

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1106th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 June 2016

In response to the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We take a positive view of the priorities outlined in the report by Ambassador John MacGregor, who recently began his work as the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, and consider them to be balanced. It is crucial that the programme activities of the field presence are developed in close co-ordination with the Uzbek authorities and are based on the agreed mandate and provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan. We note the change of direction that has occurred in its work towards greater assistance to the State institutions of the country with a view to increasing their effectiveness. We hope that this approach will prove more productive as a way of supporting the reforms under way in the country.

The Co-ordinator's co-operation with the law enforcement authorities of Uzbekistan to combat terrorism, radical extremism, drug trafficking and other transnational threats is of particular importance. In that connection, we would highlight the co-operation with the National Centre for Drug Control. In view of the unstable situation in the region, first and foremost the so-called Islamic State and other radical groups, we are in favour of continuing the Office's fruitful work with the Uzbek authorities in these areas.

We support the Co-ordinator's activities in the economic and environmental dimension, primarily with a view to developing national mechanisms to assess the risk of money laundering and the financing of terrorism, promoting a "green" economy and helping the Government of Uzbekistan to fight corruption.

As for the Co-ordinator's measures in the human dimension, we assume that they will be developed to assist the authorities of the host country. We note the co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan, which has made it possible to hold training courses for police officers on the prevention of torture. We welcome the practical contribution to disseminating information on international standards for the treatment of detainees. Assistance in making combating trafficking in human beings more effective should also be mentioned. We take a positive view of the contacts developed with the Constitutional

Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The practice of organizing direct communication and the sharing of experience between legal professionals from Uzbekistan and their foreign colleagues, including those from Russia, is a useful one.

Mr. Chairperson,

Relations between Russia and Uzbekistan are developing in a positive manner in all areas, and active political dialogue continues between our countries. The official visit to Russia in April of this year by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, provided an opportunity not only for consideration of the current state of bilateral ties in various areas and the prospects for their development, but also for substantive discussion of questions on the international agenda, as well as co-operation within the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The SCO summit is beginning its work today in Tashkent. We attach great importance to the joint work of our countries in safeguarding regional security and stability in Central Asia.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Ambassador MacGregor and his team every success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.