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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1072nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 October 2015

**On the observation by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and
Human Rights of the parliamentary elections in Canada**

Mr. Chairperson,

The participation by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in the observation of the parliamentary elections in Canada on 19 October once again brings us back to the need to revise the procedure for the Office's election activities and to elaborate a uniform set of regulations agreed within the OSCE for election monitoring.

We welcome the fact that for the first time in nine years the ODIHR decided to send observers to Canada, albeit in the form of a very modest election assessment mission.

Indeed, the mission consisting of six experts for a country with over 35 million inhabitants with 338 electoral districts and until recently around 1.4 million disenfranchised citizens is in sharp contrast to the huge landing parties that the ODIHR sends to some other countries to the east of Vienna. Moreover, in some cases the Office categorically refuses to engage in constructive dialogue with the host country, imposing "take it or leave it" conditions on the basis of its own methodology, which the OSCE participating States have not seen or approved.

For once, we did not hear the ODIHR's preliminary verdict, as it calls it, whatever it was, on the morning after the elections. This is not a bad thing in principle, since the heads of the observation missions are known to add politicized assessments at their discretion of the internal political situation in the countries where elections have taken place. This is not part of the ODIHR's remit.

We hope that the expert work carried out by the ODIHR's specialists in Canada is in line with the requests by the host State and that it will be evaluated and utilized by it in a suitable manner.

We also hope that the day will come when the ODIHR takes the same really impartial and professional approach based on the needs of the State itself to all OSCE countries. For

this to happen, it is true, uniform regulations for electoral monitoring need to be agreed within the OSCE.

As for the frequently raised matter of the ODIHR's resources, we expect the Office to present a detailed account with a list of the specific expenditures involved in the observation missions conducted by it, including the mission to Canada. Without this it will be difficult to assess the justification for the resources requested by it for next year.

Thank you for your attention.