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**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1467th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 April 2024

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO member countries in further  
confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

These days mark exactly ten years since the Kyiv regime began military action against civilians who did not accept the outcome of the armed coup d'état in Kyiv in February 2014. Today, the West cynically refers to these tragic events, which were accompanied by the imposition of a system of external control over the country's shattered statehood, as the "Revolution of Dignity".

It was the 2014 coup d'état that laid the foundations for the establishment of a neo-Nazi totalitarian regime in Ukraine, a regime that has come to be characterized by widespread and unpunished violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and by the use of violence and terror to achieve political and military objectives both at home and abroad. Today, like then, the Kyiv regime's actions are still accompanied by political patronage, as well as financial, military, information, intelligence and other forms of support from its Western sponsors, including the mobilization of resources from international organizations.

Between 7 and 13 April 2014, on the orders of those who came to power in Kyiv through unconstitutional means (we should stress that no one elected these persons in Ukraine, they were *de facto* usurpers of power), a military operation was launched to suppress any civil dissent. It was aimed not only at facilitating the unhindered transition of Ukraine under the external control of certain Western countries (which, by the way, overestimated their geopolitical capabilities), but also at turning Ukraine into a springboard for propaganda, terrorist, military and other activities against Russian statehood.

It should be noted that the regime in Kyiv referred to its actions at that time as some sort of "anti-terrorist operation", and to the inhabitants of Donbas themselves and the representative authorities they had established in the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk as "terrorist organizations". Admittedly, only at the level of political propaganda, since not a single legally significant decision recognizing the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic as terrorist organizations has been adopted even in the courts under the Kyiv's regime control. And this is no accident, seeing that there were no legal grounds for this.

We should stress that, in the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 31 January 2024 on Ukraine's application against Russia under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the Court completely rejected all of the Kyiv regime's claims in this regard – both the recognition of the “terrorist nature” of the authorities of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic and the groundless claims against Russia for supporting and financing terrorism. All this merely further confirms that the Kyiv regime had no reason to unleash bloodshed in Donbas under the pretext of carrying out some kind of “anti-terrorist operation”.

The events on the Maidan in Kyiv and the subsequent decisions of the post-Maidan puppet authorities radically exacerbated the pan-European security crisis. This crisis has come about as a result of the desire of a number of Western countries to impose on the continent and the world their collective will in the form of some kind of “rules-based order”. They have openly set up this order in opposition to a world order based on the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and formed in the wake of the Second World War. Today, there is no resolution of existing differences in sight precisely because of the uncompromising stance of a number of NATO countries that are refusing to take into account the fundamental security interests of sovereign members of the international community.

NATO members are ramping up their hybrid aggression against Russia, not least through their involvement in armed confrontation with Russian military personnel, who are carrying out their tasks in Ukraine in full compliance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The participation of foreign mercenaries, primarily English-speaking citizens, in terrorist attacks in March of this year on certain areas of the Belgorod region from territory controlled by the Kyiv regime has been confirmed. Indisputable video evidence captured on the body camera of one of the fighters killed was published the other day by the Russian law enforcement agencies. The actions of the group of individuals who entered the Belgorod region were accompanied by the use of NATO weapons and equipment.

We emphasize: public speculation, including comments by officials, to the effect that the United States of America, the United Kingdom and their satellites are not sending mercenaries into the area of combat operations, are not providing the Kyiv regime with NATO weapons and encouraging it to use these weapons against Russian territory is an outright lie and disinformation.

The Kyiv regime's formations continue indiscriminate strikes, mainly using multiple-launch rocket systems, against the central districts and squares of peaceful Russian towns and cities in all front-line regions. The situation remains most difficult in the Belgorod region, the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and certain areas in the Zaporozhye region. Over the past two weeks, more than 150 people were injured (including 13 children) and 16 killed, including a child.

For those who hold forth about the effectiveness of the use of Western weapons by the Kyiv regime, we should like to recall just a few of the most high-profile crimes by the Kyiv regime's formations since the beginning of 2024, which have resulted in the death and injury of a large number of civilians.

On 21 January, 27 people were killed and dozens injured when NATO-calibre shells struck a market in the Tekstilshchik neighbourhood in the Kirovsky district of the city of Donetsk.

On 23 January, an 82 mm mine attached to an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) killed a retired couple in Yasinovataya (Donetsk People's Republic). The UAV operator deliberately dropped the mine down the chimney of their house, fully aware that he was hitting a peaceful object. The explosion was so powerful that the man's body was propelled out of a window by the blast wave.

On 3 February, 29 civilians, including a child and a pregnant woman, were killed when a US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system struck a cafe-cum-bakery in Lisichansk (Lugansk People's Republic). In total, more than 40 people were trapped under the rubble.

On 15 February, seven civilians, including an infant, were killed and 19 others were injured, including four children, when a Czech-made Vampire multiple-launch rocket system fired on residential areas of Belgorod.

On 15 March, a private residential house in the Petrovsky district of the city of Donetsk came under targeted fire: three children were killed – two sisters, aged two and sixteen, and their ten-year-old brother. The house where the children had been staying was blown to smithereens.

Yesterday, 10 April, two children and one adult were killed in the Kursk region as a result of an explosive device being dropped from a Ukrainian UAV on to the car in which they were travelling.

The aforementioned confirmed facts are only a fraction of the total and extensive array of crimes committed by the Kyiv regime's armed formations against civilians on Russian territory. There were no military targets at the site of these planned killings. Overall, since the beginning of 2024, more than a thousand civilians have already suffered (having been killed or injured or having lost their homes) in the strikes carried out by these fighters.

We note that none (!) of the crimes mentioned have been condemned by the political, military or media sponsors of the Kyiv regime. Neither immediately after these crimes were committed, nor in this room now. None of them has even expressed regret.

On the contrary, individual representatives of Western countries continue to endorse the actions of their puppets in Kyiv and urge that further support be provided for them. This means that the foreign handlers are not just encouraging such crimes, but share full responsibility with the criminal Kyiv regime for the crimes against Russian civilians. We stress that our country will continue to seek justice and to establish and punish the entire set of people involved in the organization, financing and planning of the heinous crimes committed on Russian territory.

The Russian force grouping deployed for the special military operation is carrying out calculated precision strikes on defence industry facilities and those supplying the Kyiv regime's formations. That being said, the Ukrainian armed forces are deliberately using the civilian population as a human shield, placing strike weapons systems in residential areas and near public facilities. This was the case, for example, with the Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems and a German-made Iris-T anti-aircraft missile system destroyed in Kharkiv. We should point out that the maximum precision of the Russian armed forces' strikes makes it possible to avoid causing casualties among the civilian population. This was confirmed by the executive director of the Ukrainian energy company DTEK, Dmytro Sakharuk, who publicly noted that "the accuracy of the missiles is impressive", and their deviation from the target is no more than one metre.

Against this backdrop, the cases of inept or unsuccessful use by the Kyiv regime's formations of available air defence systems, which pose a direct threat to the civilian population, stand out. It is also worth recalling officially confirmed data on the shipping of technically defective air defence systems from Bulgaria and other countries for use by the Ukrainian armed forces.

Over the past week, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations have ramped up their attacks on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) with the aid of unmanned aerial vehicles, which are being carried out on an almost daily basis. As a result of one of these attacks, three people were injured on 7 April near the

plant's canteen, and one of them is in a serious condition. On the same day, another combat drone carried out an attack on the dome of the Zaporizhzhia NPP's sixth power unit. The shelling and its consequences were recorded by specialists from the International Atomic Energy Agency who were at the plant. The Ukrainian armed forces' actions not only violate the principles of nuclear safety and security, but are also aimed at escalating the situation around the Zaporizhzhia NPP, creating a direct risk of an incident occurring at the plant. The competent Russian organizations are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of the Zaporizhzhia NPP. We call upon all responsible members of the international community to strongly condemn the targeted attacks on this nuclear power plant by the Kyiv regime's armed formations.

Madam Chairperson,

These days we are once again witnessing how representatives of the Kyiv regime and their Western handlers are spreading propaganda in connection with the second anniversary of the events in Bucha and Kramatorsk. Such actions have one goal, namely to demonize Russia; it has nothing to do with the search for truth and justice.

While making groundless claims against our country, two years later no one has yet answered the questions as to why the authorities in Kyiv have still not provided lists of the alleged victims of the tragedy in Bucha, neither publicly nor through international organizations or other channels of communication. Why information about alleged victims began to appear three days after the Russian troops had left Bucha without there having been any conflicts with the civilian population. After that and before the appearance of the first reports about the bodies that had been found, Ukrainian nationalist battalions had been running the show in Bucha for three days. We would remind you that, immediately after the withdrawal of the Russian troops, the mayor of the city, Anatolii Fedoruk, went on television to report that the situation in the city was calm. He did not say anything about mass casualties.

As for the shelling of the railway station in Kramatorsk (Donetsk People's Republic, Russia) on 8 April 2022, it is even more strange in this respect to hear the persistently reproduced accusations that Russia was involved in this. As early as in our statement at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting on 11 April 2022 (PC.DEL/554/22), we set the record straight: the Kyiv regime miscalculated by allowing Italian journalists to visit the scene of the tragedy. The journalists managed to capture on film in a live broadcast the serial number of the tail section of the missile that had landed in the square in front of the railway station. It is numbered Sh91579, unequivocally confirming that the shell belongs to the Ukrainian armed forces. Shells from the same batch – for example, Sh91565 and Sh91566 – were traced earlier during the shelling of the city of Alchevsk in the Lugansk People's Republic (2 February 2015) and the settlement of Logvinovo in the Donetsk People's Republic (13 February 2015).

To conclude. Russia will continue to actively counter the disinformation disseminated by the Kyiv regime and its Western patrons with the aim of defaming our country and our people and attributing to Russian military personnel responsibility for alleged crimes committed by them against civilians. The objectives of our opponents have long been clear and understandable: to use Ukraine to project military threats and to employ it as a battering ram in the fight against Russian statehood, our unity and the prosperous and peaceful development of the Russian State and society. The Kyiv regime's masters understand perfectly well that a military victory for their protégés is impossible. They are simply squeezing the last drop of lifeblood out of Ukraine in an attempt to weaken Russia. For them, the Ukrainians themselves are just pawns in a geopolitical game.

It should be understood that a lasting and just peace in Europe and the world is not possible on the basis of initiatives being put forward that disregard Russia – whether they are unviable ultimatum-like formulas of the kind planned for discussion in Switzerland or something else.

The path to a sustainable political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian conflict lies through a complete cessation of arms supplies by NATO countries to the Kyiv regime, the withdrawal of all foreign mercenaries, instructors and operators of NATO weapons from Ukrainian territory, the reversal of the Kyiv regime's decisions to prohibit contacts with the Russian leadership on a settlement, and ensuring that conditions are in place for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine. It goes without saying that any contacts on the subject of a settlement should be based on recognition of the existing political and territorial realities and take into account the legitimate interests of safeguarding Russia's security.

Thank you for your attention.