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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1419th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 April 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

On 14 April, we marked nine years since the start of Ukraine’s punitive operation against the population of Donbas. The “government” that came to power in the wake of the February 2014 coup d’ état called it an “anti-terrorist operation”. In reality, the radicals who seized power in Kyiv were in a hurry to punish this insubordinate region and force it to glorify nationalist ideals. For all these long years, the residents of Donbas, who did not accept the outcome of the coup d’ état, have taken up arms to defend their right to live in accordance with their culture and history and to speak their native language.

The price of the armed resistance in the east of what was then Ukraine was high: thousands of dead and injured, including women and children, and destroyed homes, infrastructure, hospitals, schools and churches. The West kept quiet about this because the Ukrainian Government’s actions were fully in line with the paradigm they had prepared back on the Maidan in 2014 – to turn Ukraine into an “anti-Russia” so that it could be used as a weapon against Russian statehood.

They also kept quiet about the massive and gross violations of human rights committed by the Kyiv regime, which in 2022 transformed itself into an authoritarian system of government. On 19 April this year, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a report on the human rights situation in Ukraine.<sup>1</sup> It provides a detailed analysis of all the negative trends: the monopoly of power, extrajudicial killings and elimination of the opposition, censorship, State propaganda, suppression of independent media, glorification of Nazism, infringement of linguistic, cultural and religious rights, and much more. We advise everyone to read it in detail.

The extent of the Ukrainian authorities’ bloody repressions against the population of Donbas, as well as the scale of the threats to the security of the Russian Federation posed by the Western alliance countries, made the launch of a special military operation to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine inevitable. The masks were thrown off – in order to defend the “Ukraine project” that they had been nurturing, the NATO

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1. [https://mid.ru/ru/foreign\\_policy/humanitarian\\_cooperation/1448658/](https://mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/humanitarian_cooperation/1448658/)

countries openly declared a large-scale hybrid war against Russia with the aim of inflicting a “strategic defeat” on our country. This is a war “down to the last Ukrainian” in which Ukraine was denied even the possibility of a diplomatic settlement because it would have gone against the geopolitical plans of the United States of America and its satellites to remove Russia from the path to its own global dominance.

Everything is in play: direct military assistance with lethal offensive weapons systems (NATO countries have already provided over 65 billion euros’ worth of such assistance), intelligence support, logistics, training of military personnel and assistance in the tactical control of troops and administrative planning. The leaders of the EU Member States have robbed their own taxpayers of 13 billion euros – this money has been used to fuel war instead of to achieve socio-economic development goals.

The decision taken by the German Government on 13 April this year to approve the transfer by Poland of MiG-29 fighter jets to the Kyiv regime is nothing short of preparation for military escalation. Military supplies to the Kyiv regime sometimes take utterly absurd forms. Consider, for example, the Czech Republic’s decision to expropriate, i.e. to steal, 74 T-72B tanks to send to Ukraine from among those received from Morocco for retrofitting.

The consequences of Western countries’ irresponsible policy of “beefing up” Ukraine militarily are atrocious. The weapons supplied to the Kyiv regime are used by its armed formations to shell residential areas and infrastructure in the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. On 14 April, the Day of the Victims of Ukrainian Aggression, the Luhansk People’s Republic released consolidated data on shelling by the Kyiv regime’s armed formations. Since 23 February 2022, 1,407 incidents involving the use of heavy weapons, including NATO weapons, have been recorded. There were 757 civilian victims of the Ukrainian armed forces over this period, including 205 killed and 552 wounded. Among them were 59 children (23 children killed, 36 wounded).

In addition to undermining peace and security in Europe, the Western alliance’s escalation of hybrid aggression against Russia is fraught with far-reaching economic and environmental consequences.

One such consequence is the uncontrolled proliferation of weapons. Western weapons supplied to Ukraine, including man-portable air defence and anti-tank systems, are spreading across the world because of endemic corruption in Ukraine, surfacing in other regional conflicts and falling into the hands of organized criminal groups and terrorists. All countries, and especially transport infrastructure and civilian air traffic, are at risk. We emphasize that the violation of weapons re-export rules, covert arms deliveries and uncontrolled transfers of man-portable rocket systems are a clear way of compromising the security of citizens for years to come, even after the hostilities have ceased.

Ukraine’s foreign sponsors are not frightened by the danger of long-term damage to human health and the environment. This is the only way to interpret the statements by the Government of the United Kingdom about its intention to supply depleted uranium ammunition to Ukraine. We recall that such ammunition was used by Western countries during the wars in the Persian Gulf in 1991 and 2003 and in the Balkans in 1999. In the aftermath of the hostilities in these regions, there were increased rates of cancer and a number of other disorders among soldiers and civilians. After all, aside from the effects of radiation, uranium itself is a highly toxic substance.

The Western handlers of the Kyiv regime have no qualms about directly supporting the regime’s terrorist activities in the information environment. Since the beginning of 2022, the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation has recorded more than five thousand hacker attacks on critical infrastructure in Russia. Their analysis yields evidence of the use of Ukrainian territory by the United States and NATO countries to carry out massive cyberattacks against civilian objects in Russia. This means that Ukraine’s

infrastructure is being used by offensive cyberoperations units from Western countries, allowing them to covertly deploy new types of cyberweapons. In order to conceal its involvement, the United States seeks to portray Ukraine as the architect of the cyberattacks, namely the “IT Army of Ukraine”, a hacker group that has carried out thousands of cyberattacks on Russian information resources. Moreover, the cyberattacks are planned with the direct participation of the Pentagon’s Unified Command in co-operation with international and national hacker groups.

Now to conclude. We are continuing to observe the extremely dangerous policy of NATO countries aimed at preparing the Kyiv regime for a large-scale “offensive”. Ukrainian formations are literally being driven forward, creating a rosy picture of an “imminent victory” for their military leadership. This is evidenced by the extensive coverage in the Western media and the direct “encouraging” signals from officials. For example, the British Secretary of State for Defence, Ben Wallace, told *The New York Times* on 18 April: “I am optimistic that, between this year and next year, I think Ukraine will continue to have the momentum with it and a position of strength.”

The West prefers not to mention the fact that, in serving the interests of its foreign sponsors and their confrontation with Russia, Ukraine is losing more and more of itself.

We caution that no hybrid operation by Western alliance countries to support the Kyiv regime and encourage it towards military escalation will be able to shake our country’s resolve to protect the vital interests and security of our citizens. The Russian special operation will continue until all of its tasks – the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine and the elimination of the threats emanating from Ukrainian territory – are accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.