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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1539th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 October 2025

On the report about the work of the Chairperson-in-Office

Mr. Chairperson,

The so-called Warsaw Human Dimension Conference that took place in the Polish capital has once again served to demonstrate the correctness of the approach taken by a number of OSCE participating States in boycotting that ersatz event as a matter of principle.

The format in question clearly demonstrated yet again how over there they do not want to hear the voices of community organizers from countries branded as “undesirable”. The event’s organizers did everything they could to minimize the number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Russia. Civil society representatives had their Polish national visas revoked at the very last minute under the spurious pretext of “protecting national security”. This occurred with the tacit consent of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and with the connivance of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship.

Why are the Polish authorities so scared of Women’s Dialogue, for example? That happens to be the name of one community organization that found itself “banned”, even though its representatives have previously participated on more than one occasion in international events held under the aegis of the OSCE and the United Nations. However, this time round they had come to be seen as a “threat” to Poland.

Maybe it has to do with the nationality of the participants? Or with the family background of the Chairperson of the Women’s Dialogue movement, Elena Semerikova, whose mother fought on the territory of Poland during its liberation from the Nazis? Or perhaps the authorities in Warsaw are not happy about Ms. Semerikova’s close ties to many Polish community organizations? We can only speculate.

This much is clear, though: any alternative point of view is a thorn in the side of the Polish authorities, so touchy have they become as a result of their blinkered Russophobia.

What strikes us as particularly sacrilegious is the fact that a fighter from the Azov Brigade, a Ukrainian terrorist neo-Nazi organization, was announced as a keynote speaker for one of the Warsaw Conference’s side events. We would remind you that it was the ideological forerunners of that organization

who, during the Second World War, perpetrated the Volhynia (Wołyń) massacre, where they butchered children, women and elderly people among others. Or is one allowed to cast aside principles for the sake of short-term political expediency and, in so doing, trample on the memory of thousands of innocent people who were tortured and murdered?

Not only did the ODIHR fail to react in any way to the incidents we have cited, but it also thought fit to launch, on the margins of that ersatz event, a practical guide on how to combat Christianophobia. We are curious as to whether that manual is intended only for “chosen” States. Or has the Office forgotten that a number of countries have been boycotting the conference for several years in a row now? And this at a time when freedom of religious worship is a key issue, especially in view of the Kyiv regime’s repression against the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

We have some questions for the incoming Swiss Chairmanship as well. Why was it presenting the human rights priorities for 2026 at a closed-door, non-consensus event of all places? Do you have something to hide from other participating States? We demand that the priorities in the human dimension be articulated at the OSCE decision-making bodies, as stipulated by the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office.

We shall skip over the frantic propaganda engaged in by a whole legion of partisan NGOs during that ersatz event and their wailing over the Russian Federation’s “crimes”. This confirms yet again that the goals of the special military operation have lost none of their relevance. We would also remind you that conclusions and recommendations issued by apologists of the Kyiv regime are worthless in our eyes.

In closing, we should like to call upon the incoming Swiss Chairmanship not to repeat the mistakes of the failed Finnish Chairmanship and, instead, to initiate consultations early next year with all OSCE participating States on holding the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). There can be no alternative to the HDIM. It is essential to do this as part of established practice and in line with existing commitments as regards agreeing on a “package” of events. However, it is already obvious now that Poland has forfeited any moral right to hold the status of host country of the corresponding human dimension events and of the ODIHR headquarters.

Thank you for your attention.