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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1183rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 April 2018

**On the 32nd anniversary of the accident at the
Chernobyl nuclear power plant**

Mr. Chairperson,

Today marks 32 years since one of the twentieth century's worst man-made disasters, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which spread radiation contamination to a substantial swathe of territory in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Hundreds of thousands of people from around the Soviet Union were involved in the clean-up operations, many of whom sacrificed their lives to save people and the environment. The Soviet people prevented the further spread of radioactive emissions to Western and Central Europe.

Russia, as one of the most severely affected countries, continues to take an active part in overcoming the legacy of the Chernobyl accident, which contaminated more than 59,000 square kilometres of Russian territory – home to more than 3 million people. We carry out constant monitoring of the radiation situation, are improving healthcare services and the everyday social situation of people in the affected areas and are regenerating agricultural and forest land. Since 1992, we have implemented four dedicated programmes to protect children and two to provide housing for those involved in the clean-up operation.

We welcome the international community's efforts to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. This task has been on the agenda at the United Nations for many years now. As our Belarusian friends mentioned, in December 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on the persistent legacy of the Chernobyl disaster, which encourages support for international co-operation to develop the affected regions.

In this context, I should like to give some figures. Russia's total contribution to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund came to more than 60.3 million euros over the period from 2008 to 2017. Furthermore, in 2009 and 2012, Russia contributed 12.5 million euros to the Nuclear Safety Account. The money was spent on building a dry storage facility for spent nuclear fuel at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Many international organizations have made statements on the Chernobyl tragedy. It is to our great regret that the OSCE was unable to reach a consensus on a similar document in Belgrade in 2015 because of the position taken by some States, which demanded the inclusion of a paragraph that distorted the role and mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Tragedy should not be politicized.

We take the view that the memory of the Chernobyl disaster should become a unifying factor for all States around the world in work to make nuclear energy safer.

Thank you for your attention.