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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1432nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 July 2023

On the early presidential election in Uzbekistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate our Uzbek friends on the excellent organization and success of the early presidential election held on 9 July.

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, congratulated the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on his convincing victory. It demonstrates the high political authority of the elected Head of State and testifies to the broad popular support for the large-scale reforms that he is undertaking, aimed at furthering Uzbekistan's dynamic development, strengthening its international position and protecting the rights and interests of its citizens.

The election received high praise from international observers, including those from Russia. The missions deployed by the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Organization of Turkic States described the election as being transparent, open, fair, in line with the universally recognized principles of democratic elections and held in a free and harmonious atmosphere. Observers from the Central Election Commission of Russia and from a number of Western countries and officials from certain OSCE participating States also made similar positive conclusions.

Against this background, the deeply negative report by the observation mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) raises legitimate questions. The diametrical divergence of the assessments contained in the report from the predominantly positive conclusions of other observers once again demonstrates the lack of objectivity and the openly biased nature of the ODIHR's conclusions and serves as a further reminder of the need to develop unified standards for the monitoring of election processes in the OSCE area.

Thank you for your attention.