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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1365th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 March 2022

In response to the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the distinguished OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, Ambassador Pierre von Arx, and thank him for his report on the project activities of the field operation headed by him.

We can see that the Co-ordinator is fulfilling his mandate in close co-operation with the host authorities and in line with the comprehensive reform programme being implemented by the Government of Uzbekistan. The Joint Road Map, which is periodically updated, provides much-needed targeted assistance, strengthening national capacities precisely in those areas where assistance has a concrete added value.

In that context, we agree on the whole with the priorities in the Co-ordinator's project work. We believe it necessary to continue to focus attention on issues such as combating terrorism and radical extremism and their financing, and countering drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and corruption, in particular as part of the 2021–2022 Joint Action Plan in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan. We believe that regular structured offline training courses for the staff of the competent authorities in Uzbekistan are important for successful co-operation in those areas, as soon as COVID-19 measures are lifted, of course.

We note the Project Co-ordinator's efforts in the areas of information security, good governance, promoting agriculture, supporting small and medium-sized businesses, fostering open and relevant data from government agencies in Uzbekistan, and increasing the participation of women in the socio-economic and political life of society. We welcome the ongoing pilot project to introduce preschool environmental education in the Republic.

In conclusion, allow me to wish Ambassador von Arx and the staff at the Office the best of health and further success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.