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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1124th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 December 2016

**In connection with International Human Rights Day**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This event was an important milestone on the road towards the emergence of the modern world order, placing a new date in the international calendar – International Human Rights Day.

We are bound to recall another momentous event – this year, the international community is marking the 50th anniversary of the adoption and the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It is hard to overestimate the significance of these documents – the first universal legally binding international human rights instruments, which also served as a basis for OSCE commitments.

It took several decades more until all the human rights safeguarded by the Covenants were officially proclaimed to be universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.

In spite of this, the treatment of civil and political rights on the one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other remains unequal to this day. The OSCE continues to pay significantly more attention to the former than the latter.

The Russian Federation is firmly committed to its human rights obligations and advocates the strict observance of the rule of law in international affairs, including in the human rights arena. No global shifts in the international political and economic environment can justify changes in the approach to assuring the human rights and freedoms set out in the Charter of the United Nations, the Covenants and other key international human rights instruments.

The only effective way towards genuinely strengthening human rights protection lies in constructive dialogue and co-operation on an equal footing, respect for national, religious

and cultural traditions and historical characteristics and the rejection of double standards and the use of pseudo-human rights as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of States and replacing legitimate governments.

We hope that in time these will be the principles holding sway in the OSCE, guiding us towards successful outcomes.

Thank you for your attention.