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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1452nd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 November 2023

**On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

Mr. Chairperson,

Combating violence against women is a priority of Russia's on which substantive work is being carried out both domestically and internationally. We believe that the only way to achieve real results in promoting women's rights is to build up their professional qualities and develop their potential. The National Action Strategy for Women, which runs until 2030, serves these purposes. Those who developed the strategy placed special emphasis on preventing all forms of violence and increasing women's participation in various spheres of life and aimed to enhance women's digital literacy and interest in exact sciences, promote technical specialities and much more.

In addition, for almost ten years now, the Eurasian Women's Forum has been held in Russia every three years under the auspices of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The First Forum of Women of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation was held in St. Petersburg in June this year, in which more than 200 representatives of Indigenous minorities in Russia took part. A wide range of issues were discussed at the event, including possible changes in the legal and regulatory framework governing the situation of Indigenous minorities.

Mr. Chairperson,

Representatives of the Western alliance countries and the Kyiv regime relish the stories they have invented about certain crimes committed by the Russian military against the civilian population of Ukraine, including violence against women and children. The credibility of the information to which they refer and which is being disseminated by unscrupulous so-called international experts at their behest raises many questions. At the same time, they ignore the evidence of such crimes committed by the Zelenskyy regime's formations against the civilian population, including women and children. To date, the competent authorities of the Russian Federation and relevant non-governmental organizations have accumulated a whole body of evidence in that regard. In particular, the International Public Tribunal on the Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis and Their Accomplices has done significant work in this area. The tribunal is composed of participants from 28 countries of the world. One of its latest works is the publication "Ukraine's Crimes against Humanity (2022–2023)", which is also available on the Internet. The publication contains the

testimonies of more than 600 victims and witnesses of the Kyiv regime's crimes, with the specific names, cases and addresses of the victims. We are talking about real incidents of violence against women perpetrated by Ukrainian neo-Nazis and the Ukrainian armed forces, for which no one has yet been held accountable and which have never been the subject of attention by the so-called Western experts who disseminate their unsubstantiated reports. We urge everyone to read this fact-based material carefully and to finally stop spreading misinformation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Violence against women remains a very acute problem in other OSCE participating States as well, including in the Kyiv regime's Western handlers and their satellites. The conclusions of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women following its consideration of the latest periodic report on France, published in October 2023, are very disappointing. In addition, the Committee expresses concern about the widespread violence against women and girls in Albania.

The problem of discrimination against Indigenous women and girls has lost none of its relevance. Following a visit to Canada in March this year, the United Nations Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples identified violence against Indigenous women and girls as one of the main problems facing Indigenous populations. There is also a high proportion of First Nations women among the victims of trafficking in human beings and other forms of violence and inhuman treatment.

The assessments by international human rights institutions of the situation of Inuit in Danish Greenland, where the inhuman practice of the forced sterilization of First Nations women has taken place, is equally disappointing. In September this year, some seventy Greenlandic women filed a claim for compensation with the relevant courts. Following his visit to Denmark and Greenland at the beginning of this year, the aforementioned Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Mr. Francisco Calí Tzay, stated that structural racism against Inuit people was often the result of the legacy of colonialism.

When speaking about the rise of racism and its impact on the situation of Indigenous women and men, national minorities and ethnic groups, we cannot fail to take note of the situation in the United States of America. Following her visit to the country in early November of this year, the United Nations Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Ms. Ashwini K.P., arrived at some disappointing conclusions. In this State, "multifaceted and mutually reinforcing forms of systemic racism and racial discrimination" persist, which have a negative impact on the situation of various population groups.

The November concluding observations of the United Nations Human Rights Committee also contain unfavourable conclusions. It is noted that Indigenous women and migrant women of Latin American and African descent continue to be among the main victims of violence. Concern is expressed at reports of the prevalence of sexual violence against women and girls in schools and institutions of higher learning and in the US armed forces. In this regard, it is recommended that the United States "intensify its efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and sexual violence, paying special attention to women from minority and marginalized groups".

Special emphasis is placed on the disadvantaged situation of Indigenous women and girls, who are "disproportionately affected by life-threatening forms of violence, homicides and disappearances". In addition, the United Nations Committee experts are "concerned at the absence of comprehensive data on

murdered and missing Indigenous women and at the lack of adequate resources for the effective and culturally appropriate investigation and processing of cases”.

Mr. Chairperson,

Migrant and refugee women continue to be among the least protected. Problems include violence perpetrated by law enforcement authorities in temporary detention centres, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, ill-treatment that can amount to torture, and even the death of asylum seekers.

The situation in Spain is particularly dire. Experts from specialized international human rights bodies, including the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, noted that the majority of victims of trafficking were women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and that they were not often detected by border officials. In this regard, in order to protect women from violence, it was recommended that Spain “prevent and combat trafficking of migrant women who become victims of forced labour and ensure application of the principle of non-refoulement”.

Multiple incidents on the border with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia are indicative of the cruelty of treatment. Several such incidents have been recorded in recent weeks alone. “Pushback” policies are also fuelling violence and inhuman treatment.

Mr. Chairperson,

Combating violence against women remains a task common to all of the OSCE participating States, which requires an integrated approach and concerted efforts by all interested parties. At the same time, it is important that the work of our Organization is co-ordinated with and complements rather than conflicts with the comprehensive approaches within the United Nations.

Thank you for your attention.