical environment, adding that he was helping the Ukrainian armed forces to draw up requests for weapons to be used “against Russian forces”.

In view of this, it is puzzling to hear the assertions coming from, say, Washington, D.C., to the effect that the United States is seeking to avoid a direct military confrontation with Russia over the situation in Ukraine. The actions of the US military, which is supplying Ukrainian armed formations with equipment, weapons and intelligence data, along with the activities of US generals, who are co-ordinating those formations’ operations “on the ground”, suggest something quite different. When all is said and done, this involvement by the United States and its allies in the situation in Ukraine is resulting in the killing of citizens of Russia, the DPR, the LPR and Ukraine. It is like playing with fire.

Incidentally, in view of a situation that is on the whole demoralizing for them, retreating Ukrainian armed formations – evidently seeking to boost the fighting spirit within their own ranks – have set about recording fake clips illustrating the alleged “great effectiveness” of the weapons delivered by the West. For example, such staged video footage was recorded near the village of Meshkovka in the Mykolaiv region on 28 May. Stills from that footage have been published by the Russian Ministry of Defence.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, the influx of foreign mercenaries wishing to “have a go” at fighting in Ukraine had by early June decreased by half, namely from 6,600 to 3,500. Many of them reconsidered their actions of their own accord and left the territory of Ukraine voluntarily. Hundreds were eliminated by Russian long-range high-precision weapons shortly after their arrival when they were still at their places of training. However, the majority were killed in the zone of hostilities.

A number of foreign “soldiers of fortune” surrendered to the law enforcement authorities of the Donbas republics and have been brought to justice for crimes against the civilian population – for example, the Britons Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner and the Moroccan Saadun Brahim, whose trial was held at the Supreme Court of the DPR. The unavailability of severe punishment for them is demanded above all by the residents of Donbas themselves, who had to hide in basements during shelling attacks in which these foreigners had their hand. By the way, it has been reported just now, in the course of our meeting, that the Supreme Court of the DPR has sentenced them to death.

We have heard accusations levelled in this room against the Russian armed forces to the effect that the latter have been shelling storage facilities at hazardous chemical plants. We would stress that the routine propagation of false information has long since become a hallmark of many of our opponents. The story about the alleged shelling of a chemical storage facility at the Azot plant in Sievierodonetsk was hyped up with particular intensity. We would remind you that, on 31 May, Ukrainian armed formations preparing to retreat blew up a chemical tank there. Subsequently a joint task force (reinforced troops from the

79th Separate Air Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the 117th and 118th Separate Battalions of the 111th Separate Territorial Defence Brigade) received orders to mine other containers in the industrial zone of the Azot plant holding a total volume of ammonium nitrate and nitric acid exceeding 100 tonnes. Blowing up these containers would, according to the plan, hold up the allied forces' offensive by creating a chemical contamination zone. The intention was to present all this as if it had been the result of shelling by the Russian military. We would point out that relevant information was made public by the Russian Ministry of Defence back on 4 June. The Russian Federation has duly informed the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) about this and other provocations by the Kyiv regime.

It would not be amiss to recall that the Russian Ministry of Defence reported already on 6 May on the preparations by the Ukrainian military for the previous explosion of a tank at the same factory. Russia notified the OPCW Technical Secretariat of this on the following day; the explosion itself occurred on 31 May.

According to reliable information, yet another provocation involving the use of dangerous chemicals is being prepared in Sumy. Militants from Ukrainian formations there have already been issued with hazmat suits. As intended by the "scriptwriters" in Kyiv, these militants will first of all launch strikes against border areas. After staged retaliatory firing allegedly carried out by the Russian armed forces, they then plan to spray potent toxic substances into the air. They want to have OPCW specialists involved in recording this incident, which they will exploit to accuse the Russian military of using chemical weapons against the civilian population.

We must stress that only the Ukrainian armed formations can have any grounds for using chemicals in some way or another in the current situation in Ukraine. The civilian population is not a target of the Russian special military operation. The criminal plans of the Kyiv regime will continue to be exposed and made public in the future, too, so as to preclude it from being able to lead the international community up the garden path.

The Ukrainian Government's tactics in Sievierodonetsk are a continuation of the campaign to mythologize what is happening in Ukraine in the spirit of the fake stories about the alleged "crimes of the Russian military" in Bucha, Kramatorsk and the like – in short, stories that have repeatedly been debunked by the facts. We would remind you that to this day neither the names of those killed in Bucha nor information about their places of residence and the nature of the wounds that they sustained have been made public at all.

In the same mould as these false accusations is the shelling of the railway station at Kramatorsk on 8 April mentioned by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom at the last Permanent Council meeting. While laying the blame for it on the Russian military, he failed to mention that the serial number on the tail of the missile that landed there, as recorded by Italian journalists, clearly indicated that the shell belonged to the Ukrainian armed forces. We have already presented exhaustive information on this at the OSCE, together with relevant testimonies. And yet certain participants in our discussions stubbornly continue to say the same things over and over again – evidently in the hope that a lie repeated many times will at some point begin to seem like the truth. No, esteemed colleagues, it will not.

It is also worth recalling once again the groundless accusations about "mass rapes", including the "raping" of children, which fell on deaf ears even within Ukrainian society itself. They led to the originator of these fake stories, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament), Liudmyla Denisova, being removed from office.

Incidentally, it is important that Ms. Denisova herself admitted, in an interview with the media outlet *Livyi Bereh* (“Left Bank”) on 3 June, that she had been manipulating unverified information for foreign policy purposes. In particular, she shared her recollections of her appearance in the Italian Parliament, where she had sensed “Ukraine fatigue” and had therefore deliberately disseminated data on sexual violence that had not been verified by the law enforcement authorities so as to persuade the Italian parliamentarians to endorse the allocation of weapons to Ukraine. She proudly noted that she had been successful and had overcome in this way the resistance of one of Italy’s political forces. In other words, a decision on the delivery of yet another shipment of weapons was adopted on the basis of the deliberate misinforming of the parliament of a foreign State by an official from Ukraine.

In the same interview Ms. Denisova pointed out that in her exertions she had “really laid it on thick”, not least because no confirmation for this data was forthcoming from the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine. The point is that, as Ukraine’s Ombudsperson for Children, Daria Herasymchuk, had already reported, no such data was in the possession of the prosecution authorities: “not a single instance has been recorded”.

It cannot be denied that the interview with Ms. Denisova is one of the best examples of candid self-incrimination of Ukrainian propaganda from the past few weeks. And when foreign representatives once again start to speculate here about the imaginary problem of sexual violence, we would urge them not to forget what the Ukrainian pseudo-arguments they are invoking are based on, of what quality the latter are and what they are ultimately worth.

We note an increase in unsubstantiated accusations against Russia to the effect that it is preventing the export of grain from Ukrainian storage facilities. The attempts to shift responsibility on to our country for what is happening on food markets are tantamount to seeking to find a scapegoat to blame for the crisis situation. We must stress that the signs of a food crisis had been building up over many years, and that Ukraine is not the predominant source of food supplies on global markets.

To be clear: grain can be shipped out of Ukraine via neighbouring countries, but this is being prevented by the policy of illegitimate sanctions employed by a number of countries against those that are willing to make their territory and logistical resources available for the transport of food. The same is true, incidentally, of the deteriorating fertilizer situation. As for the groundless accusations against Russia, Stéphane Dujarric, the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has already responded to them: on 7 June, he said that the United Nations was aware of these allegations but that they had “no way of verifying [them]”.

We must emphasize that Russia is taking a full range of measures to ensure the safety of civilian maritime traffic in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Maritime humanitarian corridors have been established and are operating, as the OSCE participating States have been informed. However, the Kyiv regime is preventing such exports – among other ways, by refusing to demine coastal areas. To date, 70 ships from 16 States remain stranded in the ports of Mykolaiv, Kherson, Chornomorsk (Illichivsk), Ochakiv, Odessa and Yuzhne.

Moreover, Ukraine is publicly blackmailing the international community – for example, through the Secretary of its National Security and Defence Council, Oleksii Danilov. On 8 June, appearing live on a telethon, he stated that if the conditions put forward by the Ukrainian Government were not fulfilled, “no grain will go to anyone anywhere”. It was evidently in compliance with such a prescription that the Ukrainian units withdrawing from Mariupol set fire to a grain silo and destroyed more than 50,000 tonnes of processed agricultural products.

We can see how Western countries are making every effort to prevent their own citizens from finding out the truth about the events in Ukraine. Those of their “domestic” media whose editorial policies do not fall in line with the Russophobic political mainstream are being subjected to tremendous pressure. Access to the Russian press and television has been shut off. With rare exceptions, Western correspondents are not reporting from the DPR, the LPR or the territories liberated from Ukrainian armed formations. Against this background, Russophobic forces have no qualms about spreading, through the media under their control, false myths about the course of the Russian special military operation. None of this, though, will change the state of affairs. The tasks set for the special military operation, namely the protection of the Donbas republics and the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, will be fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.