

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1139/22
28 July 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1384th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 July 2022

On the 2022 OSCE Unified Budget Proposal

Mr. Chairperson,
Madam Secretary General,

We are yet again hearing complaints from the Chairmanship about the lack of agreement on the budget proposal for the current year. The Chairmanship is trying to hide the failure of its work on achieving consensus behind a smokescreen of accusations against several participating States that did not support the draft decision prepared by it.

We are once more obliged to repeat that all responsibility for the lack of an agreed decision on the budget rests entirely with the Polish Chairmanship itself. The completely unwarranted cessation of consultations at the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance for a good three months in the first half of the year is exacerbated by the refusal – now in the second half of the year – to seek consensus and take into account the opinions of other States. Poland is placing its political ambitions above the interests of the Organization, and this is what has directly led to a crisis.

The Russian Federation reiterates its willingness to engage in a substantive, professional discussion on the OSCE Unified Budget Proposal. We wish to make ourselves clear from the outset: attempts to reduce dialogue to political accusations, including accusations related to issues that have no bearing on budgetary matters, will not lead to the desired outcome, nor enable consensus to be reached.

Our position on the Polish proposal is not a radical one: it is based on a large number of historical precedents whereby the level of appropriations for the Organization in a given year did not exceed the previous year's figures. For example, that was the case in 2020, when one country – a member of the European Union – refused to accept an increase in expenditure for all the executive structures without exception. And that position was accepted both by Albania, which held the Chairmanship at that time, and by all the other participating States.

Our point of view is more constructive. Russia does not object to the budgets of the Secretariat and the field operations being adjusted for inflation to some extent. What we disagree with in principle is the idea of increasing the budgets of the three OSCE human dimension institutions. For several reasons of both

a financial and a political nature, we consider this to be absolutely impossible. Our concerns in this regard were voiced at length during the meeting of the Preparatory Committee on 26 July. We are disappointed that they were not heeded. At the same time, it is likely that they were not even understood by certain countries, judging by their reaction.

In closing, we should like to draw attention to the following. The budgeting for the whole Organization is currently being done on the basis of Financial Regulation 3.04 – that is, the OSCE is receiving monthly allotments that are not allowed to exceed 1/12th of last year's level of expenditure. This is essentially zero nominal growth again, only that there is a monthly limit, which creates major inconveniences for the work of the executive structures. So regardless of whether or not the Polish Chairmanship is willing to seek consensus having taken into account the comments from Russia, the human dimension institutions will be funded at the level of 2021 in any case – even if the Unified Budget is not adopted.

In the meantime, one can only regret that the OSCE Secretariat and field operations are being made to suffer on account of the Chairmanship's confrontational and politicized approach.

Thank you for your attention.