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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1460th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 February 2024

**In response to the address by the  
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Pia Kauma**

Ms. Kauma,

We welcome you to this meeting of the Permanent Council.

During our last meeting in this room in September 2023, following your election as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Russian delegation presented an assessment of the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Euro-Atlantic area and outlined ways of steering the situation out of its dangerous slide using the tools of parliamentary diplomacy.

I recall that we urged you to make use of all available resources to find compromises and develop genuine dialogue on the interparliamentary platform, despite the deep antagonism and intensifying politico-military crisis in the OSCE area. We called for a rejection of biased and discriminatory approaches and double standards. We recommended starting to listen to and hear the arguments of others and to set about restoring trust. We pointed out that the diplomatic finesse and wisdom of the Assembly's leadership will largely determine its future. Sadly, it appears that our arguments have not been heard.

We are witnessing how the platform for interparliamentary dialogue is now rapidly slipping into a Russophobic spiral. Under the pretext of upholding common values, the Assembly is losing its autonomy and bowing to the policies of certain OSCE participating States that promote the ideas of some kind of "rules-based world order" and open confrontation with those who challenge the Euro-Atlantic supremacy. No benefit will come from using the mechanisms of multilateral co-operation for the ignoble purposes of long-term confrontation with Russia. The "Ukrainization" of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's agenda is leading to the marginalization of this parliamentary format, the destruction of its unifying potential and its inability to work in the common interest.

Under the prevailing circumstances, the Russian delegation will not be taking part this year in the traditional Winter Meeting of the Assembly in Vienna. I should like to make it clear that refusing to engage in dialogue is not in keeping with the Russian diplomatic tradition. However, we see no added value in fruitless debates, whose participants, as the experience of previous meetings in Vancouver and Yerevan has

shown, are likely to engage in Russophobia and profanity rather than in finding solutions to the problems that have accumulated. When the situation changes and our opponents demonstrate a need for substantive discussion, we will be ready to consider the possibility of resuming dialogue.

Russia cannot be expected to fulfil its financial obligations to the Assembly until we have firm guarantees of participation and adequate security conditions for the members of the Russian delegation in all the Assembly's events without exception. Discrimination against Russian participants was already beginning when contributions were being paid as they should be. We do not intend to tolerate this situation any longer.

In conclusion, Madam President, we should like to remind you and all those present that a resolution of the current crisis in Europe is possible only by ensuring appropriate military, economic and political conditions for the secure development of Russia and our ally Belarus, respect for their interests and an end to Western support for the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv. This is axiomatic.

Thank you for your attention.