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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1393rd (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 October 2022

On the Kyiv regime's terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure with the direct support of a Western alliance of OSCE participating States

Mr. Chairperson,

The very fact that we are forced to announce a separate current issue agenda item demonstrates, in our view, the inability of the Polish Chairmanship to organize a non-confrontational discussion in the OSCE decision-making body, the Permanent Council, on the developments in Ukraine.

The Kyiv regime has recently revealed its nature to the fullest extent. Believing in its impunity, it has no scruples any more about glorifying and openly using terrorist methods. Obviously, the foreign military and political advisers – or more precisely the handlers of the Kyiv regime – are to be credited with clearly provoking the irresponsible actions of the regime. With their approval, the Kyiv regime continues its attacks against the civilian population both in Ukraine itself and in neighbouring territories. The shocking footage this week was from the Kharkiv region. We will talk more about this at the next regular Permanent Council meeting.

On 6 October, during a speech to the Australian think tank, the Lowy Institute, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on NATO to launch a series of pre-emptive nuclear strikes against Russian territory and urged the West to reconsider applying pressure on Russia. In the days that followed he tried to explain himself, referring to the difficulties of translation and claiming that he had meant something completely different, namely, economic restrictions on our country. However, a video recording of him speaking in Ukrainian, which is understandable in Russia without translation, with unambiguous references to “preventive strikes” and a call to use nuclear weapons against our country, has been widely circulated in the media and is available in the public domain.

In this way, Mr. Zelenskyy has, in fact, presented the whole world with clear evidence of the threats posed by the Kyiv regime, not only to the people of Russia and Ukraine, but also to the entire European continent. Russia's special military operation was launched to neutralize these threats, not to “fight the civilian population” as some participants in the discussion here are trying to portray in a frenzy of propaganda. It would also be useful to recall Mr. Zelenskyy's desire to acquire nuclear weapons, expressed

on 19 February 2022 during the Munich Security Conference, and to scrap Ukraine's non-proliferation commitments.

His calls for nuclear strikes against Russia were followed by a terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge on 8 October. A truck laden with explosives was detonated. The bridge structure was damaged and at least three people were killed. None of the speakers today have remembered these innocent victims, who are apparently of no concern for some of the participants in our discussion. Nor are they bothered about the victims of the recent Ukrainian shelling of the territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics and the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

The day before, on 7 October, Ukraine's Ministry of Defence made a public statement saying that "the weather forecast indicates that it will be very hot in Crimea", suggesting that Russian military personnel should "prepare to swim fast". Immediately after the explosion on the bridge, not only the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, but also a number of other State structures, including high-ranking officials, publicly endorsed the terrorist attack. For example, Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak announced that the bridge situation was just "the beginning". Oleksii Danilov, Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, said that act was a kind of "message" to Russian President Vladimir Putin. In fact, officials in Kyiv have accepted responsibility for the terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge.

It may be noted that we have not heard a word of condemnation from the West about the terrorist attack or an expression of condolence for the resulting civilian deaths. On the contrary, there have been outrageous justifications for this action on the part of the Kyiv regime's foreign sponsors. Among them we note the representatives in the OSCE of Germany, Latvia and Lithuania. Officials from Slovakia, Estonia and some other countries have also "checked in".

The Russian Investigative Committee, specialist services and agencies have carried out a comprehensive analysis of the aftermath of the bridge bombing. The forensic data and other analyses and operational information indicate that the explosion on 8 October was an act of terrorism aimed at destroying Russia's critical civilian infrastructure.

This situation was the subject of a meeting of the Security Council of the Russian Federation on 10 October. President Putin said that the investigative authorities had established that the terrorist attack was ordered, organized and carried out by the Ukrainian intelligence services.

The Kyiv regime has long been using terrorist methods, as we have mentioned on numerous occasions. They include the killing of public figures, journalists and academics, both in Ukraine and in Russia, the terrorist shelling of towns and cities in Donbas that has been going on for more than eight years now, and acts of atomic terrorism, including missile and artillery strikes on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. In addition, Ukraine's intelligence services have already carried out three terrorist acts against the Kursk nuclear power plant and have repeatedly blown up the high-voltage lines of that power plant. The third such terrorist attack damaged three of these lines at the same time.

There have been a number of other terrorist attacks and attempted crimes targeting Russia's electric power facilities and gas transport infrastructure, including an attempt to blow up a section of the TurkStream gas pipeline.

All this has been confirmed by objective evidence, including the testimony of the detained perpetrators of the terrorist attacks themselves.

The Kyiv regime's actions thus effectively put it on a par with international terrorist formations and the most abhorrent groups. Such crimes will no longer be tolerated in our country.

At the suggestion of the Russian Ministry of Defence, a series of long-range air, sea and land-based high-precision weapons strikes were planned by the Russian General Staff and launched on 10 October against Ukrainian military command, energy and communications facilities.

We firmly reject the insinuations made against our country. As has already been repeatedly noted, the civilian population is not the target of the Russian special military operation. This is borne out by the extreme accuracy of the high-tech projectiles used. The same cannot be said for the inefficient deployment of air defence systems at the disposal of the Ukrainian armed formations, which cause significant damage to civilian infrastructure.

We emphasize what President Putin said at the meeting of the Russian Security Council. In the event that attempts to carry out terrorist acts on our territory continue, the responses from Russia will be harsh and in their scale will correspond to the level of threats posed to the Russian Federation. No one should be in any doubt about this.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's special meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.