

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1187th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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On the 22nd St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform you that the 22nd St. Petersburg International Economic Forum took place on a massive scale from 24 to 26 May under the heading “Building a trust economy”.

The event was attended by the Heads of State or Government of a number of countries together with the directors of major Russian and international companies and banks, and leading experts and politicians from all over the world.

The main event was the plenary session with addresses by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, Emmanuel Macron, President of France, Shinzō Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, Wang Qishan, Vice-President of the People’s Republic of China, and Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

According to verified information, the Forum welcomed representatives from more than 143 countries, over 17,000 people in all. It is interesting to note that the largest delegation came from the United States of America, with 550 members. Japan and France were also in the top three.

A total of 550 agreements were signed, representing a sum of 2 trillion 365 billion roubles, compared with 356 agreements in 2016 and 475 in 2017.

A youth platform was established for the first time at the Forum with discussion devoted to issues of relevance to young persons, such as “Supporting Youth Entrepreneurship in the G20 Countries”, “International Youth Business Catalysts: Incubator, Knowledge, Connections and Investment”, and “The Russian Youth Economic Agenda 2018–2024”.

In essence, the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum represented a meeting of civilizations and a place of trust, where representatives of different countries and international organizations shared their view of pressing economic problems and

contemplated ways of strengthening co-operation. It confirmed its importance as a unique venue for dialogue between developing and developed countries, authorities, business and the public sector. The Forum was open to everyone interested in constructive co-operation, willing to consider a multifaceted array of opinions and ready to seek mutually beneficial consensus-based solutions – an excellent model for the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.