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**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE 1399th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 November 2022

On threats to the security of Belarus

Mr. Chairperson,

The information presented by our Belarusian partners and allies regarding the destructive activities being conducted on the territory of a number of NATO countries, including Poland and the Baltic States, aimed at destabilizing the situation in the Republic of Belarus warrants the closest attention.

It is categorically unacceptable to train members of paramilitary formations drawn from among the adherents of radical nationalist and political ideas for their subsequent deployment on the territory of a neighbouring State. We have noted on numerous occasions that such actions are running in parallel with the concentration of NATO's military capabilities on its so-called eastern flank. All of this poses obvious threats to the security of the Union State of Russia and Belarus and compels us to take adequate measures in response.

In October this year, a joint regional grouping of troops began to be deployed in the Republic of Belarus with a view to strengthening the protection and defence of the external borders of the Union State of Russia and Belarus. These actions are aimed at reducing military activity in border areas and are purely defensive in nature.

We once again appeal to the most "hot-headed" in the Western alliance to stop their provocative manoeuvres and curtail activities aimed at destabilizing the situation. We emphasize that this playing with fire does not bode well for those engaged in it, the instigators or the continent of Europe as a whole.

We call for a responsible approach in recognizing the danger of threats that can lead to unpredictable consequences, and for a move towards dialogue to resolve the contradictions that have built up.

Thank you for your attention.

In response to the statements delivered

We firmly reject the insinuations and political assessments made in the remarks by the representative of Poland and by a number of other colleagues. We consider it inappropriate for speculations to be made

about our country's alleged conduct of a "war of aggression in Ukraine" and about targeted attacks on civilian objects in the course of the special military operation.

In calling for a conversation based on facts rather than on political speculation, we reiterate our appeal to take very seriously what our Belarusian colleagues have said. We are convinced that only responsible dialogue, taking into account the legitimate security interests of one another, can make a contribution to strengthening pan-European security as a whole.