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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1394th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 October 2022

On the World Day against the Death Penalty

Mr. Chairperson,

There has been a comprehensive moratorium on capital punishment in Russia since 1999. As a result of the moratorium, the human right not to be subjected to the death penalty is firmly guaranteed in our country. A constitutional and legal framework has emerged, under which an irreversible process to abolish the death penalty has been set in motion, with account taken of Russia's international commitments. In 2009, the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation confirmed this understanding.

At the same time, Russian practice does not mean that we agree with the idea of compelling other countries to legally abolish this penalty. We believe it important to be guided in this matter by the cultural, historical, legal and other contexts of the development of States.

Mr. Chairperson,

The fundamental aspect is the way in which capital punishment is carried out. Substances are often used for these purposes that could constitute torture or another form of inhuman treatment. In the United States of America, the death penalty is still carried out in 27 states, often in ways that are far from humane. This is in direct violation of the US Government's international commitments to eliminate torture and cruel treatment. Sentences are carried out with untested lethal cocktails, which not infrequently cause intolerable suffering, or in gas chambers with cyanide gas. The latter brings to mind particularly chilling historical associations. The inhumanity of these methods has been repeatedly confirmed in various forums within our Organization. We recall that at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Tirana in 2020, participating States decided that they "must safeguard the rights, and protect the human rights, of all persons deprived of their liberty, including those facing the death penalty, in accordance with their international obligations".

In addition, according to specialized non-governmental organizations such as the Death Penalty Information Center and the American Civil Liberties Union, racial bias in the imposition of the death penalty persists in this OSCE participating State.

The conclusions of the review “Race and Wrongful Convictions in the United States 2022” published in September by the US National Registry of Exonerations are disheartening. The researchers state that Black suspects are 7.5 times more likely to be falsely convicted and even sentenced to death. Thus, the basic right to life becomes hostage to the systemic racism in the United States.

We once again call on the US Government to comply strictly with international human rights obligations, including protection from torture, and to remember the value of human life.

Thank you for your attention.