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**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 report by the
Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful for the detailed report by Ambassador Szabó, who recently took up the position of Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana.

We have noted the balanced programme activities by this field presence to assist the Kazakh authorities in achieving long-term national development priorities, set forth in particular in the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy. We attribute this result to a large extent to the transition to a new mandate by the field presence, bringing it more into line with Kazakhstan's requirements. The experience accumulated since December 2014 provides clear demonstration of this and once again confirms the maxim that the practical benefit of the work of our Organization's missions depends directly on the level of their co-ordination with the authorities in the host country.

We note the Office's smooth co-operation with the law enforcement authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which enables the OSCE's resources and expertise to be used to provide assistance in areas such as combating terrorism, radical extremism, organized crime, and trafficking in narcotics and human beings. It is important for the Office to continue to support the systematic efforts by the Kazakh authorities within the framework of the corresponding Action Plan for 2015 to 2017 to devise effective mechanisms to protect victims of trafficking in human beings. Co-operation in combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism are particularly important. We also note the mission's contribution to the ongoing process of criminal and judicial reform in the country.

This work is a significant addition in a variety of ways to the efforts of international structures to which Kazakhstan belongs. Given the regular co-operation by the OSCE Programme Office in Astana with a large number of international and national organizations present in the region, we should like to see it co-ordinate its activities more with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. This

kind of co-operation would help improve confidence in the OSCE as a whole and enable the Office to use its resources more effectively.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia and Kazakhstan are not only close neighbours but also long-standing and trusted allies and friends. The relations between our countries are notable for the trust, dynamic political dialogue, including at the highest level, and the huge fund of links and contacts. The active involvement of the Kazakh Government has contributed to the development of the CIS, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary, and helped build up the EAEU, which has raised co-operation in the region to a new level in terms of integration.

Thank you for your attention.