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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1110th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 July 2016

On the situation in Turkey

Mr. Chairperson,

We are extremely concerned at the recent events in nearby Turkey. We commiserate sincerely with the Turkish people regarding the many victims, both civilian and law enforcement officers.

We believe that an exacerbation of the internal political situation in the country is highly dangerous to regional and international stability given the terrorist threats there and the armed conflict in the region.

We confirm Russia's principled policy regarding the complete inadmissibility for any State of anti-constitutional activities aimed at the violent overthrow of the democratically elected authorities. At different levels and in different international formats, including the OSCE, we have repeatedly proposed agreeing on a unified position regarding the inadmissibility of anti-constitutional change in the State authorities. The recent events confirm that this initiative has not lost its relevance. Collective approval of such a decision would pull the rug from under the feet of the destructive forces willing, with reliance on opportunistic external assistance, to force their way into power without regard for legal procedures and human victims.

We call on the authorities and people of Turkey to resolve the problems with respect for the constitutional order, and hope for a rapid restoration of social harmony and stability in the country. We are willing to work constructively together with the legally elected leaders of the Republic of Turkey in the interests of promoting bilateral relations to the benefit of the people of our countries and to seek effective ways of dealing with current international problems, above all those connected with countering the threat of terrorism.

Thank you for your attention.