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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1236th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 July 2019

**In connection with the second International Conference on Countering Illicit Arms  
Trafficking in the Context of Fighting International Terrorism**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform the OSCE Permanent Council about an important event. The second International Conference on Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking in the Context of Fighting International Terrorism will be held in Moscow on 5 and 6 September.

Thanks to the multilateral military efforts to combat rebel groups in Syria and Iraq, they have now almost completely lost the ability to replenish their “bank balance” through the smuggling of hydrocarbons, a key source of funds. Although their extraction infrastructure has been dismantled and the logistics arteries for the transport and marketing of petroleum products have been destroyed, the terrorists have accumulated significant arsenals of various weapons. While the issue of the supply of weapons and unmanned aerial vehicles has become less relevant, the demand for small arms, including automatic weapons, and components of explosive devices has increased, as evidenced by the terrorist attacks in New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

We see that there is particular demand for additional impetus to be given to the consolidation of multilateral efforts to prevent any material and financial support of terrorism in a broad sense and, above all, to curb the supply of weapons and military equipment to terrorist groups. In this regard, within the framework of the aforementioned thematic conference, Russia plans to gather together representatives of more than 50 States at the level of senior officials and leading experts of departments, and also authoritative Russian and foreign academics and public figures, political scientists, journalists, heads of major educational institutions, and counter-terrorism units of key international organizations and structures – the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the International Criminal Police Organization and the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering.

Invitations to the conference were sent through Russian diplomatic missions. We believe that open and constructive discussions will allow us to analyse in detail the current developments and discuss promising ways to increase the effectiveness of multilateral co-operation leading to specific recommendations, which we hope will become an updated benchmark for the development of international

co-operation in the field of counter-terrorism in order to block the provision of military aid and other material support to terrorists.

Thank you for your attention.