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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1200th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 November 2018

**In response to the report by the Director of the
OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Director of the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), Ambassador Marcel Peško, for his detailed report. We firmly believe that the effectiveness of the CPC's work to a large extent determines the usefulness of the efforts of the Organization as a whole, its relevance and global positioning in the system of international organizations.

It is difficult not to agree with the distinguished Ambassador Peško regarding the impact of the growing security crisis in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region on the OSCE's work. At the same time, it is perfectly clear that precisely in these current conditions the Organization's importance is growing as the most representative platform for dialogue with a view to overcoming existing inter-State conflicts, identifying and managing possible new conflict hotspots.

We believe that there needs to be a qualitative increase in the CPC's capacity for dealing with one of its key tasks, namely helping to reduce the risk of crises emerging. It goes without saying that the Centre's analytical and forecasting capacity needs to be systematically improved if this goal is to be achieved. We trust that the CPC will focus on providing participating States with early warning of potential risks of escalating tension, conduct an impartial analysis and provide regular situation forecasts with the required provision to the Permanent Council of the different options for responding to particular events using the OSCE's existing instruments and mechanisms. It is important to increase the co-ordination of the activities of the OSCE executive structures in this area under the general supervision of the Secretary General and the Chairmanship.

We believe it is wrong to assume that all conflict and crisis hotspots are located to the east of Vienna. We are seeing more and more conflicts emerging in the erstwhile prosperous regions of Europe and North America. There is clearly a need to adapt the current CPC structure to the demands of the modern age, extending its activities to the entire OSCE area.

We note the effective auxiliary work of the CPC in support of the established conflict resolution formats in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Transdniestria, Nagorno-Karabakh and Ukraine. Such work should be carried out in an impartial, status-neutral manner, with due regard for the basic agreements for resolving specific conflicts and the leading role of internationally recognized mediators.

The CPC should step up its efforts to reform the system of the OSCE's field activities. It is important to refocus field operations on their initial task of assisting the host country in building its national capacity and expertise so it can deal with the issues covered by the OSCE operation's mandate itself, with a view to the gradual transfer of these functions to the host country authorities, as provided for in paragraph 41 of the 1999 Charter for European Security. The semi-automatic renewal of field operation mandates, without taking into account the progress made by the host country, clearly limits the ability of the OSCE to respond flexibly to more acute crisis phenomena where this is needed most. We believe that future activities could well be in the form of targeted assistance to participating States unrelated to the deployment of field operations.

We note the progress in increasing the transparency of the programmatic and project activities of the field operations, including those financed using extrabudgetary sources. We firmly believe that there is also a need to continue to develop the practice of informing participating States about projects implemented in the field. We trust that this will continue to be done on a systematic basis and with detailed information provided in this regard.

We are satisfied with the CPC's activities to support the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), assist the FSC Chairmanship and Troika, and implement OSCE projects on the destruction and safe storage of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. We also regard as positive the organization of regional events on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and other issues. Work on the gathering of statistics on the implementation by participating States of their commitments under politico-military documents is also of practical importance, as is ensuring the operation of the OSCE Communications Network. We are convinced that in the future the importance of the CPC's work in this area will only increase.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the distinguished CPC Director and his team every success in their future work, and there will be a great deal of it.

Thank you for your attention.