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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1273rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 July 2020

**On the situation in the Republic of Belarus in the run-up to the presidential elections**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are carefully following the situation in the run-up to the elections in our brother nation Belarus. We note that the preparations for the presidential election scheduled for 9 August are taking place within the framework of constitutional norms and current legislation.

We are confident that the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus will be held in the traditionally well-organized manner, in strict compliance with national legislation and international standards. We shall be willing to send observers to monitor the election on a bilateral basis and as part of international observation missions, if we receive an invitation from the Belarusian authorities to do so.

We regard as unacceptable any external interference in the electoral process in Belarus. Russia is not interfering in the ongoing election campaign, will never do so and urges other countries not to allow any direct or indirect pressure to be exerted.

We should like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Belarusian friends on their upcoming holiday – Independence Day, also known as Republic Day. We set great store by our strategic alliance, which is based on centuries-long traditions of friendship and mutual support, on cultural and spiritual affinity, on a shared history and joint victory in the Great Patriotic War, and on forward-looking co-operation.

Thank you for your attention.