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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1133rd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 February 2017

**In response to the presentations by the Chairpersons of the Security  
Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee, and the Human  
Dimension Committee**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Chairpersons of the Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee, and the Human Dimension Committee for the priorities they have presented. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to their predecessors for their work.

We congratulate the distinguished Ambassador Steffen Kongstad on his appointment as Chairperson of the Security Committee. We support his intention to continue working to respond to the various aspects of transnational challenges and threats. We believe that priority should be given, first of all, to the consolidation of efforts to counter terrorism, including its ideology, violent extremism and illegal drugs, and to co-operation in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

We regard the upcoming OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in Vienna (23 and 24 May) as one of the key events in the first "basket". We are counting on the Committee's active participation in the preparation of the Conference. We hope that developments relating to the fight against terrorism will allow for practice-oriented, effective and mutually beneficial decisions at the December OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vienna.

The agenda should place particular significance on the need to continue efforts to combat drug trafficking, including in Afghanistan. It is unacceptable to reduce the Organization's profile in this area.

We consider ICTs to be one of the most important areas of our co-operation within the Security Committee. We believe that work on this issue should be depoliticized and focused on the implementation of existing confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of conflict when using ICTs.

We look forward to a balanced approach that takes into account the interests of all OSCE participating States, including in relation to other aspects – policing, border security and management.

We call for greater attention to be paid to the problems of new challenges and threats, including those emanating from Afghanistan and the Southern Mediterranean. We consider it necessary to intensify dialogue on this subject with the Partners for Co-operation.

We thank the distinguished Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, Mr. Kairat Sarybay, for his effective leadership of the Economic and Environmental Committee. The establishment of constructive dialogue on the economic and environmental aspects of security enables the unifying potential of the second OSCE “basket” to be used more effectively.

We fully share his approach to the organization and work plan of the Committee. We support the spirit of promoting the concept of economic connectivity. We are confident that dialogue on the harmonization of integration processes in the OSCE area will contribute to the formation of a common economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok. We hope that in this regard our Organization’s efforts will be supported by the expertise of relevant international organizations, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

In the framework of the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Greening the Economy and Building Partnerships”, we look forward to continuing discussions on trade and the improvement of the investment climate. We believe that a discussion on transportation issues is required, especially in the context of increasing international transport links and corridors, energy efficiency and the development of energy-saving and environmental technologies. We are ready to share the Russian Federation’s experience on such topical issues as proper management of labour migration and the fight against corruption and money laundering.

We welcome Ms. Sian MacLeod and congratulate her on her appointment as Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee. We take note of her commitment to providing professional and effective work in this format. That said, we are disappointed with the Committee’s unbalanced programme of work, especially given the significant reduction in the number of meetings. Only civil and political rights appear in the programme of work for 2017. And it is even formulated according to the priorities of a particular group of countries.

Contrary to the principles of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993, there is no mention of economic, social and cultural rights. Unlike previous years, the subjects of combating human trafficking, the rights of the child, national minorities and rights for persons with disabilities are ignored. Topical issues such as the elimination of statelessness; combating of aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism; preservation of historical and cultural heritage; non-discrimination in sport; non-interference in private and family life; freedom of movement; and the development of contacts between people remain on the sidelines. Planned joint meetings with other committees will not solve this problem, as they will be devoted to cross-dimensional themes.

We hope that these comments will be taken into account when the “package” of human dimension events for the current year is negotiated. We believe that the plan proposed by the Austrian Chairmanship provides a good basis and we are ready to work on it constructively.

Thank you for your attention.