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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1390th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 September 2022

On the presentation of the report on Russia under the Moscow Mechanism

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the report by Professor Angelika Nußberger prepared under the Moscow Mechanism.

The Russian Federation's attitude towards this archaic instrument is well known and has not changed. The Moscow Mechanism has long since outlived its usefulness and does not reflect contemporary realities. It is used exclusively by the invoking States to exert political pressure on and to vilify the leadership of undesirable States. This has been confirmed by the repeated opportunistic use of the Mechanism in recent years, including with respect to Russia.

The position of certain OSCE countries is illustrative in this regard. When this tool is used with respect to "villains", they repeat excerpts from the reports and advocate the implementation of its recommendations. But when the Mechanism is applied to them, they refute its relevance. For example, in response to the Russian Federation's demand to invoke the Moscow Mechanism in connection with the bombing of the former Yugoslavia in 1999, the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the OSCE responded as follows. I quote: "The United States of America believes in and takes very seriously all OSCE principles and commitments ... The validity of these essential principles and commitments including the Vienna/Moscow mechanisms can, however, be affected if these mechanisms are used on false premises. These mechanisms are designed not for accusatory application but for seeking information and strengthening mutual confidence." The latter is exactly what we have consistently emphasized.

In this connection, I should like once again to highlight that the objectionable reports under the Moscow Mechanism, including the one presented today, and their conclusions carry no legal or political weight for Russia.

Thank you for your attention.