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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1561st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 April 2026

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster

Mr. Chairperson,

Forty years ago, the world experienced its gravest human-caused disaster at reactor unit 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP). Millions of people suffered radiation exposure; hundreds of thousands lost their health and the roof over their heads, their “little motherland”. Chernobyl will forever remain a symbol of profound human suffering for three brotherly peoples – the Belarusian, Ukrainian and Russian peoples.

Russia will continue to provide, both at the bilateral level and within international organizations, every possible assistance to the Republic of Belarus, which was the hardest hit by the consequences of the accident. There is still much to be done, and we hope that other OSCE participating States will not stand idly by but will do their bit.

On the day in question, we mourn the dead and extend our sympathy to all those forced to endure this tragedy. We gratefully honour the memory of those involved in Chernobyl disaster relief efforts – they demonstrated courage and heroism, preventing the further spread of radiation. We regard every such date as an opportunity for the international community to come together and join forces in tackling the consequences of Chernobyl.

Unfortunately, it is not so in reality. Both for our Ukrainian colleagues, who have taken leave of their senses, and for their Western sponsors, such memorable dates are ever more manifestly turning into a mere pretext for fresh attacks on our country and irreverent insinuations.

We have already debunked these propagandistic fake stories on numerous occasions, doing so with facts and arguments at our fingertips, and we therefore see no point in dwelling on them in detail. In particular, our Ukrainian colleagues do not do themselves any favours by attempting to accuse Russia of having used an unmanned aerial vehicle to attack the “sarcophagus” at the Chernobyl NPP in February 2025. It is quite clear that this was a provocation planned by the ruling regime to take place just before Zelenskyy’s scheduled appearance at the Munich Security Conference to engage in a little more begging for

money and weapons. The Kyiv regime has extensive experience of such false-flag operations, as we can see on a regular basis especially in relation to the Zaporizhzhia NPP.

In particular, it is difficult to ignore the irrefutable evidence that the Kyiv regime and its armed formations are not only regularly firing at the plant and the city of Energodar, but also hindering the smooth and safe rotation of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) staff deployed to the Zaporizhzhia NPP. We believe, in any case, that detailed discussions on these issues must be held within the relevant forum, namely at the IAEA.

Thank you for your attention.