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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE  
1310th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

22 April 2021

**On the referendum in the Kyrgyz Republic**

Madam Chairperson,

On 11 April 2021, a referendum on the adoption of a new constitution, which provides for a transition from a parliamentary to a presidential system of government, was held in the Kyrgyz Republic at the same time as the local elections. The plebiscite was declared valid. International observers from the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation declared that the referendum had been open and legitimate and conducted in accordance with the legislation and international commitments of the Kyrgyz Republic.

It is our understanding that matters concerning the content of the draft constitution and the possible use of the recommendations set out in the recent legal opinion of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Venice Commission fall within the exclusive purview of the citizens of Kyrgyzstan. More than 79 per cent of the voters who took part in the referendum voted in favour of adopting the new version of the constitution. We believe that international institutions should respect the sovereign decision of the Kyrgyz people.

Thank you for your attention.