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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1108th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 July 2016

Regarding the anniversary of the downing of Flight MH17

Mr. Chairperson,

We join in the words of condolence expressed by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Netherlands on the anniversary of this tragedy.

We confirm our commitment to the implementation by all of United Nations Security Council resolution 2166 adopted on the initiative of Russia, which calls for a full, independent and thorough international investigation into the aviation accident and punishment of the guilty parties.

Our military and civilian authorities are willing to extend all possible assistance to the investigation of this incident so as to provide Russian and Ukrainian society and the world as a whole with an objective picture. We would welcome it if our colleagues from the Netherlands were to make fuller use of our capabilities.

I once again emphasize our interest in a thorough and objective international investigation.

As for the calls for the establishment of a tribunal to punish the guilty parties, I should like to recall that nothing of this kind was undertaken in connection with the Iranian passenger plane downed over the Persian Gulf in 1988 or the Russian civilian aircraft from Siberia Airlines downed in 2001.

There is a need to return to the legal framework of Security Council resolution 2166, which remains the only acceptable basis for co-operation by the international community in establishing the causes of the downing the Malaysian aircraft and preventing similar incidents in the future.

Thank you for your attention.