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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1503rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 December 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

The Russian military is firmly in possession of the strategic initiative along the entire line of engagement. In the year 2024 now drawing to a close, more than 4,500 square kilometres of territory, on which over 190 population centres are situated, have been rid of the presence of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations.

Despite the Kyiv regime's exertions, including exertions of a terroristic nature, effective actions continue to be undertaken to degrade its combat capacity. This year, the task in question has been facilitated by massive missile and drone strikes on energy infrastructure facilities used by the regime to meet its military needs. According to data from the Russian Ministry of Defence, the Ukrainian armed forces have lost 58,000 pieces of armament and equipment in the course of 2024, including 18,000 foreign-made items. The rate of advance of our military personnel is, on average, 30 square kilometres per day.

Over the past few years, the Kyiv regime has received more than 70 shipments of military supplies from the current US Government and, additionally, a few dozen such consignments from the United Kingdom and the European Union countries. Ever new restrictions of an economic nature continue to be imposed on our country. However, all these actions have not brought victorious results for the Kyiv regime, nor have they helped the NATO countries to realize their geopolitical interests on Russian soil.

As they suffer defeat on the battlefield and abandon their positions helter-skelter, Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters are dealing brutally with the local residents. They are, in effect, seeking to leave nothing but scorched earth behind them. Testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses to crimes like those committed in the city of Selidovo in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) were made public on 17 December during the presentation of the latest report by the International Public Tribunal on the Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis. Mass shootings of civilians were carried out in that population centre from 22 October 2024 onwards. More than a hundred people were killed, many of them dispatched by a shot to the head or the chest. A great many victims were women and elderly people. Children were among those killed. Numerous instances have been

recorded of torture being used, of pillaging and destruction of the property of civilians who protested against the Ukrainian armed forces setting up military positions inside their dwellings.

Evidence of similar crimes is also available for other population centres from which the Ukrainian armed forces have been dislodged, such as Avdeyevka (DPR), liberated in March 2024, or the village of Plyokhovo (Kursk region), which in December 2024 was purged of Ukrainian neo-Nazis.

The facts gathered by Ambassador-at-Large Rodion Miroshnik from the Russian Foreign Ministry, by the International Public Tribunal on the Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis, and by the law enforcement authorities of the Russian Federation will be given a proper legal assessment – those responsible will be held accountable.

Madam Chairperson,

We stress that the special military operation being conducted by Russia is a forced measure carried out in self-defence in full compliance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The current state of affairs is the consequence of the NATO countries having for many years incited the puppet regime in Kyiv to engage in aggressive actions against the residents of Donbass and everything connected with our country, with our people, culture and history.

The criminal actions by the leadership of the Kyiv regime, which has sacrificed Ukraine and the Ukrainians at the altar of the West's neocolonial interests, have led to a huge loss of life and tremendous destruction of civilian infrastructure. We note that, over the past two years and ten months, Mr. Zelenskyy's armed formations have lost around 1 million personnel, including 560,000 in this year alone. The Ukrainian armed forces' losses in the course of their adventure in the Kursk region alone have amounted to more than 40,000 personnel. All these citizens of Ukraine – people bound with every fibre of their being to pan-Russian culture – were ruthlessly packed off by the NATO puppets to be slaughtered.

Out of all the countries in the world, Russia has taken in the greatest number of refugees from Ukraine: over the past few years, our country has granted shelter to some 6 million people. An additional more than 7 million Ukrainians continue to stay in various EU countries, but also in the United States and Canada. At least 1.2 million military-aged men have illegally exited Ukraine according to estimates by the relevant committee of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament). They all have no desire to fight for the sake of keeping the Zelenskyy regime in power.

The tragedy of Ukraine is a result of the criminal course pursued by the regime in Kyiv and by its "Anglo-Saxon" handlers, of the Kyiv regime's refusal to fulfil its treaty obligations, to seek a peaceful settlement of disputes and to engage in effective diplomacy. What is happening is also in no small measure due to miscalculations on the regime's part when weighing up its own capabilities, and to an inadequate perception of the emerging geopolitical realities.

There is no doubt that prolongation of the hostilities is today the only way that "President" Zelenskyy, whose term has expired, and his acolytes can be kept in power. It is not for nothing that over in Kyiv they regularly make statements about their being uninterested in a ceasefire. Just the other day there, they once again publicly rejected measures aimed at military de-escalation and refused to go through with a major exchange of detained persons. While holding forth about their striving for peace, those in Kyiv have already several times repudiated initiatives of a humanitarian nature intended to reduce the bloodshed and stabilize the regional situation. At the same time as touting Mr. Zelenskyy's phoney "peace formula", the head of his office, Andrii Yermak, speaking to the Suspilne television channel on 13 December, stated bluntly that in Kyiv there was "no readiness" to embark on any negotiations whatsoever regarding a

settlement. They talk there of their intention to address quite different tasks, namely to build up and make use of military capabilities, that is, to invest in further militarization until the resources employed to fuel the conflict from abroad have dried up.

At present, our opponents from among the ranks of the Kyiv regime's Western handlers are banking on the hostilities being dragged out yet again, so as to bring things to the point of a direct clash of arms between NATO and Russia. Before power changes hands in Washington, the outgoing US Government is rushing to "beef up" Ukraine in military terms to the tune of an additional 6.5 billion dollars or so. The EU countries are planning to earmark a similar sum for weapons that will go to Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters.

Instead of working towards a settlement and investing in peace, the choice has been made to steer a course of armed escalation and, what is more, at any price. In a speech that he recently gave at the invitation of Carnegie Europe, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte called for military spending in the EU countries to be ramped up at the expense of funds earmarked for social benefits and pensions. The fact that the military preparations of the North Atlantic Alliance and other suchlike measures have a blatantly anti-Russian thrust is not even being hidden by NATO.

Madam Chairperson,

The year drawing to a close has been marked by the politicized and biased approaches of the Chairmanship and relevant OSCE structures when it comes to Ukrainian matters. Propagandistic screeds published with funding from a number of Western countries continue to be churned out, their aim being not to provide an objective analysis of what is going on, but to vilify and demonize Russia. We again heard about some of these "works" in this room today.

In that regard, the OSCE leadership has not deemed as worthy of its attention a single instance (we must emphasize: not a single one) of Russian citizens, including children, being killed and injured by the Ukrainian armed forces' shelling. Not a single terrorist attack by the Kyiv regime has been condemned, not a single act of sabotage at Russian social welfare facilities and critical civilian infrastructure facilities. No stand has been taken against the numerous violations of the norms of international humanitarian law with regard to Russian prisoners of war and detained civilians, or against the many other infamies by the Zelenskyy regime and its sponsors. They were all simply hushed up out of political considerations in an attempt to whitewash the criminal Kyiv regime. All this is obvious not merely in the corridors of diplomacy – ordinary civilians in the conflict-affected territories cannot fail to notice it either.

The attempts to turn our common Organization into a tool for advancing the interests of a group of NATO countries in relation to Ukraine are destroying what little is left of the OSCE's credibility. It is clear that, should such approaches be maintained, the OSCE will not be able to play any role whatsoever in a potential settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. What is called for in the coming year is a reconsideration of the aforementioned approaches in the work of the OSCE leadership.

The imminent new year 2025 opens up some prospects for a solution to the Ukrainian conflict. The ensuing changes must bring genuine politico-military détente closer, be of a universal nature, take existing geopolitical realities into account, ensure that the objectives of the special military operation are implemented, be sustainable and rule out the possibility of Ukrainian territory being made use of to project hybrid threats against sovereign States in our region. For now, though, our country is continuing the special operation by military means until the goals set have been fully accomplished.

One last thing. In Moscow on 17 December, the Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov, and his

assistant, Major Ilya Polikarpov, were killed near the entrance to an apartment building as the result of a terrorist attack planned, financed and organized from abroad. Again, this terrorist attack, like many others, is being disgracefully hushed up by the OSCE leadership.

Very soon the perpetrator was apprehended – the citizen of a post-Soviet republic, who revealed that he had been recruited by the Kyiv regime's intelligence services. In return for committing that crime he had been promised a reward of 100,000 US dollars and the chance to leave to take up residency in an EU country. By the way, this is not the first time that the perpetrator of a terrorist attack detained in our country has noted how the Kyiv regime is referring to the European Union as a safe haven for terrorists who have committed crimes in Russia and promising them the means for getting into EU territory and obtaining legal status there.

We would particularly note that the individuals involved in organizing the aforementioned terrorist attack will be hunted down and severely punished.

Thank you for your attention.