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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1425th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 June 2023

On unacceptable steps by the OSCE leadership

Mr. Chairperson,

We are obliged to react to yet another instance in which a number of OSCE officials have grossly violated our Organization's established rules for preparing public pronouncements. On 26 May, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Bujar Osmani, Secretary General Helga Schmid, Parliamentary Assembly President Margareta Cederfelt and Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General Roberto Montella made an inappropriate statement accusing Russia of carrying out missile attacks on civilian objects in Ukraine. Such a step is unacceptable in terms of both its form and its essence.

As regards the form, we are dealing here with non-compliance with OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 485 of 28 June 2002 on OSCE statements and public information. It states there quite unequivocally that the statements and public outreach activities of heads of OSCE field operations and institutions must be in line with their mandates and should not be inconsistent with OSCE consensus positions.

Apart from this important procedural aspect, we note that the authors of the aforementioned statement clearly exceeded their mandate. As OSCE officials they cannot address appeals to participating States to "stop violating international law". They have not been tasked through any decisions of OSCE decision-making bodies with passing judgement on whether participating States are complying with or violating international law.

There is also a not inconsiderable moral aspect. The co-authors of that statement have forfeited any claim to "objectivity and impartiality" by completely disregarding the Kyiv regime's massive and gross violations of OSCE commitments and ignoring the punitive operation that it launched against the civilian population of Donbas as long ago as 2014 – an operation that has claimed numerous civilians, including women and children, as victims. They have not in any way condemned the Kyiv regime's terrorist methods, including public pronouncements by officials in Kyiv about their intentions in that regard.

The statement of 26 May testifies to an evident political bias on the part of its authors, which is exacerbating the crisis in the Organization and destroying what is left of its unifying principles. We shall draw practical conclusions from this.

Thank you for your attention.