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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1188th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 June 2018

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, distinguished Ambassador Pierre von Arx, and the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Mr. Alexander Wolters.

We thank Mr. von Arx for his detailed report. We appreciate the transparent approach to reporting on the Office's activities. We consider this to be the only proper approach.

Since the entry into force of the new Office mandate (from 1 May 2017), its activities have been taking greater account of Kyrgyzstan's interests and needs. The Consultative Mechanism created with the participation of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which makes it possible to identify priority areas for co-operation based on long-term national development guidelines, is a positive experience.

We note the balanced nature of the Office's project activities in the three dimensions. The most worrying challenges have not been overlooked: the threats of terrorism and radicalization and the problem of foreign terrorist fighters. We need to continue supporting police reform in the country, strengthening the rule of law and countering corruption. It is important to assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in increasing citizens' access to police services in remote parts of the country.

We are satisfied that the Office's programmes in the second dimension are becoming more focused. We hope that they will contribute in practice to entrepreneurship development, employment growth and the expansion of trade with countries in the region.

The Office's experience of transferring completed projects to the oversight and management of the Kyrgyz authorities is interesting. These include, for example, the programme to support the creation in Kyrgyzstan of a training centre for customs officers.

We would suggest looking more closely at this practice. Russia believes that the efforts of the OSCE field operations should be of a finite nature – after all, missions cannot exist forever.

We support the practice of the Office joining forces with other international organizations and structures represented in Kyrgyzstan. It seems logical to step up the Office's co-operation with those that are very familiar with the regional features and needs of the Central Asian States, first and foremost, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. As life shows, each of the organizations, including the OSCE, has its niche, but by combining their efforts they are able to accomplish a great deal.

We also note the consistent efforts by Ambassador von Arx and Alexander Wolters to exploit the potential of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. We are doing our best to facilitate this process, among other things by having approved a substantial increase in the financial assistance to the Academy in the budget for this year. We regard the Academy's main task as bringing together capable young people from the Central Asian countries. Russia is an integral part of this vast space, and this being the case we would hope to see more active involvement of Russian lecturers in the Academy's work.

As a long-standing and trusted friend of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation is interested in its stable, democratic and progressive development. We hope that the work of the OSCE Office will continue to facilitate this in practice.

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

Thank you for your attention.