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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1580th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 October 2026

**On the forthcoming Vienna Discussions on human dimension issues, organized by the
Russian Permanent Mission to the OSCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

In recent years, as we have repeatedly emphasized, there has been a growing tendency towards the politicization of discussions under the third “basket” of the OSCE and towards the exacerbation of differences in the participating States’ approaches to human dimension matters.

Attention is increasingly focused on individual issues and countries, while the space available for substantive and balanced dialogue is being edged out by a confrontational agenda. A telling example is the so-called Warsaw Conference, which has been organized for several years now by a group of Western participating States in circumvention of the agreed OSCE mechanisms. What is more, we must point out that the Polish authorities are pursuing a harshly segregationist policy vis-à-vis non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Poland refuses, on flimsy pretexts, to issue visas to community organizers from countries deemed “undesirable” or revokes them at the last minute. We have made our attitude towards that “get-together” quite clear on more than one occasion, including in this room.

In these circumstances, the Russian Permanent Mission, with the support of the Belarusian Permanent Mission, is organizing the Vienna Discussions on 21 October, an event that will deal with issues related to the OSCE’s human dimension. We wish to put forward for discussion a number of issues which the countries in the Western camp have, for many years now, been either pointedly ignoring or politicizing in every possible way to suit their short-term interests. These include: protecting the rights and legitimate interests of minors; combating religious intolerance; countering the glorification of Nazis and their accomplices, neo-Nazism, chauvinism and aggressive nationalism; tackling discrimination against national minorities; and international observation of electoral processes in the OSCE area.

We hope that the Vienna Discussions will help to steer the discussion of human dimension issues back on to a constructive track. The main objective of our event is to provide an opportunity for as many participating States and interested representatives of NGOs and the academic community as possible to have their say.

The Vienna Discussions will take place online via Zoom. The event is scheduled to begin at 9.30 a.m. Vienna time. It will be streamed on the Permanent Mission's social media channels. The working languages of the event are Russian and English, with simultaneous interpretation to be provided. Details of how to join will be sent to all registered participants. Following the event, a brief summary of the main points will be circulated.

We would emphasize once again that the Vienna Discussions are open to all OSCE participating States and OSCE structures interested in a constructive and depoliticized dialogue on sensitive issues pertaining to the human rights agenda. We urge all our colleagues not to balk at engaging in such dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.