

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/702/19
20 June 2019

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1233rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 June 2019

In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank Ambassador György Szabó for his detailed report.

The Office maintains close co-ordination with the host country and draws up its programmes taking into account the long-term national development objectives of the Republic of Kazakhstan. We can see that the Office is making efforts to simplify the bureaucratic procedures for the design and implementation of projects. We welcome such an approach by the Office, for it increases the efficiency of collaboration, helps ensure that programmatic activities are balanced, and makes it possible to direct more resources at practical work rather than at self-subsistence.

We note how the majority of the Office's programmes fit in naturally with the first dimension of security. These include combating terrorism and radical extremism; countering the drug threat, organized crime and trafficking in human beings; and national capacity-building in the field of cybersecurity. Something that particularly caught our attention in the text of the report was the reference to the Office's efforts to develop projects from the first "basket" that were intended from the outset to be transferred to the host country. We would be grateful for more detailed information in that respect.

Bearing in mind Kazakhstan's concern for the second dimension, we are pleased to see the importance that the Office attaches to that area of work. It is quite a wide-ranging area and covers, *inter alia*: support for trade (including cross-border trade); increasing the effectiveness of free economic zones; combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism; and water resources management.

As in the past, the Office continues actively to co-operate with other regional OSCE field operations, international organizations that are operating in Central Asia, and embassies based in Nur-Sultan. Such co-operation merits a positive assessment. At the same time, though, our repeated exhortations notwithstanding, the Office has unfortunately still not found a way of expanding the scope of this collaboration so that the experts who are engaged really do reflect the diversity of the OSCE participating States. The same point applies to the international organizations, among which are various development agencies. We take this opportunity to reiterate our exhortation to the Office's management.

Last year saw the 20th anniversary of the OSCE's presence in Kazakhstan. That was a major milestone. Most importantly, Kazakhstan itself has changed impressively over the past years, achieving a remarkable burst of development in virtually all areas. It is not surprising that the Kazakh Government's approach to shaping its interaction with the OSCE is also changing, above all with regard to activities on its own territory. We are at one with our Kazakh partners in considering that the task of gradually transferring the Office's functions to the host country must be reflected in an appropriate strategy.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a strategic ally and friend, the Russian Federation takes an interest in the sustainable and stable development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In order to ensure lasting socio-economic progress, the peoples of our countries are making arrangements for our shared future both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of several organizations of which we are both members, including the Eurasian Economic Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. We hope that the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan will also work to achieve these objectives.

Thank you for your attention.