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**STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY BALAKIN,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1232nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 June 2019

On the early presidential election in Kazakhstan

Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate the people of our ally Kazakhstan on the successful holding of the early presidential election.

In his congratulatory telegram, the President of Russia Vladimir Putin indicated that Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's convincing victory at the election demonstrates the high esteem in which he is held by his compatriots and testifies to the widespread support for the continuation of the State policy aimed at the sustainable social and economic development of Kazakhstan and the protection of its foreign policy interests, including the strengthening of the strategic partnership and alliance with Russia.

We believe that Mr. Tokayev's popularity relies on the legal recognition of the election results and the broad trust of the citizens of Kazakhstan. The will of the people brought to a close the peaceful and legitimate process of the transition of power in the country.

We note the close attention paid by the international community to the election. The voting process was covered by a record number of foreign correspondents. More than one thousand international observers from nine international organizations, including the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the OSCE, took part in observing the election campaign and voting.

Observers from the overwhelming majority of international bodies positively assessed the election result. For example, the head of the CIS observer mission and Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee, Sergey Lebedev, stated that the election complied with the principles governing democratic elections and was transparent, fair, open and competitive. Voting was peaceful and well organized and took place in an open atmosphere. No serious violations were identified that could affect the result. Similar conclusions were also drawn by a number of other international observers, including the missions from the SCO and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

The critical assessments of the joint observation mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly contrasted with these conclusions.

Once again, we are forced to note that their findings are not without politicization, which has little to do with real assessments of the electoral process's compliance with OSCE commitments. We join the call of the distinguished representative of Kazakhstan to adopt uniform standards and methods for electoral monitoring agreed by all OSCE participating States, including with regard to the ODIHR election observation methodology.

We once again congratulate our Kazakh friends on the successful holding of the election and wish the new President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, success in his work for the good of the country.

Thank you for your attention.