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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1492nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 October 2024

**On some outcomes of the meetings of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and
the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States**

Mr. Chairperson,

I feel particularly honoured today to speak on behalf of the delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and my country, the Russian Federation, which is chairing the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) this year.

The CIS is one of the leading regional organizations in Eurasia. Around 50 events have already been held under the Russian Chairmanship, including meetings of the CIS Council of Heads of Government, the CIS Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the CIS Economic Council, along with a number of sectoral meetings and consultations between the Foreign Ministries on various areas of co-operation.

The priority areas for development of the Commonwealth include the deepening of economic integration; collaboration in the areas of digitalization, energy, climate protection, and science, technology and innovation co-operation; the tackling of traditional and new challenges and threats; the strengthening of cultural and humanitarian ties; interparliamentary dialogue; and the alignment of CIS activities with other regional structures.

A resilient financial infrastructure that is independent of external influence is being created through joint efforts; the use of national currencies in mutual settlements is expanding. The share of national currencies in commercial transactions between CIS members already exceeds 85 per cent and continues to grow.

The CIS States are focusing on the fight against terrorism and extremism, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and corruption.

Humanitarian ties continue to evolve dynamically. The partnerships between CIS countries in science and education, culture, tourism and sports are intensifying. Special attention is paid to the preservation of our common history and to preventing it from being falsified.

As significant results of the Commonwealth's work in 2024 we have the drafting and adoption of a number of important multilateral documents during the meetings of the CIS Foreign Ministers and the Council of Heads of State of the CIS that were held in Moscow on 7 and 8 October.

Among other things, statements were adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the CIS States on the principles for co-operation in safeguarding security in Eurasia, on the inadmissibility of using unilateral restrictive measures in international relations, and on co-operation in the field of physical training and sport.

The Heads of the Member States adopted a message to the peoples of the Commonwealth countries and the global community in connection with the 80th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945, and also a statement on the development of co-operation in the field of artificial intelligence for civilian purposes.

These documents will be circulated so that all the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation can familiarize themselves with them.

On the strength of its entire history and its working principles, the Commonwealth of Independent States offers a striking and positive example of mutually respectful and constructive co-operation. We would recommend that the OSCE leadership keep in mind the expertise of representatives of CIS countries and of the CIS statutory bodies, not least by making more active use in day-to-day project work of the practices that have been developed there.

The multifaceted and coherent activities taking place within the framework of the Commonwealth not only are in the interests of the CIS States, but they can also become a solid basis for pursuing co-operation in a broader international context.

Thank you for your attention.