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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE  
1336th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 September 2021

**On the electoral methodology of the  
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**

Madam Chairperson,

We are grateful to our friends from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan for their support on this truly pressing topic.

The statements made by our other distinguished colleagues have raised a number of questions.

Allow me to start with a few claims made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the European Union. She said that the election observation methodology of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) was “globally recognized” and had been “endorsed” by all participating States. By whom has it been recognized around the world? Has there been a United Nations General Assembly consensus resolution on this? Why are you applying the methodology of our regional Organization to the whole world? Moreover, in which document have all 57 participating States “endorsed” it? Because “endorsed” is a strong term. This is exactly what the Russian Federation and a number of like-minded countries have been suggesting for many years now – that the ODIHR’s electoral methodology be discussed and adopted by all participating States. Then it would be “endorsed”. We should like to hear your answers to these questions.

Now I should like to turn to the statement by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom. You argue that we, the participating States, have given the Office a mandate to decide how to observe elections. That is, to determine the format of the monitoring. Furthermore, you have made numerous references to OSCE commitments and have concluded that they provide for some kind of “autonomy of action” of the ODIHR. Could you please provide specific quotations from the list of instruments of our Organization where mention is made of the autonomy of the ODIHR or its action?

The distinguished Permanent Representative of Canada read excerpts from the ODIHR Election Observation Handbook. Are you seriously trying to present as a source of international law a handbook that the ODIHR has written for itself without consulting anyone? We are awaiting your response.

You are unable to answer, esteemed colleagues, as there is no such commitment in the OSCE. We ask, to put it mildly, that you refrain from misleading those present in this room.