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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1108th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 July 2016

**In response to the statement by the United States of America on the
package of anti-terrorism laws adopted in Russia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to exercise our right of reply and share details of the new package of anti-terrorism laws adopted in Russia. I should like to say at the outset that it was adopted as a reaction to the upsurge in terrorist acts in different regions of the world, including Europe, and the need to take practical steps to protect society from terrorism. The contents of the law do not have a political orientation and merely crystallize international experience in the context of counter-terrorism and adapt it to the Russian reality. I would like to point out that it is a genuinely national product agreed upon by the authorities and by civil society. In drafting the law, the Russian leadership worked in consultation with the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights and other Russian human rights organizations.

President Vladimir Putin signed two federal laws on 7 July amending the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure and the Federal Law on Anti-Terrorism and other legislative acts by introducing additional measures to counter terrorism and ensure public safety.

The first expands the list of terrorist crimes to include the concept “financing terrorism”. New articles have been added to the Criminal Code concerning the non-reporting of terrorist crimes and the crime of international terrorism. Also, if sufficient grounds exist, the court may order the inspection and copying of e-mails.

The second law provides for amendments to a number of federal laws – on transport security, on fuel and energy security, on weapons, on information, information technologies and data protection and a number of others. It establishes additional requirements for network operators and Internet service providers and for transportation and freight-forwarding activities.

In addition, amendments have been made to the way religious activities by foreigners are regulated, aimed at preventing the dissemination of terrorist ideology.

As you are aware, Russia is not the only country to have made changes to its anti-terrorism legislation. This has also been done in Denmark, France, Germany, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. And not all the changes in these States have been received without equivocation by human rights defenders.

It should be added that statistics concerning terrorist crime on the territory of the Russian Federation bear witness to the effectiveness of our system. We are improving and adapting it to the new realities. We suggest that instead of sticking politicized “labels” on the amendments and using them as grounds for criticism, interested States should study our experience in combating terrorism.

It is also difficult to understand the hullabaloo surrounding the publication by the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation of lists of people about whom there is intelligence that they are involved in extremist activity or terrorism.

The citizens in question, Nikolay Semena and Anna Andriyevskaya, were accused of committing crimes under Article 280.1, paragraph 2, of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Public calls to engage in actions aimed at violating the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation using mass media or electronic or information and telecommunications networks).

The charge brought under this article is the reason for the inclusion of individuals in the above-mentioned list, in accordance with the 2001 Federal Law on Combating the Laundering of Money Obtained by Criminal Means and the Financing of Terrorism. In accordance with the Decision of the Government of the Russian Federation of 2015, the list is to be posted on the official website of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service and published in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

I should like to emphasize that these procedures were not invented by Russia. They were adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) and the anti-terrorism resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, in particular resolution 1373. They call for mechanisms for providing information to the financial sector and to the public about such persons with a view to preventing them from obtaining resources or assets of any kind.

Moreover, the publication of the list also followed recommendations by FATF experts in 2008.

Thus, the claims asserted today are to say the least unfounded, if not fabrications.

Thank you for your attention.