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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1355th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 February 2022

**In response to the report by OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid on
climate change issues**

Mr. Chairperson,
Madam Secretary General,

We are grateful to you for presenting your thematic report on stepping up the OSCE's efforts to address the challenges caused by climate change. We agree with the proposition that climate change is "one of the most pressing issues of our time".

Russia is a responsible participant in the global climate action process; it is fulfilling all the obligations that it has undertaken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. Our country actively participated in the discussions at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Glasgow in November last year.

As a result of the national efforts undertaken to enhance energy efficiency, Russia has achieved considerable progress in "green" transformation and the digitalization of various sectors of the economy and spheres of human life; it has become one of the leaders of the global decarbonization process.

It was precisely on the basis of these positions that we took part in the development of the Stockholm Ministerial Council decision on climate change. We commend the fact that it proved possible to achieve consensus and formulate a mandate for the Organization in this field. We are also pleased that a provision was incorporated therein on the OSCE's complementary function in the global climate action process, where the United Nations plays a central role.

When it comes to future work, we believe it is advisable to focus above all on strengthening co-operation among the OSCE participating States in tackling and minimizing the negative consequences of climate change, and adapting to these – particularly in such long-standing areas under the second dimension as disaster risk reduction, water resources management and the protection of critical energy infrastructure.

In doing so, it is important to avoid duplicating the efforts of other international organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. We consider it essential to adhere strictly to the mandate

enshrined in the aforementioned decision and not to allow it to be distorted. Above all we have in mind attempts to replace practical work on climate change issues with proclamations about something that is not there in the decision, namely a direct link between climate change and security.

We have also taken note of the fourth point in today's report by the Secretary General with regard to ensuring a multi-stakeholder approach in tackling climate change. We would remind you that the recommendation on active co-operation with the private sector, academia, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, including women's and youth organizations, is addressed to the participating States, and not to the OSCE executive structures.

Russia is open to further discussions on ways of implementing the Stockholm Ministerial Council decision, not least as part of the high-level conference to take place on 25 March at your initiative, Madam Secretary General. We look forward to receiving as soon as possible the agenda and organizational modalities for that meeting so that we can take a decision on the level of Russia's participation in the event.

Thank you for your attention.