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**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
1480th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 July 2024

On the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Madam Chairperson,

The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict was marked on 19 June. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 to raise awareness of this abhorrent phenomenon.

We regret that the efforts of the Western alliance countries have turned this sensitive issue into an instrument of unscrupulous political manipulation and a means of vilifying undesirable States. Russia has encountered this approach in the context of the special military operation in Ukraine. To that end, Western countries sponsor the compilation of countless lists, supposedly based on testimonies and usually unverifiable “facts”, and then reproduce them on international platforms. The Western alliance countries are seriously trying to present these completely unsubstantiated allegations and speculations as indisputable truths.

At the same time, the United States of America and the European Union turn a blind eye to the atrocities committed over the years by the regime under their charge in Kyiv. They are not embarrassed by the facts collected by international monitoring bodies, and there is no mention of the responsibility of Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s regime. On the contrary, they work systematically to hush up real cases of sexual violence by Ukrainian radicals committed against civilians in Donbas since 2014. The United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and other international institutions have published reports on such incidents in recent years. Such cases have also been identified in Ukrainian Government-controlled territories. This is not to mention instances of unlawful detention, torture, intimidation, ill-treatment and sexual violence, including coercion to force a confession or co-operation.

Madam Chairperson,

With reference to the topic under discussion today, we would be remiss not to mention a high-profile case that demonstrates the true nature of those who try to moralize and lecture others. We are referring to the actions of British military forces in Kenya. Public records show that, between 1965 and 2001, British soldiers committed several hundred offences against local women, including sexual violence, assault and even murder. The real numbers are probably much higher. We would remind you that this is far from the

first time that His Majesty's soldiers have been accused of war crimes. In 2022 there were reports of their illegal actions of a sexual nature in Afghanistan, and earlier in Iraq. It is worth noting that the perpetrators were never brought to justice. The French military is also known for using sexual violence as a weapon of war. There is ample evidence of these vile practices against girls and women in Algeria in the 1960s.

In short, it is good old-fashioned colonial domination, where "natives" have no rights. We have no illusions, but we should nevertheless like to call upon the representatives of Western countries to stop hushing up these egregious crimes.

Madam Chairperson,

The Russian Federation categorically condemns sexual violence in any form. There are no mitigating circumstances. Such offences must be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice. We believe that such law enforcement activities are the prerogative of national States, and that international organizations and civil society are called upon merely to complement those efforts.

We firmly believe that work to prevent and eradicate this evil should be systematic and all-encompassing, with due regard for its identified causes and origins. Targeted efforts to combat manifestations of sexual violence need to have long-lasting and sustainable results.

Thank you for your attention.