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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1179th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 March 2018

On the upcoming high-level conference on Afghanistan in Tashkent

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank our Uzbek colleagues for the detailed information on the upcoming international conference in Tashkent on 26 and 27 March on Afghanistan – “Peace Process, Security Co-operation and Regional Interaction”. We welcome the Uzbek leadership’s initiative to organize this conference and consider it to be an important and significant event.

We believe that the situation in Afghanistan requires all the existing formats for advancing a settlement in that country to be linked up as a matter of urgency. The long-term experience of international stabilization efforts in Afghanistan shows that it is ineffective to bank on resolving the situation by force. Solutions need to be found by launching a national reconciliation process on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions. In that connection, we hope that the meetings in Tashkent will further the efforts undertaken within the framework of the so-called Moscow format and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Afghanistan Contact Group. The most important thing today is to promote a peaceful resolution of the situation and national reconciliation.

Russia will work most intensively at the Tashkent forum.

Thank you for your attention.