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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1502nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 December 2024

**In response to the report by the Special Representative of the
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption**

Madam Chairperson,
Madam Special Representative,

We have taken note of the report on the work performed over the past year by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, Professor Anita Ramasastry, and of the recommendations it contains – in particular, the recommendations on preventing corruption and on synergies between various actors with relevant mandates. We should like to share our preliminary assessments and thoughts.

The destructive tentacles of corruption stretch across the globe. That is why the fight against corruption must be of a transnational nature, why it must be carried out systematically through the consistent strengthening of international co-operation, with the United Nations playing a central co-ordinating role. We are convinced that the extensive challenges posed by corruption can only be dealt with in a concerted effort, by sticking to a constructive agenda and following common approaches to anti-corruption work.

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on 9 December. On that date in 2003, the United Nations Convention against Corruption was opened for signature in the Mexican city of Mérida. The Russian Federation was among the first to accede to that universal treaty and to ratify it in its entirety.

Russia is systematically working to strengthen co-operation in anti-corruption efforts on the basis of the Convention. This year, the BRICS group, under its Russian Chairmanship, formulated a common vision and joint action plan on enhancing international co-operation in the fight against corruption and on the return of criminal assets to the country of origin.

The anti-corruption agenda was also widely discussed within the Group of 20 (G20) this year. Russia succeeded in drawing attention to the problem of the growing number of instances in which legal assistance is denied and requests for the extradition of criminals are refused on political grounds. As a result, the G20 agreed that international co-operation in this field should take place without undue political influence.

Russia is consistently thwarting its opponents' attempts to politicize the work of specialized multilateral formats by introducing international security issues into their agenda, even though these formats do not have a corresponding mandate and lack the necessary expertise. The Russian Federation is focusing its efforts on the implementation of initiatives aimed at building the capacities of practitioners, above all from developing countries, at improving anti-corruption knowledge and exchanging experience, including initiatives undertaken jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Anti-Corruption Academy, and also by making use of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum's thematic platform.

In the year now drawing to a close, Russia adopted a number of anti-corruption measures within the United Nations and BRICS frameworks, which confirms how foreign partners are interested in pursuing co-operation with our country.

As part of its mandate, the OSCE is likewise meant to play an important role in international anti-corruption efforts. The participating States have built up a solid set of commitments in this field. A significant addition to that corpus came with the adoption, at the Ministerial Council meeting in Tirana in 2020, of Decision No. 6/20 on preventing and combating corruption through digitalization and increased transparency.

Madam Chairperson,

In our country, the utmost priority is given to preventing and combating corruption. As in many other OSCE participating States, comprehensive and systemic measures are being taken in Russia to nip corruption in the bud. Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Plan 2021–2024 is being wrapped up, and work is under way on drawing up the next plan, to cover the 2025–2028 period. In particular, it is envisaged to strengthen the anti-corruption monitoring of transactions involving digital financial assets, cryptocurrencies and the digital rouble, and to ramp up anti-corruption measures in the areas of public procurement and State defence orders.

The enhancement of anti-corruption legislation is of key importance when it comes to combating corruption. In that regard, amendments to the Russian Federation's Federal Anti-Corruption Act of 2008 are being adopted. Specifically, the Act has been supplemented with mechanisms providing for the financial assets of officials to be converted into State revenue in cases where the legitimacy of their origin has not been verified. Over the past five years, more than 400 legal actions of this kind have been brought, leading to over 11,000 items of movable and immovable property and upwards of 760 billion roubles being confiscated and becoming State property.

As before, we are open to equal and mutually respectful dialogue on ways of establishing broad-based inter-State co-operation in countering corruption, and are ready to share the experience we have accumulated in this field.

We trust that today's discussion will serve not only to take stock of the work that has been carried out, but also to identify new tasks for overcoming persisting challenges in combating the scourge of corruption.

In closing, allow me also to thank the Special Representative for her many years of work undertaken for the benefit of all the participating States of our Organization, and to wish her good luck and success in all her future endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.