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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1261st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 March 2020

On the general election in the United States of America

We thank our US colleagues for inviting the OSCE participating States to take part in observing the general election in the United States of America.

We hope that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) will decide, on the basis of the findings of its needs assessment mission, to undertake full-scale election observation in the United States. Such full-scale observation seems highly desirable, if not essential, in view of the numerous shortcomings regularly identified by observers of the electoral process in that country. Russia will consider the possibility of deploying observers to take part in the ODIHR observation mission.

As a separate item, we should like to remind the United States of the need to develop a single approach at the federal level for ensuring that observers have access to polling stations, in accordance with previous ODIHR recommendations and the country's election-related OSCE commitments, among other things. For example, the ODIHR has repeatedly pointed out to the United States that "[l]egislation should guarantee access in all states to international observers invited by the US authorities to ensure full compliance with paragraph 8 of the 1990 [CSCE/]OSCE Copenhagen Document and paragraph 25 of the 1999 Istanbul Document". We should add, though, that this reference to the ODIHR's conclusions does not alter our position regarding the need to develop a consensus-based election observation methodology. We hope that the members of observation missions will be able to carry out their work in an unimpeded manner throughout US territory this year, and that their safety will be ensured at all times.

Thank you for your attention.