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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1395th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 October 2022

**On the flouting of the right of peoples to self-determination by a Western alliance of OSCE participating States and its stooges in Ukraine, and on the Kyiv regime's ongoing crimes against the civilian population**

Mr. Chairperson,

Bearing in mind that armed force is being used against the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, martial law has been introduced in the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics and the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions as from 20 October, in accordance with the Russian Constitution. A medium level of response is being implemented in eight constituent entities of the Russian Federation, namely the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol, the Krasnodar territory and the Belgorod, Bryansk, Kursk, Rostov and Voronezh regions. This level implies several mobilization activities in the economic sphere and the intensification of measures to protect people and territory. A heightened level of preparedness has been introduced in several of the other constituent entities of Russia.

These measures, in effect, formalize the *de facto* current state of affairs in the context of the combat operations being conducted against our country with the active involvement of the aggressive NATO military bloc.

We would point out that those who are in power in Ukraine are receiving absolute approval from their foreign handlers for their actions to exterminate the civilian population on the grounds of disloyalty to the Kyiv regime. There continue to be shipments of foreign offensive weapons, with the help of which Russian and Ukrainian citizens are killed.

It is evident that in their striving to confront Russia through a "proxy war" the representatives of several NATO countries are not only determined to fight "down to the last Ukrainian" but are also prepared, in principle, to destroy the whole of Ukraine. There is no other explanation for the manic striving to supply the Kyiv regime with arms while at the same time dissuading it from engaging in political and diplomatic efforts to achieve a settlement. The Kyiv regime is deliberately being instigated to continue the hostilities and to carry out attacks on Russian territory.

We have heard in this room how the marionette-like Ukrainian authorities are purportedly independent, how they literally constitute a “beacon of democracy”, how they do not pose any threats to their own population or to neighbouring States. In this regard, we strongly recommend that you familiarize yourselves with a video conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, that was published a few days ago. In the course of that conversation he not only confirmed the notion that Ukraine is being steered externally but also admitted that none other than the Kyiv regime was behind the terrorist attacks on Russian territory, including Crimea and the Belgorod region. No less remarkable is a recent interview for the Orestokratiia programme with the head of Ukrainian military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, who spoke about plans to conduct combat operations on our country’s territory and fantasized about Russia’s disintegration as a result of the Kyiv regime’s actions.

All this merely lends credence to the argument that the collective West is using, on the one hand, Ukraine as a tool in its geopolitical struggle against Russia and, on the other, the Ukrainian population as expendable material. We realize this full well. Russia’s actions will be appropriate and commensurate with all the threats directed against us.

A difficult situation has arisen in the Kherson and Kharkiv regions, where the Kyiv regime’s formations are attempting to advance into the Russian Federation. Civilian objects in the Belgorod and Kursk regions continue to be shelled. The authorities have taken the decision to evacuate the civilian population from the most dangerous areas adjacent to the line of contact in the zone of hostilities.

According to the information available, the political and military leadership of Ukraine is preparing a series of provocations at hydroelectric facilities on the Dnieper River. There has been no let-up in attempts to attack the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. In the early hours of 19 October, the Kyiv regime’s special operations forces once again attempted to carry out a landing in areas adjacent to the plant. All the attackers were neutralized and their boats sunk.

We do not tire of emphasizing this: there is evidence that the commanders of Ukrainian formations are issuing criminal orders to annihilate the civilian population altogether. We note that not a word of condemnation in response to the Ukrainian military publicly admitting this has been voiced whether by the OSCE leadership or by the foreign sponsors of the Kyiv regime: these crimes are being demonstratively ignored.

Ultimately, a lot comes down to the question of who has been preparing and training the members of Ukrainian formations. It is remarkable how candidly the North Atlantic Alliance’s involvement in what is happening in Ukraine is discussed by its protégés in Kyiv. In particular, in an interview with the magazine *Newsweek*, Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna said that the Russian military in Ukraine was gaining experience of “fighting, basically, with a NATO army, which has already been educated by NATO standards ... [and] equipped with the newest NATO equipment”. However, she did not clarify which specific NATO standard was applicable in the case of the order to kill the entire civilian population in occupied areas that soldiers from the 25th Airborne Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces received in September.

In total, some five million inhabitants of Donbas and Ukraine have found refuge in various regions of the Russian Federation as they fled from extermination by the Kyiv regime. This figure speaks for itself and serves as an eloquent response to the bogus stories disseminated by propagandists about some sort of “Russian genocide against the Ukrainian people”. By way of contrast, it is worth taking a look at how the attitude towards Ukrainian refugees in Europe is evolving. For example, last week it was reported that the authorities in the United Kingdom, Germany and some other countries – and those in the Baltic States even earlier – had decided to wind down their support programmes for Ukrainian citizens, and that there was reluctance to continue allocating funds for such purposes.

As part of the Russian special military operation, precision strikes continue to be carried out on military, communications, supply and support facilities of the Kyiv regime's formations, including relevant power generation capabilities. We firmly reject the insinuations made about the shelling of residential areas. We recommend paying close attention to the Kyiv regime's assertions about the alleged bombardment of residential buildings using S-300 air defence missiles. We stress that the S-300 surface-to-air missile system is intended for use against aerial targets. We draw attention to the numerous instances in which Ukrainian formations have used air defence systems incompetently, leading to civilian casualties.

In their striving to discredit the actions of the Russian military to the greatest extent possible, the representatives of some countries and also – to our great regret – certain international officials are drawing on unverified information or, put simply, on clumsily concocted fake stories. In this way they are imperilling not only their personal reputation but also the authority of the entities that they represent. One could mention in this respect the heart-rending stagings à la Bucha, the distortion of information about the shelling of the railway station in Kramatorsk or the assertions about the alleged aerial bombardment of a maternity hospital and theatre in Mariupol, and suchlike. In this room we heard about the alleged “raping of an 11-year-old boy in front of this mother” and other fake stories in the style of the former Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Liudmyla Denisova.

Some have gone even further. A few days ago, comments were made about a sex drive-enhancing drug being available in the medical kit of Russian military personnel – used allegedly for the purposes of committing mass rape. This fake story is an identical replication of news reports from 2011 about Libyan army soldiers. Back then, the media were awash with headlines about Muammar Gaddafi allegedly supplying his troops with Viagra to encourage mass rape, based on assertions disseminated by US diplomats at the United Nations.

To sum up. Our former partners from the NATO countries, above all the United States of America, are to this day incapable of giving a clear answer to the question as to what is the “rules-based order” that they are promoting and how does it differ from the international order based on international law. Incidentally, one pattern of the “rules-based order” is already plain for all to see: as soon as any State begins to display sovereignty and independence when taking decisions in the international arena, the West immediately finds it to be beset by “human rights violations”. The most assorted methods are put into play – from massive media campaigns involving pliant non-governmental organizations to the activation of long-obsolete tools like the Moscow Mechanism, the relaying of absurd fake stories, and so on.

In those places where human rights really are in danger – such as Ukraine as a result of the actions of the post-Maidan regime in Kyiv – the Western countries do not see any problems. Not because they cannot see them but because they bear a share of the responsibility for the current situation. After all, it would be awkward to criticize one's protégés.

These double standards of the collective West are well known in the Middle East, in the Balkans and by now also throughout the OSCE area.

The fact that the main driving force of the collective West's actions is blind faith in its own superiority and in some kind of “exclusivity” is vividly illustrated by some remarks by the head of the European External Action Service, Josep Borrell. Speaking on 13 October before students at the European Diplomatic Academy in Bruges, he compared Europe to “a beautiful garden” and the rest of the world beyond its borders to a “jungle”, over which that imaginary garden had to exert its influence. What is this if not echoes of the logic of colonialism and grasping imperialism, which has left such a sorry trail throughout history?

At the end of the day, the striving to exalt one's own culture above those of others stinks of crude racism. This has already been noted in the Arab world, where there have been calls for Mr. Borrell to explain himself. Let us not forget either how previous proponents of the "flourishing garden" ideology built their prosperity by engaging in an unequal commercial exchange or, to call a spade a spade, in the pillaging of colonized territories.

Finally, no less striking are the remarks by the United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken to the effect that the world is unable to organize itself without US leadership. He repeated this message a few days ago when speaking at the Hoover Institution.

Whatever has become of the principles of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples in this logic espoused by US and European diplomats? What has happened to the principles of mutual respect and consideration of interests? On the other hand, it must be said that in this logic one can find part of the answer to why the West needs Ukraine so much.

The Russian special military operation will continue. It is aimed at protecting Donbas, denazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine, and eliminating threats to the security of the Russian Federation created by the West on Ukrainian territory. These objectives will be accomplished fully.

Thank you for your attention.