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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1210th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 December 2018

**On the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution  
“Enlightenment and religious tolerance”**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution “Enlightenment and religious tolerance”. We thank our distinguished Uzbek colleagues for launching this important initiative, which was co-sponsored by Russia.

We fully share the concerns expressed in the document regarding intolerance and discrimination on account of religion or belief. No less worrying, as mentioned in the resolution, are attacks on religious places, sites and shrines, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments, particularly when such actions are accompanied by incitement to national, racial or religious hatred.

All these problems apply to the OSCE area. The events in recent years in a number of participating States are clear confirmation of this. Persecution of Christians, Muslims and members of other religious is on the increase. Monuments are being destroyed and graves desecrated. The adoption of decisions in this regard, including the development of existing commitments, is long overdue.

In the first instance, this refers to the fulfilment of the mandate of the Basel Ministerial Council meeting in 2014 to elaborate declarations condemning discrimination and intolerance against Christians and Muslims. Unfortunately, over the past four years this task has remained unfulfilled owing to the destructive attitude of certain States. We hope that the future Slovak OSCE Chairmanship will manage to make progress.

Thank you for your attention.