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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1268th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

21 May 2020

In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe

Mr. Chairperson,

We join the other delegations in welcoming the distinguished Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri and thank him for his comprehensive report.

We appreciate the Office's efforts, made in close co-ordination with the host authorities within the framework of the Partnership Platform, to assist Tajikistan in achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030, to implement reforms in the political, economic and social spheres, and to promote regional security in the framework of combating transnational challenges and threats.

Given the instability in neighbouring Afghanistan, one of the most important areas of assistance is strengthening the operational capacity of Tajik border guards, including the training of trainers, which would enable Tajik specialists to conduct training themselves at a later stage. The current situation dictates the need to constantly improve the system of security measures on the Tajik-Afghan border and to develop politico-military dialogue. We note the projects on demining and on the handling of explosives, the support for the reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the efforts to counter drug crime, terrorism and radicalization. Those activities harmoniously complement the extensive work of the Tajik authorities carried out bilaterally with the Russian Federation, as well as through the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Against the backdrop of the current crisis facing the global economy, projects in the second dimension – to attract foreign investment, combat corruption, reduce disaster risk and promote natural resource and water management – are gaining a special significance. It is important to prioritize activities to strengthen the capacity of Tajikistan's public administration and to help the innovative development of the Republic so that the local authorities can more effectively address the challenges facing the country.

We note the Office's efforts to promote international norms and standards in the field of human rights, facilitate criminal justice reform and combat trafficking in human beings and domestic violence.

There is now a particular need for the field presence to conduct activities at the request of the Government of Tajikistan in the context of COVID-19 prevention.

In conclusion, we wish the distinguished Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri and the staff of the Office fruitful work and success for the benefit of the host State.

Thank you for your attention.