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**RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1432nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 July 2023

On the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on gender equality

Mr. Chairperson,

I can understand to some extent the non-Russian-speaking ambassadors joining the pile-on we have just witnessed. A topic on which an anti-Russian coalition can be forged quickly on command is nothing new in the OSCE today, unfortunately. But those representatives who understand the Russian language should have known that the phrase “weaker sex” is used in everyday conversation, and always with a touch of warmth and kindness. It can be heard especially often in congratulations on the occasion of International Women’s Day on 8 March. So, if anyone does have a complaint, they should direct it to the creators of the modern “great and mighty” Russian language, for example, the revered Russian poet Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin.

Your reaction, ladies and gentlemen, unfortunately shows that you understand neither our culture, nor our history, nor our language at all. I urge all those who made furious accusations against us to calm down: there was, is and will be no politics in the expression “weaker sex”. And as for the use of “non-consensus language” in the OSCE – sorry, this is your issue, not ours.

In all seriousness, I regret very much that the only thing you heard in our statement today was an expression taken out of context, and we strongly reject the accusations concerning our use of the phrase.

Thank you for your attention.