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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1209th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 December 2018

**In response to the report by the
Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on
Combating Corruption, Ms. Paola Severino**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank Professor Paola Severino for her detailed analysis of the OSCE's activities to combat corruption in 2018.

Our Organization has amassed a robust set of commitments for countering corruption, namely the 1999 Charter for European Security, the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the 2012 Dublin Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, and the relevant decisions of the 2004 Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia and 2014 Ministerial Council meeting in Basel.

A system of measures is being gradually implemented in Russia to increase the effectiveness of efforts to prevent and counter corruption. Anti-corruption laws are being improved, with account taken of international standards. On 29 June, President Vladimir Putin approved the National Anti-Corruption Plan for 2018–2020.

The reduction of corruption pressure on businesses is an important element in promoting entrepreneurship in the country, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises. The Russian Anti-Corruption Charter for Business was adopted for that purpose. It involves the inclusion of relevant programmes in the corporate policy of organizations, monitoring and evaluation of their implementation, effective financial control and other measures.

Considerable attention is paid to the use of digital technologies that guarantee transparency and minimize the scope for corruption. This promising trend in combating this phenomenon was also reflected in the Declaration on the Digital Economy as a Driver for Promoting Co-operation, Security and Growth adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Milan.

We consider the exchange of best practices to be a key element in the collective solution of corruption problems. In that connection, we welcomed the holding of the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Developing Anti-Corruption Strategies for the Digital Age in Rome on 12 and 13 November. The participation in that event of the First Deputy Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation, Oleg Plokhoy, as a keynote speaker confirmed how important corruption prevention is for our country.

In that connection, we take the position that the United Nations plays a central co-ordinating role in this process. The 2003 UN Convention against Corruption is the legal foundation for the development of inter-State co-operation in this sphere. Russia was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention.

It is symbolic that a few days ago, on 9 December, we celebrated International Anti-Corruption Day. On 10 December, an all-Russian event was held to mark that day. The Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, addressed the participants via video link. Russia is a major donor to the Office's anti-corruption projects and a number of joint initiatives.

We are ready to continue working together in this area, in the OSCE and in other international forums. We wish Professor Severino every success.

Thank you for your attention.