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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1559th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 March 2026

**On the First Ministerial Conference of the International Organization for the
Russian Language**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to inform you that the First Ministerial Conference of the International Organization for the Russian Language (IORL) was held in Moscow on 11 March.

The IORL is a new intergovernmental organization focused on culture and the humanitarian sphere. It was established as part of an initiative by Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The founding treaty and charter of the Organization were signed on 13 October 2023 by the Presidents of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The IORL's permanent working body – its Secretariat – will begin operations on 1 April 2026. Its headquarters will be located in Sochi (Sirius Federal Territory).

The main goal of the IORL is to strengthen comprehensive co-operation on matters relating to the support and promotion of the Russian language, and to consolidate the efforts of institutions and organizations engaged in similar activities.

We should like to emphasize that co-operation among States aimed at consolidating the international standing of the Russian language is carried out on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and genuine good-neighbourliness. Such joint work serves the fundamental interests of friendly nations united by a shared history and cultural and spiritual values.

The Organization is open to any State interested in co-operating on matters relating to its operations and willing to assume the obligations arising from the treaty.

Thank you for your attention.