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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1381st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 July 2022

**On the developments in the Karakalpakstan region of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation is closely following the developments in the Republic of Uzbekistan, a country with which we enjoy cordial relations. We are concerned that, in connection with a nationwide debate on amendments and additions to the country's Constitution in the interests of the State and its citizens, a group of malefactors in the city of Nukus organized large-scale riots and violent actions that resulted in human casualties. Dozens of people were injured, including law enforcement officers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, whom we wish a speedy recovery.

In order to prevent the situation from escalating into uncontrolled chaos, the Uzbek leadership has taken steps to restore public order and normalize the situation in that part of the country. In a telephone conversation with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan, Russian President Vladimir Putin supported the efforts to stabilize the situation in Karakalpakstan. We welcome steps to resolve issues within the legal framework rather than through street rioting, violence, pogroms and unrest. We strongly condemn this way of voicing one's opinions.

We urge you not to speculate on this topic. We are confident that the authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan will complete the investigation into the misdeeds and that the perpetrators will be punished.

Thank you for your attention.