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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1398th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 November 2022

On the situation in Kosovo and Metohija

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again, we are compelled to discuss in the Permanent Council the provocative steps by the so-called authorities in Priština, who with fanatical persistence are seeking to bring the situation in the region to a dangerous tipping point by deliberately ratcheting up tensions. It is the consistency with which those “authorities” take highly destructive ultimatum-like steps that both elicits bewilderment and raises questions. First and foremost, we should like to send a clear message to the Western patrons of the Kosovo Albanian elite – bring your protégés in Priština to their senses; it is high time to take genuinely effective measures to avoid a direct conflict. After all, the point of no return could come at any moment.

We have taken note of the publications of the OSCE field presence in Kosovo with its response to the events taking place. We believe that, in the current situation, the public messaging from the OSCE leadership and the Organization’s executive structures, above all from the OSCE Secretariat’s Conflict Prevention Centre, has generally been inadequate. There is a sense that early warning and related concepts for responding to a simmering conflict are being used selectively. And yet the OSCE and the Mission in Kosovo remain part of the international settlement efforts under the logic of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244. We should like to receive a clear explanation on this matter.

At the same time, we note the restraint and constructive approach demonstrated by the Serbian side, which seeks to implement the previously reached agreements and shows its willingness to resolve issues as they arise through dialogue. On 6 November, residents of Kosovska Mitrovica supported the stance taken by the Serbian leadership by coming out in a peaceful rally. Another step – a necessary one for the Kosovo Serbs, who did not want to fall victim to the criminal policies of the Kosovo Albanian “authorities” – was their withdrawal from a number of regional structures. The legitimate and justified demands of the Serbs living in Kosovo and Metohija must finally be heeded, especially their demands regarding the establishment of a Community of Serb Municipalities in Kosovo, as envisaged in the Brussels Agreement. The “authorities” in Priština made that commitment as early as 2013 – almost ten years ago.

We for our part recall once again that the international legal framework for resolving the Kosovo problem continues to be United Nations Security Council resolution 1244. A mutually acceptable solution

can only be found on that basis; it must be consistent with international law and be endorsed by the United Nations Security Council.

Thank you for your attention.