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**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1456th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 December 2023

**On the ongoing crimes by the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policies of the Western alliance countries to exacerbate tensions**

Madam Chairperson,

The attempts by Western countries to arrogantly ignore Russia's security interests are ultimately putting the West itself in an increasingly unfavourable position. Today it is evident to everyone that NATO underestimated Russia, its capabilities and the determination and will of our country's peoples to stand up for the security of the fatherland.

Something that Russian diplomats have repeatedly said has been publicly confirmed by all the nominal leaders of the Kyiv regime and by NATO officials – namely, that the Ukrainian armed forces' attempts to achieve military successes on the battlefield have failed in spite of the unprecedented military and technical support from NATO, which included the training of troops, large-scale shipments of weapons and military equipment, the provision of intelligence data and assistance in the planning of tactical operations.

Some noteworthy remarks were to be heard, in an interview with the BBC on 11 December, from the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, who back in December 2022 had been publicly dreaming about “destroying Russia as a country”. Now he is saying that the Ukrainian armed forces' offensive in 2023 has not lived up to expectations, that the situation on the front is “very difficult” for the Kyiv regime's formations and that “old textbooks for war – including NATO ones – should be sent back to the archives.”

In view of the Ukrainian armed forces' lack of military success, the Western handlers of the Kyiv regime are faced with the choice of either recognizing the inevitability of embarking on negotiations already now or once again trying to drag the fighting out in the hope of a miracle, which they would like to see take the form of domestic political destabilization in Russia.

The desperate efforts of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's team notwithstanding, the puppets in Kyiv failed to coax a significant volume of military funding (over 60 billion dollars) out of their masters on the other side of the Atlantic. They are also having the same problems with their sponsors in the European Union, who

have abandoned the idea of granting 20 billion euros' worth of military aid over a period of four years. Since August of this year, the monthly levels of funding allocated to the Kyiv regime have been mirroring the lows seen in early 2022.

At the initiative of Joe Biden during a press conference on 12 December, the slogan about the West supporting Ukraine "for as long as it takes" has been replaced by a declaration about helping "as long as we can". US officials are piling on the metaphors, saying that, when it comes to support for Ukraine, they have reached "the end of the rope" and "the bottom of the barrel" (to quote White House spokesperson John Kirby), and that there is no "magical pot of funding" or "magic wand" (to cite Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin).

The latest tranches of military "assistance" for the Kyiv regime announced a few days ago in the United States of America and in Germany seem, rather, like a case of these two countries mocking their protégés in Kyiv. Obviously, no change will be made to the situation along the line of engagement be it by the "package" to the tune of 200 million dollars announced by Mr. Biden, or by the appropriations under the Pentagon's budget, or by the 70 automatic grenade launchers being sent by the German Government or even by the whopping 250 artillery shells of 155 mm calibre from the new German "package".

In desperate attempts to stave off a complete rout of the Ukrainian armed forces, those in NATO have conceived the idea of deploying F-16 tactical fighter jets, which would formally be handed over to the Kyiv regime but would in practice be stationed at airfields bordering Ukraine that belong to NATO member countries and would fly combat sorties from there. It must be understood that the use of such fighter jets in the Ukrainian conflict – with their deployment taking place from the territory of NATO member countries – will be regarded by the Russian Government as a deliberate step towards escalation and as *de facto* direct involvement in the armed confrontation. We stress that this will compel Russia to take effective retaliatory measures. The European member countries of NATO should already now reflect on what tragic consequences for Europe-wide security could result from such reckless moves to deploy tactical military aviation.

The Western handlers are currently trying to portray as a "victory" already notched up by the Ukrainians the fact that, through their military provisioning of the Kyiv regime, they have succeeded in causing the hostilities to drag on for almost two years. Otherwise, so they argue, Ukraine would already have been destroyed by now. However, if anyone is engaged in destroying and bleeding Ukraine to death, it is in fact the non-independent Kyiv regime, which is assiduously "finishing off" the country.

Russia does not seek and has never sought to conquer or destroy Ukraine, as some of our opponents are exerting themselves to make out here. Russia is engaged in liberating its own territories, which are at present being temporarily held by puppet-like occupying formations with the help of NATO weapons. And it is also engaged in safeguarding its long-term security.

It was precisely to drag out the armed confrontation that the Kyiv regime's sponsors, above all the United States and the United Kingdom, saw to it that the Zelenskyy team broke off diplomatic contacts with Russia after the consultations that had taken place in Belarus and Türkiye in March 2022. It was those sponsors again who cheered when, in October 2022, Mr. Zelenskyy introduced legislation prohibiting any kind of political dialogue with the leadership of Russia.

Pursuing that very same objective of dragging the hostilities out, Western representatives are promoting the patently unviable and ultimatum-like ten-point "Zelenskyy formula", which is at bottom a "formula for war" ruling out the very possibility of achieving a sustainable political and diplomatic settlement.

There can be no doubt that the nominal leaders of the Kyiv regime will eventually be dumped by their sponsors like a played-out, spent and useless card. However, all those who today are prolonging the hostilities and the death throes of the Kyiv regime must realize that the family members of thousands of our people who have perished or been maimed on both sides of the line of engagement will not forget about the true role played by the “Anglo-Saxons” in the current state of affairs. That pain will shape the course of a lot of things in the decades to come.

The Ukrainians themselves are not all too eager to fight for the Kyiv regime’s maintenance in power. This is compelling the regime to ramp up the process of forced mobilization. Sweeping raids in places where large numbers of people congregate have begun in several of the country’s regions – above all in gyms, markets, community facilities and on public transport – in a search for fresh cannon fodder. Serious consideration is being given to the idea of widening the age ranges for those liable to conscription. In view of this, it is not surprising that healthy men are literally fleeing from Ukraine. According to data leaked to the Western media (and made public by *The Washington Post*), more than 800 individuals who had been intending to bribe their way out of Ukraine have been stopped at the country’s western border over the past few days alone. That number corresponds approximately to the average personnel losses of the Ukrainian armed forces in a single day of action.

The idea of Ukraine’s European integration has proved to be a mere bait for luring the country into anti-Russian geopolitical adventures. There is only one loser in this situation, namely Ukraine itself and all its inhabitants. The sobering truth is that the majority of Europeans do not want to see Ukraine as a member of the European Union – that much is evident ten years after the events on the Maidan. The summit of Heads of State or Government of EU Member States that is kicking off in Brussels today merely serves to confirm this. A conviction that no negotiations about accession to the European Union should be initiated with Ukraine whether in December of this year or in the foreseeable future has already been signalled in public by the leadership of Austria, Hungary and Slovakia, as well as behind closed doors by leaders in several other European countries.

A most telling spectacle in this regard was offered on 11 December – again, in Brussels – by the Kyiv regime’s chief diplomat Dmytro Kuleba, who, addressing the EU countries’ ministers for foreign affairs, publicly stated on behalf of the regime that “we can jump, we can dance if that is requested in addition” to the already fulfilled requirements standing in the way of Ukraine ultimately becoming a member of the European Union. There you have the “independence” for which the Kyiv regime’s functionaries are fighting.

Given their failures on the battlefield, the Ukrainian armed forces are intensifying their strikes on civilian infrastructure. Last week, such shelling attacks claimed the lives of four civilians (including a 13-year-old boy in Gorlovka), while an additional 17 civilians were injured. In the territory of the Donetsk People’s Republic alone, at least 4,670 civilians have been killed and more than 5,500 injured over the past 20 months.

Our country is committed to the principle of ensuring that crimes against the civilian population do not go unpunished. To date, the law enforcement authorities of the Russian Federation have completed their investigations in 204 criminal cases against 314 members of the Kyiv regime’s armed formations who committed crimes against civilians. Factual data keeps being gathered, a body of evidence continues to be assembled and judicial proceedings are ongoing in connection with other incidents.

With the support of foreign handlers, the Kyiv regime’s intelligence services have not ceased to plan and organize terrorist attacks in the Russian Federation. It is amazing that not one (!) politically motivated

assassination carried out in Russia by Zelenskyy's people – including those assassinations for which the regime's intelligence services have publicly claimed responsibility – has been condemned in the West. Western diplomats at the OSCE are disgracefully silent, too. By rendering financial, political and diplomatic assistance to the Kyiv regime, its sponsors are *de facto* encouraging the perpetration of terrorist attacks in our country. I have no need to repeat that people in Russia know this – and will not forgive.

In 2023, officers from the Russian Federal Security Service thwarted no fewer than 228 terrorist crimes, including 146 terrorist attacks. A considerable number are related to the activities of the Kyiv regime's intelligence services and neo-Nazi formations being overseen by the foreign intelligence community, above all by US and British agencies. In this year in Crimea alone, ten individuals have been convicted and 18 agents and accomplices of the Kyiv regime's intelligence services arrested in connection with the preparation of acts of sabotage against civilian infrastructure facilities and attempts on the lives of officials. Upon interrogation, a number of individuals admitted that they had been offered recruitment for such assignments as a way of avoiding mobilization and not being sent off to the front line.

Trends in the year now drawing to a close suggest that, despite the efforts of certain Western elites, interest in the geopolitical project entitled "Ukraine as an anti-Russia" is waning. The inevitability of this project's debacle is evident to many.

In the Western countries themselves, domestic political differences are intensifying and the elites' actions are attracting less and less support among ordinary citizens and parliamentarians.

Against this backdrop, the US President and the head of the Pentagon have started telling scare stories to the effect that, unless new funds are allocated to the "black hole" also known as the Zelenskyy regime, US soldiers will have to enter into direct combat with the Russian armed forces. And they are unfazed by the fact that such remarks corroborate Russia's argument that Ukrainian manpower and lives are being exploited by the elites of several Western countries to wage a proxy war against Russia.

On 7 December, British Foreign Secretary David Cameron visited the United States. Speaking at the State Department about supporting the Kyiv regime's belligerent aspirations rather than diplomacy, he emphasized that this was "[good] value for money". Standing next to him at the press conference, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, to be echoed a few days later by President Biden, stressed that 90 per cent of the funds earmarked by the US Government for military support for the Kyiv regime had never left the shores of America, remaining instead to be spent in the US economy. It is worth remembering this each time that the "Anglo-Saxon" representatives hold forth on defending so-called "principles" and "rules".

During the aforementioned press conference, the US and British foreign policy chiefs openly advocated a continuation of the hostilities and of the military "beefing up" of the Kyiv regime's formations, thereby unequivocally signalling that their countries quite simply stand to benefit from this.

But is it beneficial for the Ukrainians, who are perishing in their tens of thousands for the interests of a neo-Nazi regime the leader of which broke his pre-election promises about seeking to achieve peace within the space of a year on the basis of implementation of the Minsk agreements, and who recently even called for the elections to the highest organs of power to be cancelled?

Or is it beneficial perhaps for the countries of continental Europe, whose economic situation is palpably worsening from one day to the next, leading to social unrest?

Or, finally, for Russia, which has never been interested in having an armed confrontation on its territory or in seeing Russian citizens and our brainwashed brother Ukrainians getting killed?

In order to understand who is attacking and who is defending himself, one need only glance at a map and mentally juxtapose it with the events of the past few decades. World history did not begin on 24 February 2022, as some Western diplomats would have us believe.

Our country has not been bringing its military infrastructure closer to the borders of Western countries, in particular to North America and the British Isles. It has not been organizing “colour revolutions” and bloody coups d’état next door to those countries; it has not sought to cancel their culture; it has not been fomenting and exploiting neo-Nazism against them. Russia has not been engaged in nurturing and militarizing regimes that set themselves the task of forcibly altering the identity of, or killing, English-speaking people in areas where their ancestors had lived for centuries.

Quite the reverse, in fact: over the past few decades it is the United States and the United Kingdom which, by expanding NATO military infrastructure in continental Europe, have been posing and continue to pose threats to our country’s security on Russia’s borders and directly on its territory. They have nurtured and continue to foster a neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv whose high-ranking officials are purging Ukraine of everything Russian and publicly proclaim the goal of “destroying Russia as a country” (as Mr. Danilov put it in December 2022). Having trampled the Minsk agreements underfoot, those in Kyiv had hoped, through military and technical co-operation with NATO countries, to destroy any dissent among the Russian people of Donbas, in whose defence all Russia has duly risen up.

The Kyiv regime’s representatives are now brazenly claiming that in Ukraine “there are no and cannot be any Russian ethnic minorities”, as the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament), Ruslan Stefanchuk, and Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna argued in November 2023. As for the regime’s generals, they were openly dreaming – long before the start of the Russian special operation – about “riding a tank through Red Square and Arbat Street in Moscow” (to quote what the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said in September 2021).

Those in Washington, London and other NATO capitals – wherever insane anti-Russian military bravado is still to be found – must heed Russia’s message: our country will consistently defend its people, its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and, likewise, the historical foundations of Russian statehood. It will do this for as long as it takes and, what is more, using means that are commensurate with the emerging threats. The requisite internal consolidation of multi-ethnic Russian society and the necessary material resources are things that Russia has in abundance.

Madam Chairperson,

To conclude. We expect to see from the incoming Maltese 2024 OSCE Chairmanship an informed understanding of the fact that the Organization is not the West’s “backyard” or a “branch office” of NATO or the European Union. The OSCE must live up to its purpose of serving as a unique forum for the countries of Eurasia and North America in terms of helping to resolve pressing problems. The years 2022 and 2023 have shown that the imbalances resulting from “Ukrainization” of the OSCE’s work, along with arbitrary decisions and the pursuit of non-consensus practices, are having a destructive effect on the fortunes of the entire Organization.

What is called for in the coming year is an honest, thoughtful and serious approach based on respect for the legitimate concerns of the OSCE participating States as sovereign countries, and on the search for mutually acceptable compromises. It is unacceptable to assist in advancing the narrow self-interest of a

group of countries that have rashly made it their “mission” to speak on behalf of the whole international community and to mark out new dividing lines in Europe. Thought must be given to the question of how to restore the functioning of the OSCE and its institutions, and how to preclude double standards and manifestations of partisanship in their work.

Thank you for your attention.