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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1116th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 October 2016

**In response to the question raised by the United States of America about
the investigation of Valentina Cherevatenko**

Mr. Chairperson,

We note the concern of our colleagues regarding the investigation of the Chair of the Board of the Women of the Don Foundation for Civil Society Development, Ms. Valentina Cherevatenko.

We have already provided substantive clarifications about this question. I would remind you that Ms. Cherevatenko is suspected of deliberate evasion of the law on non-commercial organizations functioning as foreign agents. I should like to stress that it is a question of contravention of the law. We therefore urge you not to seek a hidden agenda where none exists or to stir up an artificial commotion about this matter.

We should like once again to emphasize that the provisions of Russian legislation are identical for everyone, including those enjoying with some kind of “merit” in the eyes of Washington or Brussels.

Thank you for your attention.