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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1273rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 July 2020

On a draft OSCE Permanent Council declaration on the coronavirus

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

I should like to draw your attention to the document that was circulated yesterday under distribution symbol PC.DEL/810/20.

I am referring to a draft declaration by the OSCE Permanent Council on solidarity and co-operation in the face of the threat posed by the spread of the coronavirus infection. It was prepared in co-authorship by the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and my own country, the Russian Federation. The timeliness of this initiative is evident, for the specific nature of the situation means that there is an urgent need for a display of unity among the Organization's participating States in tackling this unprecedented challenge.

Yesterday, the United Nations Security Council made its own contribution to the task in hand. The Security Council's unanimous adoption of resolution 2532 on 1 July has proved that States are capable of rising above narrowly defined national and "bloc-based" interests in order to respond to contemporary global challenges.

We encourage you to acquaint yourselves carefully with the draft and to share it with your governments. We intend to invite you to some informal consultations on the text next week with a view to preparing a declaration that can be adopted by the Permanent Council before the summer recess.

We will let you know about the date, times and venue of the consultations in due course. At the same time, we kindly ask you to submit your thoughts and comments in writing, and also to join the co-sponsors of the document.

Thank you for your attention.