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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1489th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 September 2024

On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in further confrontation in and around Ukraine

Madam Chairperson,

Russia continues to systematically pursue the goals and objectives of the special operation in Ukraine. Ensuring the territorial integrity and security of our State and protecting the lives and constitutional rights of Russian citizens in Donbass, the Dnieper Lowland, the Kursk, Bryansk and Belgorod regions and other parts of Russia remain unconditional priorities. Active operations will continue until the threats emanating from the territory of Ukraine have been successfully eliminated.

We have repeatedly stressed that our country is willing to implement the aforementioned goals and objectives by non-military means, first and foremost through a comprehensive political settlement that would take into account the interests of the sovereign States in our region and would henceforth preclude extraregional powers from having a destructive impact on the situation near Russia's borders. This approach has not yet met with understanding in the capitals of the Western States sponsoring the Kyiv regime. Some of them, after having done everything they could to derail the Istanbul agreements of March 2022, continue to actively fuel the armed confrontation.

To divert attention, there is discussion of preparing a second "peace summit", which, by the way, Switzerland and a number of other countries have already refused to hold. Many realize that the Kyiv regime and its foreign patrons are in no position to speak to Russia in the language of ultimatums. However, certain circles in the West are still obsessed with the idea of bleeding Ukraine dry in order to weaken Russia.

It has long been obvious that the Ukrainian conflict is in fact a form of indirect hybrid warfare by a number of NATO countries against Russia. The Zelenskyy regime, which has lost any remaining vestiges of formal legitimacy, no longer has the resources to continue the conflict on its own. The crisis is being artificially prolonged from abroad by increasing the level of armed escalation in the hope of some anti-Russian geopolitical miracle. However, the miracle dreamed of by some in the West is not materializing, nor is it likely to.

The arguments about support for the “sovereignty of Ukraine” break down because of the elementary fact that there is none. Ukraine has long been under external control, and decisions about its fate are not made in Kyiv.

Against the backdrop of the current military setbacks along the line of engagement, the leader of the Kyiv regime has headed to the United States of America to present a “victory plan” – or, more precisely, to agree on further tactics for the conduct of hostilities. By Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s own admission, this plan is intended primarily for the attention of the US politico-military leadership. He did not even bother to present it to the Ukrainian people (whose role is merely to serve as cannon fodder), but immediately took it to his masters on the other side of the Atlantic. The plan is reportedly needed to organize combat operations and liaise on the use of NATO weapons. Underlying all this is the nagging request for permission to use long-range missiles against the Russian hinterland. Furthermore, a US Air Force C-17A Globemaster III military transport aircraft flew Mr. Zelenskyy in to Scranton (Pennsylvania), where, on 22 September, he visited a factory producing munitions to be sent by the United States to keep the conflict boiling.

Meanwhile, Minister of Defence Rustem Umerov has reported a threefold increase in the rate of mobilization in Ukraine over the past year. The arrangement whereby Ukrainian lives are exchanged for NATO shells does not, as such, presuppose any sort of peace. That is why ordinary citizens who do not want to fight for Mr. Zelenskyy are still being brutally rounded up en masse like cattle in the streets of Ukrainian towns and cities with the use of physical violence.

On 23 September, in an interview with the US television channel ABC, and on 24 September, during a speech to the United Nations Security Council, the head of the Kyiv regime stated that his “plan” did not envisage any diplomatic steps or efforts to work towards a political and diplomatic settlement. Nor does it conceive any substantive dialogue based on consideration of realities. In essence, it is simply a set of requests to continue the militarization of Ukraine and prolong the fighting. Furthermore, Mr. Zelenskyy’s office manager, Andrii Yermak, admitted that the ultimate goal is to obtain an invitation to join NATO, thereby effectively involving the Alliance in a direct armed conflict with Russia.

Despite the fantasies of the representatives of the Kyiv regime, some common sense is gradually beginning to reassert itself among a number of European politicians, replacing fanciful dreams of defeating Russia on the battlefield. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the quarrel that the “Anglo-Saxons” and their closest allies have with Russia is being pursued at the cost of Ukrainian lives and also largely at the expense of the countries of Europe, which have found themselves with their hands tied by the bloc discipline of NATO, in many respects so contrary to their own national interests.

The speech by French President Emmanuel Macron at a peace conference in Paris on 22 September is noteworthy. Today nothing remains of the bravado that once gushed forth from his lips about his readiness to send troops to Ukraine. Now, at least publicly, he is talking about the need to think about peace in a Europe of tomorrow that is not limited to the European Union and NATO and that will ultimately require, as he puts it, rethinking ties with Russia. We should add that the subsequent practical steps taken by France will be telling in that regard, not least in view of France’s huge budget deficit and the French Government’s enthusiastic support for the militant Kyiv puppets.

Madam Chairperson,

Exactly two years ago, the inhabitants of the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions made the historic decision to reunite with Russia. This was formalized through regional referendums in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of international law. The absolute majority of people who went to the polling stations

(99.23 per cent in the Donetsk People's Republic, 98.42 per cent in the Lugansk People's Republic, 93.11 per cent in the Zaporozhye region, and 87.05 per cent in the Kherson region) chose the path of national unity and maximum distance from the Kyiv regime, which since it came into being has completely managed to turn the Russians and Russian-speaking citizens living there against it. The voting took place against the backdrop of terrorist threats from Mr. Zelenskyy's armed formations and intelligence services, which tried unsuccessfully to disrupt the expression of the people's will.

The Western propaganda claiming that Russia is seeking to make the territories liberated from the Kyiv regime uninhabitable is now coming unstuck. Mariupol is a case in point. Back in 2014, this city in the Donetsk People's Republic was seized against the will of its inhabitants by special operations units of the Kyiv regime and Ukrainian neo-Nazis. It was then turned into a military stronghold, and its inhabitants were used as human shields by the regime. The city was completely liberated in 2022, but the fighting had caused damage in every quarter of the city. The world has been awash with evidence of how Ukrainian nationalists went on the rampage there in February and March 2022, firing heavy weapons directly at residential high-rise buildings and preventing the organization of humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians.

After two years, almost all apartment buildings in the Russian city of Mariupol have been rebuilt. The city itself and many of its inhabitants have resumed a peaceful existence. New residential neighbourhoods, modern social facilities and infrastructure are being built. There are plans to construct more than 5.8 million square metres of housing. All means of ground transport are now operating.

Overall, more than 19,000 facilities have been rebuilt over the past two years in the territories of Novorossiia reunited with Russia. Some 579 kindergartens, 727 schools, 55 institutions of secondary vocational education, 22 institutions of higher education and more than 200 cultural and sports facilities have been built or renovated, and more than 3,000 kilometres of roads have been built from scratch or repaired.

Against this background, the Kyiv regime continues its indiscriminate and targeted attacks on residential neighbourhoods and civilian infrastructure wherever its weaponry can still reach. Last week, more than 140 Russian citizens suffered as a result of such shelling; 11 people died and at least 129 were injured, including seven children.

On 16 and 24 September, residential areas in Belgorod and its suburbs were subjected to barbaric shelling by Czech-made Vampire multiple-launch rocket systems. Like many other such incidents, what happened is a clear-cut example of international humanitarian law being violated: purely residential areas, where there have never been any military objectives, were shelled.

We note that, owing to its obvious political bias and opportunistic blindness, the current OSCE leadership prefers to hush up such crimes by the Kyiv regime. The same applies to the ongoing terror against the civilian population in the Kursk region. What message does this ostrich-like policy on the part of the current OSCE leadership send to the world? Obviously, it signals its solidarity with the violence perpetrated by the Kyiv regime against Russian citizens in the Belgorod, Kursk and Kherson regions, in Donbass and in the Zaporozhye region, and that it is unable to muster words of condemnation for any single atrocity committed by Mr. Zelenskyy's formations.

All of this only strengthens the conviction of Russian society regarding the justness of launching the special military operation and the imperative of achieving its objectives – the defeat of the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv and the complete elimination of all threats to civilians in both Russia and Ukraine posed by it with the help of various Western countries.

The Russian Aerospace Forces continue to carry out effective group strikes with precision weapons and combat drones against military infrastructure and energy facilities that support the functioning of enterprises from the military-industrial complex in the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime. Deployment sites of Ukrainian armed forces personnel, weapons and military equipment have been hit, and workshops involved in the production of unmanned aerial vehicles have been put out of action. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, the bulk carrier neutralized in the Black Sea by one of these strikes was carrying Western missiles and ammunition. This, as well as other available information, confirms the falsity of the propaganda of a number of Western countries, which claim that the Kyiv regime is engaged in navigation activities in the Black Sea purely so as to make a contribution to global food security.

Thank you for your attention.