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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1487th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 September 2024

On the early parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan

Madam Chairperson,

On 1 September this year, early elections to the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan were held. According to the Central Electoral Commission, they were won by the ruling party Yeni Azərbaycan (New Azerbaijan), headed by the country's President, Ilham Aliyev.

Around 12,000 local observers and 589 international observers representing 51 organizations from 69 countries, including Russia, monitored the elections. The observation missions deployed by the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation found the elections to have been transparent, reliable and democratic and to have been organized in accordance with the requirements of national legislation.

This notwithstanding, prejudiced and subjective assessments were once again to be heard from the Western camp and international entities affiliated to it – assessments that do not correspond to the real picture of the democratic process in Azerbaijan.

The verdict of the joint mission deployed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which also took part in the monitoring, stands out, as usual, for its exceptional bias. No wonder – that is how they always conduct themselves when a country “east of Vienna” is involved. Their task was evidently not to provide an objective assessment of the electoral process. They had a different unattainable goal before them, namely to dig up non-existent “gold standards” and, in the event of drawing a blank, to try to discredit the electoral process and related areas. However, the observers sent by Russia through the ODIHR did not record any instances of people's electoral rights being grossly violated. The joint mission's report thus confirms yet again the acute need to establish common criteria for assessing electoral processes in the OSCE area.

Madam Chairperson,

Russia congratulates our Azerbaijani friends on having successfully organized this expression of the people's will, the outcomes of which testify to the widespread popular support for the policy direction and

socio-economic transformations being implemented by the leadership of Azerbaijan. We trust that, in consonance with the alliance relationship between our countries, there will continue to be close and constructive co-operation between the new body of members of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Thank you for your attention.