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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1148th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 June 2017

**On International Children's Day**

Mr. Chairperson,

The International Day for Protection of Children (International Children's Day) is being celebrated today around the world.

This important day serves as a reminder of the need to concert efforts to effectively protect children and safeguard their right to life, health and education, rest and leisure, and protection from all forms of violence and exploitation.

There are a number of challenges in these areas today. Worrying reports about multiple violations of the rights of children and threats to their life, safety, health and moral development demand the closest attention.

Among the most urgent tasks are combating trafficking in children, sexual violence and child pornography, reducing homelessness, neglect, and social orphanhood, and ensuring healthcare and recreation for children, particularly those facing hardship, improving social services for children with disabilities and protecting the rights of child migrants.

Every country has its difficulties and successes in the matter of protecting children. We believe that there has long been a need to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the situation in this area, to review the relevant commitments by the OSCE and to exchange best practices with a view to drafting a Ministerial Council decision on this subject.

Thank you for your attention.