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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1103rd (REINFORCED) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 June 2016

On the scales of contributions to the OSCE budget

Mr. Chairperson,

We note with satisfaction the active and constructive approach taken by Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl, who is endeavouring to find the optimum solution to the question of the scales of contributions and the development of a method for their calculation. We welcome her method of working, which takes account of the opinions of all participating States. We trust that the assessments given will be reflected in the conclusions of the Informal Working Group on Scales of Contributions, which Ambassador Stefan-Bastl chairs. We should also like to thank the German OSCE Chairmanship for its help in organizing the Group's work.

We have familiarized ourselves with the recommendations on possible approaches to the development of new scales of contributions, which deserve further careful consideration and discussion.

In our view, the main task facing the Chairperson of the Informal Working Group is to help to achieve consensus regarding the adoption of the new scales of contributions and the mechanism for their calculation. This is no easy task, since the discussions revealed mixed feelings among the OSCE participating States about the methodology for establishing them. We therefore believe it necessary first of all to decide on a method for the calculation of the scales of contributions.

As you are aware, a number of OSCE countries, including the Russian Federation, are in favour of maintaining the existing dual system of contributions. Our position is that our Organization has a large number of field presences, including the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, whose financing must be calculated according to a separate scale of contributions. Incidentally, the same approach also exists in the United Nations, where a separate scale of contributions has been established for peacekeeping operations.

Moreover, when discussing this topic further, it is important to take into account the current financial situation, which prevents many States from increasing their resources for

financing the OSCE. The question also arises of the relationship between the size of the contributions by the participating States and the degree to which they are represented in the Organization's structures.

In the light of the conclusions drawn, we believe it important not to be in a hurry with such a complex issue and to focus efforts primarily on reaching an agreement on the methodology for determining the scales of contributions and their size. We sincerely hope that, with her considerable experience of working with the OSCE and her diplomatic skills, the Chairperson of the Informal Working Group will manage to find a solution satisfying all States. To that end, we stand ready to continue our constructive co-operation with you, Madam Ambassador.

Thank you for your attention.