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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1407th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 January 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The West is doing everything it can to prolong the armed confrontation in Ukraine in order to inflict a defeat on Russia and quite literally to drain the blood of Ukrainians and Russians.

The current regime in Kyiv is not independent, as confirmed by the statements not only of its own spokespersons but also of their foreign handlers. On 18 January, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that proposals to conduct dialogue with Russia from realistic positions, taking into account the choice of the former residents of Ukraine in favour of unity with Russia, were “unacceptable” for the representatives of the Ukrainian authorities. He made it sound as if this was the only thing standing in the way of the negotiation process.

We shall not ask again why the US Secretary of State is speaking on behalf of Ukraine. We would merely remind you that, back on 30 September 2022, President Zelenskyy announced a decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine to prohibit diplomatic talks with our country's leadership.

Even earlier, in mid-April 2022, the Ukrainian Government decided to ignore Russian proposals for a cessation of hostilities and a lasting settlement. These proposals, like the consultations in Belarus and Türkiye, were offered to the Kyiv regime in response to its own requests. As soon as it became clear that their agreement was feasible and might result in the issuance of a final document, the Kyiv regime was instantly reined in by the authorities in London and Washington. And as an alternative, they proposed “pumping” various kinds of weapons into Ukraine with the illusory notion that it could defeat Russia on the battlefield.

It is now clear who is in fact blocking diplomatic settlement efforts on behalf of Ukraine and is therefore responsible for the continued fighting and the suffering of the civilian population on both sides of the Russian-Ukrainian border. The fighting can be halted at any time once the Kyiv regime is instructed by

its foreign sponsors to stop the eight years of armed violence and return to diplomacy on the basis of respect for international law, including the principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

Decisions by NATO countries to send the Kyiv regime new types of weapons almost immediately follow their contacts with representatives of the United States of America. On 5 January, for example, after the German Federal Chancellor spoke to US President Biden, it was announced that Germany was planning to follow the United States in delivering a battery of Patriot missile systems to Ukraine. On 18 January, following talks with the same Joe Biden, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte, announced his country's intention to deliver another such system. The United States has announced that members of the Ukrainian armed formations will be trained at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to handle such weapon systems – not to mention training on other fronts in a number of European NATO countries and in the United Kingdom, which is ready to train 20,000 troops this year.

The next meeting of the contact group for co-ordinating the Kyiv regime's military supplies will be held on 20 January at the US air base in Ramstein, Germany. Official plans for the regime were announced by the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, Oleksii Danilov, on 1 December 2022: "Russia must cease to exist as a country." Already before Ramstein, a number of countries of the North Atlantic Alliance had announced their intention to supply heavy armoured vehicles, shells and artillery systems to Ukraine, including British Challenger 2 and German-made Leopard 2 tanks and French AMX-10RC wheeled tanks. We cannot but observe with interest how France, which was the first to declare its intention to provide Ukraine with heavy offensive weapons, followed by the United Kingdom – not to mention Poland, the capital of victorious militarism – are provoking Germany into further escalation by pressuring it to make decisions to that effect.

We solemnly declare that if such measures, which mark a whole new level of escalation of hostilities, are taken, the emerging threats to the Russian armed forces and the security of our country will be contained through a range of military and other measures, taking into account the role of all the States involved. All this will go up in flames on the battlefield along with the rest of the assorted Western armoured "menagerie" already attacking Russian combat formations. This was seen in particular during the liberation by Russian forces of the town of Soledar in the Donetsk People's Republic and the successful operations in the nearby city of Artemivsk.

By the way, the authorities of some countries are investing in the conflict without informing their citizens and elected representatives, as they are well aware of their lack of anti-Russian sentiments. A vivid example this week is Bulgaria, where a scandal erupted following former Prime Minister Kiril Petkov's revelations, publicly announcing information long known to experts about deliveries of Bulgarian-made arms and materiel to Ukraine via third countries. Needless to say, the ex-premier kept quiet about the recipients of end-user certificates being issued by the Petkov-led government for the weapons.

We strongly condemn the actions of NATO countries aimed at escalating the armed confrontation. As we have already stressed, the Alliance is involved in the conflict, seeking to fight a proxy war with Russia via the people of Ukraine. This has also been confirmed repeatedly by Ukraine itself. On 6 January, in an interview with the television channel 1+1, the Ukrainian Minister of Defence, Oleksii Reznikov, stated bluntly: "We are carrying out NATO's mission today. They are not shedding their blood – we are shedding ours, so we require them to supply arms." But do the Ukrainian soldiers and conscripts being sent into mortal combat by the regime know that they are not fighting for Ukraine's interests but are on a NATO mission carried out with NATO weapons and sponsored by member States of the Alliance?

That ordinary Ukrainians are unwilling to comply with someone else's geopolitical agenda is clear from the evident problems with mobilization. Over the past week, the media have been bombarded with footage of police and military units on the streets of Kyiv, Odessa, Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv and other cities literally rounding up male citizens and forcing call-up papers on them with orders to present themselves at enlistment offices. On social media, Ukrainians are co-ordinating and informing each other where such call-up papers are being handed out so that they do not set off on NATO military experiments against Russia "down to the last Ukrainian".

A comment by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in *Handelsblatt* on 16 January is noteworthy in that regard. Calling for more weapons for the Kyiv regime, he emphasized the following: "We are in a decisive phase of the war." I repeat: "we", in other words NATO and not Ukraine. All this once again confirms the point that the Alliance is carrying out a premeditated and undeclared act of aggression against our country.

Mr. Chairperson,

On 16 January, Bujar Osmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, paid his first visit to Ukraine as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. We regret that he made a number of remarks that went beyond the mandate given to him by all participating States in accordance with the Final Document of the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council and OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 485.

Remarkably, he instantly put the blame on the Russian military for the tragedy of 14 January in Dnipropetrovsk, where the entrance of an apartment building was destroyed. However, comments by Kyiv regime officials suggest that the situation is not that straightforward.

There was indeed a terrible tragedy, with dozens of people killed. After examining the circumstances of the incident, Oleksii Arestovych, an adviser to the head of the Ukrainian presidential office, confirmed that the incident was the result of the error by an air defence system at the disposal of the Kyiv regime. However, the deployment of such systems in or near residential areas not only grossly violates the norms of international humanitarian law, but also demonstrates that the Kyiv regime continues to use the civilian population as a human shield.

Following this, Yuriy Ignat, a representative of the Ukrainian air force command, hastened to say that a number of previous official reports by the Kyiv regime about Russian missiles being hit were false and that the existing air defence systems were not capable of intercepting such targets. Such frankness only confirms that the Kyiv regime has lied to its own people and to foreign sponsors about its military victories.

This is a point worth bearing in mind every time representatives of the Kyiv regime cite statistics, also in this room, about their achievements on the battlefield. Specific cases of the Kyiv regime's "successful use" of air defence, for example, can be checked with Poland by inquiring about the results of the investigation of the incident on 15 November 2022 near Przewodów. No one has ever refuted the experts' information that a Ukrainian air force S-300 guided missile was fired at Polish territory from the Lviv region. Let us not forget the Ukrainian missile of the same type that landed in the Brest region of the Republic of Belarus on 29 December 2022.

We stress that the civilian population and residential buildings are not targets of the Russian special military operation. Russia does not aim weapons at peaceful civilians. High-precision weaponry strikes are carried out exclusively against military objects, military command and control systems and related energy infrastructure.

While Chairperson-in-Office Mr. Osmani was taking his first steps in Kyiv, Zelenskyy's troops shelled a shopping centre and a pharmacy on Illich Avenue in the Kalinivskyi district of the city of Donetsk. This is in the centre of the city, and there are no military objects there. While Mr. Osmani was visiting Kyiv and the surrounding region, people remained buried under the rubble all day. Rescue workers were only able to retrieve the last bodies overnight. This attack alone killed five people and injured many more. On the same day, Makiivka, Horlivka, Yasynuvata and other settlements in the Donetsk People's Republic were also subjected to intensive shelling. Once again, there were casualties and destruction.

Mr. Chairperson,

We would ask you to clarify: while in Kyiv and the surrounding region, was the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office poorly informed about what was happening that day, or was he aware of what had happened but preferred not to take notice of the victims of the Kyiv regime's shelling? We note that Mr. Osmani made no comment on this matter the following day either, when two people were killed, and a further three, including a child, were injured as a result of night-time shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces of the city of Kakhovka in the Kherson region.

We trust that the OSCE Chairmanship of North Macedonia will be able to structure this year's work in an unbiased and impartial manner. The relaying of propaganda by the Kyiv regime and its foreign handlers is unacceptable. We hope that the authorities in Skopje will think seriously about how to rectify the situation in the OSCE, not least in the context of the deliberate destruction for many years by the collective West of the European security system and the instruments developed within our Organization for maintaining it – not to mention “values but not for everyone”, where Western standards, ostensibly universal, are applied very selectively, to suit the needs of the moment. For those who are undesirable or too independent, these values – such as fair competition on international markets or the inviolability of property – are simply abolished.

The OSCE cannot and should not be turned into a platform for promoting some kind of “rules-based order” which the United States and its satellites, in their unjust pursuit of world domination, set against an order based on international law.

We emphasize in this regard that the Russian special operation is being carried out in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Its goals remain unchanged and will be achieved in full, whether through diplomatic efforts or through developments on the ground. As Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed in his address on 24 February 2022, they include the tasks of demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine and the elimination of threats to our country's security created by Western countries on Ukrainian territory.

We assume that the foreign handlers of the Kyiv regime will be able to recognize the existential risks of the escalation of the military confrontation in Ukraine that they have provoked. Russia will continue to consistently defend its legitimate national interests and protect its people by all available means.

To conclude: we hear representatives of the Kyiv regime periodically talking about the need to disengage from dialogue with Russia within the OSCE. This does not surprise us, since one of the main aims of the Ukrainian Government now is to internationalize the conflict as much as possible as a guarantee for the survival of the ruling regime there. From their point of view, this task would be made easier if any channels of communication between Russia and the collective West were suppressed. And such channels are provided precisely by the OSCE platform. Given the absolute unwillingness of the Western countries at the moment to negotiate in any way (this was explicitly mentioned in this room today – “the time for peace has not come”), our common task is to keep open the channels of communication in order to prevent

uncontrolled escalation and subsequently to agree on some sort of parameters for coexistence. A certain level of political culture is needed to understand this simple idea – we hope that most of those present here possess it. Because otherwise the alternative will not be pleasant for everyone.

Thank you for your attention.