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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1502nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 December 2024

In connection with Human Rights Day

Madam Chairperson,

Every year on 10 December the international community celebrates Human Rights Day. On that momentous day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This is a unique document that established universal rights and acknowledged their equal value. The Declaration exercised a decisive influence on the formation of the international regime for the promotion and protection of human rights and on the evolution of international law as a whole.

The document remains more relevant than ever, particularly considering what is essentially a creeping rehabilitation of Nazism in Europe and the tendency of a number of Western countries to revise the outcome of the Second World War, including glorification of the Nazis and their local collaborators. Moreover, human rights are being used with increasing frequency by the “collective West” as a tool for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States. Alien neoliberal “values” are being imposed on members of the international community as a supposed universal basis for everyday life, while the historical, cultural and religious specificities of countries are not taken into account.

Unfortunately, the third “basket” of our Organization, once considered the OSCE’s calling card, is in profound crisis. This state of affairs did not come about yesterday. The disagreements among the participating States have been building up for years. The tendency of the “collective West” to impose the attitudes of one group of countries and ignore the legitimate concerns of others has ultimately led to the degradation of the entire human rights field. For many years now, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw has not taken place. Instead, the strategy has been to organize non-consensus ersatz events as a substitute for meaningful direct dialogue on the reasons for the woeful human rights situation in the OSCE area and on the search for a way out of this impasse. Sadly, we see no basis for the resumption of such dialogue.

With regard to the events in and around Ukraine, we should like to emphasize that the special military operation was a necessary measure that Russia was forced to take in particular as a result of the

systematic unpunished violations of the rights of that country's Russian-speaking population committed by the Kyiv regime and its handlers. After the armed coup d'état in Kyiv in February 2014, which was orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad, rampant neo-Nazi sentiments and the official integration of neo-Nazis into government and law-enforcement bodies, the killing of civilians and political opponents, the introduction of a total ban on people using their native language in various spheres of public life, and the persecution of the clergy and parishioners of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church are the "new normal" in Ukraine. This is not to mention the imposition of political censorship, the banning of media outlets, non-governmental organizations and national cultural citizens' associations, and many other violations. Ultimately this dire human rights situation in a former Soviet republic was made possible by the complete lack of response, if not the blessing, not only of the patrons of the Kyiv regime, but also of the executive structures in our Organization, most notably the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In that regard, we urge the new leadership of the ODIHR to finally start acting to ensure compliance with the existing mandate.

Madam Chairperson,

The Russian Federation advocates co-operation in the human rights sphere on the basis of the universally recognized principles and norms of international law and of constructive, equitable and respectful dialogue. Everything possible must be done to counter attempts at an unscrupulous interpretation of fundamental United Nations documents to serve the opportunistic interests of individual States. This is the key to ensuring that human rights once again become a unifying rather than a divisive factor in international relations and co-operation.

Thank you for your attention.