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**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
1573rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 July 2026

On the virtual round table entitled “The ‘Stolen Ukrainian Children’ Hoax: Western Propaganda Unmasked”

Mr. Chairperson,

On 13 July, a round-table discussion on “The ‘Stolen Ukrainian Children’ Hoax: Western Propaganda Unmasked” took place in an online format hosted by the Russian Permanent Mission to the OSCE.

Our event attracted considerable interest from an international audience. The following participated in the discussion as keynote speakers: Maria Lvova-Belova, the Russian Federation Presidential Commissioner for Children’s Rights; Darya Morozova, the Commissioner for Children’s Rights in the Donetsk People’s Republic; and Inna Shvenk, the Commissioner for Children’s Rights in the Lugansk People’s Republic.

The discussion was also joined by representatives of participating States, constructively minded non-governmental organizations, independent foreign journalists – including those with experience of travelling to historic Russian territories – and recognized international experts.

The event made it possible to convey information to a wider public about the true state of affairs regarding the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of children in Russia, and also to solidly refute the Russophobic insinuations of countries belonging to the collective West, including the myths being propagated at the OSCE about alleged cases of “deportation, indoctrination and militarization” of minors by Russia. During the discussion, specific facts were cited – also with reference to Western sources – which testify to violations of children’s rights in European countries. Furthermore, it was noted that the canards about thousands of allegedly abducted Ukrainian children, which we are regularly forced to listen to here, do not correspond to reality.

We had provided advance notice of this round-table discussion on several occasions. Everyone who wished to do so was given the opportunity to join in and have their say on an equal footing. It is regrettable that Western countries and their protégés did not have the stomach to get involved in the discussion. We regard this as yet another example of their genuine attitude towards the topic of children that they claim to be so exercised about.

The deliverables from our round table will be circulated to all participating States and OSCE executive structures. We urge everyone to study them carefully. We reiterate our willingness to engage in open and depoliticized dialogue on this subject at our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.