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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1473rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 May 2024

The 2014 Basel Declaration: unfinished business

Madam Chairperson,

In 2014, the Ministerial Council adopted in Basel the Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism.

In many ways, that document is a landmark document. In addition to its important thematic focus, it tasks participating States with elaborating similar documents on combating Christianophobia and Islamophobia. We shall quote that provision: “We encourage the participating States to elaborate Ministerial Council Declarations on enhancing efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions.”

Unfortunately, the Basel tasking is celebrating its tenth anniversary only on paper. This is in spite of many years of persistent calls by some participating States, including Russia, to elaborate and adopt the aforementioned documents. In 2015, we were already close to finalizing those efforts. At that time, one participating State refused to join the consensus. It is regrettable that this commitment shortfall has existed in our Organization ever since. It is time to finally complete this unfinished business.

For the Russian Federation, the adoption of the Basel declarations will remain a major thematic priority. We hope that right-minded countries will also continue to support this initiative. It is time to stop trying to stall the fulfilment of the task at hand: it is not going anywhere, and its importance will only increase.

In this connection, we call upon the Maltese Chairmanship to take all necessary steps to accomplish the outstanding tasking. This is our common mission for the benefit of the OSCE, which it needs today more than ever.

Thank you for your attention.