

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY BALAKIN,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1105th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 June 2016

**In response to the statement on
the attack by foreign terrorist fighters in Syria**

Mr. Chairperson,

We share the concern expressed by our Armenian colleagues about the escalation of the situation in north-eastern Syria and the attacks by the terrorist organization Al-Nusrah Front, which have resulted in many civilian casualties, including Christians. The Russian Federation has repeatedly drawn attention to the situation of Christian communities in the Middle East and North Africa today. They are subject to discrimination, ceaseless persecution and brutal violence and are obliged to leave homes and abandon places where their shrines are destroyed.

We strongly believe that the activities of the terrorist organizations Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Nusrah Front, which have been internationally recognized as such by United Nations Security Council resolutions, represent a serious threat to international peace and security, also in the OSCE area.

We are convinced that terrorism cannot be effectively combated unless its sources of financing are cut off. For example, ISIL's annual revenue amounts to around 2 billion United States dollars, derived for the most part from illicit trade in oil and other natural resources.

We are concerned at the fact that by no means all States implement their commitments to combat terrorism, including its financing, in good faith.

We regret to note that most of the hydrocarbons and other goods "exported" by terrorists continue to pass through Turkey. The other direction is the main route for fighters and weapons. Between February and May this year, the United Nations Security Council published five official documents with information about direct support of ISIL from Ankara: illegal trading in hydrocarbons, smuggling of antiquities, recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and facilitation of their cross-border movement, trafficking in weapons and ammunition, and the procurement of components to make improvised explosive devices. These documents are posted on the United Nations website under the numbers S/2016/94 of

1 February 2016; S/2016/143 of 10 February 2016; S/2016/262 of 21 March 2016; S/2016/298 of 31 March 2016; and S/2016/457 of 19 May 2016 and have been translated into all of the official languages of that international organization.

We regard any activity to support or finance terrorism as being absolutely unacceptable. By closing its eyes to it, the international community undermines the foundations of the security of States and violates the right of citizens to protection from terrorism.

We call on Turkey to take immediate measures to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions 2170, 2178, 2199 and 2249 and also to implement its commitments within the framework of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.