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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1564th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 May 2026

On the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, Ambassador Antti Karttunen, and thank him for his report on the field operation's project activities.

We note the close co-operation of the Project Co-ordinator's Office with the ministries and agencies of Uzbekistan, with educational institutions and public bodies in the host country, and with international organizations. Going forward, too, we trust that the OSCE field operation will continue to work strictly in accordance with its mandate and the requests of the host country, which is currently implementing a comprehensive package of reforms and transformations under the national "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy.

On the whole, we agree with the priorities for the work of the Project Co-ordinator's Office in all three dimensions.

We note a steady trend towards closer co-operation between Uzbekistan and the authorities in Afghanistan. At the same time, in view of the persistent cross-border threats, we believe that combating terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and organized crime must remain among the priority areas of the field operation's work. Uzbekistan's new Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism is also aimed at tackling these threats.

We likewise welcome the efforts of the Project Co-ordinator's Office with respect to information security and countering cybercrime. We can see that, in this context, considerable attention is being paid to the work of young people, including those from the regions of Uzbekistan and neighbouring Central Asian States.

We would ask you to keep in mind the expertise of Russian specialists in the OSCE's first dimension.

In the second "basket", the issue of combating money laundering and corruption, along with the shadow economy, remains as relevant as ever. We support the efforts of the Project Co-ordinator's Office to

assist the host authorities in this regard. The project being implemented by the Office for several years now aimed at promoting the development of women's entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan is also yielding positive results. We also note the efforts by the field operation in its work with young people, including support for aspiring entrepreneurs in the regions.

Given the challenging situation in terms of ensuring environmental security in the Central Asia region, the consistent work of the Project Co-ordinator's Office in assisting the Uzbek authorities with monitoring the heavy metal and radioactive contamination of the Syr-Darya River, along with biodiversity in the South Aral region, is of great importance.

In the third dimension, we highlight the field operation's efforts to support local authorities in combating and preventing domestic violence, and in the fight against trafficking in human beings, including with the involvement of the host country's academic and educational community. We welcome the Project Co-ordinator's work to establish a professional dialogue with the Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights of Uzbekistan.

At the same time, we have noted the increased interaction between the Project Co-ordinator's Office and the judiciary of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In this regard, we urge the OSCE field operation to exercise the utmost discretion when considering the involvement of international experts in sensitive areas of the host country's domestic affairs.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia and Uzbekistan are bound together by close historical ties. The authorities in Moscow and Tashkent are committed to further developing their multifaceted bilateral co-operation, and there remains a mutual interest in strengthening trade, economic and cultural ties between our countries.

Uzbekistan is a strategic partner and reliable ally of Russia in Central Asia. We value the Uzbek Government's balanced approach to issues on the international and regional agenda and look forward to further effective co-operation with our colleagues from Uzbekistan at the OSCE.

We hope that the efforts of the Project Co-ordinator's Office will continue to usefully complement the diverse and wide-ranging work that the authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan are carrying out bilaterally with the Russian Federation, through the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as well as in the "Central Asia-Russia" format.

We trust that the adoption of the Unified Budget will enable the Project Co-ordinator's Office to maintain a high level of effectiveness in its project activities. At the same time, we should like to emphasize once again the need for the field operation to adhere strictly to its mandate, taking into account Uzbekistan's national traditions and domestic political characteristics. It is also important that the implementation of extrabudgetary activities is free from politicization and bias, and is based primarily on the requests and needs of the host authorities, rather than being designed to serve the interests of a particular group of countries or associations.

In closing, we should like to wish Ambassador Karttunen and the Office's staff good luck, continued success and productive work.

Thank you for your attention.