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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1083rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 December 2015

**In response to the report by the OSCE Special Representative and
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings,
Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova**

Mr. Chairperson,
Ms. Jarbussynova,

We are pleased to welcome you today. We are grateful for the detailed report on the work of your Office and future plans. We commend your professional approach and contribution to the OSCE's work on combating trafficking in human beings, and look forward to continuing this fruitful co-operation next year.

Regrettably, trafficking in human beings is a global problem posing a serious threat to countries throughout the world. Given the extent and degree of the danger to society, it is not without reason that we frequently compare it to illicit drug trafficking, arms trafficking and terrorism.

The OSCE commitments, including the Addendum to the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in 2013 at the Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv, include a significant number of recommendations that could be used effectively by States to combat the various forms of human trafficking.

The active use of the Internet by criminals to enlist and exploit victims of human trafficking cannot but cause serious concern. We trust that, with the support of the Special Representative, the participating States will pay close attention to this topic.

We take note of the 15th high-level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference held in July this year, which addressed the nexus between migration issues and trafficking. At the same time, a distinction should be made between these two phenomena.

We welcome the attention paid by the Special Representative to trafficking in children, arguably the most vulnerable segment of the population. Children are used for begging, slave labour, child pornography on the Internet, sexual exploitation and also the

distribution of narcotics. We believe that all States should pool their efforts to combat these threats and exchange experiences in preventing the exploitation of children by criminal groups. It would be worth holding a comprehensive OSCE event focusing on this topic.

Combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of the removal of human organs, tissues and cells also requires constant effort. If due attention is not given to this problem and experience shared, it will be difficult to prevent the emergence of new schemes and criminal networks. The United Nations General Assembly has already adopted a resolution to prevent trafficking in human tissues and cells. We believe that the OSCE could also make a contribution to combating this challenge.

Moreover, additional vigorous measures in combating trafficking in human beings are needed to eliminate the demand for “human goods” in the main recipient countries. No less effort is required in eliminating the social and economic reasons for the growth in trafficking in human beings, among other things by ensuring universal access to education, employment and social welfare.

In conclusion, we should like to thank you, Ms. Jarbussynova, for your dynamic and effective work and wish you and your team continued success.

Thank you for your attention.