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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1579th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 October 2026

**In response to the address by the Special Representative of the United Nations
Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Vanessa Frazier**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank Ms. Frazier for her comprehensive statement.

We reaffirm our willingness to engage constructively at the expert level on the topic of children with all those who operate with facts rather than with fabrications. We hope that your visit to Russia in April this year will go down as a step towards developing a balanced, professional and objective approach to covering this aspect of the Ukrainian crisis.

We note that the human rights situation in and around Ukraine continues to deteriorate. Contributing to this is the fact that the Kyiv regime's crimes are being hushed up by its "sponsors" and by specialized international bodies, but also by the executive structures of our Organization, first and foremost the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Instead of condemning the crimes perpetrated by the Ukrainian armed formations and nationalist battalions, they are spreading myths about Russia supposedly "abducting, militarizing and indoctrinating" children. For obvious reasons, this topic is a sensitive one for the general public and leaves few people indifferent. That is why it continues to be subject to unscrupulous and cynical political manipulation.

Meanwhile, minors in Russia are falling victim to Ukrainian attacks almost every day.

In 2025, Ukraine's criminal actions claimed no fewer than 293 child casualties: 22 children were killed and a further 271 were injured.

In the first half of 2026, 21 children lost their lives and 194 were injured. All in all, Ukraine's use of explosive weapons has inflicted more than 2,000 casualties among minors. As at 1 July 2026, child casualties due to attacks by the Ukrainian armed formations had been reported in 21 regions of the Russian Federation.

We will cite only some tragic examples.

On 22 May 2026, an unprecedented large-scale attack by ten unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on the teaching block and dormitory of a college in Starobelsk, Lugansk People's Republic, killed 21 students and left 43 people injured. We have still not heard any words of condemnation for this cynical and shockingly brutal terrorist attack.

On 31 March 2026, in the Zaporozhye region, a guided aerial bomb hit and completely destroyed an apartment building; of the people inside, four were injured and two, including a child born in 2014, were killed.

On 31 May 2026, an attack by Ukrainian aircraft-type UAVs on the town of Genichesk, Kherson region, damaged six houses and six vehicles. As a result of the attack, 33 civilians were evacuated, but 11 people were injured and one child, born in 2020, was killed.

On 10 June 2026, a drone attack in the Rubezhansky municipal district of the Lugansk People's Republic cut short the life of a minor born in 2010.

In the second quarter of 2026 alone, UAV attacks in the Bryansk region resulted in 24 child casualties, one of whom was killed.

We expect Ms. Frazier to reflect in her thematic reports the pertinent facts, of which she is aware.

Overall, the Kyiv regime has attacked more than 2,100 educational institutions since 2014, including kindergartens, schools and colleges. The Ukrainian armed forces are increasingly targeting civilian objects. This is being done to intimidate the civilian population. Facing defeat, the Kyiv regime is resorting to terrorist tactics, no less. This is the reality that the West is studiously trying to ignore.

The weaponry and equipment used by the Ukrainian armed forces are manufactured and supplied primarily by the European Union. The Germans have not changed their spots. Thus, Hensoldt, a German company which is now working together with the Ukrainian neo-Nazis, supplied equipment to the Wehrmacht during the Second World War. The Europeans embroiled in the conflict have the blood of murdered children on their hands.

The Western "champions of freedom" keep shamelessly reproducing the conclusions of biased experts engaged under the Moscow Mechanism along with the ODIHR's screeds, which do not stand up to any scrutiny. These pseudo-studies are based on propaganda material from the Ukrainian authorities and information posted online by dubious sources, some of which have been declared undesirable in Russia.

In reality, it turns out that the Kyiv regime has been shamelessly deceiving the international community by claiming that tens of thousands of children had been "abducted". The authorities in Kyiv have been unable to provide us with anything other than a list of 339 children said to be on our territory. Moreover, much of what was contained in that document proved to be inaccurate.

However, Western countries are ignoring our calls for a professional, fact-based dialogue on this topic. They would rather make sweeping accusations. It is hardly surprising that their representatives chose not to participate in the round table organized by our Permanent Mission on 13 July 2026, at which Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova, the Russian Federation Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights, spoke. We would point out that over the past four years, thanks to the active involvement of the Office of the Commissioner, 30 children have been reunited with 22 families in the Russian Federation and 141 children

with 114 families in Ukraine, as well as in other countries. This is very much what practical, depoliticized work looks like, and we continue to be willing to engage in such work.

At the same time, we will continue to systematically make the truth known to the general public. We will shortly be circulating at the OSCE an invitation to the Vienna Discussions, an online human rights event focusing on issues related to the third “basket”, which will take place on 21 October. During the first of the four sessions of that forum, we will discuss – together with representatives of OSCE participating States, specialized human rights institutions, journalists and experts – the real, as opposed to fictional, situation regarding the protection of minors’ rights and legitimate interests.

We are convinced that it is in our shared interest to depoliticize the OSCE’s human dimension agenda. To achieve this, it is essential to return to genuine dialogue based on facts and verified sources, rather than on propagandistic clichés, insinuations and fabricated statistics that have nothing to do with solicitude for the well-being of children. Given your extensive diplomatic experience, Vanessa, you might be able to help our European colleagues take this long-overdue step.

Thank you for your attention.