

PC.DEL/1568/18
20 December 2018

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1210th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 December 2018

**In response to the report by the Special Representatives of the Italian
OSCE Chairmanship on Youth and Security**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Special Representatives for their presentations. Youth is the foundation of the present and future of our countries. We recognize the importance of working with young people, particularly in the context of protecting the young generation from terrorist and extremist ideas. Young persons, who have an as yet unformed world view, a lack of abundant life experience and, at times, inadequate education, are a vulnerable stratum of society. The young are the first to feel the negative effects of economic crises, social instability and armed conflicts.

These factors are often used by evildoers to engage young persons in illegal activities, including through social media and other modern means of communication. Intensive and systematic preventive work, particularly at the national level, is needed to counter these phenomena.

States have the task of preventing terrorists, radicals and political speculators from exerting an influence on the young by putting a stop to extremist propaganda. At the same time, the Internet and other traditional mass media should be used to promote a positive agenda. It is important to actively disseminate the idea of mutual respect and intercultural and interreligious dialogue among young people and with their aid, with account taken of local traditions and specificities.

There is a need to create conditions for the development of young people and their social and economic integration in society, not least by providing quality education and employment.

Creative work, culture and sport are also effective instruments in this regard. They enable young people to participate in socially significant activities, help to perfect skills and talents, increase self-confidence and self-esteem, and teach them to live a conflict-free existence.

Russia consistently carries out preventive activities with the young generation. In November 2014, the Russian President Vladimir Putin approved the Strategy for Combating Extremism in the Russian Federation until 2025, which contains a whole series of tasks aimed in particular at teaching young people how to avoid behaviour dangerous to society. In the framework of the Strategy, regional and municipal education programmes and teaching aids are designed to provide the young generation with a sense of respect for all ethnic groups and religions and teach them to reject intolerance.

The OSCE's work in this area is becoming more visible every year, as illustrated by the corresponding declarations adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meetings in 2014, 2015 and this year. Mention should be made of the assiduous and professional work of the Italian Chairmanship together with Spanish colleagues to promote the corresponding United Nations Security Council resolutions 2250 and 2419. In our opinion, the OSCE should focus on priorities that respond to regional realities – preventive measures to combat the radicalization of young persons and the influence of extremist ideology, including the spread of racist, neo-Nazi and extreme religious views.

Thank you for your attention.