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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1401st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 December 2022

**On dangerous provocations by the Kyiv regime with the support of a
Western alliance of OSCE participating States, and on the regime's ongoing crimes
against the civilian population**

Mr. Chairperson,

During the meeting of the North Atlantic Council held at the level of foreign ministers in Bucharest on 29 and 30 November, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated that the path to peace in Ukraine lay in additional NATO weapons being supplied to the Kyiv regime. A few days before, he clarified that the Alliance had managed to significantly expand the production in Eastern Europe of Soviet-era weapons and ammunition, which Ukraine was in need of. Somewhat earlier, the Ukroboronprom State Concern issued a statement about its “integration into the NATO military-industrial complex”, announcing the creation of joint enterprises, where it was planned to set up closed-cycle ammunition production lines and to jointly manufacture multiple-launch rocket systems and other heavy weapons and military equipment.

Against this backdrop we hear NATO representatives regularly make statements to the effect that the Alliance does not wish to be dragged into a confrontation with Russia in connection with the situation in Ukraine. Incidentally, if over at the Alliance they assume that the authorities in Moscow prefer to place their faith in words instead of analysing the real situation, they are mistaken. What the words and promises of NATO officials are worth is something that we know only too well from, for example, the oral guarantees that the Alliance's military infrastructure would not be moved “one inch” to the east of German territory.

Today we are seeing the extent to which those words have become divorced from reality. Destroying trust, the NATO countries began, under spurious pretexts and long before the events of 2014 in Ukraine, to actively increase their collective capacity for establishing groupings of troops and further enhancing the military infrastructure near Russia's borders. Moreover, in the military strategy adopted by NATO in 2019 Russia was explicitly named as the main security threat and as an adversary. We stress that this was done before the start of the Russian special operation in Ukraine. The pursuit of long-term confrontation with Russia was also confirmed by the Alliance at the NATO summit in Madrid this year.

After the February 2014 coup d'état in Ukraine orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad, the NATO countries actively set about arming the new Ukrainian “authorities” and militarizing the whole of

Ukraine. They encouraged a policy of encroachment on democratic freedoms and oppression of members of the Russian-speaking population and national minorities. They nurtured a Russophobic regime; they turned and continue to turn a blind eye to the Kyiv regime's crimes against the civilian population of Donbas.

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who was directly involved in developing the Minsk agreements on the settlement process in Donbas, gave a remarkable interview to the news outlet *Die Zeit* a few days ago. She admitted that she had in fact assisted in the conclusion of the Minsk agreements in order to give the Kyiv regime time "to become stronger". And all this notwithstanding the attempts to position Germany as a mediator in the settlement process and even as a guarantor of the implementation of the Minsk agreements. In that same interview Ms. Merkel noted with satisfaction that, in military terms, "the Ukraine of 2014–2015 is not the same as the Ukraine of today." It is worth recalling how a signatory to the Minsk agreements, former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, expressed himself similarly in June of this year in an interview with Radio Svoboda. He bluntly admitted that these documents meant nothing to the Ukrainian Government and were only needed to "buy it eight years" to build up military capabilities and prepare for combat operations.

That explains a lot. Including why current German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the author of the well-known formula for the entry into force of a law on the special status of Donbas, observed in a recent interview with Deutsche Welle that any calls for a ceasefire now were "thoughtless". And why the present-day crimes of Ukrainian formations against the civilian population, the shelling of residential areas, the torturing and abduction of civilians, abuses against captives in violation of international humanitarian law – why all this has not elicited a word of condemnation or even just concern in the West. And why the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, regularly calls for "victories on the battlefield" over the Russian military as he visits training sites for Ukrainian fighters in Poland.

It also explains why statements are regularly to be heard from high-ranking officials in the US Government about their desire to inflict a "strategic defeat" on Russia. And why the leaders of the NATO countries continue to pursue the further militarization of Ukraine, arguing that the time for diplomacy "has not yet come". And why the Kyiv regime's foreign handlers did not in any way condemn the recent appeal by Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, in which he exhorted the NATO countries to "declare a special global military operation and attack the territory of the Russian Federation with missiles", that is, to unleash a world war. And why that phrase by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy calling for a preventive nuclear strike to be launched against Russia apparently went unnoticed. And why the head of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, made those remarks about his desire to "destroy Russia so that it no longer exists as a country within its current borders" (on 1 December during the Kyiv Security Forum).

For a long time now, it has been clear that the Western countries are using Ukraine as a tool in their battle against Russian statehood. They are facilitating in every possible way the destruction – with the help of their Kyiv protégés – of everything in Ukraine connected with our common history, culture, language and religion. They are encouraging bellicose aspirations in relation to the territory of the Russian Federation. To say nothing of the large-scale military supplies, the provision of military intelligence and assistance with the assignment of targets, or the dispatching of mercenaries and so-called instructors who act as operators of high-tech NATO weapons.

In other words, the West's actions indicate that they are not interested there in a political and diplomatic settlement of the situation in and around Ukraine that takes into account the natural interests of States in the region with regard to security and peaceful development. The Kyiv regime's foreign handlers are no longer hiding the fact that their goal is to impose a solution that fits in with their expansionist aspirations towards Ukraine, and what is more, with total disregard for Russia's legitimate concerns. Not for

nothing do representatives of the United States of America and its vassal countries harp on about the need for “diplomatic isolation” of Russia – yet more proof that they do not actually want any dialogue on the basis of mutual consideration of interests. On the contrary, they seek to act according to the logic of a unipolar world, to impose their will on other countries as part of the so-called “rules-based order”. This was corroborated, too, by the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting that took place on 1 and 2 December in the Polish city of Łódź.

We are seeing attempts to continue destroying the OSCE arena as a platform for constructive co-operation. There is evidently a striving by the collective West to turn it into a tool for settling geopolitical scores with our country under the pretext of the situation in Ukraine, and to activate non-consensus mechanisms, in some cases in violation of the Rules of Procedure. All this is having a detrimental effect both on the OSCE itself and on the prospects of pan-European security. We urge you to give this careful thought.

The efforts of the United States and certain other countries to organize the global diplomatic isolation of our country have failed, as has the blitzkrieg of sanctions unleashed against Russia by the West. Russia has the necessary resources and will continue to defend its legitimate interests for as long as is required.

In the course of the special military operation, precision-guided weapons are being employed to carry out strikes on energy infrastructure facilities used for the military provisioning, logistics and communications of Ukrainian armed formations. We are surprised by the comments in this regard by the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and several other NATO countries that took the floor earlier. Their sham moralizing, accompanied by accusations that international humanitarian law has been violated in this way, does not stand up to scrutiny.

Suffice it to recall their own rhetoric during the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. For example, at a press conference on 3 May 1999, the Alliance’s spokesperson, Jamie Shea, affirmed: “The fact that the lights went out across 70 per cent of the country I think shows that NATO has its finger on the light switch in Yugoslavia now and we can turn the power off whenever we need to and whenever we want to, and we can use this to severely disrupt, degrade, diminish the capacity of the Yugoslav Armed Forces to operate over long periods of time, delay their ability to repair the essential power systems, and of course by disrupting in this way the integrated air defence, improve the safety of our pilots flying over Yugoslavia.”¹

At another press conference, on 25 May 1999, replying to a question about the impact on the civilian population of strikes on energy facilities, including their impact on the stable operation of water supply infrastructure, Mr. Shea said the following: “I’m afraid electricity also drives command and control systems. If President Milošević really wants all of his population to have water and electricity all he has to do is accept NATO’s five conditions and we will stop this campaign. But as long as he doesn’t do so we will continue to attack those targets which provide the electricity for his armed forces. If that has civilian consequences, it’s for him to deal with ... [so] that water, that electricity is turned back on for the people of Serbia.”²

How come the change in your attitude, ladies and gentlemen? For how long will we continue to behold your double standards and sham moralizing in this room? And will the Kyiv regime’s representatives, as they wax indignant at Russia’s missile strikes, manage to condemn now the missile

1 <https://www.nato.int/kosovo/press/p990503b.htm>
2 <https://www.nato.int/kosovo/press/p990525b.htm>

strikes by the United States and other NATO countries against Yugoslav energy infrastructure facilities during Operation Allied Force in 1999?

We reiterate that the precision strikes on energy facilities under the Kyiv regime's control are being carried out to weaken the military capacity of Ukrainian formations. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, the strikes on 5 December alone caused production of, and repair works on, Ukrainian weapons at enterprises from the military-industrial complex to come to a halt and disrupted rail transports of military equipment for the Ukrainian armed forces, including foreign-made equipment. The deployment of reserves to the areas of combat operations was hampered. However, no missile strikes are being conducted against civilian objects and residential areas.

Meanwhile, we note how Ukrainian formations are deliberately using weapons, including weapons manufactured in NATO countries, to target residential areas in population centres of Donbas and the Bryansk, Kursk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. One such massive attack was carried out on the very centre of the city of Donetsk on 6 December, killing at least six people and injuring many. The Donetsk city centre, where there were no military facilities, was shelled by Ukrainian formations using rocket artillery on the same day that Mr. Zelenskyy arrived in Donbas. We emphasize that Russia will do everything to ensure that those involved in the Kyiv regime's crimes against the civilian population are held accountable.

Among those killed in the city of Donetsk was Mariya Pirogova, a member of parliament of the Donetsk People's Republic who was well known for her social initiatives to support the most vulnerable groups in society. As in previous years, Ms. Pirogova was an organizer of the Wish Tree initiative for children this year: together with volunteers, she was helping conflict-affected children to experience loving care during the New Year's holidays. Her noble work will most assuredly be carried on.

We would point out that the Ukrainian fighters' monstrous shelling attacks on Donetsk and many other cities, where numerous casualties have been recorded, are not eliciting any reaction on the part of the OSCE leadership and relevant OSCE structures. It is as though those victims simply did not exist. We note the excited attention and instant appraisals lavished on any of the tales with which the Ukrainian Government's representatives are regaling the international community, ranging from fake stories à la Bucha, Kramatorsk and Mariupol to inventions about allegedly Russian missiles "landing" on the territory of Ukraine's neighbouring States (which in fact turn out to be Ukrainian anti-aircraft missiles). At the same time, the real facts of the Kyiv regime's crimes generally go unnoticed. Moreover, many people, not least representatives of Poland, the country chairing the OSCE, are clearly keen not only not to condemn but also to altogether hide facts that are awkward for the Kyiv regime.

Nor do we see any reaction from the relevant OSCE structures to the egregious instances of democratic freedoms being trampled underfoot by the Kyiv regime. For example, the Ukrainian Government's intelligence services have for some weeks now been persecuting, interrogating and detaining representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) across the country. Searches have been conducted in scores of churches and monasteries. Many of these people are facing serious charges. In a number of instances, the participants in these attacks on the UOC are not concealing the fact that their goal is to push the canonical Church out of Ukraine, to seize its property and transfer the rights to the use of that property to the pseudo-religious structure created in 2018 at the initiative and with the involvement of the political leadership of Ukraine at the time. This so brutal interference in religious life and encroachment on freedom of religious worship in violation of OSCE principles and commitments is surprisingly not calling forth any assessments be it by the Polish OSCE Chairmanship or by the relevant OSCE structures. We emphasize that the attempts by the leadership of our Organization to adopt a biased stance at the expense of impartiality are having a most negative impact on the OSCE's credibility.

During the Ministerial Council meeting in Łódź on 1 and 2 December, many participating States, including Russia, pointed to how the OSCE was needed in the current challenging circumstances. However, the Organization will only be able to play a constructive role in stabilizing the situation in the pan-European space when its work is guided by genuine impartiality, and not by political bias and double standards.

In closing, we urge that no illusions be entertained. We realize that the West's ultimate aim in its gory manipulations of its puppets in Kyiv, whose casualties run into the tens, nay hundreds of thousands, is to settle the "Russian geopolitical issue" once and for all. As the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, said yesterday, it is not just that over there they regard the residents of Donbas as second-class people but, rather, that they consider Russia to be a second-class country which has no right to exist. There can be only one response from our side: to fight consistently for our national interests using all – we stress all – the means at our disposal.

We are willing to engage in dialogue – to just the same degree that the others seated around this table are willing. As for the objectives of the special military operation, they will be accomplished fully.

Thank you for your attention.