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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1267th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

14 May 2020

In response to the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the distinguished Ambassador John MacGregor and thank him for his detailed report.

The Office's practice of closely co-ordinating its work with the authorities of Uzbekistan has proven to be a worthwhile endeavour. It has enabled targeted assistance to be provided to the host country where it is most needed. We have observed the Co-ordinator's balanced project portfolio and the almost full implementation of activities planned in the Unified Budget for the fourth consecutive year. The Road Map for Co-operation between Uzbekistan and the OSCE has undoubtedly played a positive role in this regard. We have also observed the success in holding an impressive number of international conferences, seminars and training courses.

The Office continues to carry out valuable work to strengthen regional security, notably against the background of threats emanating from neighbouring Afghanistan. We note in particular the activities undertaken in the framework of projects to counter drug trafficking, corruption, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. We are ready to continue providing assistance to the field presence in the context of professional training and advanced training of Uzbekistan's law enforcement officers, notably in the fight against cybercrime, under the auspices of higher education institutions of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

We believe it is important for the OSCE to assist in the development of national legislation, primarily in the area of human rights, judicial reform and the unification of legal norms. Uzbekistan's membership of the Hague Conference on Private International Law will enable it to influence the process of drafting new international treaties, develop co-operation with other Conference member States and defend its interests at the international level.

We welcome the Co-ordinator's activities to promote the "green" economy and reduce the negative impact of economic activity on the environment. We hope that at a certain stage the field presence will pay close attention to the processes of regional co-operation, including economic co-operation, with a view to their proper inclusion in project activities.

We noted the Office's readiness to promptly adjust its project work to comply with the host country's requests in the fight against COVID-19.

International terrorism is evolving, adapting to new realities and continues to pose a threat to all of humanity. We need to collectively devote greater attention to this problem. In our view, added value will be provided by co-ordinating the Project Co-ordinator's efforts with the specialized regional structures – the Border Guard Commanders' Council of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russian-Uzbek relations are developing dynamically and progressively in all areas, and there is an active political dialogue. In January 2020, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, paid an official visit to Tashkent; a State visit to Russia by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has been planned for the second half of June this year. We attach particular importance to the work on ensuring security and stability in Central Asia.

In conclusion, allow me to wish Ambassador MacGregor and the staff at the Office further success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.