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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1465th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 March 2024

**In response to the address by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu**

Esteemed Murat Abugaliuly,

We are pleased to welcome you to the OSCE Permanent Council. We thank you for your interesting and informative address.

I should above all like to emphasize that the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan are bound together by historical traditions of friendship and good-neighbourliness, by the deep cultural and humanitarian ties between the peoples of the two countries. We always follow developments in that friendly country with interest.

We know that, as part of the path to building a “New Kazakhstan” initiated by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, your country is going through profound reforms in political life and economic policy, that it is carrying out transformations in the social and human rights spheres. We unwaveringly support the initiatives of the Republic’s leadership. We stand ready to share Russian know-how and expertise.

Importantly, the active political dialogue at all levels and the dynamic trade and economic co-operation between our countries are supplemented by effective interaction in regional and international formats. In order to ensure balanced assessments and an objective perspective, Russian experts participated in observing the early presidential and parliamentary elections in November 2022 and March 2023 respectively, both under the OSCE’s aegis and as part of the missions deployed by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Russia shares Kazakhstan’s approach with regard to developing a self-reliant foreign policy aimed at protecting national interests. Taking as they do identical or close positions on current international problems, Russia and Kazakhstan are working together to maintain peace, stability and security at both the global and the regional level. Our countries attach particular importance to further strengthening the central co-ordinating role of the United Nations, and are working to realize the goals and principles enshrined in CIS and OSCE consensus documents.

At the OSCE, Russia has always asserted the inadmissibility of a biased and politicized approach in relation to all the participating States without exception; it has affirmed the need to take their national characteristics and traditions into consideration and urged that the Organization's toolbox not be used for interference in the internal affairs of States and in how they choose their political and social development paths. A special responsibility in this regard lies with the OSCE field operations in Central Asia, the activities of which should be conducted in strict compliance with their mandates and with account taken of the needs and demands of national governments. Ensuring that all the Organization's participating States enjoy equal conditions for working in the region, and that there is an impartial approach to budgetary activities, is a key necessity at this stage.

We see in Kazakhstan a reliable partner on the Vienna platform and also at other inter-State associations, namely the Eurasian Economic Union, the CIS, the SCO and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia. We support Kazakhstan in its current role chairing the Collective Security Treaty Organization – a chairmanship that is geared towards the maintenance of peace and stability in Central Asia and in the Eurasian space as a whole.

Our common efforts are aimed at ensuring that Kazakhstan continues to enjoy political stability and to flourish, and that it can build its capacity for tackling the major challenges of economic and social development.

In closing, allow me to thank you, esteemed Murat Abugaliuly, for taking part in today's meeting and to wish you success in your multifaceted activities in the service of Kazakhstan.

Thank you for your attention.