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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**FORMAL RESERVATION BY
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE 91st JOINT MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 July 2024

Mr. Chairperson of the Forum,

We are compelled to note that, within the framework of today's meeting and in conceptual terms, the issue proposed for discussion is not in conformity with the mandate of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

Over the years, the Russian delegation has regularly expressed its position of principle that attempts to broaden the scope of the Forum's competence, including in relation to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, are unacceptable and inevitably lead to its degradation.

We believe that this topic should be discussed on the relevant international platforms with the appropriate expertise. The experience of its consideration at the Forum can only be described as highly biased and politicized, casting a shadow, which we consider inadmissible, on the aims and objectives of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

We also well remember the failure of the United Nations Security Council to adopt the anniversary resolution on 1325 in 2020. The draft submitted by the Russian Presidency at the time could not only have made a serious contribution to strengthening and developing this agenda, but was also a truly balanced document, which reflected all of the agenda's key elements. Nevertheless, a number of Western countries prevented the document from being agreed upon. This is despite the fact that the United Nations has the prerogative to review the implementation of 1325. The true attitude of the Western alliance towards this resolution was then on full display.

In that connection, we categorically object to and will not support any decisions or initiatives designed to give the FSC additional functions in promoting "gender equality". We therefore also demand that any references to the Forum be removed from all documents arising out of the present meeting. In the long run, trying to push through a non-consensus agenda could hamstring the Forum's work.

In accordance with paragraph IV.1(C)4 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, we oppose the adoption of the agenda with respect to the FSC.

Allow me now to address you, Madam Chairperson, on the Rules of Procedure with regard to the OSCE Permanent Council.

According to the current Rules of Procedure of our Organization, this decision-making body does not meet on Wednesdays, and the agenda for the next meeting is known in advance and does not include today's item. Additionally, it is worth noting that the Permanent Council does not address "security dialogue" issues; this is a standing item of the FSC (paragraph IV.1(C)1 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE).

The convening of Permanent Council meetings, including in a reinforced format, must be fully in line with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE through consultations with all the participating States (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3) and may not run counter to the provisions of the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, which unambiguously obligates the Chairmanship to take the whole spectrum of opinions into account in its actions (Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002).

The important point is that, with the proper approach, we could have quietly organized this meeting, for example, as part of the preparations for the regular meeting of the Permanent Council. As we can see, no such agreement materialized.

This is clearly an abuse of authority by the Chairmanship, which is obliged to act for all 57 participating States and not for a group of countries that are aggressively imposing their views on everyone else.

We request that this formal reservation be reflected in the journal of today's meeting and circulated among the participating States in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.