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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1379th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 June 2022

**On the outcome of the Second High-level International Conference on the International
Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028**

Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate our Tajik colleagues on the success of the Second High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 and also the Central Asian Regional Water Cooperation Forum held on its margins.

The sizeable Russian delegation, headed by Alexander Kozlov, Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment, took a very active part in the conference. Our country’s position on the protection and rational use of water resources was presented in an informative manner, and best practices in successful transboundary water co-operation and plans for a joint water project and the digitalization of water use were described with concrete examples. In the course of lively discussions and bilateral meetings on the margins of the event, representatives from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States found numerous points of convergence on water conservation and the use of energy- and water-saving technologies in agriculture.

We also note the informative speeches by distinguished guests from international organizations – OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the 2023 UN Water Conference Liu Zhenmin, and UNESCO Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences Shamila Nair-Bedouelle.

With its solid expertise and academic experience in the field of water resources, Russia is ready to develop broad international co-operation based on mutual respect and a commitment to implementing concrete initiatives, rather than on the general words and lengthy arguments presented by representatives of some European Union countries and the United States of America at the last conference.

Thank you for your attention.