

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1149th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 June 2017

In response to the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the distinguished Ambassador John MacGregor to this meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for his detailed report.

The close co-ordination between the field presence and the Uzbek authorities ensures the practical effect of the mission's project activities. We appreciate the balanced nature of the Co-ordinator's work and believe that it is important that it is aligned with Uzbekistan's national development priorities within the framework of the reforms being carried out in the country. In that sense, one of the long-term orientations, as we understand it, is the adoption in February 2017 of the Action Strategy for Development of Uzbekistan for 2017–2021.

We support the efforts to supplement measures by the Uzbek Government to strengthen the capacity for meeting the challenges posed by terrorism and radicalism. In that connection, the Co-ordinator's participation in projects to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy and action plan to counter radical extremism and terrorism is worthy of attention.

We attach great importance to the co-operation between the Co-ordinator and the Uzbek law enforcement authorities in combating the drug threat. We note the contribution to the creation of an international version of the national online database on drug-related crimes, which a number of international organizations (the OSCE, Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and corresponding national agencies in other States will have partial access to. This work is useful. We welcome the co-operation with the National Drug Control Centre. On the whole, with account taken of the instability of the vast region of Central Asia, the growing challenges emanating from Afghanistan and the factor of so-called Islamic State and other radical groups, we are in favour of maintaining the close co-operation by the Co-ordinator in projects with Uzbekistan in the first dimension.

The Co-ordinator's efforts in the economic and environmental dimension with a view to developing national mechanisms to assess the risk of money laundering and the financing

of terrorism, promoting a “green” economy and assisting the Uzbek Government in combating corruption are worthy of acknowledgement.

Regarding the Co-ordinator’s work within the humanitarian basket, we note his focus on specific projects designed to assist the authorities of the host country. In that regard, we note the plans for re-engaging with the Uzbek Ministry of Internal Affairs. We also hope that the practice of maintaining direct contacts and exchanging experiences with Uzbek specialists and foreign colleagues, including those from Russia, will be maintained.

Mr. Chairperson,

The co-operation between Russia and Uzbekistan is cemented by centuries of common history, traditions of mutual understanding, support and the invaluable capital of cultural and human contacts. The visit to Russia in April 2017 by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev not only made it possible to outline long-term plans for co-operation in economic and humanitarian affairs and ensuring security and stability in Central Asia but also confirmed the common endeavour of our countries to further develop bilateral links on the principles of good-neighbourliness, strategic partnership and alliance.

In conclusion, I should like to wish Ambassador MacGregor and his team every success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.