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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1495th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 November 2024

**On the results of the second round of the presidential election in the Republic of  
Moldova**

Madam Chairperson,

On 3 November, the second round of the presidential election was held in the Republic of Moldova. According to preliminary data from the Central Election Commission, the incumbent Head of State, Maia Sandu, won with 55.33 per cent of the vote.

It is no exaggeration to say that this was the most undemocratic election campaign in all the years of the country's independence. It was characterized by unprecedented repression by the authorities against the opposition and independent media, especially Russian-language media, blatant interference in the electoral process by Western alliance countries and large-scale use of administrative resources by the authorities.

Let me say a few words about the report by the observation mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), to which we have heard references here. The Office has once again demonstrated its bias. Despite the fact that the ODIHR observation mission documented in its report a number of violations during the campaign, particular attention is paid in the document to the mythical "Russian trail". This is to the detriment of a qualitative assessment of the compliance of the authorities in Chişinău with their OSCE election commitments. Meanwhile, as usual, no convincing evidence was provided of "Moscow's interference", which was, in fact, the main topic of the assessment. We shall not even comment on these insinuations. On the other hand, the shameful refusal to allow three Russian observers of this mission to enter Moldova under a spurious and ridiculous pretext could and should have been "honoured" with greater attention from the Office.

The discrimination by the authorities in Chişinău against their own voters living in Russia deserves a special mention. You will not find a single word about this in the ODIHR report either. As in the first round, only two polling stations were opened for the diaspora in our country, which numbers up to 500,000 people. For comparison: more than 200 polling stations were set up in Western Europe and North America, where approximately the same number of citizens live, and in a number of countries citizens were allowed to vote by post.

The results of the ballot counting allow us to conclude that, as in the previous presidential election in 2020, Ms. Sandu's victory was secured by the votes of the Moldovan diaspora in Western countries. While the majority of the residents of this country, in fact, passed a vote of no confidence in the destructive course of the incumbent President.

Experts and political scientists point to numerous violations and falsifications on the part of the authorities. They draw attention to the non-transparent organization of the postal voting, which opened up opportunities for manipulation. The results of the second round of the presidential election confirmed the existence of a deep division in Moldovan society, which became apparent during the first round and during the referendum on European Union membership. This polarization was provoked by the short-sighted policy of the country's leadership and the blatant interference of Western countries in the country's internal political processes.

We trust that the Moldovan leadership that remains in power will not aggravate the situation and follow the lead of its Western backers but will instead choose to respect the interests of the majority of its own citizens who live in the country and not in the West. These voters confirmed that they oppose the dismantling of the national identity and neutral status enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic, and that they are in favour of preserving the centuries-old ties with Russia, which throughout history has been and will continue to be a reliable friend of the freedom-loving people of Moldova.

Thank you for your attention.