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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1438th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 September 2023

In response to the address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Ms. Kauma,

We are pleased to welcome you to this meeting of the Permanent Council in your capacity as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. You were elected to this important position amid ongoing rapid developments in international relations – developments that are, among other things, fraught with the risks of uncontrollable destabilization. The future of the Assembly in its present configuration will, in many respects, depend on your diplomatic finesse and wisdom.

To be clear, the OSCE and its parliamentary pillar are in the grip of an unprecedented crisis, one which people in this room so like to talk about. There are not so many, though, who dare to expose its real root causes. Now, these include the increasing shallowness of the Western political elites, the decay of critical faculties in strategic thinking on security issues, geopolitical egocentrism and attempts to achieve world domination at any price.

We call upon you to analyse the following points dispassionately. Which States are aggressively advancing their military and economic interests under the pretext of standing up for values? Whose calling card consists in systematic interference in the internal affairs of “disobedient” countries and intrigues to bring about government change there? Who is cultivating the “flexible” application of the norms and principles of international law in keeping with the logic of political expediency? Which countries have, for many years now, been systematically increasing their military spending and engaging in the large-scale militarization of territories bordering the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, as well as bringing NATO infrastructure closer to our borders?

In that regard, we must stress that the current crisis in Europe can be resolved solely by ensuring that there are appropriate conditions – military, economic and political – for the safe development of Russia and our ally Belarus, and for tackling the consequences of the West’s irresponsible and criminal policy with regard to Ukraine.

We urge you to make use of all the available resources to ensure that the Assembly reverts to mutually respectful interparliamentary dialogue. The restoration of trust must be our collective priority. It is

unacceptable to use biased and discriminatory approaches, as shown by the Annual Session in Vancouver. Safeguards to ensure that members of the Assembly enjoy unconditional access to its events and the creation of an appropriate security environment for their work are a *sine qua non* that was notably enshrined in Tbilisi in 2016 through the Resolution on Unrestricted Access of Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Attending Official OSCE Events and Other Parliamentary Activities.

We trust that, under your leadership, the Assembly will facilitate the reaching of compromises on the problems that have accumulated in the OSCE's area of responsibility, doing so on the basis of true multilateralism and consensus-based decision-making. As we see it, your main task is to provide opportunities for the development of genuine dialogue in an interparliamentary forum, no matter how deep the antagonism runs in the current politico-military crisis in the OSCE area. For the very *raison d'être* of such multilateral mechanisms lies in creating the conditions for a future conversation on the rules of coexistence to ensure peace, security and the progressive development of the States concerned.

Thank you for your attention.