

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1147th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 May 2017

**In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in
Bishkek and by the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek**

Mr. Chairperson,

We join in welcoming the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Ambassador Pierre von Arx, and the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Mr. Alexander Wolters.

The Russian Federation and the Kyrgyz Republic are bound by traditional ties of strategic alliance. Russia remains a close and dependable friend to Kyrgyzstan, and we trust that the country will continue its development towards democracy and socio-economic progress. The work of the Office, which this year faces the task of completing the transformation of its activities in line with the provisions of the new mandate, should also be focused on this. We hope that this reform will lead to greater dividends from the mission's project activities and a better balance within the priority areas of assistance set out in the mandate.

We welcome the mission's efforts in the first dimension designed to consolidate the Kyrgyz Government's efforts to strengthen national borders and in capacity-building to counter transnational threats, including the challenges emanating from the conflict zones in Afghanistan. There is a need for the Office's assistance in combating drug trafficking, radicalization and extremism, and trafficking in human beings. Help in improving the storage conditions for small arms and ammunition is also important. We consider support for police reforms in the country, strengthening the rule of law and fighting corruption to be equally relevant.

We know that the Office co-operates closely with the international organizations and agencies represented in Kyrgyzstan. In that connection, we should like to see the Office focus more on close co-operation with other regional bodies of which Kyrgyzstan is a member – primarily the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. We

believe that such co-operation will help to make greater use of the OSCE's potential and reduce the risk of duplication of effort.

We support the efforts to step up the Office's programmatic activities in the second dimension, concentrating on projects that help to increase employment opportunities, especially for young people, and create conditions for the development of national entrepreneurship.

As you are aware, presidential elections will be held this year in Kyrgyzstan. We assume that any assistance to the country's authorities in preparing for and holding these elections will be provided by the OSCE Programme Office exclusively in agreement with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and in strict accordance with the mission's mandate.

We wish every success to Mr. Alexander Wolters and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek headed by him. We hope that despite the current financial difficulties the Academy will continue its work. Its purpose, in our view, is not simply to train students but also to bring young people together from different Central Asian countries.

We wish all the staff of the Office and Academy every success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.