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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1573rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 July 2026

On the anniversary of the crash of flight MH17

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to state from the outset that the Russian Federation, like all OSCE participating States, shares in the grief over the loss of life in the air crash that occurred on 17 July 2014. We offer our condolences to the relatives and loved ones of the victims of this tragedy; we hope that the true circumstances surrounding it will be investigated and that those responsible will receive the punishment they deserve. However, we firmly reject any attempts to exploit human suffering for political ends. Unfortunately, this is precisely the situation we are faced with today.

We are once again hearing pronouncements in this room in which Russia's responsibility for the crash of flight MH17 is presented as an established fact. That is flagrant manipulation. Our position remains unchanged and is based on clear legal arguments, which we are systematically laying out at all international forums without exception.

Russian representatives have repeatedly, not least here at the OSCE, pointed out the highly unobjective and politicized nature of the investigation into this tragedy and of all related judicial proceedings and political statements. There was but one aim, namely to pin the blame on Russia, and every means was employed to achieve this: disregarding key technical expert assessments from the Russian side; inviting Ukraine – a party with a clear vested interest in concealing the truth – to participate in the investigation; and exerting political and media pressure on the investigation and the judicial process, including by bringing a case before the European Court of Human Rights. None of this has anything to do with the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2166 of 21 July 2014.

The decision adopted on 30 June 2025 by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in which responsibility for the crash of the Malaysian Boeing aircraft was groundlessly attributed to our country, also fits into this pattern. An appeal against that decision was filed by Russia at the International Court of Justice on 18 September 2025. Since then, its entry into force has been suspended pending the Court's consideration of the case. On 29 June this year, the Russian Federation submitted a memorandum to the International Court of Justice containing irrefutable evidence of the decision's untenability.

The ICAO Council's decision has been challenged on nine separate legal, procedural and factual grounds. Each is backed up by comprehensive evidence. The memorandum explains in detail that the Council exceeded the limits of its competence, committed substantial errors in establishing and assessing the facts of the case, misinterpreted key legal provisions, violated its own rules of procedure, and unjustifiably disregarded all the evidence submitted by the Russian side, which clearly indicates that Russia was not involved in the incident and that there are no grounds for any action whatsoever to hold our country accountable.

Specifically, the Council turned a blind eye to the numerous manipulations and inconsistencies in the Dutch technical investigation and the subsequent work of the Joint Investigation Team. We would remind you that Australia and the Netherlands were included in that team, as were Belgium, Malaysia and even Ukraine, but not the Russian Federation.

The ICAO Council failed to take into account that all the findings of the investigation organized by the Netherlands were based on disputed testimony provided by anonymous witnesses and on material from a source known to be biased and unreliable, namely the Security Service of Ukraine.

The Council ignored the circumstances pointing to Ukraine's involvement in the MH17 crash, beginning with the refusal of the authorities in Kyiv to completely close the airspace over the conflict zone and extending to evidence that the aircraft was shot down by the Ukrainian armed forces, including the presence of Ukrainian Buk surface-to-air missile systems in the vicinity of the crash site and markings on missile fragments indicating their Ukrainian origin – even though this was directly relevant to the question as to whether or not Russia bore responsibility for the crash.

In procedural terms, the ICAO Council displayed extreme bias. Its members, who are not independent judges or arbitrators but merely representatives of ICAO Member States, rendered their decision without properly examining the case or giving due consideration to the evidence. Moreover, the Council exceeded its authority, in particular by demanding that Russia enter into negotiations with Australia and the Netherlands regarding the payment of "reparations" for the crash.

Thus, instead of conducting a comprehensive, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident, as required by United Nations Security Council resolution 2166, the ICAO Council confined itself to the partisan and politically motivated rubber-stamping of the findings of a deliberately biased "investigation" that was carried out solely for the purposes of demonizing Russia.

We note that the ICAO Council has failed to fulfil the function assigned to it of settling disputes arising under the Convention on International Civil Aviation ("Chicago Convention").

And the by now routine attempts by Western countries to pin the blame on Russia are nothing more than one strand in the vilification of Russia as part of the hybrid war unleashed against our country.

Thank you for your attention.