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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1476th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 May 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

The Kyiv regime's Western handlers are consciously lying when they say that they are seeking to end the conflict in and around Ukraine, including through the organization of certain clique-like conferences and gatherings in Switzerland, which they try to pass off as a "summit of the global majority".

In reality, though, they are taking steps aimed not only at dragging out the armed confrontation but also at escalating it. Pursuing the unattainable goals of expanding their geopolitical dominance in the post-Soviet space, they are not setting themselves any limits in their choice of means for further stoking the conflict. Options are being discussed for supplying even more destructive weapons and aircraft, including technically sophisticated armaments.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the leaders of some Eastern European countries are openly calling for all restrictions to be lifted on the use of the weapons supplied by them to strike targets deep inside Russian territory. Military specialists, mercenaries, instructors and equipment operators from NATO countries are already present in the conflict zone.

Satellite and reconnaissance data is being provided to the Kyiv regime; NATO's technical resources are being used to enable target designation by the Ukrainian armed forces and strikes against Russian territory. The Kyiv regime is not autonomous when it comes to the planning and execution of ground troop operations and sabotage incursions. Similarly, it is being mentored to conduct cyberattacks and disinformation and propaganda campaigns. All this is accompanied by hypocritical claims that NATO is somehow not involved in the armed confrontation with Russia and that, in reality, it is allegedly looking for a way to peacefully settle the Ukrainian conflict.

The facts are implacable: NATO member countries, above all those from its "Anglo-Saxon" wing, not only played a role that has proved destructive and tragic for Ukraine in the coming to power of a neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv in 2014 – they also bear a major share of the responsibility for each new phase of the armed escalation in the region.

Glaring double standards, demonstrable disdain for the plight of some people and politicization of the sufferings of others – these are the characteristic features of Western countries' policy in relation to Ukraine. Last week, the daily shelling of Russian territory by the Kyiv regime's armed formations using NATO weapons claimed at least 129 civilian casualties, of whom 13 people were killed and 116 injured, including four children.

All this should be borne in mind by those members of the international community still paying heed to the remonstrances by the organizers of the conference scheduled to take place in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, this June, who insist that its true goal is to bring a just peace closer. We emphasize that ignoring Russia's legitimate security interests, encouraging the slaughter of civilians on our country's territory and foisting, in ultimatum fashion, "Zelenskyy formulas" for the disintegration of Russia have nothing to do with notions of justice.

Today it is evident that the West has no need of Ukraine either as an EU member or as a fully paid-up member of NATO. It is being clearly signalled there that Ukraine will not receive any invitations to join these entities in the foreseeable future. However, together with its population, resources and territory, Ukraine, which has yet to be squeezed to the last drop, continues to be needed by the West as a tool in the struggle against Russian statehood.

In view of the unsuccessful sanctions blitzkrieg against Russia in 2022, the failed "counteroffensive" by the Ukrainian armed forces in 2023 and the current lack of human resources to maintain high-intensity combat operations, certain NATO countries are talking about their readiness to deploy their regular military forces to Ukraine. All this represents the high road to a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia on Russian soil. That our country will find means of effectively responding to such escalatory steps is something that the ideological proponents of military intervention must also understand. The President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, expressed this unequivocally once again at a press conference in Tashkent on 28 May.

Russia has never refused to engage in political and diplomatic efforts to bring about a settlement of the situation in and around Ukraine. We would remind you that the negotiation track was wrecked in April 2022 through the endeavours of the "Anglo-Saxons", first and foremost the United Kingdom and the United States of America. A draft agreement on the parameters for a settlement that had been initialled and agreed to by the Ukrainian side in Istanbul in late March 2022 was discarded by the Kyiv regime, which received direct instructions from members of the UK and US leadership's inner circles who visited Kyiv in April 2022. These proposed that diplomacy be abandoned and that the attempts to inflict a "strategic defeat" on Russia by military means be continued. And they began to actively provide arms shipments.

As for the West's current bogus peace initiatives, it is absolutely clear that the Kyiv regime's leader, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who since 21 May of this year has actually been devoid of formal legitimacy, has no cause to speak on behalf of all the inhabitants of Ukraine. And even less so to take Ukraine's fate upon himself.

Hardly anyone in the West is likely to have taken notice of the news that, on 24 May, the Shevchenkivskiy District Court of Kyiv terminated judicial proceedings against law enforcement officers who had been charged with brutally dispersing a "peaceful demonstration" on the Maidan in Kyiv during the night of 30 November to 1 December 2013. I would remind you that this very episode was exploited by anti-government provocateurs and their Western patrons, and also by Western-financed media and non-governmental organizations, as a "point of no return" in order to destabilize the political system of

Ukraine, which was then headed by a legitimate and democratically elected President, Viktor Yanukovich, and to trigger unrest and accuse the authorities of brutality towards so-called “peaceful protesters”.

The regime installed in Ukraine after the February 2014 coup d'état organized the prosecution of former security officers, who were then accused of having “beaten up” students, which gave rise to a tsunami of public indignation. Today, more than ten years after those events, it is obvious that the Kyiv regime is incapable of presenting any kind of substantial legal basis to justify not only the legitimacy of its advent to power but also its attacks on law enforcement officers who were trying to thwart a coup and were fulfilling their duty to uphold public order.

Ten years later, we still do not have the truth about the events on the Maidan, the gunning-down of residents of Mariupol on Victory Day on 9 May 2014, the massacre of civilians in Odessa's Trade Union House on 2 May 2014, the launching of the “anti-terrorist operation” in Donbas and many other atrocities thanks to which the Kyiv regime was able to consolidate its grip on power.

In early 2024, the representatives of that neo-Nazi regime lost lawsuits at the International Court of Justice, where they had been seeking to prove the allegedly terrorist nature of the associations of the inhabitants of Donbas that organized themselves in 2014 to uphold the rule of law and their constitutional rights.

It is small wonder that, in these circumstances, a majority of the inhabitants of Ukraine do not wish to enlist to fight for the sake of keeping NATO puppets in power in Kyiv. They continue to literally run away from territories controlled by the Kyiv regime, where mobilization measures have been tightened up by law since 18 May of this year. The current situation in Lviv, the emblematic capital of western Ukrainian separatism and radical nationalism, may be said to be typical: according to representatives of the Kyiv regime's Defence Ministry (specifically Volodymyr Hreniukh, an official at a territorial manning centre in a district of Lviv, who made these comments on the Espresso TV channel), out of all the people there who receive summons for a “data check-up”, a mere 2 per cent subsequently show up at the military enlistment offices. And this is highly symbolic: in the place where the “Maidan movement” was initiated on two occasions, there is no desire to fight to keep the “Maidan regime” in power.

Over the past week, more bodies of people who drowned in an unsuccessful attempt to cross the River Tisza on the border with Romania have been discovered. Dan Benga, the head of the mountain rescue service in Maramureş County, Romania, has spoken of how his team has been constantly saving Ukrainians from mobilization by rescuing them in the Carpathian Mountains, which hundreds are trying to cross on foot. According to Mr. Benga, many of these Ukrainians admit that they were consciously risking death out in the wild so as not to be killed in battle serving the interests of the Kyiv regime. Moreover, data from the border police cited in Romanian media indicates that around 2,500 Ukrainian draft evaders have fled to Romania since the beginning of the year, which is more than twice the number for the corresponding period last year.

Ordinary Ukrainians have long since understood what the West needs them for. As a result, Ukraine's options going forward are clear: either the armed conflict is ended as soon as possible with account taken of Russia's legitimate interests, or the attempts to use Ukraine to weaken Russia will be continued at the insistence of NATO countries until combat-capable Ukrainians have been physically depleted as a resource.

A most telling example from Chernihiv confirms that the West's proxy war against Russia “down to the last Ukrainian” is no invention of “Russian propaganda” but an all too real fact. The Drama Theatre in

that city closed its doors a few days ago because almost all of its male staff had been mobilized. Even a 56-year-old Honoured Artist of Ukraine and a 59-year-old driver received call-up papers.

To conclude. By becoming more and more involved in the Ukrainian conflict and the armed confrontation with Russia, certain NATO and EU member States are pushing the situation in Europe and the world as a whole towards an extremely dangerous brink. They mistakenly interpret Russia's restraint as some sort of manifestation of weakness.

We stress that Russia has no historical, economic or any other reasons to forswear its indissoluble ancestral ties to everything connected with Ukraine. Nor are there any reasons for sacrificing the interests of our State's security and stability for the sake of the neocolonial ambitions of a number of NATO and EU countries. An appropriate response will be given to all the threats that these are generating from Ukrainian territory.

A true "peace formula" for Ukraine presupposes the complete cessation of arms supplies by NATO countries to the Kyiv regime and a stop being put to the recruitment on their territory of Ukrainian and foreign citizens into the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces and neo-Nazi outfits. It is important to ensure the withdrawal of all foreign mercenaries, instructors and operators of NATO weapons from Ukrainian territory, to see to it that other activities aimed at maintaining and developing the criminal armed formations' combat capability are wound down, and also to pave the way for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine.

Thank you for your attention.