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PC.DEL/648/26
26 June 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE 1569th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 June 2026

On the International Day of Women in Diplomacy

Mr. Chairperson,

On the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, we should like to focus not on trendy political slogans and declarations, but on assessing tangible results.

The Russian Federation gives priority to women's participation in public and political life. Even during the Soviet era, our country was ahead of many other States in terms of the extent to which women were involved in education, science, industry and management. What is being presented today in the OSCE area as a new social model became part of our State policy many decades ago. For instance, our compatriot Alexandra Kollontai became the first woman in the world to be appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

The situation at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirms this tradition. Men still outnumber women in senior management positions, but the workforce landscape is changing rapidly. Among the young professionals who have joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the past five to seven years, women accounted for 47 per cent and men for 53 per cent. This means that, in the near future, the ratio at the higher echelons of the career ladder will shift of its own accord – as the new generation of civil servants gains experience and progresses in their careers.

Overall, women make up around one third of the Russian diplomatic corps – between 30 per cent and 35 per cent. Among staff with managerial responsibilities, they account for around 20 per cent. They head divisions, serve as deputy heads and heads of departments, represent Russia in the ranks of ambassadors, consuls general and minister-counsellors, and hold posts as deputy permanent representatives to international organizations.

These figures are important not in themselves. They show that women in Russian diplomacy are not merely token appointments, nor are they there simply to make the statistics look good. They are entrusted with areas on which the conduct of our country's foreign policy directly depends.

They also make a significant contribution outside the professional diplomatic service. For example, Valentina Matvienko, Speaker of the Federation Council, is the third-highest-ranking official in the Russian

State according to the “order of precedence”. Incidentally, her curriculum vitae also includes diplomatic experience – Ms. Matvienko has twice represented Russia abroad as an ambassador, in Malta and Greece. Our country also plays an active role in international initiatives relating to women’s employment and economic independence, including within the framework of BRICS, the G20 and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

At the same time, we are convinced that women’s participation in diplomacy should not be a basis for introducing artificial “gender quotas”. The gender of a negotiator does not determine the outcome of a meeting. Both men and women can be outstanding diplomats – or fail to meet the requirements of the profession. Selection must be based upon meritocratic principles – on knowledge, skills, professional experience, proficiency in foreign languages, and the ability to negotiate and make decisions. There is no other rational criterion.

Thank you for your attention.