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FSC.DEL/18/25
30 January 2025

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, ACTING HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1095th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

29 January 2025

Agenda item: General statements

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the delegation of Belarus for co-authoring and making public the joint statement on strengthening the foundations of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). The purpose of that document, as we stand on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, is to strengthen the Forum as a unique politico-military platform that operates on the basis of the consensus rule and the principle of the sovereign equality of the participating States, in the interests of bolstering security and developing co-operation among them.

We believe that those present in this room would hardly dispute the need to find, within the framework of the Forum's politico-military mandate, unifying themes in order to enhance the effectiveness of its work. Throughout the thirty-year history of the FSC, the participating States have always shared a common understanding that the rotating Chairmanships have a special responsibility for maintaining the Forum's work in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE in their entirety and interconnectedness.

As noted, the document submitted by us is open for alignment. It is not confrontational in nature. On the contrary, the statement is imbued with a spirit of constructive co-operation among the participating States, irrespective of their political orientation.

Thus, the stance of each delegation on that joint statement will be a kind of litmus test of their true attitude towards the fate of the FSC and towards the rule of consensus. In this respect, it is encouraging that a number of participating States at today's meeting have emphasized the importance of the consensus-based nature of decision-making and of observing the Rules of Procedure with regard to the Forum.

We urge the participating States and OSCE Partners for Co-operation to join in calling for the effectiveness of the FSC to be enhanced and for a pragmatic and depoliticized dialogue on security issues to be conducted. We believe that today marks the beginning of a shared journey towards that goal.

Thank you for your attention.