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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1400th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 November 2022

**On dangerous provocations by the Kyiv regime with the support of a
Western alliance of OSCE participating States, and on the Kyiv regime's ongoing
crimes against the civilian population**

Mr. Chairperson,

First and foremost, we want to draw attention to a recent egregious violation of international humanitarian law committed near the village of Makiiivka in the Luhansk People's Republic by members of the Ukrainian armed formations. Video footage has been published showing an abominable execution: at least ten unarmed Russian servicemen who were not offering any resistance and were lying face down on the ground were shot dead by Ukrainian fighters. According to information received by the Russian Ministry of Defence, this crime was committed by soldiers from the 80th Separate Air Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. There is simply no way that the deliberate and methodical killing of immobilized soldiers can be made out to be a tragic misunderstanding. Without doubt, it needs to be investigated and those responsible must be severely punished.

In this regard, we draw attention to a statement issued on 22 November by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calling for unequivocal condemnation of the Kyiv regime's crimes and for assistance in bringing to justice the direct perpetrators of that inhuman killing and their sponsors.

Like so much other evidence of the Kyiv regime's crimes, this monstrous execution has elicited no principled assessments either from the current OSCE leadership or from the entire collective West. We note that bloody mass reprisals against Russian military personnel and the civilian population have become a widespread practice of the Ukrainian armed forces and of neo-Nazi battalions such as the Azov and Kraken battalions.

Let us recall who trained the members of the Ukrainian formations. From 2014 to the present day, tens of thousands of Ukrainian military personnel and nationalist battalion fighters have undergone training as part of the British-led Operation Orbital, the US-led Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine, the Canadian-led Operation UNIFIER and several other programmes. On 15 November this year, under the

aegis of the European Union, an EU training mission during which it is planned to train a further 15,000 Ukrainian fighters was launched.

Given that no reaction whatsoever to egregious violations of international humanitarian law is forthcoming from those who trained and continue to train the Ukrainian formations, it is legitimate to ask what these training courses cover apart from honing the practice of killing and carrying out acts of sabotage. The answer is obvious: either the Ukrainian fighters are deliberately not being acquainted with the fundamentals of international humanitarian law or they are intentionally being “drilled” in bestial cruelty towards everything connected with political dissent in Ukraine and with Russia and the peoples who inhabit our country.

By advancing the notion of Russia as an allegedly terrorist State, the Kyiv regime is attempting to divert attention from the terroristic nature of the methods of warfare that it is applying – both in Ukraine itself and on the territory of neighbouring States. The Kyiv regime has long since turned into a serious threat to regional stability and security. This threat is exacerbated by the systematic lies emanating from Kyiv.

Take, for example, the episode on 15 November, when the Ukrainian military launched a surface-to-air missile into eastern Poland (the village of Przewodów). Even after officials in Poland and NATO confirmed that the missile belonged to the Ukrainian armed forces, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, continued to claim that it had been launched by the Russian Aerospace Forces. He insisted that the Ukrainian military had had nothing to do with that incident even following a statement by the Head of the National Security Bureau of Poland, Jacek Siewiera, who confirmed that “all the evidentiary material gathered by NATO, the Americans and our side indicates that we are dealing with a missile from an S-300 system fired by Ukrainian air defence” (a statement made live on the Polish radio station RMF FM on 17 November).

In the light of this incident and also the numerous instances of air defence systems being ineptly used on the territory of Ukraine itself, the representatives of the Kyiv regime have with increasing frequency begun to level absurd accusations against Russia to the effect that it is carrying out missile strikes using S-300 anti-aircraft systems – something that we heard in this very room not so long ago. The Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, spoke in a similar vein on 23 November, when he invented some fanciful stories about surface-to-air missiles from S-300 anti-aircraft systems being used to shell the territory of the Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv and Kherson regions.

The direction embarked on by NATO of continuing to militarize Ukraine and equip the Ukrainian formations with Western weapons, accompanied by the instillation of delusive hopes as to achieving some sort of military victory over Russia “on the battlefield”, is a road that leads to nowhere. This policy is supplemented with absurd advice not to enter into negotiations to resolve the situation. In practice, all this is merely aggravating the pointless suffering of people who are being held to ransom by the Kyiv regime and its foreign sponsors for the sake of advancing the geopolitical interests of players from outside the region.

We note an evident dichotomy: while senior NATO officials try to convince the public that the Alliance’s countries are not parties to the armed confrontation in Ukraine, the Ukroboronprom State Concern issued a statement on 18 November about its “integration into the NATO military-industrial complex”. It added that agreement had been reached with at least six countries belonging to the Alliance (Poland, the Czech Republic, France, Denmark and others) on establishing joint enterprises, where it is planned to set up closed-cycle ammunition production lines and to jointly manufacture multiple-launch rocket systems and other heavy weapons and military equipment.

The Russian Aerospace Forces' successful strikes against facilities on Ukrainian territory directly or indirectly used for military purposes highlight how the supplies of NATO weapons to the Kyiv regime, including air defence systems, cannot and will not be able to stop the effective work on the objectives set as part of the special operation. They also confirm something else, namely that the neocolonial endeavours by Western countries in territories that bear little relation to their history, culture and even their peoples are inflicting massive suffering on people both in Russia and in Ukraine. Well, it cannot be helped: our society has accepted this historic challenge and will give a historic response to it.

This week, the NATO puppets in Kyiv have thrown the resources available to them into an onslaught on Orthodoxy in Ukraine. People from the intelligence services who have come to believe in the interpretations offered by Ukrainian history textbooks and Western manuals feigned surprise at the canonical unity and spiritual bonds of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) with Russian Orthodoxy and its clergy. As part of a so-called "special operation", officers from the Security Service of Ukraine conducted raids in the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, an emblematic place for all the Orthodox faithful, and also in the Holy Trinity Convent at Korets and the UOC eparchy of Sarny and Polesia. About 350 church buildings and over 850 individuals were searched, of whom more than 50 were subjected to enhanced questioning on account of their being suspected of disloyalty to the Kyiv regime. Serious charges have been brought against some of them. Yet another campaign to intimidate the Orthodox clergy has thus been conducted – a campaign described by the Security Service of Ukraine as "counter-espionage measures". And once again the Kyiv regime's brutal interference in ecclesiastical life has not called forth any public assessments by its foreign sponsors or by the current OSCE leadership.

One further point. To follow up on yesterday's discussion on international humanitarian law in the OSCE area, we must stress that the Kyiv regime is openly committing criminal acts by continuing its targeted shelling of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP). The objectives are obvious, namely to intimidate the personnel and the local population, and also to set the stage for an accident at the plant. Thus, from 19 to 21 November the Zaporizhzhia NPP was subjected to intensive shelling using NATO 155 mm calibre artillery. Shells are recorded as having landed close to the dry storage facility for spent nuclear fuel, the set of buildings for the processing of radioactive waste that is currently under construction, the central road between reactors Nos. 4 and 5, the premises and roof of special building No. 2, as well as near administrative buildings. Information about the shelling and evidence of the damage were promptly submitted by the Russian side to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) so that the IAEA Member States could be duly informed. We urge that the Kyiv regime's nuclear terrorism be strongly condemned. We stress that the shelling of the Zaporizhzhia NPP could lead to a human-made disaster involving large-scale radioactive contamination of the surrounding area.

The Russian special military operation will carry on and continue to be conducted in a consistent and responsible manner. Its objectives are known and they will be accomplished fully. Resolving the situation in Ukraine must, needless to say, include various aspects of demilitarization and denazification, as well as the elimination of threats to the security of the Russian Federation created by the West on Ukrainian territory. Russia is willing to engage in meaningful, substantive dialogue and will actively defend its interests for as long as is required to safeguard the security of our State and protect its sovereignty.

Thank you for your attention.