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STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1581st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

15 October 2026

On the First Caspian Environmental Summit in Turkmenistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to take this opportunity to thank Turkmenistan for organizing a series of events under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Independent States on 7 and 8 October this year, the logical continuation of which was the First Caspian Environmental Summit in Türkmenbaşy.

The Caspian Sea is of immense natural, economic, transport-related and, above all, cultural and historical significance as one of the cradles of the entire Eurasian civilization. During the summit between the leaders of the five Caspian States, there was a thorough exchange of views on key issues related to combating the shallowing of the Caspian Sea, preserving its ecosystem, and climate change in general.

Russia attaches the utmost importance to working with its partners in these areas. Russian President Vladimir Putin informed the participants in the summit that the Government is currently drawing up a comprehensive programme, running until 2030, to study changes in the water level of the Caspian Sea and minimize their negative consequences. He also emphasized that Russia is prepared to share with all its neighbours the results of the research envisaged under the programme.

It should be noted that one of the main outcomes of the summit is the consensus reached by all participants on the need to develop joint measures to preserve the Caspian Sea's ecosystem, and to harness, for this purpose, the potential of existing international structures, including the Conference of the Parties to the 2003 Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea.

Russia also welcomed Turkmenistan's initiative to establish a special commission tasked with identifying the causes of the falling water level of the Caspian Sea and developing comprehensive measures to counteract the negative processes resulting from its shallowing.

In conclusion, we should like to emphasize that the Russian Federation has always advocated, and will continue to advocate, the strengthening and development of co-operation among the Caspian States in the interests of preserving the region's ecosystem, ensuring its sustainable growth and improving people's quality of life.

Thank you for your attention.