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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1442nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 September 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Attempts by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations to launch an offensive deep into Russian territory in Donbas and the Dnieper Lowland, carried out with the active military, logistical, financial and information support of NATO countries, are not bringing the Kyiv regime any significant success. Along the entire combat line, Ukrainian formations have not achieved their objectives in any direction. According to the latest data, since the beginning of June this year, they have lost over 71,000 troops, and thousands of armoured vehicles of various types have been destroyed.

The military capability of the Kyiv regime is maintained solely by supplies of arms, ammunition and equipment from NATO countries. Ukraine's own stockpiles of the main types of Soviet weapons that it still has have been almost completely exhausted. This means that the fighting continues only thanks to military supplies from individual Western countries. On the part of the United States of America alone, more than 43.7 billion US dollars have been allocated to the Kyiv regime in military funding since the start of the Russian special operation.

The West persists in dissuading the Kyiv regime from taking political and diplomatic steps towards a realistic settlement. Instead, they promote a so-called ten-point "Zelenskyy formula" – a set of ultimatums and futile and unrealistic demands. On 13 September, the Coordinator for Strategic Communications in the National Security Council at the White House, John Kirby, said that the United States still sees no possibility to end the conflict in Ukraine on terms satisfactory to the US Government, which means that the armed confrontation will continue, thus once again underlining the subordinate role of the Kyiv regime.

On 20 September, in the hope of some hypothetical "victory" for the Ukrainian formations, another Ramstein-format meeting on military supplies to the Kyiv regime was held. Mr. Zelenskyy's Western sponsors have been seduced by their own propaganda and illusions regarding the supposed strength of Ukrainian formations and their ability to become an effective tool in the proxy war against Russian statehood. In doing so, they have miscalculated the readiness, determination and commitment of our nation to defend its unity, its people, its land, its future and the historical truth.

In a series of group strikes over the past two weeks, the Russian armed forces destroyed artillery and other ammunition depots, including storage sites for Storm Shadow missiles and depleted uranium shells. The Kyiv regime's radio intelligence and training centres for sabotage groups and sites for the manufacture of unmanned aerial vehicles, including water-surface drones, have been put out of action. Combat aircraft at airfields in the Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv regions have been destroyed.

It seems that Ukraine itself is gradually beginning to acknowledge the dismal situation in which it has found itself thanks to the handling role of its Western sponsors. In an interview with CNN on 10 September, Mr. Zelenskyy was forced to admit that the Ukrainian armed forces' offensive actions are, quote, "not a movie with a happy ending. We won't have a happy ending. We've lost a lot of people. No happy end that we have to recognize." In another interview with CNN on 20 September, he noted in general that he was not confident of any success for his formations in the foreseeable future.

This is all taking place against the backdrop of Mr. Zelenskyy's unconcealed blackmail of the Western media audience. In a recent interview with *The Economist*, he said that curtailing Western aid to Ukraine could cause an unpredictable reaction from millions of Ukrainians in European countries.

It is well known that the Kyiv regime has recently adopted measures allowing persons suffering from serious infectious and mental illnesses to be sent to take part in combat operations. On 1 October, the list of persons subject to conscription and banned from leaving the country was extended to include women employed in the health sector. Forced mobilization continues. For example, Vadym Spokoinyi, born in the Kharkiv region in 1980, was forcibly detained for at least six days by military recruitment officers in the Lviv region. The video footage that has recently appeared in the media shows how members of the military recruitment office beat him with weapons in their hands and threatened to kill him in order to make him sign the papers to get him to volunteer for combat operations.

The West continues to encourage the armed struggle against Russian statehood "down to the last Ukrainian". For example, according to the official data of the military commissariat of the Poltava region alone (the figures were given by Lieutenant Colonel Vitalii Berezhnyi, acting head of the territorial centre for recruitment and social welfare): out of one hundred residents of Poltava who in autumn 2022 were sent to fight for the pipe dreams of the Kyiv regime, no more than 20 per cent remained in the ranks, the rest having been killed or wounded.

It should be recalled that in mid-April 2022, under pressure from their Western handlers, the puppet regime in Kyiv withdrew from the consultations with representatives of Russia on ensuring regional security. In October 2022, Mr. Zelenskyy signed a document imposing a ban on any political contacts with the Russian leadership for the purpose of settlement. We stress that the rumours being spread today from Washington and Brussels that Russia is refusing to engage in diplomatic dialogue are a false narrative designed to mask the unwillingness of the Western countries themselves to move their actions in Ukraine from proxy armed confrontation to diplomacy.

Not to mention the fact that yesterday's address by Mr. Zelenskyy to the United Nations clearly demonstrates that the Kyiv regime is focused on continuing hostilities without any regard for realistic prospects for a settlement.

Certain representatives within the OSCE and elsewhere continue to push propaganda aimed at distorting Russia's actions in the special operation. This includes a screening organized at the Hofburg of a film called *20 Days in Mariupol* by Mstyslav Chernov about the supposed "heroic struggle" of Ukrainian neo-Nazis. Or the presentations of some Western-sponsored non-governmental organizations, which cannot

claim to be independent and objective and whose task is to disparage the actions of Russian military personnel by any means possible. Covering up for the Kyiv regime, its sponsors deliberately ignore the real brutality of Zelenskyy's formations. But this is not being forgotten in the Russian courts, where the sentencing of those who committed crimes against the civilians of Mariupol continues.

Last week, the Banderite Vladyslav Kulyk, who shot peaceful Mariupol residents in April 2022, was sentenced to life imprisonment. In addition to him, Ukrainian neo-Nazis Oleh Bezvolev, Serhii Makeiev, Mykhailo Chystopliashov, Oleksandr Slobodianiuk, Dmytro Kanuper, Ruslan Kolodiaznyi, Vadym Husev, Davyd Kasatkin, Denys Zhuchkov, Anton Shtukin, Sakhil Alakhverdiiev and Oleksii Borysenko were sentenced to long prison terms for atrocities in Mariupol. Ivan Bochkarov, a well-known figure, received more than 20 years in a maximum-security prison. This person, whom we have already alluded to on previous occasions, admitted to the investigation that he shot civilians in March 2022 while driving around Mariupol in an armoured vehicle belonging to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. The administration of justice will most certainly continue.

The other day, the world was treated to fresh mobile phone footage of a neo-Nazi in the zone of hostilities. It shows members of Ukrainian formations holding unarmed Russian servicemen at gunpoint and sending them into a minefield. It records how the Russians were fired upon from behind to force them to move forward. Then there are images of mines exploding. This blatant example of a violation of international humanitarian law was not criticized or condemned in the West. Nor was it criticized or condemned by the OSCE leadership, which is promoting some extrabudgetary demining projects in Ukraine with funds from Western countries and to the detriment of the reputation of our Organization. Is sending unarmed people into minefields then the practical result of the aforementioned extrabudgetary programme? And if not, why is the OSCE leadership silent? We would emphasize that those involved in inhumane atrocities against unarmed persons will be severely punished.

Our opponents do not hesitate to resort to outright disinformation and false accusations against Russia where political expediency, in their opinion, outweighs the need to tell the truth. At the last regular meeting of the Permanent Council, we all saw how the representatives of the Kyiv regime in the OSCE and its sponsor countries went through their routine of blaming Russian military personnel for the shelling on 6 September this year of a market in Konstantinovka, a Russian city in the Donetsk People's Republic temporarily occupied by Zelenskyy's formations. They did so without providing any facts or evidence, without even a basic analysis of the situation. The moment we voiced our counter-arguments based on facts and reliable evidence, the Kyiv regime's Permanent Representative hastily left the conference room.

It is noteworthy that, in the face of these inconvenient facts, the Kyiv regime has officially refused to conduct any investigation into the Konstantinovka tragedy. Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, said that it was not needed at all, as "everything is quite clear".

In that connection, attention is drawn to the analytical material published in the US newspaper *The New York Times* on the eve of Mr. Zelenskyy's trip to the United States. By the way, this newspaper can hardly be described as being sympathetic to our country. The article states that analysis of objective control data, inspection of the scene, testimonies of surviving eyewitnesses and opinions of military experts clearly indicate that the missile was fired from the Druzhkovka area from positions controlled by Ukrainian formations. The *New York Times* reporters and other eyewitnesses who were present there heard the sound of a missile launch. The missile is described as a Buk surface-to-air missile. The reporters also note that the Kyiv regime hindered the work of journalists at the scene of the tragedy, trying to hide the details of the incident from them.

This material caused a very nervous public reaction by Mr. Podolyak, adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, who threatened journalists with criminal prosecution. Now the people of Kyiv have engaged in a squabble on the same subject with the German media, apparently trying to remove the story from the public domain altogether.

This raises the following questions. Will those in this room who blamed Russia for the incident apologize today for relaying the lies of Zelenskyy and members of his team on the OSCE platform? And how many times has the Kyiv regime organized similar bloody provocations in order to create the necessary media image or to influence the decisions of its handlers? We note, by the way, that at the time of the tragedy in Konstantinovka, the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Kyiv. For those who are following our discussion from the sidelines, we invite you to reflect on some of the other stories (Bucha, Mariupol, Kramatorsk, and so on), where attempts were made to pass off Ukrainian neo-Nazi atrocities as some kind of “Russian crimes” and to lay the blame at someone else’s door. All of this has been going on despite equally obvious evidence of manipulation, inconsistencies and simply theatrics.

One final point. A number of European Union countries make no secret that they are tired of everything to do with Ukraine. Some places, such as Poland, openly recognize that the continuation of blanket support for the Zelenskyy regime is not in line with the wishes of Polish people themselves. This opinion was voiced recently by the Minister for the European Union Szymon Szynkowski vel Sęk. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said yesterday that the Polish Government had stopped supplying arms to the Kyiv regime.

The European Union’s supposed solidarity with Ukraine and the barrier-free mutual trade guaranteed by the Association Agreement have turned out to be nothing more than propaganda tricks used to ensure the severing of Ukraine’s historically close ties with Russia. It is now obvious even to the representatives of the Kyiv regime: not only does the European Union not want to see Ukraine in its ranks, but it is also deliberately distancing itself from Ukrainians by introducing new barriers. One thing is clear: there is no unity of positions in the Western countries when it comes to their policy regarding Ukraine.

Since 15 September, contrary to the position of the European Commission, the authorities of EU Member States bordering Ukraine have blocked supplies of the most important agricultural products from Ukraine. The embargo means the *de facto* end of the so-called “solidarity lanes” for grain exports. This is a clear signal to the Kyiv regime that “Euro-association” is a one-way street, where the interests of Ukrainians themselves are put last, despite the grandiloquent political declarations to the contrary. And that any promises to the Kyiv regime made by the EU authorities in Brussels can be easily nullified in the national capitals of EU Member States. Ukrainians themselves, obviously, should have thought about all this back when the EU and NATO countries confronted them with the artificial choice of being with them or with Russia.

In conclusion, we stress that NATO’s policy of deliberately escalating tensions in the Ukrainian conflict is extremely dangerous and is generating new threats. However, expectations that our country will yield to this pressure will never come to fruition. Russia has the necessary resources and capabilities to successfully complete the special operation and achieve all its objectives.

Our country will continue steadily on its sovereign course aimed at meeting its security needs, protecting its values, strengthening its authority in the international arena, and shaping a just and multipolar world order based on the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and norms of international law.

Thank you for your attention.