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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1124th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 December 2016

**On parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to congratulate our Uzbek friends on the outstanding organization and successful conduct of the presidential elections on 4 December. The preparation of this event, which is of importance to Uzbekistan and States close to it, was attentively followed in the Russian Federation and also sparked considerable interest in international organizations.

A representative observer mission of over 70 persons from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) also worked in the country. It visited over 700 polling stations throughout Uzbekistan and, on the basis of its own observations and an analysis of the data and information collected in the process of long-term and short-term election monitoring, described the elections as free, transparent and competitive. This opinion reflects the position of the representatives of all the States participating in the CIS monitoring mission.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation observer mission also considered the elections to have been open, free and democratic, noting that they were in accordance with the Republic of Uzbekistan's election laws and the country's international obligations.

We have also studied the conclusions of the experts of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Once again, unfortunately, their logic is not always comprehensible and the criteria on which their final conclusions are based are far from clear. In our opinion, this is yet another reminder of the need to elaborate uniform standards for the ODIHR's assessment of election processes in the OSCE area. We remain willing to play an active part in this process.

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, also congratulated the elected President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, on his resounding victory, and confirmed the desire to strengthen the Russian-Uzbek alliance and strategic partnership.

Thank you for your attention.