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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1489th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 September 2024

**On co-operation with the OSCE Asian Partners**

Madam Chairperson,

We welcome the representatives of the Asian Partners for Co-operation to today's meeting of the Permanent Council. The importance of participating States' co-operation with this group of countries in all questions of comprehensive security was confirmed in the corresponding declaration adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Tirana on 4 December 2020.

Regular meetings of the informal Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation remain a key mechanism for maintaining links. We have always believed that the agenda of the Group's meetings should include the most pressing international issues of interest both to the participating States and to the Partners for Co-operation. Of course, the issues under consideration should be consistent with the mandate of the Organization.

In a complex geopolitical environment, the multidimensional factors involved in overcoming the increasing fragmentation of the global economy, and the growing cybersecurity and terrorism threats have gained prominence and require urgent consideration.

However, we regret to note that, year after year, the substantive content of the Group's work programme continues to deteriorate, the topics put forward for discussion are not a priority for either the participating States or the Partners for Co-operation themselves, and the Group's agenda is often formed on the basis of non-consensus approaches. The added "value" of such discussions at the OSCE tends towards zero.

Instead of this, a unifying agenda should be promoted, seeking common answers to global challenges. In our view, more attention should be paid to the problems of confidence-building and reducing the potential for conflict in the region, restoring trade and economic ties that have been severed, and strengthening transport connectivity of States and aligning integration processes in the Eurasian area.

The situation in Afghanistan requires particular attention today. The withdrawal of foreign contingents has provoked a sharp spike in politico-military tensions in the region and an increase in

transnational threats. We are ready to work with the Central Asian States and the Partners for Co-operation on updating the agenda, among other things with a view to forming a Greater Eurasian Partnership as a space of open, mutually beneficial and equal co-operation.

The annual OSCE Asian Conference is an important platform for working with the Partners for Co-operation. Last year, as a result of the refusal by the Polish authorities to engage in fully fledged dialogue and to take into account the interests of all participating States, the Permanent Council was unable reach agreement on the theme and agenda for such a conference, which deprived the event of its official status. We take note in that regard of the statement made by the representative of North Macedonia. We are ready to consider the documents mentioned and the agenda in particular, after which we will decide whether to join the consensus. We trust that the forthcoming forum will be organized in full compliance with our Organization's Rules of Procedure. We are willing to seek compromises on its agenda and organizational modalities in a constructive manner.

We look forward to renewed discussions on working out common responses to the evolving challenges in the interests of comprehensive security. All the necessary preconditions and solutions are in place.

Thank you for your attention.