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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1396th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 October 2022

In response to the address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Ms. Cederfelt,

We were very disappointed to hear your biased assessments regarding Ukraine. They contain plenty of emotions and histrionics. There was not even remotely an attempt to make sense of events in a comprehensive manner, to examine the causes of what has happened. That would be useful, at the very least to understand wherein the path to a settlement lies – a settlement that you and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, at whose helm you stand, could help to achieve. But for some reason you stubbornly refuse to do that. Today you again offered nothing at all save exacerbation of the confrontation.

To be honest, after hearing you speak, we could not help asking whose statement was it that had just been delivered. Was it really a statement by the head of a distinguished international entity for which the tenets of diplomacy and true parliamentarianism should continue to be axiomatic, namely to listen, hear and then engage in argument-based discussion in a proper manner?

As for the hackneyed clichés and fake stories replete with accusations regarding “indiscriminate missile strikes on civilian infrastructure”, “thousands of civilians buried under rubble”, “deportations”, “torture, pillage and looting”, and so on – without any evidence whatsoever being provided – you need not have taken the trouble, for we are regaled with them every week at meetings of the Permanent Council by a specific group of participating States. They are based on templates that are by now obvious – templates that have long been put into play in various parts of the world. By giving utterance to such approaches and assessments you are demonstrating that your aim is not to solve problems but to artificially exacerbate confrontation at the OSCE. The fragmentary and one-sided manner in which you present information contributes to this.

For example, you are not interested in how many civilians the post-Maidan nationalist regime in Kyiv killed in Donbas in the course of eight years. Or who organized and who carried out the armed and bloody coup d'état in February 2014. Or who shortly thereafter, in May of that year, burned scores of peaceful protesters alive in Odessa and finished them off with a shot to the head. Or who opened fire on a crowd of unarmed supporters of federalization in Mariupol. Or who tried to physically exterminate the inhabitants of Crimea and Donbas by imposing a blockade and depriving them of access to water, food,

heating and electricity, medicines and social services. Or who trained guns at civilians in what was then south-eastern Ukraine, including children, women and elderly people, who perished merely because they rejected the “Maidan ideology” and had no intention of glorifying the Nazi accomplice Bandera. Or who, standing at the presidential podium, promised these people that they would “have no work” and that their children would “sit in cellars”. Or who constructed, with the foreign handlers’ approval, a *de facto* totalitarian regime in a neo-Nazi mould and began imposing a wholesale ban on everything Russian that is historically part of Ukraine – on the Russian language, literature and culture – so as to forcibly reshape the identity of the country’s inhabitants. You are not interested in who is trying today to take revenge on people for seeking to protect their way of life, preserve their close ties with Russia and be together with Russia, and in who is causing thousands of shells to rain down on them – this time, though, shells manufactured in NATO countries.

We must emphasize that all of the aforementioned happened long before the commencement of the Russian special operation, whose start date, 24 February, you have for some reason defined as a reference point after which everything began to fall apart. No, everything began to disintegrate much earlier. And it happened because a number of NATO countries had consciously and long before – I stress, long before – the events of February this year opted for a path of confrontation. For this reason, we all find ourselves today in the midst of a grave security crisis in the pan-European space.

By the way, you elegantly avoid mentioning the topic of NATO’s assimilation of Ukrainian territory over many years, including shipments of large quantities of offensive weapons and the training of members of neo-Nazi battalions.

Has it not occurred to you that the children of Donbas, like the children of all Russia, simply want to live in security and not have to listen to constant death threats from Ukrainian neo-Nazis, who year in, year out, organize, with the Kyiv regime’s assistance, torchlit processions under slogans such as “Stab the Moskals [Muscovites]”? Especially from those neo-Nazis who in the country next door so easily become high-ranking officials, generals and commanders-in-chief sporting a swastika on their wrist (Valerii Zaluzhnyi). Has it not occurred to you that the children of Russia do not want to hear crazy threats to “dismember Russia” mouthed by the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of a neighbouring country or by the head of its military intelligence? Or that they simply want to be able to travel safely to a children’s camp in the south of their country without fearing that they could be killed as a result of a bridge being blown up in a terrorist attack organized by that neighbouring country’s intelligence services? Or that they want to be able to study, think and create freely and go on to engage in public life without fearing that because of their views they could be blown to pieces in a car by the Kyiv regime’s intelligence services, as happened to Darya Dugina in the very heart of Russia, right before the eyes of her father?

This series of specific examples could be added to endlessly. It is hard to believe that you are so poorly informed as to not be aware of the real crimes committed by the Kyiv regime. But you remained silent about them, as though all these victims and all this torment and suffering simply did not exist for you. You evidently consider that regime to be democratic and simply do not notice all those aspects – there was no criticism of the Ukrainian Government to be heard from you today. At the same time, you set about pompously discoursing on a so-called “blatant attack [by Russia] against ... human rights and fundamental freedoms”. How can you claim the slightest ounce of objectivity?

Ms. Cederfelt,

You spoke today about the importance of using the OSCE as a platform for dialogue. In this regard, I should like to draw your attention to the problem of Russian participants’ access to events of the

Parliamentary Assembly. As is well known, the imposition of unilateral restrictive measures against the members of the Permanent Delegation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation prevented it from participating in the annual session in Birmingham. By the look of things, the situation could take a similar turn in connection with the preparations for the Assembly's autumn meeting in Warsaw. This would be a further egregious violation of the Assembly's Tbilisi Declaration of 2016 and its resolution on unrestricted access of members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly attending official OSCE events and other parliamentary activities.

We are obliged to remind you that in this document the Assembly requested the participating States "to abide by their commitment to guarantee to all members of the Parliamentary Assembly the freedom to attend any official OSCE events and other parliamentary activities by issuing any visas or travel permits required for entry into their territories for at a minimum the duration of [the] above-mentioned activities, unless otherwise contrary to the principles of international law".

We ask you directly: what efforts are you personally undertaking when it comes to Poland providing guarantees that it will fulfil its obligations to ensure that the members of the Russian delegation can enter its territory unhindered and to provide for adequate security arrangements during their stay? Do you not have a feeling that deliberately obstructing the normal functioning of dialogue formats is not conducive to multilateral co-operation, improvement of the situation and rapprochement of positions? How does the practice of discriminating against Russian participants square with your appeal to the Ministers in Łódź regarding the need to support the OSCE and with your argument about the importance of rebuilding trust?

We look forward to a substantive response from you on the crux of the questions raised and to any comments that our Polish colleagues may wish to make.

Thank you for your attention.