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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1209th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 December 2018

**In response to the reports by the Chairpersons of the
Security Committee and of the Human Dimension Committee of the
OSCE Permanent Council on the results of the work in 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Ambassador Victoria González Román for her energetic work as Chairperson of the Security Committee. We note her efforts to give the discussions within the first dimension a constructive and professional quality.

Russia regards combating transnational threats, above all terrorism and illicit drug trafficking, as a priority in the OSCE's work. The challenges in this area common to all States call for a concerted response. The Committee headed by you has made an important contribution in this regard.

In the course of the year, the first basket has seen a number of very positive large-scale events, including the Annual Security Review Conference and conferences on combating terrorism and drugs and on cybersecurity. All of them have served as effective platforms for an exchange of expert opinions and best practices.

However, in spite of such a rich agenda, the results of the Ministerial Council meeting in Milan demonstrated that dialogue on security issues is far from being exhausted. It proved impossible to reach consensus on draft decisions in this area proposed by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship. Our appeal to improve the Organization's anti-terrorist and anti-drug profile also went unheard, despite that fact that the direct threat posed by terrorism and drug trafficking to the security not only of the individual participating States but also of the OSCE area as a whole is completely evident. We are determined to keep the Committee's focus on this problem.

We support the intention of the incoming Slovak Chairmanship to give additional impetus to the work in the first dimension. We trust that security issues will not be diluted by extraneous issues and that the Committee will function within the framework of its mandate.

We take note of the efforts by the distinguished Ambassador Sian MacLeod, Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee, to give an interactive quality to the discussion of human rights.

At the same time, in spite of our appeals, the Committee's agenda this year has once again been dominated by the discussion of civil and political rights with an emphasis on gender to the detriment of economic, social and cultural rights. Moreover, topical issues such as the protection of the linguistic and educational rights of national minorities, the rights of children, preservation of historical and cultural heritage, freedom of movement and the development of human contacts have not received sufficient attention.

The results of the ministerial meeting in Milan demonstrated the importance of advancing human dimension aspects of the unifying agenda. This is illustrated by the achievement of consensus on decisions on the safety of journalists, combating violence against women and combating child trafficking. At the same time, the mandate of the 2014 Ministerial Council meeting in Basel regarding the elaboration of declarations condemning discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions has still not been implemented. The well-balanced draft decisions on the linguistic and educational rights of national minorities and on free access of the media to information were obstructed for purely opportunistic reasons.

We trust that our comments will be taken into account by the future Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and the new head of the Human Dimension Committee when agreeing on the "package" of events for 2019 and setting the Committee's priorities. We once again stress the need for it to organize its work in accordance with Decision No. 17/06 of the 2006 OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels on improvement of the consultative process.

We are willing to continue to make a constructive contribution to both Committees in order to ensure that their work is of assistance in preparation for a successful OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Bratislava.

Thank you for your attention.