

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/135/25
17 February 2025

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1508th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 February 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again, we note the absence of any reaction by the Finnish Chairmanship to the confirmed instances of atrocities committed by the Kyiv regime's armed formations in the Kursk region and other Russian territories.

Instead of taking a judicious view of complex, integrated processes, Mr. Chairperson, you have again reproduced banal anti-Russian fabrications. We are observing the Chairmanship's persistence in concealing the truth about the mass executions of civilians carried out by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's fighters in Russkoye Porechnoye, Nikolayevo-Daryino and other population centres in the Kursk region and other Russian territories. All the signs suggest that Finland regards the civilians tortured and killed by Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters as second-class citizens, since the Chairmanship prefers not to react to these terrible tragedies at all.

However, on 6 February, Mr. Zelenskyy himself voiced his opinion on these events. Speaking on camera about the actions of the Ukrainian armed forces, he thanked "all [the] units involved in operations in the Kursk region". In his narrative, they showed the entire world that the Ukrainian armed forces can "act decisively, unexpectedly and effectively". The senior figure of the Kyiv regime proved to be unorthodox in his own way: no one really expected to see such atrocities from the soldiers of the 92nd Separate Assault Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Kursk region.

Last week, targeted and indiscriminate shelling of Russian regions by the Ukrainian armed forces left six people dead, including one child, and injured a further 62 civilians, among them nine minors. On 8 February, in the middle of the weekend, the centre of Makeevka (Donetsk People's Republic, Russia) was shelled. A bustling area, where there are shopping centres, public transport stops and apartment blocks, was hit. Two women were killed by shell fragments; doctors miraculously saved the life of the eight-year-old daughter of one of the women. In addition, a six-year-old boy and eight other civilians were injured.

On 5 February, a Ukrainian armed forces' drone attacked a secondary school building in the village of Shevchenkivskoye in the Zaporozhye region. There were 27 children inside that building. The day

before, in the village of Verkhnyaya Krynytsya in the Zaporozhye region, an unmanned aerial vehicle hit a civilian car in which a family with a child were travelling – both parents were injured.

Unfortunately, the list of crimes committed by the Ukrainian armed forces over the past week could go on and on. But, as we can see, none of these crimes trouble the Finnish Chairmanship, whose degree of cynicism is simply off the charts. Instead, it was decided in Helsinki on 31 January to allocate an additional 198 million euros in “military aid” to the Kyiv regime, providing it with weapons to commit further atrocities.

On 12 February, the contact group of defence ministers from a number of NATO countries on military provisioning for the Kyiv regime (Ukraine Defence Contact Group) held a meeting in Brussels chaired by the United Kingdom. It is noteworthy that, on this occasion, the new authorities in Washington distanced themselves from organizing this format, concentrating instead on auditing the expenditures of the previous US administration. Against this backdrop, it is curious to observe Mr. Zelenskyy’s claims that he has no idea about the fate of 100 billion dollars out of the approximately 177 billion dollars allocated to him by the United States of America. And how eagerly he began to offer resources and rare earth metals (such as gold, coal, titanium, manganese ore, etc.) to his Western sponsors in exchange for the sponsorship already provided. By the way, in accordance with Article 13 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the land, its subsoil and natural resources are “the objects of property rights of the Ukrainian people”. But, as we can see, the “President”, who has usurped power and whose term has expired, is in general not bothered about the Ukrainian Constitution.

Mr. Zelenskyy’s “death throes” in the face of the inevitability of his regime’s military defeat are taking on a different hue. In a recent television interview, he demanded that Ukraine be provided with nuclear weapons, while former Ukrainian Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ogrzyzko publicly stated that the Kyiv regime was already capable of building a “dirty” nuclear bomb.

NATO countries must finally realize that military allocations to the Ukrainian armed forces will not make the position of the Kyiv regime, which is letting out its last gasp, any stronger – either on the battlefield or in the diplomatic arena. These funds are being channelled into a hopeless war, from which the Zelenskyy regime will most certainly not emerge victorious. All that any additional financial injections can do is make the Russian people even more united, determined and convinced in their desire to achieve all the objectives of the special military operation.

Incidentally, in September 2022, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had no scruples about relaying at the European Parliament the blatant nonsense that the Russian military, I quote, “is taking chips from dishwashers and refrigerators to fix their military hardware because there are no semiconductors any more. Russia’s industry is in tatters.” It is noteworthy that, already at the beginning of 2025, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte tried to motivate the Alliance’s member countries to allocate more funds for military confrontation with Russia by means of completely different rhetoric: Russia, he said, “is producing in three months what the whole of NATO is producing in a year”.

The puppet regime in Kyiv is growing weaker not only because of its defeats on the battlefield, but also because of a tangible reduction within the information field of deliberately false information about its alleged successes. An audit by the new United States administration of the approaches to the financing of foreign recipients of US funding has confirmed what Russian diplomats have been saying for a long time: the work of 90 per cent of Ukraine’s so-called “independent” media was directly supported by foreign cash injections. The publicly disclosed facts show that the United States has been sponsoring the work of more than 6,000 journalists in Ukraine, over 700 non-State news outlets and some 300 media-sector non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The same funds were used to support the activities of numerous bloggers who published interviews with odious Ukrainian neo-Nazis (such as, for example, the leaders of C14, the National Corps and the Brotherhood, Yevhen Karas, Andrii Biletskyi and Dmytro Korchynskyi respectively). In fact, the money went directly on the spreading of neo-Nazi ideas. We have been talking about this for a long time at various international forums, but our opponents stubbornly ascribed all this to “Russian propaganda”.

A significant number of officials from ministries and agencies of the Kyiv regime – or of “independent Ukraine” as all of this is called in the West – are on the payroll of the United States. Through the activities of various NGOs (such as, for example, the DEJURE Foundation and the so-called Anti-Corruption Action Centre), it was also possible to establish control over the judicial system, where, at the behest of recipients of US grants, “inconvenient” judges were removed and loyal ones were promoted, including with the involvement of the High Council of Justice (through the Public Council of Integrity) and through the High Qualification Commission of Judges. Over half of the members of these bodies are controlled by the aforementioned recipients of US funding.

One might also recall the so-called ultimatum from more than 70 NGOs sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that were operating in Ukraine. They issued this ultimatum to Mr. Zelenskyy immediately after his election as President in 2019. Among the demands were the consolidation of the policy of military confrontation with Russia and the course towards NATO accession, the continuation of discrimination on linguistic and religious grounds, and preventing the implementation of agreements that would help to stabilize the situation in Donbass and the region as a whole. If Mr. Zelenskyy’s team failed to meet these demands, the pro-Western NGOs threatened to destabilize the internal political situation. As usual, no one asked the Ukrainians themselves for their opinion when such an ultimatum was being issued.

We would remind you that, in May 2019, Mr. Zelenskyy received record voter support (73.2 per cent), as he promised to end the hostilities in Donbass, guarantee the rights of the Russian-speaking population and introduce elements of direct democracy (including the holding of referendums) on pressing issues of domestic and foreign policy. None of this happened.

What came to pass instead was the Kyiv regime’s proxy war in the interests of the “Anglo-Saxons” against everything Russian – both in Ukraine and in Russia. A few days ago, Mr. Zelenskyy officially announced the introduction of a conscription system for young men aged 18–24 years. Calling it a “system of one-year contracts for volunteers”, the Zelenskyy regime hopes to attract fresh cannon fodder to its armed formations. The plan is to send these “volunteers” exclusively to the front line to serve in the six most problematic infantry units. Of course, there is one reason for these innovations: the huge losses suffered by the Ukrainian armed forces on the line of engagement and the inability to stabilize the front. In short, the real situation is obvious – no matter how much Mr. Zelenskyy lies to the whole world about the fact that the Ukrainian armed forces’ losses since 2022 amounted to 45,000 people killed and 390,000 wounded.

As it suffers defeat on the battlefield, the Kyiv regime has stepped up its attempts to carry out terrorist attacks in Russia. According to the Russian Federal Security Service, since the beginning of this year, 23 planned acts of terrorism aimed at targeting critical civilian infrastructure facilities and prominent political and public figures have been averted.

Incoming reports indicate that, to serve the interests of its Western handlers, the Kyiv regime is toying with the idea of carrying out a series of high-profile anti-Russian false-flag operations in international waters. One of the regime’s ideas involves blowing up a foreign vessel in the Baltic Sea using a Russian-made mine, which Ukraine now has at its disposal. We strongly caution against this. We stress that

the plans for carrying out such an act of sabotage uncovered and made public by the Russian intelligence services will not allow Mr. Zelenskyy or his Western guardians to claim that our country was involved in it.

On 11 and 12 February, the Russian armed forces carried out group strikes with the aid of precision weapons against facilities belonging to Ukraine's military-industrial complex and energy infrastructure facilities being used for military purposes. Workshops of enterprises producing unmanned aerial vehicles were put out of action; military airfields, fuel storage sites, temporary bases for foreign mercenaries, and clusters of troops and equipment of the Ukrainian armed forces were hit. This work will continue until the Kyiv regime's combat potential is neutralized.

To sum up. Our country is open to reasonable initiatives seeking to achieve, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the current crisis and that take into account Russia's legitimate security interests.

We repeat that there will be no "freeze" along the line of engagement. Russia is not interested in granting the Kyiv regime a truce that would allow it to rearm and build up strength so as to subsequently, with the help of NATO countries, set about posing new threats to the security of civilians. Nor will there be any exchange of territories, which is what the hapless strategists in Kyiv are talking about. The armed elements under the broad umbrella of the Ukrainian armed forces present on Russian territory will either be destroyed or expelled.

The unsuccessful experience of the Minsk agreements acts as a reliable safeguard in this context. On 12 February 2025, it was exactly ten years since the signing of the Minsk Package of Measures endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. This document was used by the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors not in the interests of peace, but rather to buy time to militarize Ukraine and prepare for combat operations against Russia. Those directly involved in the drawing-up of the Package of Measures – both in Ukraine itself and in Germany and France, whose leaders were co-authors and guarantors of the implementation of the Minsk agreements – have openly admitted this. In the truest sense of the word, we were faced with large-scale diplomatic "trickery" and with attempts to hoodwink Russia and the international community. There are also questions in this regard for the OSCE, whose Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine was meant to impartially observe and report on the security situation and facilitate political dialogue on the ground. However, it completely failed in its mandated tasks.

We stress that any potential options for a settlement should be based on geopolitical realities and aimed at bringing about a sustainable and fair peace, with account taken of the interests of all sovereign States, including of course Russia. As long as this approach is not met with due understanding, the special operation will be continued by military means until all the tasks set have been accomplished.

We repeat that Russia is convinced that a settlement of the Ukrainian conflict can be reached through diplomatic means. But only if Russia's legitimate interests are taken into account.

Thank you for your attention.