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PC.DEL/1494/22
14 October 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1394th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 October 2022

On the International Day of the Girl Child

Mr. Chairperson,

In 2011, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child. As you know, its goal is to draw attention to the challenges facing girls all over the world, to find solutions to these problems and to confirm the importance of empowering and protecting the rights of girls.

In that connection, we are incensed by the desire of a number of Western alliance countries to use this topic to repeat unfounded accusations against our country, notably in the context of the Russian special military operation.

This seems especially cynical given the fact that, since 2014, Western alliance countries and OSCE functionaries have hypocritically turned a blind eye to crimes committed by the Ukrainian armed forces and neo-Nazi formations, including those against girls and boys. For example, we did not hear any reaction to the posting of the personal data of Faina Savenkova, a 12-year-old girl from Luhansk, on the notorious Myrotvorets website. Nor was there any condemnation of the killing by the Ukrainian military of Kristina Zhuk and her ten-month-old daughter in Horlivka in 2014.

We have not heard any condolences either for the killing of many children during the punitive operation of the Kyiv regime in Donbas since 2014. We already distributed information in the OSCE about these children in April (SEC.DEL/159/22). This sad list only grows longer as the Kyiv regime bombs civilian targets in the Russian Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics and the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Girls and boys, women and men are being killed as a result of the Kyiv regime's systematic strikes on refugee convoys. But instead of taking a realistic look at the crimes of the Kyiv regime, the Western alliance of OSCE participating States continues to supply Ukraine with weapons to kill civilians. It appears that children's right to life is being blatantly violated by the Kyiv regime, at the instigation and with the direct assistance of its Western handlers. In such circumstances, human rights lectures should clearly be addressed not to Russia, but to themselves.

Mr. Chairperson,

Protection of the rights of the child – both girls and boys – is a priority for Russia. Our country is committed to strict compliance with international legal obligations to protect their rights and is making significant efforts in this area. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child remains the guiding light in protecting the rights of minors, especially in view of today's challenges. It is a gold standard of sorts, recognized almost everywhere in the world. We urge one OSCE participating State – the United States of America – to finally ratify this crucial document so as to make it truly universal in scope.

We oppose the attempts of a number of Western countries, pursuing a neoliberal course, to manipulate certain provisions of the Convention by lobbying for the idea of granting children the full range of rights. The document clearly establishes the principles of the best interests of girls and boys and the guiding role of parents or legal representatives. Moreover, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the full and harmonious development of the child's personality and the best interests of the child are in fact most effectively served by a happy family atmosphere and the observance of the principle of the sanctity of family life. That is why attention must be paid to the support of this most important social institution, especially in the context of the growing manifestations of crisis in the global economy.

Thank you for your attention.