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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1411th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 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,

Tomorrow it will be exactly eight years since the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 2202 endorsing the Minsk Package of Measures of 12 February 2015 and the declaration by the leaders of the “Normandy format” countries in support of the Package’s implementation.

That document was repeatedly acknowledged by the members of the United Nations Security Council and all members of the international community, including the Western countries and “Normandy format” participants, to be the sole possible basis for putting a stop to the bloodshed and achieving a political and diplomatic settlement of the crisis in Ukraine while preserving its territorial integrity within its borders at the time.

A robust toolbox was provided for its implementation under the aegis of the OSCE, one that made available to the conflict parties a platform for direct dialogue within the framework of the Trilateral Contact Group and its working groups. However, over in Kyiv they systematically avoided engaging in substantive dialogue with the representatives of certain areas of Donbas and continued to shell peaceful towns there. They were “assisted” in this by the NATO countries, which threw themselves into supplying the Kyiv regime with weapons and equipment. In addition, they launched training missions for Ukrainian armed formations, including members of overtly criminal nationalist battalions, encouraging their atrocities against the civilian population.

The response to all this on the part of the OSCE leadership was often highly questionable; sometimes there was no response at all. The Organization did not just fail to do its immediate job, namely to achieve peace on the basis of implementation of the Minsk agreements in good faith. It essentially recreated the OSCE “success stories” relating to conflicts in the North Caucasus, the Balkans and Georgia: nowhere did it prove possible to avert serious armed escalation.

Today no one in the West and in Ukraine tries to hide the fact that the Minsk agreements and the Normandy format were a major diplomatic scam, an imitation of a political process. They were necessary to

give the Kyiv regime some breathing space so that it could subsequently prepare, with direct NATO military support, for intensive combat operations against its own people and neighbouring States. This has been publicly stated not only by the French and German “co-mediators” of the settlement process but also by all the nominal leaders of the Kyiv regime without exception. Petro Poroshenko has repeatedly admitted as much. Meanwhile, Volodymyr Zelenskyy himself spoke about this as well in an interview with *Der Spiegel* on 9 February this year, noting that after assuming the office of President of Ukraine he personally informed his foreign partners in France and Germany that he could see no point in, or possibility of, implementing the Package of Measures: “As for the Minsk Package as a whole, I told Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel that there’s no way we can put it into practice.” Afterwards, though, he made statements about his alleged commitment to the Minsk process.

Against this backdrop, the representatives of certain Western countries, including some who are now present in this room, continued to maliciously spread disinformation to the effect that the Ukrainian Government was implementing all the provisions of the Minsk agreements in good faith, and that they for their part were supporting the implementation of the agreements. However, that was merely a smokescreen for ever greater militarization of the Kyiv regime and military preparations directed against Russia.

On 13 February this year, all this was confirmed by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at a press conference in Brussels. In particular, he said that “since 2014, NATO has implemented the biggest reinforcements of collective defence in a generation, because the war didn’t start in February last year. It started in 2014. And that triggered a big adaptation of our Alliance ...” He also noted that, in 2022, NATO decided to step up its presence near Russia’s borders “build[ing] on the increased presence we have already implemented over the last years”. A further revelation from him was that “we knew [what] was coming and therefore we were prepared when it happened.”

All these admissions confirm what had been argued by Russian representatives over many years, namely that from the very outset an anti-Russian thrust was at the heart of NATO’s actions in and around Ukraine, and that the militarization of Ukraine and Eastern Europe was being deliberately pursued as part of NATO’s military preparations. At the same time, these revelations by Western politicians and military figures put paid to the false notion about the allegedly unprovoked actions by Russia to protect the population of Donbas as well as its national security interests. Similarly, they confirm that the Alliance’s member countries did not even regard diplomacy as a serious tool for achieving a sustainable resolution of the existing differences.

The West brought the Normandy format into operation by way of an “imitation” of a diplomatic process, as former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has openly acknowledged. In early 2022, the United States of America and its partners tried to use the OSCE platform for yet another simulacrum: the so-called Renewed European Security Dialogue, which did not provide for any legally binding instruments to establish security guarantees and ensure their fulfilment. Before that, though, the US Government rejected all the substantive proposals that Russia had submitted to it with regard to mutual security guarantees taking into account the legitimate interests of Russia and the countries of the European continent. As for the European Union Member States, they simply ignored our proposals and did not even go through the motions of responding: they hid behind a letter sent by the head of the European External Action Service, Josep Borrell, who today so desperately dreams of vanquishing Russia “on the battlefield” and calls for an arms race using the “European Peace Facility”.

It is not surprising that all this led, in early 2022, to armed escalation in Ukraine, which was accompanied by the refusal of the Kyiv regime and its external handlers to engage in diplomacy and by the continuation of the organized slaughter of civilians – Russian and Ukrainian civilians – in Donbas.

The West's principal objectives were not concealed, namely, to tear asunder the historical unity of Ukrainians and Russians by nurturing among one of these two peoples hatred for the other. To establish a puppet regime in Ukraine cast in a totalitarian and neo-Nazi mould. To drive out of Ukraine everything Russian that is historically intrinsic to that country, to provoke and fuel internecine hostility. Lastly, to turn Ukraine into a tool for undermining Russian statehood.

The expanses of Ukraine were used with ever greater intensity to rehearse scenarios involving military confrontation between the NATO countries and Russia, with Ukraine itself assigned the fate of serving as a "training ground" for such confrontation, for the testing of NATO weapons in battle conditions against Russian models (as the Kyiv regime's Defence Minister, Oleksii Reznikov, has publicly acknowledged on more than one occasion). Yet no one thought to ask the inhabitants of Ukraine whether they wanted to hand over their territory for the conduct of such lethal experiments. Or whether they wanted to become cannon fodder in NATO's confrontation with Russia. To put it plainly, they were duped and will continue to be duped for as long as there is still at least someone who believes the lies coming from the Western capitals.

The main thing that Russians and Ukrainians know from our common history is that Ukraine can flourish only in a context of harmonious relations with all the peoples of Russia. Looking for an enemy in the form of Russian statehood is a suicidal move for anyone who wishes us ill. It does not make sense to seek friends far away and enemies nearby.

NATO today continues to manually steer, to all intents and purposes, the actions of the Kyiv regime, which has set itself the task of "destroying Russia as a country" (as the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, Oleksii Danilov, put it on 1 December 2022). The latest meeting of the contact group dealing with military supplies for the Kyiv regime was held on 14 and 15 February at the US air base in Ramstein. We would point out the absurdity of the statements being made against that backdrop, such as remarks by the aforementioned Mr. Borrell to the effect that arms deliveries are bringing peace closer and are no obstacle to diplomacy. In practice, they are not only shutting the door on diplomatic efforts but also directly leading to even greater escalation by fostering in the Kyiv regime false hopes for some sort of "victory on the battlefield".

We would emphasize that, in mid-April 2022, at the insistence of its external handlers, the Kyiv regime itself rejected diplomacy by, in effect, withdrawing from negotiation contacts with the Russian side. Then, on 30 September of that year, it adopted legislative decisions on prohibiting contacts with the Russian leadership that might facilitate a settlement. Prompted by its foreign sponsors, the Ukrainian Government has set its sights on continuing the hostilities, which are inflicting suffering on the civilian population.

The Russian Aerospace Forces' successful strikes against facilities on Ukrainian territory used for military purposes highlight how the supplies of NATO weapons to the Kyiv regime, including air defence systems, cannot and will not be able to stop the effective work on the objectives that have been set as part of the special operation. For example, on 10 February, a massive attack caused energy-intensive enterprises from Ukraine's military-industrial complex to suspend their operations; it also blocked the deployment of foreign armaments to the zone of hostilities.

We would stress that by transferring armaments, satellite data and intelligence to the Kyiv regime, by participating in the planning and execution of military operations, and by joining in the fighting under the guise of private military companies and military instructors, the NATO countries have undoubtedly become parties to the conflict, not least in view of the remarks by US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin that the United States and its satellites would help the Kyiv regime to launch a "counteroffensive" in the spring.

All this is accompanied by NATO plans, as disclosed following the Ramstein meeting, to send 40,000 troops to the borders of the Union State of Russia and Belarus together with “major air and naval power”.

It is quite obvious that NATO’s aggressive plans go far beyond the context of the situation in Ukraine. At their core is the striving by the West to establish global dominance in the form of a world order based on its hegemony or, as they euphemistically like to call it, a “rules-based order”.

Clearly, all the atrocities committed by Ukrainian armed formations against civilians and Russian military personnel participating in the special operation fit in very nicely with this so-called order. We have not heard one word of indignation from US representatives with regard to the casualties resulting from shelling with US-made artillery and missile systems, including children, women and elderly people. Nor are they concerned over there about such glaring violations of international humanitarian law as the use of anti-personnel mines against the civilian population, deliberate acts of mutilation (for example, kneecapping or the severing of tendons) and the execution of unarmed captives. A few days ago, shocking evidence of yet another atrocity of this kind was published in the media: three Russian servicemen who were lying on the ground and not offering any resistance were shot dead at point-blank range with an automatic weapon.

Here is a direct question for the US representative: which rules in your “rules-based order” does all this tally with? Cite the specific provisions that allow Ukrainian armed formations to commit such atrocities in violation of the norms of international humanitarian law.

Instead, the representatives of the Kyiv regime, along with its sponsors, organize further propaganda events within the walls of the Hofburg, like the one on 14 February featuring Yuriy Madin, a member of the Ukrainian formations who is in the best of health, having returned to his family as part of an exchange of detained persons in September 2022.

We note the Kyiv regime’s attempts to drag neighbouring countries into the conflict and fan the flames of regional instability. The Ukrainian Government’s efforts to “open a second front in Georgia” were mentioned a few days ago by the Prime Minister of that country, Irakli Garibashvili. Meanwhile, Mr. Zelenskyy got in touch with President Maia Sandu to pass on to her unsubstantiated information about Russia allegedly preparing to bring about domestic political destabilization in Moldova – something that, by the way, has not even been corroborated by Mr. Zelenskyy’s handlers in Washington, D.C. (as the US National Security Council’s Coordinator for Strategic Communications, John Kirby, said). It is also worth recalling how, in late 2022, members of Ukrainian formations launched S-300 missiles in the direction of the Polish village of Przewodów and the Brest region of the Republic of Belarus.

The Russian special military operation will carry on and continue to be conducted in a consistent and responsible manner. Its objectives are known and they will be accomplished fully. Resolving the situation in Ukraine must, needless to say, include various aspects of demilitarization and denazification, as well as the elimination of threats to the security of the Russian Federation being posed by the West from Ukrainian territory. Russia is willing to engage in meaningful, substantive dialogue and will actively defend its interests for as long as is required to safeguard the security of our State and protect its sovereignty.

Thank you for your attention.