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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1452nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 November 2023

**On the ongoing crimes by the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policy of the
Western alliance countries to exacerbate tensions**

Mr. Chairperson,

It was ten years ago, on 21 November 2013, that the tragic and in many ways pivotal historical events began on the Maidan in Kyiv and in a number of other cities in Ukraine. They followed the sovereign decision of the democratically elected legitimate leadership of Ukraine, led by President Viktor Yanukovich, to postpone the signing of the Association Agreement with the European Union, a delay that was needed in order to conduct a thorough analysis of the possible negative consequences for the Ukrainian economy.

The protests, which began as spontaneous gatherings of individual groups of the public, very quickly took an organized form, and instantly received encouragement and political support from abroad. The interference by top Western leaders in Ukraine's internal affairs was quite presumptuous. The Maidan meeting was accompanied by the seizure of government and municipal institutions and attacks on law enforcement officers, public officials and ordinary citizens.

In just three months, the actions escalated into an armed insurgency culminating in a coup d'état against a backdrop of far-right slogans on 21 and 22 February 2014. The mediation of Western countries in organizing dialogue between the legitimate authorities and the radicals from the Maidan, who, as time has shown, placed themselves outside the law, was not meant to facilitate the achievement of a political settlement.

Already on the day of the coup d'état, the West effectively welcomed the radical opposition's violation of the agreements worked out with its participation. The goal was different – to ensure the removal, politically and even physically, of Ukraine's leadership, which was inconvenient to the West, by any means, including violating the law and the Constitution. A veritable armed hunt was launched for President Yanukovich, his associates and supporters, many of whom barely escaped with their lives. All this is still referred to in the West as “the triumph of democracy” and “the victory of civil society”.

Over the past ten years, the Kyiv regime's foreign sponsors have done everything possible to ensure that Ukraine is talked about as a failed State. The so-called "bright path to freedom and prosperity" promised to the inhabitants of Ukraine has in fact turned out to be just a ploy to involve Ukrainians in the West's geopolitical plans against our country. Ukraine has never become a member of the European Union because most Europeans do not want it there. For its part, the Association Agreement signed by the post-Maidan authorities is not in fact working. But what has Ukraine given up in return?

The bloody events of November 2013 to February 2014 were called the "Revolution of Honour and Dignity" by the Maidan myth-makers and their Western patrons. Let us see what this "honour and dignity" looks like ten years later.

First, the loss of Ukraine's independence and status as an international subject. As a result of the Maidan, a puppet regime has been established, which is utterly dependent on Western countries. Today, people have no qualms about saying this openly. On 20 November, Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) deputy speaker Oleksandr Korniyenko said that members of parliament could not pass laws without co-ordinating them with Western partners from the United States of America and the European Union, as the country "depends on their financial support". A little earlier, US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen publicly emphasized: "Ukraine is entirely dependent on outside support".

Those who try to blame everything on supposed Russian aggression are blatantly lying. In the run-up to the Ukraine Reform Conference in Vilnius, as it was called, back in June 2021, in an attempt to gain favour with foreign sponsors and without asking permission from their citizens, Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba publicly asked: "How many more reforms do you need?" In essence, they were selling off the remnants of sovereignty, ready to do whatever they were told.

Secondly, a sharp rise in radical nationalism and neo-Nazism, the deepening of the divisions in society and a steady deterioration of the situation of the population. Today, Ukraine is a *de facto* totalitarian neo-Nazi regime that does not tolerate dissent. Political opposition has been suppressed. Many public figures have been killed in assassination attempts organized with the participation of the Kyiv regime's intelligence services. The organization of terror and political murders – both inside and outside Ukraine itself – has become the "new normal". There is no freedom of speech and assembly, and undesirable media outlets are blocked. Hatred towards various ethnic groups is encouraged and cultivated.

Unending deception of ordinary Ukrainians is a feature of daily life. While campaigning for elections under the slogan of ensuring peace, in fact the post-Maidan leaders have chosen war every time. A war waged against its own population, its neighbours, history, culture, the Russian language, monuments, place names, traditional religious confessions and common sense. The promises of direct democracy in the form of referendums on major public issues have never been fulfilled. The population has been effectively excluded from State decisions.

A course has been set to eradicate everything Russian that is historically intrinsic to Ukraine. This policy is accompanied by declarations in the spirit of the statement made on 20 November by the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Ruslan Stefanchuk: "There are no Russian national minorities in Ukraine now, nor can there be." So where have the Russians, who according to the 2001 Ukrainian census made up at least 17 per cent of the population, gone? Have they been killed, expelled or forced to seek protection under Russian jurisdiction?

We note that the OSCE leadership and the relevant OSCE structures regard all this with indifference. They prefer to form a rosy picture of some of the successes by the Kyiv regime on the way to democratization and the rule of law, even when the opposite is quite obvious. This disconnection from

reality has a negative impact on the credibility of the OSCE and its institutions. Over the past few years, they have not voiced any clear criticism of the Kyiv regime, nor have they taken a single effective step to rectify the situation.

Thirdly, the elimination of law and order. The public still does not know the whole truth about the shootings on the Maidan and many other terrible crimes by the radical nationalists, such as the burning of peaceful supporters of federalization in Odessa's Trade Union House on 2 May 2014.

The law enforcement and judicial systems and the processes for the selection of judges have been placed under the control of foreigners. When he was Vice President in 2016, the current US President Joe Biden publicly bragged that he gave Ukraine six hours to fire Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, who dared to investigate dubious links between the Ukrainian leadership and the private natural gas company Burisma, whose board included Biden's son Hunter.

It is obvious now that control over the law enforcement system was used to secure political reprisals. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the Chairman of the Supreme Court (!) of Ukraine, Vsevolod Kniaziev, was arrested on 15 May this year after being caught red-handed receiving bribes amounting to 2.7 million US dollars. This is a direct and telling result of the many years of incompetent external administration imposed on Ukraine by the West, which has so diligently sought to build up a system of quite useless anti-corruption bodies there.

Finally, all these years NATO countries have been systematically turning Ukraine into a military bridgehead for creating and multiplying threats to the security and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation. They have been encouraging the growth of neo-Nazism and arming militant nationalists. They have approved the military actions of the Kyiv regime against civilians who did not agree with the outcome of the coup d'état. They have facilitated the sabotage of peace initiatives aimed at ending the armed violence. Subsequently, the leaders of the Western countries involved in the events in Ukraine admitted that they saw the Minsk agreements endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 not as a means of achieving a long-term settlement but as an opportunity to give the Kyiv regime time to build up its military capabilities and prepare to intensify combat operations, both inside and outside the country.

By depriving Ukraine of its sovereignty and turning the country into a tool of aggressive Western anti-Russian policy, the West has explicitly sought to create unacceptable threats from Ukrainian territory to the statehood and territorial integrity of Russia as a whole.

All this only confirms the justification and validity of our country's special military operation to protect the civilian population against the criminal actions of the Kyiv regime. Zelenskyy's formations, trained and armed by NATO countries, cannot and will not be able to achieve the desired goals of undermining regional security. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, in November the Ukrainian armed forces' losses reached 14,000 killed or wounded and over 1,800 units of various weapons and equipment destroyed.

Russia has repeatedly stressed that it is ready to complete the tasks of denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine and the elimination of threats posed by NATO countries from Ukrainian territory both by political and diplomatic methods and by continuing the special military operation. There is no doubt that all of the operation's objectives will be achieved. The sooner this is understood by the sponsors of the bankrupt Kyiv regime, the better it will be both for the Ukrainians themselves and for the pan-European space as a whole.

Thank you for your attention.