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PC.DEL/581/23
4 May 2023

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE 1421st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 May 2023

On the presentation of the report on Russia under the Moscow Mechanism

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the report on children prepared under the Moscow Mechanism. We note that, this time, the Western alliance countries have cynically chosen to use the topic of children's rights as a tool for exerting political pressure. We regret that the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has again joined this unscrupulous venture, albeit in a "technical" capacity. Although, alas, we are not surprised by this.

This has nothing to do with having any real concern for the fate of children, of course. If the delegations who invoked the Moscow Mechanism were that interested in the subject, they would be scrupulously examining the official data rather than manipulating such a sensitive issue. For example, the materials from the press conference given by Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia on 4 April. Or her speech at the United Nations Security Council's informal Arria-formula meeting on children and armed conflict on 5 April, which also contained exhaustive first-hand information, statistics on children evacuated from the zone of hostilities and data on their current situation. We will distribute these materials. We recommend that you study them carefully.

As for the Moscow Mechanism in general, the position of the Russian Federation is well known: it has long since outlived its usefulness and does not reflect contemporary realities. Today's discussion has reaffirmed that the Moscow Mechanism is being used exclusively to stigmatize undesirable States and denigrate their leadership. Moreover, each attempt to invoke the Moscow Mechanism worsens the already poor quality of the reviews, which now include – in addition to dubious sources, odious inferences and overly bold forecasts – outright misinformation. The representative of the United Kingdom said here that it was impossible to imagine the suffering of Ukrainian children – we have to disagree. If these so-called experts have anything, it is imagination. In particular, they claim not to have received a response to their letter concerning co-operation with the Russian side. Of course there was no response, because we received no such letter. Such an approach taken by the experts to their work can hardly be characterized as thorough and the outcome of that work can hardly be taken seriously.

We are once again obliged to repeat the following. For Russia, the “conclusions” and “recommendations” of the reports prepared under this archaic instrument are legally and politically null and void.

Thank you for your attention.