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PC.DEL/1431/19
19 December 2019

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1253rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 December 2019

**In response to the address by Ms. Paola Severino, Special Representative of the
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank Professor Paola Severino for her detailed briefing. Today's discussion is symbolic as International Anti-Corruption Day was celebrated a few days ago, on 9 December.

The OSCE has amassed a robust set of commitments for countering corruption, including the 1999 Charter for European Security, the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the 2012 Dublin Ministerial Council Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, the 2018 Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on the Digital Economy as a Driver for Promoting Co-operation, Security and Growth, and also the relevant decisions of the 2004 Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia and the 2014 Ministerial Council meeting in Basel. We support the Organization's efforts in promoting advanced anti-corruption standards and tools.

Russia has a coherent set of measures to increase the effectiveness of efforts to prevent and counter corruption. The National Anti-Corruption Plan for 2018–2020 approved by President Putin is being implemented, and anti-corruption laws are being improved. For example, the Russian Anti-Corruption Charter for Business was adopted to promote entrepreneurship, including the activities of small and medium-sized enterprises. It calls for the inclusion of relevant programmes in corporate policy, monitoring and evaluation of their implementation, and effective financial control. Considerable attention is paid to digital technologies that guarantee the transparency of economic operations and minimize the scope for corruption.

The task of consolidating international efforts in combating corruption is one of the priorities of Russian foreign policy. We are successfully collaborating with the competent authorities of different countries. In that connection, we take the position that the United Nations has a central co-ordinating role in this process. Russia was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the 2003 United Nations Convention against Corruption.

We note the attempts to politicize multilateral dialogue on anti-corruption issues and to use it to increase pressure on “inconvenient” States. We, on the other hand, adhere to a constructive policy based on the principles of equality and mutual respect, transparency, impartiality and voluntariness.

We attach great importance to the scientific and analytical aspect of corruption prevention. Russia was one of the co-founders of and regular donors to the International Anti-Corruption Academy established in Vienna in 2011. It already has 73 Member States. Since 2015, we have been implementing an anti-corruption education project under the auspices of the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative in conjunction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Russia is open to honest and productive work in this area both within the OSCE and within other forums. We support the choice by the future Albanian Chairmanship of countering corruption as the main theme for the 28th Economic and Environmental Forum. We look forward to working closely with Professor Severino in the coming year and wish her every success.

Thank you for your attention.