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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1273rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 July 2020

**In connection with the United States Department of State's report on the global situation with regard to trafficking in human beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the United States Department of State's report on the global situation with regard to trafficking in human beings, that is, the *Trafficking in Persons Report* for 2020, which has just been presented by the distinguished US Ambassador, I should like to note the following.

Reviews of this type can no longer be regarded as serious documents enabling readers to get an objective picture of what is going on in the field of anti-trafficking. The report's propaganda-style content, prepared on the basis of data from dubious sources, clearly betrays its political subtext. Anyone who is even remotely familiar with the US Government's approach to foreign policy has no need to peruse the content of such an "oeuvre". Conclusions and recommendations that were evidently put together before analysing the material collected, idle reflections based on unverified facts and conjectures, nauseating political clichés – there you have the whole essence of a work which has had so much of US taxpayers' money thrown at it. It is a wasted effort, which in no way does justice to either the political slogans spouted by the United States of America in the fight against this global phenomenon or to the huge scale of the problem in the United States itself.

Once again, the US representatives, arrogating to themselves the role of the "world's prosecutor", have attempted to divide the world into first-, second- and in this case also third-class States. Then, on the basis of this homespun classification, "villains" are singled out, who, as is the practice along the Potomac, are to be subjected arbitrarily to various kinds of punitive measures, including the notorious use of sanctions, by means of the extraterritorial application of US domestic law.

The shambolic nature of the material in the section on Russia, including the various facts torn out of context and the stereotypical politicized arguments, does not stand up to criticism. On the same level are also the multiple occurrences of the word "likely", so beloved of the US Government, and the patronizing remarks telling us what we should be doing in the field of anti-trafficking.

The Russian law enforcement agencies are actively working to combat trafficking in human beings throughout our whole country – also as part of international co-operation efforts. It is precisely this kind of

interaction between specialist departments aimed at investigating specific crimes that yields tangible results, in contrast to the aforementioned “rating” of countries, which merely serves to hinder the establishment of normal contacts between experts from different countries.

When it comes to such a serious issue as trafficking in human beings it is essential, in our view, to engage in responsible and depoliticized work. The dire situation in the United States itself ought to induce the US Government to reconsider thoroughly its approaches in this field. For in that country – as noted in various assessments, including some that have been voiced at the OSCE – one can observe a soaring level of trafficking in, and sexual exploitation of, children. Not to mention other systemic problems, such as those linked to the situation of millions of migrants entering the United States through its southern borders. Tackling the problem of trafficking is not made any easier either by the irresponsible actions of a number of Western countries (among them yet again the United States) in the Middle East and North Africa, as a result of which large numbers of people have been forced to abandon their homes, with many of them becoming victims of those who trade in “human commodities”.

Trafficking in human beings is very much a global problem: it poses a serious threat to all countries and therefore calls for an integrated response. Only constructive co-operation, also at the international level, can ensure that it is tackled successfully.

Thank you for your attention.