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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1410th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 February 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week, the United States Government announced the allocation of the latest funding for the military provisioning of the Kyiv regime – a total of 2.2 billion dollars, including long-range missiles. We hear from some representatives of the Kyiv regime that these weapons will not be used to attack Russian territory. There is no reason to take these assurances seriously. And not only because the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, publicly dreamed of “driving a tank around Red Square” or, for example, because Fedir Venislavskyi, a member of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) Committee on National Security, Defence and Intelligence, confirmed that all the weapons supplied to Ukraine would be used to shell any accessible targets in Russia.

But also because, with the support of NATO countries, the Kyiv regime is already regularly carrying out strikes on Russian territory – the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics and the Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Kursk, Bryansk and Voronezh regions are subjected to shelling on a daily basis. A number of sabotage attacks have been mounted in Crimea, including the terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge organized by the Kyiv regime’s intelligence services, and in certain areas of central Russia. We will not forget the terrorist methods employed against Russian officials and public figures. One of the recent terrorist attacks was the murder of an employee of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in the city of Enerhodar in the Zaporizhzhia region on 3 February: his car was booby-trapped and blown up near an apartment building.

It is in the interests of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and their satellites to prolong the conflict in and around Ukraine with the aim of weakening Russia. Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, who in February and March 2022 acted as a mediator on behalf of the United States in contacts on Ukraine, confirmed this in an interview on 4 February. He openly admitted that substantive agreements were reached with Russia on a neutral status for Ukraine, but Volodymyr Zelenskyy was then held back by the West, which demanded some kind of military victory. Well, the great victory did not happen. And, of course, it will not happen.

The Western countries have no need for a diplomatic solution to the situation in Ukraine. The conflict could indeed be resolved within a very short time, but Zelenskyy's external handlers continue to dissuade him from negotiations that would be conducted from a realistic position.

All this is accompanied by hysterical accusations that the Charter of the United Nations is being undermined by our country, which is legitimately defending its security and its right to exist. A month and a half from now, on the anniversary of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, we will again remember how the West trampled the Charter of the United Nations underfoot and advanced to the next stage of forming a "rules-based order". Just a few days ago, the Western "empire of lies" marked another anniversary: exactly 20 years to the day since US Secretary of State Colin Powell addressed the United Nations Security Council with a vial and an incredible lie for that elevated international rostrum, a lie provided to him by the US intelligence services about the alleged presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Iraqi statehood was soon destroyed, but no such weapons were found there. The United States and its satellites have followed a similar scenario in Libya, Syria and many other countries. They left Afghanistan in ruins after the shameful flight of the US military from the country in August 2021.

And today, representatives of this "coalition of aggressors" are trying to lecture all of us in this room with aplomb as to how to deal with international law. They talk about the need to respect the sovereignty of other States.

We are seeing a similar situation now: a search is under way to find contrived pretexts for maintaining the level of escalation and for even deeper military intervention by NATO in the situation in Ukraine, testing the limits of Russia's restraint with regard to direct threats to our country's security created by Western States on the territory of Ukraine.

Let us emphasize: a number of North Atlantic Alliance countries are sending tanks to those who publicly declare the goal of "destroying Russia as a country", producing munitions on their territory and delivering them to Ukraine. Against this backdrop, they deceitfully and hypocritically claim that they are not involved in the conflict. Twenty-seven out of 30 NATO member States are providing military support to the Zelenskyy regime.

Several countries are planning to send around three hundred tanks over the course of the next 12 months. We will cite Russian Defence Ministry data especially for them: in January of this year alone, Ukrainian formations lost 341 tanks and other armoured vehicles. We stress that these arms deliveries will not affect the determination with which Russia will pursue all the goals of the special operation.

Let us repeat what Russian President Vladimir Putin said on 2 February in Volgograd, on the 80th anniversary of the defeat of the Nazi troops in the Battle of Stalingrad: "Those who hope to defeat Russia on the battlefield do not understand, it seems, that a modern war with Russia will be very different [for them]. We are not sending our tanks to their borders, but we have the means to respond. And it will not be limited to the use of armoured vehicles. Everyone must understand this."

At this historic moment, our people are aware that defending the country's unity, sovereignty and security interests has its price. The West wants to see this price paid in thousands of dead Russian citizens of different nationalities, in the broken futures of each Russian family – we understand this too. We also realize that the West is clearly happy with the scale of escalation of the events in and around Ukraine since the 2014 coup d'état. Russians, Ukrainians and our other compatriots are dying, while NATO corporations are making a profit by supplying weapons and equipment to the conflict zone, what is more, in violation of current export restrictions and rules to control their circulation.

The West's aspiration for neocolonial control over Ukraine shows no sign of waning. All these years, no one has asked the Ukrainians themselves about their desire to be integrated into NATO and the European Union: there has not been a single nationwide referendum in which the inhabitants would have authorized their representatives to move in this direction. People have simply been denied the democratic right to determine their own destiny for themselves. However, at the instigation of the marionette-like post-Maidan authorities, who came to power after the coup d'état in February 2014, the Euro-Atlantic course was enshrined in the Ukrainian Constitution.

The coup, which for some reason was called the "Revolution of Dignity" by its organizers, destroyed what was left of democracy in Ukraine and initiated the transition to a totalitarian model, a *de facto* nationalist dictatorship under obvious external control. Today, the foreign handlers of the Kyiv regime talk about wanting to strengthen Ukraine's sovereignty, which they themselves took from its people.

In the West, they are trying to make people believe that the puppet regime in Kyiv is the voice of all of Ukraine and that its collapse would mark the end of Ukraine and perhaps the world as a whole. This, of course, is not the case. We firmly reject the false insinuations heard in this room about Russia's aspiration to destroy Ukraine. We emphasize that independent Ukraine has long been destroyed by those who now use it as a tool in their battle against Russian statehood, and its people as cannon fodder and expendable material.

Ukrainians who do not want to fight for someone else's interests continue to be literally caught in the city streets: social media are awash with videos of people scandalously refusing to receive their mobilization papers. All kinds of tricks are employed, such as the repeated use by the Ukrainian military in Odessa of ambulances, in which captured male citizens are taken directly to the recruitment points, where they are assigned to Ukrainian formations.

Kyiv regime officials, in particular Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov, have repeatedly stated that Zelensky's troops are on a NATO mission, helping the West to realize some kind of historic chance of defeating Russia. The purpose of this mission was announced by the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, Oleksii Danilov, on 1 December 2022: "Russia must cease to exist as a country." These statements have not been disavowed today either by the Kyiv regime or by its Western handlers, who are supplying Ukraine with heavy offensive weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Western countries are the only ones that are now dismantling the established world order and undermining the balance of power in the field of global security through the imposition of the concept of a "rules-based order". Rules that nobody knows who made up, and an exhaustive list of which no one has ever seen. Rules that for some reason are set against the post-Second World War order based on the norms of international law.

The plans of those who seek world domination today were voiced just a few days ago at a conference in Warsaw by Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki: to ensure some kind of "renaissance of Western civilization" by defeating Russia. Moreover, he claimed that the defeat of Russia is "a Polish and European *raison d'être*". It is, he said, a manifestation of the struggle for a "new world order" and Poland is ready to "take responsibility for shaping it". It has already happened in history, and, what is more, in very ugly forms – even Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Paweł Jabłoński, who is not inclined to sympathize with Russia, admitted on the air of RMF FM radio station on 3 February: what Russia is doing – "it is a one-to-one continuation of what it was 70 to 80 years ago."

The Polish diplomat is right in some respects: our people are once again fighting Nazism (Nazi Germany also sought to impose a kind of “new world order” on Europe and the world), resisting the attempts of certain Western countries to destroy our statehood, assume control of the space to the east of their borders and ban all things Russian. Our people will again repel Leopard tanks with crosses painted on them, which will come to Ukraine to kill Russians and Ukrainians. Our people will once again provide a historic response to those who, under the banner of national exclusivity, take it upon themselves to “obliterate” peoples and their cultures.

We note that the Western countries continue to encourage manifestations of neo-Nazism in Ukraine, camouflaging obvious crimes and blatant discrimination under the guise of a struggle to strengthen sovereignty. The acts of direct discrimination against the Russian language, historically intrinsic to Ukraine, and the measures to squeeze it out of the spheres of education, culture and everyday life, all of which goes unmentioned, are a case in point. In contrast, there are plans to make the study of English compulsory or there are the fantasies of Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk about the need to introduce the Polish language into the school-leaving examination programme. Millions of Russian-speaking Ukrainians are having their identities forcibly reshaped with the West’s support for these processes and in the face of complete silence on the part of the OSCE.

Or take, for example, the admission by the deputy head of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy, Yevheniia Kravchuk, who proudly reported on the destruction of at least 11 million books in the Russian language and a further 8 million in Ukrainian, and, what is more, this was done on the recommendation of the so-called Ministry of Culture and Science of Ukraine. All this is quite akin to the actions of the German Nazis, who got rid of books under the pretext of their promoting a “non-German spirit”. Judging by the volume of books destroyed in Ukraine, the present-day Ukrainian neo-Nazis have already surpassed the historical figures who were their source of inspiration. Such are the “European values” on the road to the European Union and NATO.

And would those who do not share the ideas of neo-Nazism deliberately destroy monuments to those who fought against it? A few days ago, the aforementioned Ukrainian Ministry of Culture and Science gave the green light to the dismantling of monuments to General Nikolay Vatutin, including the one in the centre of Kyiv. We would remind you that Vatutin was the commander of the First Ukrainian Front and participated in the liberation of Ukraine and Kyiv from the Nazi invaders.

In closing, we emphasize that peace in and around Ukraine will come when the NATO countries abandon the idea of “defeating Russia on the battlefield”, no matter who they are trying to get to do the job for them. We have repeatedly stated: Russia is ready for substantive diplomatic contacts to achieve peace and security in the pan-European space. Escalation is not something we chose, but we are prepared for any scenario when it comes to defending our country. Here too, it must be understood that there is a certain threshold for the use of technical warfare, beyond which the military and politicians will lose control over the level of escalation. The West is steadily bringing the situation closer to this threshold. Not to mention the unprecedented post-Cold War concentration of US combat troops in Europe, especially near our borders.

Russia will continue to consistently defend its legitimate national interests by all available means.

Thank you for your attention.