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PC.DEL/1051/23
28 July 2023

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1436th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 July 2023

On the report of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office

Mr. Chairperson,
Madam Secretary General,

We should like to comment on the situation that has arisen with regard to the Organization's Unified Budget for 2023.

Taking into account the need to ensure business continuity in all the structures of our Organization, Russia was willing – as a sign of exceptional flexibility and by way of a compromise – to lift its objections against an increase in expenditure for all OSCE field operations at the level proposed by the Chairmanship. This was a very difficult decision for us from both a political and a financial point of view. However, we were willing to accommodate the requests made, and the budget could have been fully agreed on as far as the level of appropriations is concerned.

We were intending to join the consensus on the relevant draft decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DD/13/23), but only as long as politicized language, which had not been agreed on by the decision-making bodies, was removed from the text of the budget document (PC.ACMF/57/22). We would remind you once again that, in its Decision No. 486 (2002), the Permanent Council tasked the Secretary General with ensuring that the narrative parts of budget proposals are consistent with the mandates of the executive structures and with agreed OSCE documents. However, the non-consensus language contained in the outline of some of the Secretariat's programmes most certainly does not fit that description.

The infringement or ignoring of Permanent Council decisions that are "inconvenient" for certain participating States would be a major step towards destroying the Organization. For us this is a matter of principle.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have come a rather long way and are now close – close as never before over the past two years – to broad agreement on the budget. We trust that you will take all the necessary measures to ensure that the

Secretariat rectifies its mistakes regarding the programmatic narrative as soon as possible, and that the decision on the allocation of funds for 2023 can, as we have all been so eagerly awaiting, finally be adopted.

Thank you for your attention.