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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1400th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 November 2022

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Mr. Chairperson,

Today we have again heard mendacious and groundless accusations against Russia. Unfortunately, the statements by the permanent representatives of countries from the Western alliance at the joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council yesterday were in a similar vein.

The gusto with which they go around bandying the pseudo-analytical findings of odious reports, together with false conclusions and one-sided narratives, is striking. In the past they have not shown even just a fraction of such zeal, namely, with regard to how the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist formations have since 2014 been committing monstrous crimes in Donbas affecting men, women and children. We should like to assure you that, since 2014, Russia has been thoroughly and consistently documenting the Kyiv regime's crimes. The perpetrators will be brought to justice.

The "champions" of human rights did not condemn, for example, the killing by the Ukrainian military of Kristina Zhuk and her ten-month-old daughter in Horlivka. We have also called many times for attention to be paid to the unlawful activities of the Ukrainian nationalist website Myrotvorets, where personal data of citizens is published, including that of minors. To date, personal information on hundreds of individuals, among whom are more than 300 children, has been posted on that site.

The representatives of Western countries are not bothered either by the documented instances of sexual violence against women perpetrated by nationalist groups in Donbas.

The Kyiv regime continues to launch strikes on civilian objects in Russian regions, namely, the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, including strikes with missiles carrying cluster munitions, the use of which is prohibited under international humanitarian law. Incidentally, again no one apart from Russia mentioned this yesterday either, when the topic of international humanitarian law in the OSCE area was being discussed. Instead, we were treated to a gutsy report by Poland on measures to assist the Kyiv regime and lengthy reflections by the German Permanent Representative about "Germany's feminist foreign policy".

As a result of strikes against civilian objects and convoys of refugees in the aforementioned regions of Russia, civilians are being killed every day, most of them women and children. The ramping up of arms supplies by the Western handlers of the Kyiv regime can only be regarded as complicity in the killing of civilians.

On 9 October, shocking footage from Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region spread around the world. It was posted by Maksym Zhorin, a member of the Ukrainian armed formations and former commander of the neo-Nazi Azov unit. It shows the bodies of executed civilians – women and men – being thrown into a ravine. All this points to an extrajudicial massacre of residents who were eliminated by Ukrainian neo-Nazis as part of so-called “mopping-up” operations in the city. We recall that the publication of evidence of these atrocities against the civilian population sparked an outcry almost everywhere except among the OSCE leadership.

The Ukrainian Nazis’ atrocities also continue in the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime. There are lots of videos circulating on the Internet in which one can see nationalists and even officers of the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies tying women to lamp posts, dousing them with *zelyonka* (brilliant green dye) and beating them with metal rods.

Nor did we hear any reaction to the murder near Moscow of the journalist and public figure Darya Dugina, which was organized by representatives of the Kyiv regime.

Mr. Chairperson,

The problem of violence against women continues to be relevant in other OSCE participating States as well. Despite the systematic work, issues pertaining to the women’s agenda have not been definitively resolved in a single country. The factors facilitating this state of affairs are well known, namely, an increase in racial and ethnic intolerance affecting women from national minorities and migrant women, violence by the law enforcement agencies in temporary detention centres for migrants, the high demand for “human wares” for sexual exploitation, the lowering of the age of consent, the posting of personal details about girls on abhorrent websites, and much more besides.

We should like to address separately the consequences of centuries of discrimination against indigenous women and girls and the continued existence of the phenomenon of forced sterilization in so-called democratic countries. Canada is sadly a case in point in this regard. In mid-July, the human rights committee of that country’s Senate published the second part of its report on the findings of an investigation, launched back in 2019, into instances of forced sterilization. As part of the preparation of the report, four meetings were held and 19 witnesses were heard, including nine survivors (mainly indigenous women). All the victims noted that their operations lacked free, prior and informed consent. Medical staff asked for consent forms to be signed at inappropriate times, threatened patients and misled them about the procedure and its effects.

There continue to be problems with regard to ensuring the rights of indigenous women in the United States of America as well. According to official data, more than 50 per cent of women from that demographic have been subjected to sexual violence. That is more than twice the national average. This has been repeatedly pointed out by individual non-governmental organizations and international organizations active in the field of human rights.

Mr. Chairperson,

Respect for the rights of women, the elimination of violence, combating discrimination based on sex and achieving gender equality remain priorities for Russia domestically and on the international stage. We take the position that at the national level a comprehensive approach is required to eliminate violence against women. Conditions must be created for their empowerment. We emphasize that a key prerequisite for the independence of women is the development of their economic potential, personal growth and professional qualifications. Moreover, the promotion of women should be conditional on their professional attributes, knowledge and experience, and not on the artificial imposition of quotas. It is also important to ensure the full participation of women in all spheres of life – public, political, economic, social and cultural.

In closing, we should like to stress that caution is called for when considering new concepts in our Organization, not least concepts related to issues bearing on the situation of women. The main criteria should be realism from the point of view of law enforcement practice, and compliance with States' international obligations.

Thank you for your attention.