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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1299th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

21 January 2021

On the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan

Madam Chairperson,

We congratulate our friend Kazakhstan on the excellent organization of the parliamentary elections.

The international community spoke positively on the whole about the expression of will. Observers included representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its Interparliamentary Assembly, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. The majority of observers pointed to the full compliance of voting with legal requirements and international standards, the free nature of the plebiscite, and the openness of the electoral process to monitoring. The SCO observers particularly highlighted the presence of political competition in the country. The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly emphasized that the elections to the Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan were held on a multi-party basis and that they were fair and ensured the free expression of the will of the country's citizens. This indicates that there is widespread support by the people of Kazakhstan for the course set by the leadership of the Republic for the development and welfare of its citizens, with the support of the country's leading political forces.

At the same time, we note the contrasting view presented in the preliminary statement by the joint mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which has assessed past elections in a biased and prejudiced manner.

The Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Mr. Viacheslav Volodin, congratulated his Kazakh counterpart, Chairman of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, on the successfully held elections, mentioning the positive comments regarding the voting by the State Duma deputies who observed the elections.

Thank you for your attention.