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PC.DEL/324/24
21 March 2024

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1466th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 March 2024

Presidential election in the Russian Federation

Madam Chairperson,

We should like to share information about the main outcomes of the election to determine the President of the Russian Federation that took place from 15 to 17 March this year.

Despite unprecedented external pressure and interference, more than 87 million Russian citizens in Russia and abroad demonstrated their firm civic stance and exercised their electoral rights. According to preliminary estimates by the Russian Central Election Commission, voter turnout stood at 77.44 per cent. That is a record figure in the entire history of presidential elections in our country.

Citizens in 28 regions were able to make use of the system for remote electronic voting. Overall, 4.4 million people took part in the online voting, that is, 94 per cent of the total number of voters registered in the system – such numbers are without precedent both in Russia and in the world as a whole. Despite the forced reduction in the number and staffing of Russia’s diplomatic missions in certain countries, the turnout at foreign polling stations was also most considerable, with over 383,000 people casting their votes there.

More than 333,000 observers appointed by the parties, candidates and civic chambers were at work during the Russian presidential election.

Accreditation was granted to 1,115 observers from 129 countries, who relied on a consensus-based, comprehensive methodology to carry out their work. They included observers from the missions deployed by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), along with ombudspersons and independent experts from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United States of America and other countries. This attests to how Russia is implementing in good faith its international commitments, including those under paragraph 8 of the CSCE Copenhagen Document of 1990.

The foreign observers visited more than 1,250 polling stations in 38 of Russia's constituent entities. They went on to give a positive assessment of the voting exercise, pointing to the high degree of openness and transparency of the electoral process, its lawfulness, democratic nature and technological sophistication.

Let us cite some concrete examples. CIS Deputy Secretary General Ilhom Nematov, who headed the CIS observer mission, noted that the election was "free and open" and that "the casting and counting of ballots took place in a calm, organized manner." The observers deployed by the CIS did not record any irregularities that could have had an impact on the outcome of the vote. Equally high praise was given by the Secretary-General of the SCO, Zhang Ming, who headed the SCO observer mission: "The work of the electoral commissions was distinguished by openness and transparency ... The election was in line with Russia's national legislation and its international commitments."

The members of the mission deployed by the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly also reached similar conclusions. In their final comments they noted "the high professional level of preparation of the election" and "its free and fair nature".

The election was likewise assessed positively by the international observers invited by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and by those invited by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Following the processing of 100 per cent of the reports of the local electoral commissions, the results indicate that Vladimir Putin obtained the most votes, namely 87.28 per cent of the vote. This election outcome compellingly demonstrates the firm nationwide support for the President of the Russian Federation and for the course of his foreign policy. The Heads of State or Government of many countries around the world, including several OSCE participating States, have congratulated Mr. Putin on his convincing victory. We are grateful to them for their kind words and warm wishes.

Thank you for your attention.