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**Permanent Mission of Ukraine** to the International Organizations in Vienna

## Statement in response to the issue of downing of flight PS752 raised by Netherlands on behalf of a group of participating States under the AOB agenda item

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,

16 January 2020

## Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the delegation of the Netherlands for raising this issue at the Permanent Council meeting. This provides us with an opportunity to draw additional attention to the ongoing Russia's contempt for international law and the rules-based order, its denial of responsibility for committing and financing terrorist acts in Ukraine, and persistent unwillingness to cease them.

Talking about the flight PS752, we wish to express gratitude to all foreign partners for their engagement and commitment to seek justice for the victims of this flight. We consider the acknowledgement by Iran that it was a missile fired by its military to be an important first step on the road to justice. It must now be furthered with follow-up actions by Iran in the political, legal and technical domains.

The technical investigation of the plane crash must be continued with strict accordance to the Chicago convention. It is important that the perpetrators are identified within a legal framework so that justice can prevail.

Iran is considered to be wholly responsible for this tragic incident which has resulted in the deaths of 176 people. As a result, Tehran must take full responsibility for its actions under international law. Ukraine continues its dialogue with Iran in order to expedite the repatriation of bodies and to ensure that a full and thorough investigation takes place.

## Mr. Chairperson,

The day of MH17 catastrophe will forever remain a tragic page of history, not only for Ukraine, but also for the whole world. Our common duty and priority remains establishing justice and bringing all the perpetrators of this terrible terrorist act to responsibility. This horrible crime will not go unpunished. The investigation will identify those, who are guilty of the death of 298 civilians, and an independent court will determine a just punishment. Justice will be restored.

## Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.