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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1235th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 July 2019

On the anniversary of the tragic events in Srebrenica

Mr. Chairperson,

The date of 11 July is one of the sorrowful occasions associated with the tragic events during the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995. For us, this is another opportunity to pay tribute to the victims and to express our condolences to their families and friends.

We have consistently advocated the investigation of all unlawful acts committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina against all ethnic groups, including Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats, so that all those responsible, regardless of their ethnic origin or religious affiliation, are punished accordingly. We consider it extremely dangerous to use the memory of what happened in Srebrenica for political purposes.

We support the creation in the Republika Srpska of independent international commissions to investigate the crimes against all peoples in the Srebrenica area, including the crimes against Serbs in Sarajevo (in late March/early April of this year, the relevant commissions held their inaugural meetings in Banja Luka). We expect the commissions' reports to be comprehensive and impartial, to shed light on one of the darkest episodes of the conflict in the region, and ultimately help the competent authorities to deliver true justice in the name of all the victims of war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We welcome the steps taken by the leadership of the countries of the region, aimed at strengthening inter-State relations and promoting inter-ethnic and interfaith harmony. We are convinced that it is only on the basis of co-operation among the Balkan peoples themselves, and without confronting them with the false dilemma of "either with the West or with Russia", that we can count on a lasting reconciliation in this region of Europe.

Thank you for your attention.