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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1482nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 July 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

On 14 June, during a meeting with senior officials from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, proposed a number of specific initiatives that would contribute to a real and sustainable settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. At present, these proposals have been irresponsibly ignored by the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors, who have chosen the path of escalation and continuation of the armed confrontation in an effort to inflict some kind of “strategic defeat” on Russia. The ringleader of the Kyiv regime has not only opposed any form of ceasefire, but also declared his desire to launch offensive actions, for which he would like to equip no fewer than 14 brigades of the Ukrainian armed forces with weapons.

Outgoing NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg admitted that the focus of the NATO summit in Washington, D.C., from 9 to 11 July was on arms supplies and military training for the Kyiv regime. Moreover, he made it clear that the NATO leadership was not interested in a ceasefire in Ukraine or in recognizing the current geopolitical realities. The Alliance is also counting on being able to use Ukrainians as a tool to contain Russia’s development, even after the end of the Ukrainian conflict.

NATO representatives are no longer reticent about their role in the current events. They already openly acknowledge that the North Atlantic Alliance is using the territory of Ukraine for an armed struggle against Russia. In an interview on “Face the Nation” on CBS, NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg said that the leaders of Russia and China, quote, “want NATO, the United States to fail in Ukraine”. By speaking in such terms, the leadership of the Alliance actually confirms the direct involvement of the United States of America and NATO in the Ukrainian conflict.

Ordinary Ukrainians have long understood the role assigned to the people of Ukraine and all its resources in NATO’s confrontation with Russia. They are not willing to fight to keep the NATO puppets in power in Kyiv. It is no coincidence that another “tightening of the screws” on mobilization began on 1 July. From now on, a number of additional categories of the population, including women in certain professions, have lost their deferment from serving in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces. Over 400,000 people have

been identified as draft evaders. Ukrainians continue to flee in order not to take part in the fratricidal armed conflict being pushed on them by the sponsors of the Kyiv regime from the NATO capitals.

For example: on 21 June, buses carrying 47 people aged 18 and over were stopped while trying to proceed to Moldova. A further 24 people were stopped on 4 July. They all confirmed that they had paid over 12,000 euros each to fixers to try to arrange their way out of the country. In total, this is roughly the amount of money that the Kyiv regime's Western sponsors plan to spend during the year beginning on 1 July 2024 on an extrabudgetary project entitled "Strengthening co-ordinated and analytical approaches to the investigation of serious crimes, in particular those involving missing children" under the Support Programme for Ukraine, as it is called. The plans announced by the Kyiv regime to strengthen control over the whereabouts and movements in Ukraine of persons aged between 16 and 60 are also unsurprising. Overall, the amount of money paid by fugitives to leave Ukraine has long surpassed the 6 million euros provided by Western countries for the extrabudgetary project "Preventing and responding to trafficking in human beings amid the humanitarian crisis related to the war in Ukraine".

According to Ukrainian law enforcement agencies, every day at least 200 people try to cross the border between Ukraine and EU countries illegally (it is almost impossible to do so legally). That is about 1,500 a week, about 6,000 a month. These are only preliminary, extremely conservative estimates. It is not uncommon for wives to sneak their husbands out with forged documents. In view of the position of some of these people in the power structure of the Kyiv regime and the Ukrainian economy, this has provoked high-profile political scandals. There is no need to look far for examples: everyone in this room, especially representatives of the Kyiv regime, understands very well what we are talking about.

The news that the trial of Czech mercenary Filip Siman, who fought on the side of the Ukrainian neo-Nazi battalion Carpathian Sich, had begun in a Prague court was barely reported in the Western media. He told the court how he had witnessed and even participated in a number of crimes by Ukrainian neo-Nazi groups in the city of Bucha, Kyiv region, immediately after the Russian military withdrew from there. Among the crimes by Ukrainian militants he gave evidence of were looting, extrajudicial executions and sexual violence. The Czech justified his actions in Ukraine by saying that he wanted to improve his personal financial situation.

Have these candid confessions of violations of international humanitarian law made in court by a Czech mercenary been a cause of concern for representatives of Western countries? Or the focus of some extrabudgetary Support Programme for Ukraine? Or have they given rise to a public comment by the Maltese Chairmanship or at least by someone from the leadership of the OSCE's relevant bodies? Not at all. On the contrary, these crimes are being deliberately covered up in order to whitewash the Kyiv regime and its thugs.

The New York Times recently published an article in which the German mercenary Kaspar Gross, who had served as a medic for one of the Kyiv regime's foreign mercenary units (the "Chosen Company"), also described direct violations of the norms of international humanitarian law by his commanders. These include the shooting of unarmed prisoners and wounded Russian soldiers. Again, one has to wonder whether this has come to the attention of the OSCE leadership. The answer is no, because under pressure from Western sponsors of the Kyiv regime, OSCE functionaries continue to gloss over even the most obvious cases of violations of international humanitarian law by citizens of NATO countries.

Our opponents have also attempted to peddle a monstrous cover-up in connection with the events of 8 July, when the Russian Aerospace Forces launched a successful group strike with long-range precision weapons against defence industry facilities and air bases of the Kyiv regime. We would point out the evident effectiveness of these strikes, as confirmed by objective monitoring data from the field that has been made

public. A number of military production facilities and design offices, and depots containing Western armaments and equipment were hit. One of the main targets was the military-industrial complex's Artyom plant. A video of multiple hits on its workshops eloquently refutes the argument of the Kyiv regime's propaganda that all missiles were shot down or that the Russian strikes targeted civilian infrastructure facilities.

There is another noteworthy episode that confirms either the glaring military inefficiency or the malicious use of NATO-supplied anti-aircraft missiles by Ukrainian air defence teams to damage civilian infrastructure. Numerous published photos and video footage from Kyiv clearly confirm that the Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital complex was destroyed when a missile launched from a NASAMS surface-to-air missile system, which was deployed within the city in violation of international humanitarian law, landed on it. Evidence that it was a NASAMS surface-to-air missile includes not only the appearance and size of the projectile, tail section and fin, but also the shrapnel damage to surrounding objects typical of anti-aircraft missiles after the fragmentation of the warhead. They could be seen on cars parked outside the children's hospital complex and on the walls of the hospital building. We would like to remind you that Norway is the most active supplier of NASAMS systems to the Kyiv regime.

Russia is genuinely concerned about the casualties produced by any weapons on our soil, especially the NATO air defence systems, which were used unsuccessfully and ineptly on 8 July in Kyiv. All of the victims on both sides of the line of engagement are our people, with whom we have been, are and will remain related.

We firmly reject the logic of the Maltese Chairmanship of organizing a special meeting of the Permanent Council on 9 July to please a known group of anti-Russian leaning States, at which unfounded and unsubstantiated accusations were made against Russia. It was strange to see the crocodile tears of representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and other Western countries responsible for the suffering and deaths of thousands of children in the conflicts they have unleashed over the past decades, most notably in the Middle East. In the past, they were in no way discomfited, for example, by the statements of former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who publicly promised in 2014 that children in Ukraine would go to school, while in Donbas – to quote verbatim – “they will be sitting in cellars”. Now representatives of Western countries are pretending on the OSCE platform to be some kind of champions of children's rights. Their selective approach, their attempts to divide human suffering into deserving and undeserving of attention depending on the geopolitical goals and objectives of Western elites, are simply repugnant.

During the past three weeks alone, the shelling of Russian territory using NATO weapons has resulted in more than 470 civilian casualties, 37 of whom were killed, including six children, while a further 440 people, including 127 minors, were injured to various degrees. The Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors are silent about all these victims, including the children who died on 23 June on a beach in Sevastopol. The OSCE leadership is also shamefully silent about these crimes.

The logic behind the convening of the special meeting of the Permanent Council on 9 July is clear. On the eve of the NATO summit, they wanted to achieve the necessary emotional effect, to rally the NATO ranks and to lay the groundwork for the continuation and intensification of arms deliveries to the Kyiv regime. The US representative made no secret of all this at the special meeting.

In closing, we emphasize that a just and sustainable settlement of the Ukrainian conflict could be achieved on the basis of considered and serious work on the initiatives of the Russian President announced on 14 June. Our people have no historical, economic or any other reasons to forswear their indissoluble ancestral ties to everything connected with Ukraine. Nor is there any basis for sacrificing the interests of our

State's security and stability for the sake of the neocolonial aspirations 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.

Thank you for your attention.