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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1506th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 January 2025

On the presidential election in the Republic of Belarus

Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate our Belarusian friends on the successful holding of the presidential election on 26 January.

This election was commended by international observers, including those from the missions deployed by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.

Russian citizens were also involved in observing the vote as part of the delegations from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union State of Belarus and Russia, the Executive Committee and Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS, the SCO, as well as on a bilateral basis at the invitation of the Belarusian Central Election Commission. These missions consisted of representatives of the Russian Central Election Commission and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, along with delegations from a number of Russian regions.

The election was described as being free and open. It was noted that the election had been held in accordance with Belarusian national legislation and international law. No irregularities were identified that could have affected the outcome of the vote.

Mr. Chairperson,

In contrast to these assessments, a number of politically biased statements have been made by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and by official representatives of the European Union and certain Western countries. The Russian Federation condemns such unsubstantiated accusations against the Belarusian authorities. The stories spread about the supposedly invalid and sham election are utterly indefensible – these are nothing more than the latest attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and destabilize the situation there.

It is regrettable that the ODIHR, which was not involved in observing the organization and conduct of the election in the Republic of Belarus, has no qualms about making prejudiced assessments to serve the short-sighted opportunistic interests of the countries of the collective West. This is yet further evidence of double standards and a geographical skew in the Office's activities. Also making itself felt is the fact that the OSCE has no agreed election observation rules, the drawing-up of which has long been urged by the Russian Federation.

We should like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate our Belarusian allies on the successful conduct of this electoral exercise and to express our fundamental commitment to the continuation of broad-based co-operation, mutual support and close co-ordination in the international arena.

Thank you for your attention.