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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1255th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 January 2020

On the investigation of the Malaysian Boeing MH17 plane crash

Mr. Chairperson,

The crash of flight MH17 was a great tragedy. The Russian Federation is most interested in establishing its true causes.

The Russian Federation has always been committed to United Nations Security Council resolution 2166. Although Russia was not invited to participate in the investigation, it co-operated from day one of the tragedy with the Netherlands, the Dutch Safety Board and the Joint Investigation Team, providing all information available on the MH17 disaster. The Russian Government takes a responsible approach to fulfilling requests from the competent authorities of the Netherlands. Considerable work has already been done. I would remind you that the investigators were provided, among other things, with declassified data on Russian military equipment and the results of the full-scale experiment conducted by the Almaz-Antey company as well as primary radar data and documentation. The only question is to what extent the information provided by the Russian Federation has been taken into account in the investigation.

At the same time, there are simple questions such as where are the data from the Ukrainian radars, where are the recordings of the Ukrainian air traffic controllers, where are the long-promised satellite images from the United States of America and why on the day of the tragedy was the airspace above the part of Ukraine where the plane crash occurred not closed, and many other things – to this day no one has been able to provide us with answers to all these questions.

Russia knows first-hand how difficult it is to suffer such a great loss: our citizens have been victims of aviation accidents on numerous occasions. We well remember the tragedy over the Black Sea in 2001, when a Siberia Airlines aircraft was downed by a surface-to-air missile fired by the Ukrainian military.

In accordance with UN Security Council resolution 2166, the Russian Federation has always provided and will continue to provide assistance in establishing the truth and holding to account the real, and not pre-appointed, perpetrators of what happened. We firmly believe that only a genuinely depoliticized and professional approach to the investigation will make it possible to finally establish the cause of what happened and find out the truth.

Thank you for your attention.