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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1460th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 February 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

The visit to Ukraine by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Maltese Foreign Minister Ian Borg, has not brought the Ukrainian conflict any closer to resolution. Going beyond his authority, jointly agreed by all 57 participating States, the Chairperson-in-Office has chosen to intensify confrontation and associate himself with the crimes of the Kyiv regime. At the same time, he has once again completely ignored the appalling attacks on civilians in Russian cities carried out by the Ukrainian armed forces since the beginning of this year.

On the last day of Mr. Borg's visit to Kyiv and the Kyiv region, where he met with Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other representatives of the Kyiv regime leadership, Zelenskyy's formations shelled a bakery in Lisichansk in the Lugansk People's Republic of the Russian Federation. This civilian object provided food for the residents of nearby homes. According to preliminary investigative reports, it was attacked with a US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system supplied by NATO countries.

The Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations stated that the bodies of 28 victims were found under the rubble of the completely destroyed building: 18 men, nine women and one five-year-old child. One of the women who died was pregnant. What happened was a targeted terrorist act aimed at the mass murder of civilians. We note that the more setbacks the Ukrainian armed forces experience on the battlefield, the more intense their targeted attacks on civilians become. It is clear that Ukrainian fighters have a specific task: to sow fear and panic among the civilian population and to destabilize the socio-political situation. However, these attempts have no chance of success.

We repeat: it is shocking that Russian civilian casualties have once again been conspicuously ignored by the OSCE leadership. There has been no condemnation of the criminal actions of Zelenskyy's formations either. This is a disgrace and undermines the credibility of the entire OSCE. That being the case, all the talk by its leadership about principles of any kind is meaningless.

The “Anglo-Saxon” handlers of the Kyiv regime, who are so fond of retelling the personal stories of citizens in this room, are also silent. Their double standards are apparent: international law and international humanitarian law are relevant to them only in relation to those territories where the “Anglo-Saxons” have influence and control. Where they have no such control yet wish to impose their will, the lives of ordinary people do not interest them.

Right now, in this room, they are holding forth about international legal norms and the Charter of the United Nations in connection with the Ukrainian conflict. But in parallel – without any international legal basis, let alone Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations – they continue to launch missile strikes against the territories of sovereign Arab States in the Middle East. This is what the much-vaunted “rules-based world order” looks like, when rules are invented on the fly to suit specific geopolitical objectives.

Madam Chairperson,

The flawed logic of the representatives of the United States of America and its satellites, which we often hear in the Permanent Council, boils down to denying any involvement on their part in the deaths of citizens on the territories of Russian regions as a result of shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces using weapons supplied by NATO countries. However, as early as 1 August 2022, in an interview with *The Telegraph*, Vadym Skybytskyi, a representative of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, admitted, for example, that the Ukrainian Government consults with officials in Washington, D.C., ahead of the launch of such missiles, which allows the United States to “stop any potential attacks if they were unhappy with the intended target”. Apparently, Kyiv’s overseas handlers are fine with the latest deaths of Russian civilians in Lisichansk and other Russian cities.

In total, over 90 civilians suffered as a result of the shelling by the Kyiv regime’s formations last week: 40 people were killed, including a child, and at least 50 people were injured, including three children. There has been an increase in the use of explosive-laden drones against residential areas and public transport. It has become extremely dangerous to drive along the road connecting Gorlovka and Yasinovataya (Donetsk People’s Republic, Russia). Several buses have been put out of service in Donetsk. Targeted attacks by Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles last week killed seven people, including an 84-year-old pensioner, and wounded eleven.

Deliberate attacks against the civilian population are a violation of international humanitarian law. The cynicism with which the Western handlers of the Kyiv regime seek to whitewash all the actions of their protégés and continue to justify the killing of civilians in the Russian regions is shocking.

The Russian Federation is committed to ensuring that those responsible for crimes against civilians are severely and inescapably punished according to the principles of legality and justice. Last week, Russian judicial authorities sentenced six members of Ukrainian formations responsible for killing civilians in Mariupol and Gorlovka. They received sentences ranging from 18 years to life imprisonment. Yesterday, the Supreme Court of the Donetsk People’s Republic convicted a further 33 Ukrainian fighters, who had shelled residential buildings in the settlements of Zaichenko, Sartana, Sakhanka, Dzerzhynsk, Talakivka and others, and handed down sentences of 27 to 29 years’ imprisonment.

Madam Chairperson,

In order to protect the civilian population and achieve the objectives of the special military operation, the Russian armed forces continue to methodically reduce the military capability of the Kyiv regime’s armed formations. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, Zelenskyy’s fighters’ losses exceeded

23,000 killed or wounded in January 2024 as a result of the all-out shelling. These losses could have been avoided if the Kyiv regime's foreign handlers had not insisted that it abandon political and diplomatic paths for resolving the differences that exist.

In January, more than 3,000 pieces of equipment and weapons, including foreign ones, were destroyed. Among the equipment the Ukrainian armed forces lost were German Leopard tanks and US Bradley armoured infantry fighting vehicles, and Patriot and HIMARS launchers. Missile strikes continue against weapon production and repair workshops, Ukrainian armed forces logistics centres, fuel reservoirs and ammunition storage sites. We note once again the unprofessional use of air defence systems by Ukrainian formations, which have caused casualties and additional destruction.

Military supplies to the Kyiv regime from NATO countries continue to inflict suffering on the civilian population on both sides of the line of engagement. The goals of the West have long been clear: to enslave the population of Ukraine by prolonging the armed confrontation as much as possible, carrying out social engineering there on the basis of Russophobia and creating intolerable living conditions.

With phony claims to be supporting sovereignty, Western countries have imposed external control on the people of Ukraine since 2014, which has led to disaster, including the fiasco of the State's social and economic policies and rampant corruption. The amount of embezzlement in connection with State budgets and assets is breaking new records every month. Ukrainians live each day as their last, since few believe in the prospects for the success of such statehood under Western external control.

This also applies to Western-directed military aid. According to an internal audit by the Kyiv regime's Ministry of Defence, irregularities totalling more than 260 million dollars were found in the last four months of 2023 alone. According to the US Department of Defense Inspector General Robert Storch, one billion dollars' worth of arms sent to Ukraine have not been properly accounted for.

As early as 2021, the gross domestic product of Ukraine during Viktor Yanukovich's presidency seemed an unattainable dream for the post-Maidan regime. Today it is even more so. Ukraine's population has almost halved since 2013. Its inhabitants are fleeing the neo-Nazi tyranny. Some have followed the principle of self-determination, with entire regions leaving Ukraine. Some are trying to flee individually to neighbouring countries, unwilling to fight to keep the NATO puppets in power. The body of one of these fugitives, a resident of the Kharkiv region born in 1982, was recently found in the Prut River near the coast of Romania. He had consciously taken the risk of dying in freedom so as to avoid forced mobilization and death for the Kyiv regime.

Madam Chairperson,

Under the pretext of the Ukrainian crisis, the United States and the United Kingdom are effectively bankrupting the countries of the European Union. Suffice it to recall the words of top officials in Washington and London to the effect that for them supporting the Kyiv regime's bellicose aspirations rather than diplomacy is "a useful investment". In November 2023, US President Joe Biden stated emphatically that 90 per cent of all funds that Washington allocated to Kyiv never left the United States and are being put to work in the US economy. In January this year, US Special Representative for Ukraine Penny Pritzker confirmed: the United States benefits, as military allocations to the Kyiv regime are powering the US military industry and, I quote, are "creating well-paid American jobs here at home". At the same time, the US authorities do not care about the fact that Ukrainians are simply being physically exterminated.

In that context, European partners are being asked by the "Anglo-Saxons" to withdraw real money from their economies and to bid it an irrevocable farewell. German Minister for Economic Affairs

Robert Habeck recently made some notable remarks in the German Bundestag, saying that the funds sent to the Kyiv regime do not flow back into the German economy. We are talking about the 30 billion euros that have already been allocated. This year, as we know, the German Government intends to allocate a further 7.5 billion euros.

In January of this year, German Minister of Finance Christian Lindner noted that German taxpayers pay 50 per cent of all European investments in the Kyiv regime. It is not therefore surprising that, taking his cue from the aforementioned Mr. Habeck, this German Minister of Finance commented the other day that Germany was no longer competitive. By the end of 2023, the economy of the country, once considered the driving force within the European Union, had slipped into a recession with no prospects for recovery. In short, the “massacre” of the German economy and industry continues unabated, especially after the undermining of the Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines by the “Anglo-Saxons”, which has had the most unfortunate consequences for German energy security.

Overall, along with growing socio-economic problems in a number of other EU countries, this is a remarkable trend, especially against the backdrop of the desperate attempt by European Union functionaries in Brussels to inject billions of dollars in funding into the Kyiv regime in its death throes.

Madam Chairperson,

Western countries, including those taking the floor today, are seeking to position themselves as responsible actors in the international community promoting the maintenance of international peace and security.

But what kind of desire for peace and security can justify all their actions regarding Ukraine? This includes support for the overthrow of the legitimate government in February 2014, which led to an armed civil conflict. Or encouraging the cultivation of radical nationalist ideas and justifying neo-Nazi atrocities against civilians. Or diplomatic tricks like – as the former leaders of France and Germany have admitted – using the Minsk agreements to militarize the Kyiv regime. Or the blatant military development of Ukraine’s territory by NATO countries and the creation of unacceptable threats to neighbouring sovereign States.

Finally, there is the irresponsible channelling of arms into a conflict zone to fuel and intensify the conflict, in violation of export control procedures that have been developed over the years. These include the 1997 Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the OSCE Principles for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) endorsed by the 2004 Sofia Ministerial Council and updated by Forum for Security Co-operation Decision No. 5/08, the 2003 Export Control Elements for MANPADS adopted under the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, and many, many others. EU countries have no qualms about ignoring even their own internal constraints, such as the Common Position of the European Union adopted in 2008 at the Council of Heads of State (Article 2, Criterion Three): “Member States shall deny an export licence for military technology or equipment which would provoke or prolong armed conflicts or aggravate existing tensions or conflicts in the country of final destination.”

Madam Chairperson,

In recent weeks, the International Court of Justice rejected the unprecedentedly false accusations by Western countries and their Kyiv protégés claiming that Russia had since 2014 been engaged in “aggression” and a “campaign to erase Ukrainian cultural identity”, and that in the context of the special military operation it was waging some sort of “genocidal war”. Nevertheless, even after the verdict by the International Court of Justice, the so-called “responsible” participants in the international community from

among Western countries have no qualms about continuing with their propaganda – they are not bothered by the lack of any foundational basis for that propaganda, whether in law or in fact.

We would emphasize that the way to end the current conflict is to stop supplying NATO weapons to Kyiv, withdraw foreign mercenaries, instructors and weapons operators from the territory of Ukraine, curtail the West's external control over Ukrainian territory, and create conditions for an equitable, peaceful and safe life for all sections of the population, including the Russian-speaking majority and national minorities.

This requires the denazification and demilitarization of the entire territory of Ukraine and the prosecution of particular Ukrainian neo-Nazis responsible for crimes against the civilian population. Once again we repeat that, in due course, it will also be necessary to consider compensation by NATO countries for the damage caused as a result of their support for the actions of the neo-Nazi puppet regime.

As long as Russia's readiness to achieve a lasting and sustainable settlement through political and diplomatic means is not reciprocated, the special operation will effectively continue militarily – until the reasons that led to its launch are removed. All the objectives of the special military operation will be achieved in full.

Thank you for your attention.