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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1499th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 November 2024

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Madam Chairperson,

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000. Raising awareness and uniting the efforts of the international community in the fight against this phenomenon was declared to be its fundamental goal.

Unfortunately, no significant progress has been made so far. The underlying causes remain the same: poverty, unemployment, lingering institutional barriers, social stratification and lack of conditions for combining family and professional life.

Madam Chairperson,

The usual lies of the Western patrons of the Zelenskyy regime sound particularly cynical against the background of the brutal terror unleashed by the authorities in Kyiv against their own population. The scale of the manufactured cases is staggering. According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, the number of so-called political offences is estimated to be in the tens of thousands. This figure is 57 times greater compared to 2013, which preceded the Maidan coup d'état (according to official data alone, 31,174 cases have been filed). This does not take into account the number of illegally detained citizens held in the "secret prisons" of the Security Service of Ukraine. The then Prosecutor General of Ukraine, Yuriy Lutsenko, personally showed journalists one of these "facilities" in 2016.

Many women are among the political prisoners in this participating State. Amongst those subjected to persecution are heads of social services and pension funds, heads of village councils, doctors, teachers and public utility workers. According to independent Ukrainian human rights defenders, women account for 70 per cent of all those convicted of so-called collaborationism. More than a third of them are elderly women over the age of 60.

The scale of the abuse is so unprecedented that even a biased non-governmental organization such as the Zmina Human Rights Centre has taken notice of it, calling on the *de facto* authorities to "stop broad

information campaigns aimed at finding ‘traitors’ among [their] citizens”. Typically, it is clear that the witch-hunt is not supported by Ukraine’s own citizens.

According to the findings by organizations sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development, it appears that some 72 per cent of Ukrainians have a positive attitude towards the residents of the territories that did not accept the results of the Maidan coup d’état or the current regime. At the same time, 53 per cent of respondents indicated that these residents, especially teachers, doctors and social workers, should not be subjected to political persecution. We should like to remind you that the majority of people engaged in these professions in Ukraine are women. We can see that this does not worry the Western “champions” of their rights at all, since the disclosure of the crimes of the neo-Nazi regime undermines the positive image being presented here by the representatives of Ukraine and its Western sponsors.

Incidentally, the European Union and the United States of America, which have encouraged the Zelensky regime’s years of violence, have demonstrated very little effectiveness in addressing women’s issues at home. Allow me to mention just a few examples of the state of affairs in the countries that make collective accusations against Russia.

The situation concerning violence against First Nations women and girls in Canada remains critical. This is particularly true of the practice of forced sterilization, which continues despite being utterly inhumane and callous. Cases of non-consensual medical interventions were recorded up until 2023 in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and the Northwest Territories. Recently, human rights defenders have launched an initiative to create a registry of victims of forced sterilization. According to the non-governmental organization Survivors Circle for Reproductive Justice, more than 15,000 names of survivors have already been identified. This is just a drop in the ocean, however. Evidence is still being collected and this will provide an insight into the real scale of the tragedy.

The urgency of this issue has been acknowledged in the findings of authoritative international bodies. In a recent report, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women notes with alarm the “persistence of forced sterilizations of Indigenous women” and recommends that “a parliamentary committee conduct further study on forced sterilizations with the goal of identifying solutions to stop the practice, as well as the entrenched distrust of Indigenous women in State-sponsored medical facilities and resources”.

United Nations experts also point to “the insufficient preventive measures to protect Indigenous women and girls from further violence and the lack of concrete actions aimed at addressing the root, systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including sexual violence”.

The situation in Italy is far from satisfactory. The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women notes with concern the high prevalence of violence against women and girls. It stresses that not all cases are reported to the police “due to victims’ fear of stigmatization or reprisal, their economic dependence on abusive partners, legal illiteracy, linguistic barriers and a lack of trust in the law enforcement authorities”.

Similar trends have been observed in Poland. The prevalence of domestic violence in the State was highlighted by the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem, following her official visit to the country in 2023. From the age of 15, 19 per cent of women in Poland have experienced physical or sexual violence, while only 28 per cent of victims reported the most serious incidents to the police.

Furthermore, Poland remains a country of origin, transit and destination for victims of trafficking, with women and children subjected to forced labour for sexual exploitation. In this context, the Special Rapporteur states that the data available to her indicates “the serious risk of and actual trafficking of women and children from Ukraine, the identification of victims, and the number of traffickers who have been apprehended, and yet the prosecution rates that have been reported appear to be low”.

Unfortunately, this sad list of countries is not exhausted by these examples.

Madam Chairperson,

Eliminating violence against women is a priority for Russia both domestically and internationally. The Fourth Eurasian Women’s Forum, held in September of this year and attended by several thousand delegates from 126 countries, is a striking example of the consistent work on the development of a women’s agenda. The National Action Strategy for Women, which runs until 2030, serves the same purpose. The main objectives of this Strategy are the prevention of all forms of violence and the promotion of women’s professional development.

In conclusion, we should like to emphasize that the efforts of all OSCE participating States, civil society and international structures are needed to improve the situation of women. However, this is not about developing ambitious plans or proclaiming so-called gender slogans. Even less is it about indulging corrupt criminal regimes that exterminate their own populations. It is about working long and hard to address the root causes of violence and about the scrupulous fulfilment by participating States of their commitments.

Thank you for your attention.