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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1534th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 September 2025

**On the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Secretary General,

We have carefully read the report on the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the promotion of so-called gender equality. We should like to note the following.

We categorically object to the continued packing of all areas of the Organization's work with the "Ukraine issue". For example, the holding of highly dubious workshops and conferences at the OSCE to "exchange experiences", such as training in "methods of investigating and prosecuting cases of gender-based violence in conflict" or the development of "practical recommendations for journalists on documenting gender-based violence in war". The same can be said for the promotion of non-consensus concepts such as "gender, corruption and access to natural resources", "gender, violent misogyny and violent extremism" and a number of other such concepts.

We warn against attempts to impose a broad interpretation of the women, peace and security agenda. The thematic scope of discussions on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 does not overlap with the existing OSCE commitments approved by all the participating States.

We believe that the leading role in these discussions falls to the United Nations Security Council. The key to the effective implementation of this resolution is strict adherence to the mandate set out in the document.

With respect to the women, peace and security agenda, we are focusing on the protection of women's economic and social rights, the creation of favourable conditions for women's professional fulfilment, and the protection of the family, motherhood and childhood. Unilateral coercive measures, which have a devastating impact on the situation of women, depriving them of opportunities for employment, education and social protection, pose a serious problem.

Mr. Secretary General,

We take note of the information on the progressive improvement of the situation regarding gender parity in the OSCE executive structures. Nevertheless, we note that too much time and too many limited budgetary resources are being devoted to achieving this neither high priority nor particularly urgent goal. Against the backdrop of the financial crisis currently affecting our Organization, such efforts appear unconscionable and unnecessary.

In our view, ensuring geographical balance in international contracted positions in the Secretariat and specialized institutions is a much more pressing task. The situation with regard to the participating States' representation in the staffing structure of our Organization in proportion to their financial contribution is by no means as favourable as in the case of the "gender balance". We are convinced that all the efforts of the OSCE leadership and the Secretariat's Department of Human Resources should be focused on rectifying the geographical imbalance in the recruitment of new staff. We regret to note that this is not the case in practice.

We would remind you in this regard that Staff Regulation 3.01 clearly states that gender balance is only one of three principles that should be used when selecting candidates for employment in the OSCE. The remaining two principles are the representation of all participating States on a fair basis and the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. We consider it unacceptable to ignore these principles in favour of gender parity.

Mr. Secretary General,

Ensuring equality between men and women and promoting women's rights is one of the priorities of the Russian Federation's State policy. In accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the State guarantees the equality of rights and freedoms of man and citizen regardless of sex. Men and women have equal rights and freedoms, as well as equal opportunities to exercise them.

In order to uphold the principle of equal rights and freedoms for men and women and the full and equal participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural life, Russian Federation Government order No. 4356-r of 29 December 2022 approved the National Action Strategy for Women for 2023–2030. The strategy is a fundamental element of the mechanism for implementing State policy for women. It is aimed at consolidating the efforts of federal authorities, the authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, local governments and civil society institutions to uphold the principle of equal rights and freedoms for men and women and to create equal opportunities for their realization.

In addition to numerous legislative initiatives and State programmes, a striking example of Russia's commitment to gender equality is the Eurasian Women's Forum, which, we would remind you, has been organized regularly since 2015 by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Last year, the event was held in St. Petersburg for the fourth time. This platform brought together delegates from more than 126 countries – parliamentarians, representatives of the executive branch, business, academia and non-governmental organizations.

In 2025, the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum under the Federation Council and the National Centre for Historical Memory under the President of the Russian Federation, in preparation for the first international forum "Women for the Preservation of Traditions", announced the launch of an international competition of the same name. The aim of the competition is to share experience and strengthen intercultural ties, as well as to preserve and popularize the traditions and values of different peoples.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are convinced that ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women is crucial to eliminating poverty and combating gender stereotypes, as well as to preventing discrimination and violence.

It is not only the elaboration of ambitious plans and declarations of good intentions that will help to achieve this goal. First and foremost, it will require sustained, systematic work on the underlying causes of inequality and the conscientious fulfilment by participating States of the relevant commitments and obligations. And that is, indeed, what we urge everyone to do.

Thank you for your attention.