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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1383rd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 July 2022

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We should first of all like to draw attention to an article by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Sergey Lavrov, for the Izvestia multimedia information centre, which came out on 18 July (we circulated its full text at the OSCE on the same day under the number SEC.DEL/318/22). As pointed out on numerous occasions, disinformation and the production of hastily concocted fake stories, are used, along with lies and hypocrisy, by certain countries of the collective West, above all the United States of America and its closest allies, to justify meddling in the internal affairs of States that are not on board with the construction of a Western-centric unipolar world.

Desperately seeking to perpetuate its fading dominance in world affairs, the United States and its vassals have for many years been methodically undermining the system of international law and investing and directly participating in the destabilization of entire regions by, *inter alia*, military means. Nowadays this is done by promoting the concept of a “rules-based order”, which is effectively meant to replace international law and the existing mechanisms developed under its framework.

That is what has also happened in the context of Ukraine. A country that lies thousands of kilometres away from the US shores was turned, against the will of its deceived inhabitants, into an instrument of the West’s geopolitical confrontation with Russia. Having invested billions of dollars in regime change in Ukraine – as Victoria Nuland, US Assistant Secretary of State at the time, admitted, the United States earmarked at least 5 billion dollars for the so-called promotion of democracy there – the US authorities and their allies facilitated a coup d’état which resulted in Ukraine’s sovereignty being seriously diluted. The upshot is that today it is inherently impossible to speak of the country as independent.

In April 2014, the marionette-like post-Maidan authorities of Ukraine, always turning to their foreign handlers for approval, launched the armed and forcible suppression of dissent in the south-east of the country. They effectively shut society out of the decision-making process for momentous decisions (such as the one on Ukraine’s non-aligned status); introduced discriminatory measures in the fields of language,

culture, education and religion; curtailed voting rights; restricted media freedom; and so on. At the same time, they supported members of neo-Nazi groups, armed them and welcomed them into positions of power.

Ukraine was systematically turned into a testing ground for the creation of military threats to neighbouring States. This was done through the unrestrained militarization of the country, by the stationing of foreign armed forces and military equipment there on a *de facto* permanent basis, by putting its territory at the disposal of the NATO bloc so that the latter could model and rehearse aggressive actions against bordering States. The fact that Ukraine continues to serve as such a testing ground is nowadays not hushed up even by the country's Minister of Defence, Oleksii Reznikov, who a few days ago (speaking on 19 July at the Atlantic Council, a think tank) invited foreign arms manufacturers to "test [their] new products" in Ukraine. That is, to test them out on Russians and Ukrainians.

All the aforementioned actions were accompanied by sham diplomatic efforts by the United States and the "Normandy format" guarantors of the Minsk agreements to facilitate a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. We would remind you that such a settlement process was meant to take place on the basis and in the spirit of United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 and to have been completed by the end of 2015. In reality, during all these years the West invested in building up the military capabilities of the Kyiv regime, as was recently confirmed outright by representatives of the US civilian and military authorities. For example, John Kirby, the White House Coordinator for Strategic Communications in the National Security Council, and Lieutenant Colonel Todd Hopkins, a commander of the US military training mission in Ukraine (the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine, or JMTG-U), both stated that over eight years Ukraine had been "readied" for war. Similarly, the former President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, emphasized that the Minsk agreements were necessary to "buy time" and "build up military capabilities".

The practice of subterfuge and staging events continues today: Bucha, Irpin, Kramatorsk, Kremenchuk – one could just go on and on. The dollops of misinformation whipped up by the propaganda of the Kyiv regime and its Western masters have three main objectives: to calumniate the actions of the Russian military during the special military operation in Ukraine, to restrain the Kyiv regime from seeking political and diplomatic solutions, and to create the conditions for sending further destructive foreign weapons to Ukraine.

Let us consider in detail one of these staged events. We recall how vigorously our country was accused – not least in this very room – of having allegedly carried out an air strike on the Mariupol Drama Theatre on 16 March this year. It was claimed that more than three hundred civilians had perished there, and that the building had been used exclusively by civilians as a shelter and had not been under the control of Ukrainian armed formations.

A few days ago, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Donetsk People's Republic made public the preliminary findings of an investigation conducted on the spot. It has been established that the theatre building was destroyed from the inside as a result of the detonation of a shell-less explosive device. Local residents confirmed to the law enforcement authorities that on the day before the explosion, members of Ukrainian armed formations had been stacking boxes with unknown contents at the theatre. Moreover, most of the citizens who had been staying there managed to leave the theatre on the day before the explosion. The remains of 14 people who were killed have been found at the site of the explosion. The investigating authorities have not discovered any strike element belonging to an aerial bomb or to any other type of ammunition. The facts thus confirm the groundlessness of the propaganda myth intended to help the Kyiv regime which was repeatedly reproduced on international platforms and, in particular, by the so-called experts who were carrying out a political assignment.

Our opponents have been trying no less zealously – last week and today – to polish up the myth about the civilian population allegedly being the target of Russian strikes during the special operation. An attempt was made to make the facts of the missile strike on the Garrison House of Officers in Vinnytsia fit into this narrative. The representative of Ukraine in this room tried to convince everyone that that building was used pretty much exclusively for cultural events, which took place “once a year”. On 14 July, when the missiles struck, such a “cultural event” was taking place in the building, namely a meeting of the Ukrainian air force command with representatives of foreign arms suppliers. They were discussing the transfer of the next consignment of airplanes and weapons, as well as the organization of repairs to Ukrainian aircraft. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, the participants in the meeting were eliminated by high-precision sea-launched Kalibr missiles; the strike was carried out exclusively on a building that was being used as a military facility. A remarkable video was published in the media that shows how immediately after the strike, Ukrainian military personnel hastened to gather up the elements of a Ukrainian air defence missile near the building. There is every indication that it was the unsuccessful deployment of that missile which led to there being civilian casualties.

The actions of the Ukrainian armed formations in Donbas confirm who it is that is actually waging war on the civilian population. Over the past few weeks, the Ukrainian armed forces have been using rocket artillery to carry out remote mining of the courtyards of residential buildings on the outskirts of Lysychansk (Luhansk People’s Republic), Yasynuvata (Donetsk People’s Republic) and other cities with PFM-1 Lepestok anti-personnel mines. These compact munitions, which it is difficult to spot in the grass, are capable of ripping off the extremities of anyone who comes into contact with them. Children are particularly vulnerable to this hazard. Is it necessary to remind you of how representatives of Ukraine openly lied from year to year as they tried to convince the international community – both in written reports and speaking in this room – that the Ukrainian Government had destroyed all its stockpiles of such mines and was implementing in good faith the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention) of 1997?

NATO instructors and spotters guiding the fire of multiple-launch rocket systems are, it seems, already out there on the ground directing the operations of the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist battalions. Every day, using foreign weapons, the Ukrainian armed formations shell residential areas not only in the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk but also in areas of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. For example, a few days ago, the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant was shelled and a trolleybus depot in Alchevsk (Luhansk People’s Republic) was destroyed, together with many other civilian infrastructure facilities. A terrorist attack at a bus stop in Enerhodar was thwarted through the neutralization of an explosive device there. In that same city, four kamikaze combat drones (foreign-made, since Ukraine does not manufacture such devices) attacked the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant on 20 July. Eleven employees of the plant were injured: four of them are in a serious condition.

Yet, the NATO countries continue with their military supplies to Ukraine. In this respect, it is worth noting the leaks to the media about the decision to send US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems and long-range shells for them worth 500 million dollars in total to Estonia. We realize where they will ultimately end up: their movements will be carefully tracked. We reiterate that Western weapons imported into Ukraine will be destroyed so as to rule out the possibility of their being used to shell residential areas. All the necessary instructions to that effect have been issued at the level of the upper echelons of the Russian Ministry of Defence.

We have noted some statements by the Slovak and Hungarian police, along with reports that appeared in the Slovak and Hungarian press on 15 July. They refer to the conduct of a joint operation by the law enforcement agencies of the two countries to detain individuals charged with involvement in the creation of an organized criminal group. One of the persons detained on the outskirts of the Hungarian village of Rajka was Ilja Škondrič, a brother of the mixed martial arts fighter Dušan Škondrič. A whole

arsenal of weapons was discovered in his house, including sniper rifles, machine guns, assault rifles and explosives. It is also reported that the police were looking for US-made Javelin anti-tank missile systems. According to the testimony which Mr. Škondrič gave to the police officers, the weapons found in his house “had been supplied by the West to Ukraine”. They were “intended for Ukrainian armed formations, including the Azov nationalist battalion, but were then sold and delivered to EU territory”.

Just think about it: this arsenal was discovered some 80 km from our meeting room, no more than an hour’s drive from the Hofburg. What we have long been warning of is taking place before your very eyes: the Western arms shipped to Ukraine are poorly controlled and they are ending up on the black market and spreading throughout Europe. Against this backdrop, the remarks made by official representatives of NATO and the European Union to the Ukrinform news outlet literally on the eve of the aforementioned arrest seem like outright mockery of the citizens of EU member countries. They spoke, in particular, about their confidence in the Ukrainian Government’s ability to fulfil its obligations to ensure proper storage and record-keeping of the weapons supplied. Moreover, Peter Stano, a representative of the European External Action Service, tried in general to describe all the facts just cited as “massive propaganda” and “disinformation” by Russia.

We are accustomed to the West’s use of mendacity to achieve foreign policy goals. This is reflected in the experience gained by the NATO countries in collective military aggression against Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Syria and several other States. In all these instances, military action was carried out under spurious, false pretexts, which were eventually debunked. We still find it odd, though, to see the West lying to itself and persistently deceiving its own citizens. Anyway, in this incident regarding an arsenal in the village of Rajka the “empire of lies” has once again revealed itself in all its glory.

We should like to send some clear signals to the representatives of this “empire”. Your accusations against Russia regarding disinformation are foundering on the facts. Your anti-Russian assertions in the “highly likely” vein are unconvincing to those who do not wish to be dragged along like blind kittens as their master pulls the leash. Your attempts to use the international bodies controlled by the West to bring about a semblance of factual information by repeatedly replicating fake stories are likewise fated to lead nowhere.

Anti-Russian propaganda is also rejected in Ukraine itself – despite all the nervous efforts by President Zelenskyy and his team. This is confirmed not only by the queues of thousands of residents of the liberated territories wishing to apply for Russian citizenship but also by the actions of those who are within areas still controlled by the Kyiv regime. For example, last week, the head of the Odessa regional administration, Maksym Marchenko, announced the arrest of a group that, in circumvention of the bans that are in place, had been helping the inhabitants of the region to tune into Russian television. According to Mr. Marchenko, several thousands of residents of Odessa may have used this service: they are now being threatened with prosecution. Against this backdrop, the Odessa city council’s commission in charge of historical toponymy has adopted a decision to eliminate the memorial to the heroes of the Soviet Union erected on Theatre Square to mark the 20th anniversary of the city’s liberation from the Nazi invaders. So on whom and on what are the representatives of the Kyiv regime actually making war and why does remembrance of those who fought against Nazism bother them? Surely this memorial, like scores of other such memorials that have already been dismantled across Ukraine, could not be an obstacle for those who do not actually support the ideas of neo-Nazism?

The repression of dissidents has long become a hallmark of the Kyiv regime. People are being arrested and taken to unknown destinations; the fate of many remains unclear. A few days ago, the leader of the Mykolaiv regional administration installed by the Kyiv regime, Vitalii Kim, announced a so-called “processing of addresses” – essentially a purging of pro-Russian residents of Mykolaiv from the city, for

which purpose he intends to “close the city for several days”. For how long more will we continue to hear flights of fancy here about the inhabitants of Ukraine supporting en masse the entirely discredited Kyiv regime?

One final point. We take note of the position of the Swiss authorities, who, according to official statements, have refused “for legal and practical reasons” to admit members of Ukrainian armed and neo-Nazi formations to their hospitals for treatment. We must stress that the sooner the European countries realize the futility of any further interference in the situation in Ukraine, the more swiftly that situation will be stabilized and the better it will be for Ukraine itself – indeed, for the Europeans too, who are already now paying a high price for the consequences of their governments’ short-sighted policy.

We emphasize once again that the objectives of the Russian special military operation – the protection of Donbas, the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, and the elimination of threats to the Russian Federation’s security created by the West on Ukrainian territory – will be accomplished fully.

Thank you for your attention.