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**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE 96th JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION AND THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 September 2025

**On Moldova's violation of its OSCE commitments in the context of the
parliamentary election of 28 September 2025**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are obliged to draw attention to the Moldovan authorities' flagrant violations of their commitments in the field of elections.

As the latest despicable example from a flurry of recent discriminatory measures taken by the authorities in Chişinău, about which we have spoken more than once at Permanent Council meetings, we have the Moldovan Central Election Commission's decision of 21 September to deny accreditation to all 16 short-term observers from Russia. I stress: to all of them without exception.

One gets the impression that Maia Sandu's regime, blinded as it is by Russophobia, has altogether forgotten about its obligations and commitments, including OSCE commitments. So let us provide a reminder.

We may turn to paragraph 8 of the CSCE Copenhagen Document of 1990, which sets forth that "the participating States ... invite observers from any other participating States and any appropriate private institutions and organizations who may wish to do so to observe the course of their national election proceedings, to the extent permitted by law."

At the same time, this latest move flouts the provisions of the 2002 Convention on Standards for Democratic Elections and Electoral Rights and Freedoms in the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, to which Moldova is a party.

Principles to ensure confidence in the electoral process are also enshrined in Moldova's domestic electoral legislation. At present, though, there is no question of any kind of transparency. The Moldovan authorities and their Western patrons obviously have something to hide from independent observers from Russia and certain other countries, whose representatives, by the way, were also denied accreditation.

However, it is not only we who are expressing concern about Moldova's systemic problems in the area of elections. We would remind you that that country has repeatedly come in for criticism from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Thus, in November 2023, the head of the ODIHR election observation mission, Corien Jonker, expressed concern over "the extensive use of executive powers during the ongoing state of emergency to introduce a last-minute ban of multiple candidates, as well as blocks on numerous media outlets". We do not want to take up too much of your time – you can easily find for yourselves the comment in question and other remarks by the ODIHR, as they are freely available online.

To return to the present, Moldova, through its discriminatory actions against independent observers, is making an open mockery of the executive structures and of the Organization as a whole. The political game of barring observers is evidently gratifying to the Sandu regime. It is as if OSCE commitments just did not exist for Moldova as such.

The Moldovan authorities' latest actions are a direct blow to the image and reputation of the ODIHR as a "guarantor" of the rights of observers. We expect the Office to provide a meaningful public response to the legal arbitrariness in which the Moldovan authorities are engaging.

Thank you for your attention.