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As delivered by Ambassador Anne-Kirsti Karlsen at the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 13 June 2024

Madame Chair,

Let me begin by echoing the concern raised by our Canadian colleague. Norway emphasizes the urgent need for systematic efforts to restore broken family bonds and ensure the swift and safe return of Ukrainian children to their homes, in line with the best interests of those children.

As co-chairs of Working Group 4, established under the Peace Formula, Norway and Canada are deeply committed to advocating for the respect of international law and enhancing the coordination of international efforts.

We will address the continued deportation and forced transfer of children at the upcoming Peace Summit on Ukraine. At the same time, we are dedicated to ensuring the full implementation of the Moscow Mechanism report's recommendations and the complete restoration and protection of the rights of Ukrainian civilians. Active collaboration between entities such as the OSCE, the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the ICRC and UN Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups is essential for implementing measures that safeguard the rights and dignity of those affected.

Finally, let me strongly urge the Russian authorities to implement proper procedures for, and actively facilitate, the reunification of families, particularly concerning all children who have been forcibly transferred or deported from Ukraine.

Thank you.

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