

PC.DEL/1305/18
2 November 2018

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. VLADIMIR ZHEGLOV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION, AT THE 1199th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 November 2018

**On the failure to adopt the agenda of the
OSCE Asian Conference in Canberra**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are disappointed that, following the lengthy efforts to reach agreement, it was still not possible for the participating States to achieve a consensus on the draft agenda of the OSCE Asian Conference in Canberra, despite the fact that the substantive part of the document did not cause any problems.

We agree with the conclusion by the Chairmanship on the results of the meeting this morning of the Preparatory Committee that the conference on 5 and 6 November in Canberra, if it should take place, will not be an OSCE meeting. I recall that under paragraph VI(A)2 of the Rules of Procedure, "The participating States shall adopt decisions regarding the time, venue, theme(s), agenda, timetable and organizational modalities for each OSCE meeting." Moreover, Permanent Council Decision No. 1299 of 21 June 2018 states that the agenda and other organizational modalities will be further elaborated in the framework of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and submitted to the Permanent Council for adoption. This would also be in line with Permanent Council Decision No. 762 on guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings. Accordingly, the payment of any expenses for this conference should not be made from the Organization's regular budget.

The Chairmanship already set a dangerous precedent in September with the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Such measures undermine the basic consensus principle and place the very existence of our Organization in jeopardy. This must not be repeated with the Asian Conference.

Thank you for your attention.