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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1428th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 June 2023

On the report of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office

Madam Chairperson,

We should like to draw attention to the fact that there have been no budgetary discussions for more than one month, pending the latest version of the revised proposal as regards allocations for the Organization for the year 2023. Why is the preparation of this document taking so long?

We note that on several occasions in the past the Secretary General has expressed concern at the failure to adopt a decision on the Unified Budget and also stated that a number of OSCE programmes and funds may face cash shortages as long as they are provisionally funded under Financial Regulation 3.04. Similar views were expressed by the Audit Committee in a letter circulated to participating States on 25 May.

For our part, we are seriously concerned about the unjustified delay in the negotiation process. I recall that your Polish predecessors, Madam Chairperson, also took a long pause during the negotiation of the 2022 draft budget. Everyone is well aware how that ended.

Be warned that these artificial time constraints for the regular examination of the budgetary proposals for 2023 could have very negative consequences for the financial sustainability of the OSCE. In such a case, all responsibility for the crisis situation would fall on the Chairmanship-in-Office, which even provoked it.

One further question. Permanent Council Decision No. 553 of 27 June 2003 clearly states that programme outlines must be submitted by the Secretary General no later than 1 June each year. Today is 8 June and the relevant document with the programme narratives of all OSCE executive structures for 2024 has not been issued.

We cannot accept as an excuse that the discussion on programme outlines should be led by the incoming Chairmanship, which has not yet been appointed. The document has to be submitted in any case, even if it cannot be discussed at this stage: the text of Decision No. 553 does not provide for any delay for

the Secretary General, and the Chairmanship has no power to change this consensus procedure. Failure to comply with the Permanent Council's instructions is a flagrant violation that needs to be explained.

We should like to ask quite simply why the OSCE's 2024 programme outlines have not yet been published, and when we can expect them.

Thank you for your attention.