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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1291st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

26 November 2020

**On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Ambassador Melanne Verwee to this meeting of the Permanent Council.

This International Day, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, helps raise awareness of the phenomenon of violence against women. This unfortunately continues to be a problem that requires the efforts of all OSCE participating States, civil society and international structures to address it.

Our Organization has also seen some developments – most notably the decision on preventing and combating violence against women, adopted at the Ministerial Council in Milan in 2018 with the active assistance of Russia. We believe that the OSCE has been able to effectively complement the wide-ranging approach taken within the framework of the United Nations.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on “women and peace and security” is undoubtedly an important reference point for improving the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution and the protection of women during armed conflicts. At the same time, we believe that it is unacceptable to impose any action plans in this area on States, especially outside the context of conflicts or post-conflict reconstruction. It is the United Nations that has always played the leading international role here. There is no need to duplicate its efforts.

At the national level, a comprehensive approach is needed in combating violence against women. It must include not only assistance to victims, but also the creation of conditions for the empowerment of women. Of vital importance is the development of their economic potential, personal growth and professional qualifications as prerequisites for independence. At the same time, it is important to ensure that all rights – civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural – are respected.

Russia is taking comprehensive measures to prevent and eliminate different forms of violence against women in accordance with its international obligations. Even in the difficult conditions of the coronavirus pandemic, which has been having a serious impact on all spheres of life, we have been trying to maintain the highest standards possible. The topic is the focus of attention of the country’s leadership and of

the relevant human rights bodies, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation and the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights.

Thank you for your attention.