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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1383rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 July 2022

**On the report by the Special Representative of the
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have acquainted ourselves with the report by the Special Representative of the Polish Chairmanship on gender issues, Ms. Liliana Palihovici. We are obliged to note the preponderance in this document of a non-consensus, confrontational agenda that runs counter to the OSCE commitments agreed by all participating States.

One has only to consider, for example, the attempts to impose the so-called women, peace and security agenda. We should like to recall that this agenda comprises not only the well-known United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 but also the nine subsequent relevant resolutions. The thematic scope of these documents hardly tallies with the existing OSCE commitments approved by all participating States. In this regard, we insist on the need to comply with the existing mandate in this field and on the inadmissibility of bringing in non-consensus elements associated with a broad interpretation of the topic of women, peace and security.

We note that the Special Representative failed to pay proper attention to so important a matter as the socio-economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and measures to overcome these for women and girls. The post-pandemic recovery continues to be relevant to the global agenda.

The focus of our Organization, including the Special Representative, should lie on such aspects as protection of the family, motherhood and childhood; the occupational retraining of unemployed women and men; and protecting and supporting large or low-income families, along with single parents. In this respect, the promotion of women and men should be conditional on their professional skills, knowledge and experience. It should not be allowed to become an exercise in statistics or the proverbial chasing of quotas.

We believe that one of the most important components of efforts to improve the situation of women consists in measures to promote the family as an equal union of women and men. As is known, supporting the institution of the family is one of the social priorities of the United Nations and an important prerequisite for social stability. We call on Ms. Palihovici not to ignore the aforementioned issues in her work.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE has a vast array of diverse commitments related to the promotion of gender equality, women's participation in public and political life and the elimination of violence. The corresponding 2004 Action Plan clearly set forth the concept of gender equality as the equality of women and men. Attempts by individual countries or OSCE executive structures, such as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, to apply a broad interpretation of this concept are unacceptable, as they run counter to the principles agreed by all participating States. Another counterproductive tendency is the ubiquitous embedding of "gender" issues – often approached from a non-consensus, neoliberal angle – into the work of the OSCE executive structures. You, too, Ms. Palihovici, have succumbed to these trends. And this can be clearly seen from the report presented today.

In view of these alarming tendencies, we believe it would be advisable to raise the need for working out modalities for the implementation of the mandates of Special and Personal Representatives of the Chairmanship and for those modalities to be subsequently laid down in decisions of the OSCE Permanent Council or even the Ministerial Council. We believe that such a move would make it possible to substantially increase the effectiveness of our Organization's work and would facilitate a more scrupulous fulfilment of the commitments adopted by all participating States.

Thank you for your attention.