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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1102nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 June 2016

**In response to the reports by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and
the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek**

Mr. Chairperson,

We appreciate the work of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek headed by Sergey Kapinos. We are particularly pleased that the Centre is working in close co-ordination with the authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic and developing its projects in a transparent manner, guided by its mandate. We take the position that any OSCE field presence should provide assistance in precisely those areas requested by the host country.

We regard the activities of the OSCE Centre as balanced and taking into account the priorities of the comprehensive programme of reforms set out in the National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013 to 2017. We note that the challenges emanating from the conflict zones in Afghanistan and the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa have been reflected in the Centre's work. We support the Centre's efforts to supplement the measures taken by the Kyrgyz Government to strengthen the national borders and capacity-building to counter various transnational threats.

We welcome the Centre's contribution to expanding co-operation between the border authorities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and note the contacts with other OSCE field missions in the region and international organizations operating in Central Asia. We have taken note of the Conference of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative organized in April 2016 with the Centre's involvement, which was attended by representatives of the Operational Border Group of the Russian Federal Security Service in the Kyrgyz Republic.

We regard such activity as an important addition to the existing co-operation under the auspices of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). However, we should like to see the OSCE Centre focus on closer co-operation with international agencies working in the Central Asian region of which Kyrgyzstan is a member, first and foremost the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Union, the CSTO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Co-operation of this kind is likely to increase confidence

in the OSCE not only in Kyrgyzstan but also in the region as a whole. In addition, it makes it possible to avoid duplication of effort.

The Centre's programmes in areas such as strengthening national unity and inter-ethnic harmony, combating terrorism, the drug threat, corruption, money laundering and trafficking in human beings, and improving the storage conditions for small arms and light weapons and ammunition deserve recognition. No less important, in our view, are the Centre's activities to support police reform in the country along with reforms in the judicial and prison system.

We have no doubts as to the strong link between stability and security in the State and the standard of living of its citizens. We welcome the stepping up of the Centre's programmatic activities in the second dimension, including its prompt response to direct requests for assistance from the Kyrgyz authorities. We believe that it is correct to concentrate on programmes promoting employment growth, especially among young people, and the establishment of conditions for the development of national entrepreneurship.

In connection with the plans mentioned in the report by the Head of the Centre to help Kyrgyzstan prepare for and hold presidential elections in 2017, we should like to underscore the need for the OSCE Centre to follow its mandate precisely and to take any steps in this area solely with the agreement of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Let me now say a few words about the activities of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek headed by Pal Dunay. We welcome the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in March 2016. We hope that the Academy will continue to facilitate not only the instruction of students but also, and this is extremely important, the development of dialogue and rapprochement among young people from Central Asian countries. We wish the Academy's leadership and teaching staff every success in their work in the future.

Mr. Chairperson,

Our particular attention to the situation in Kyrgyzstan is due to our strategic alliance with that country, with which enjoy cordial relations. The people of our countries are linked by traditional ties of friendship and good-neighbourliness. We are sincerely interested in the ongoing development of Kyrgyzstan on the path of democracy and socio-economic progress. Russia remains a close and dependable partner of Kyrgyzstan.

Thank you for your attention.