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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1252nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 December 2019

**On the occasion of Human Rights Day**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 10 December the world celebrated Human Rights Day, which was established by the United Nations. It was on this day in 1948 that the UN General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, designed to prevent a repetition of the atrocities of the Second World War. Together with two human rights covenants, the Universal Declaration laid the foundation for the modern international system for promoting and protecting human rights. Over seventy years after its adoption, it has lost none of its relevance and to this day is the guideline for universal human rights.

Against this background, attempts to match human rights to the narrow political interests of certain groups of countries are increasingly worrying. The application of double standards in the field of human rights and a bogus concern for the welfare of others are frequently exploited as an excuse for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, unilateral coercive measures and the use of force. The tactic of “coloured revolutions” aimed at disrupting the situation from within has become one of the favourite methods for getting rid of unwanted governments and spreading ideologies and norms in other countries regarding the way individuals and whole nations live together.

The viciousness of such thinking is clearly visible in the tragic events of the past decade in the Middle East and North Africa, which in some cases has led to the collapse of States and the complete or partial disintegration of their political and socio-economic infrastructure. There has been a sharp surge in terrorist activity in the region. The consequences of this irresponsible policy have been fully felt by many OSCE participating States in the form of a series of bloody terrorist acts, a large-scale migration crisis and growing radical right-wing populism.

The attack on freedom of speech and the media continues in a number of countries, and linguistic, educational and religious rights are infringed. Attempts to glorify Nazism and rewrite the history of the Second World War and the judgments of the Nuremberg Tribunal, which, incidentally, have become sources of references for modern international human rights law, are alarming.

The outcome of the Ministerial Council meeting in Bratislava confirmed the crisis in the OSCE human dimension and, as we have mentioned many times, the need for its fundamental reform. Not one of a

dozen or so draft decisions on human rights and similar issues was adopted. Certain countries once again sabotaged the implementation of the instruction of the 2014 Ministerial Council in Basel on the elaboration of declarations on the protection of Christians, Muslims and members of other religions. Other initiatives were blocked merely because they were proposed by a particular State rather than on consideration of their content.

There is a need to move away from the flawed bloc-based approaches of the Cold War. We firmly believe that work in the human rights and other spheres is possible only on the basis of the principles of equal and mutually respectful dialogue and co-operation.

We urge the future Albanian OSCE Chairmanship and the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee to focus their efforts in 2020 on improving the situation in the third “basket”.

Thank you for your attention.