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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1109th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 July 2016

Condolences in connection with the terrorist act in Nice on 14 July

Mr. Chairperson,

We join in expressing our heartfelt sympathy and support to the Government and people of our friend France, to the families and friends of the victims and to the citizens of other countries who suffered as a result of the monstrous and cynical terrorist act in Nice on 14 July, the national holiday in the French Republic. We wish those injured a speedy recovery. There were also Russian citizens among the victims of this attack.

President Vladimir Putin strongly condemned this barbaric act in his condolences to President François Hollande. He stated that terrorism is absolutely alien to human morality: its victims are innocent civilians, including women and children.

The series of terrorist acts in Europe and other countries around the world confirms that if we are to be victorious over this monstrous evil, the entire civilized world needs to join forces to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism. In the light of these events, Russia's idea of establishing a counter-terrorism coalition under the aegis of the United Nations to create a united front to combat terrorism is of even greater relevance.

Russia is ready for the closest co-operation in all areas of counter-terrorism activity, including within the OSCE.

We also express our feelings of sympathy in connection with the victims of the events in Kazakhstan, Armenia, Turkey and the United States of America.

Thank you for your attention.