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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1172nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 January 2018

On the US detention facility at Guantánamo Bay

Mr. Chairperson,

We share the concerns expressed by the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan regarding the US detention facility at Guantánamo Bay.

As we have already noted on numerous occasions, the existence of this detention facility is a graphic illustration of the United States policy of double standards with regard to human rights. I recall that immediately after taking office President Barack Obama committed himself to closing this facility. Many years have passed and this promise has remained unfulfilled.

The new US administration is not demonstrating any readiness to meet its international commitments either. Dozens remain in the prison as before, and the majority of the detainees are being held without charge or submission of their cases to court. Meanwhile, those responsible for the torture and enforced disappearances during transfers and secret detentions have still not been brought to justice.

These facts are also confirmed by the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir. In her recent statement she noted that “indefinite detention without charge or trial constitutes cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment.” Concerns about the atrocities committed at Guantánamo, including torture and other inhuman treatment, were also outlined in last year’s report by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention operating under the United Nations Human Rights Council.

We call on the United States to comply strictly with its international obligations, take measures towards the prompt closure of the Guantánamo Bay detention facility and hold those guilty of torture and other unlawful actions accountable. We take the position that the States that participate in the “supply chains” of prisoners to this and other similar facilities must stop this practice. It is important that the relevant OSCE structures, first and foremost

the ODIHR, keep a constant eye on this situation, and not only on the occasion of the latest anniversary of the US Government's failure to keep its promises.

Thank you for your attention.