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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1168th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 December 2017

**In response to the report by the OSCE Special Representative and  
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ms. Madina Jarbussynova,

We are pleased once again to welcome you to the meeting of the Permanent Council. We are grateful for your detailed report on the work of your Office and plans for the future.

We note with satisfaction the high level of our co-operation. In February of this year, you conducted an official visit to Russia, during which a wide range of views was exchanged with the heads of relevant Russian agencies. In July, in Moscow, you organized an international conference with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on public-private partnerships in the prevention of trafficking in human beings. During the event, representatives of more than 40 countries and international organizations discussed how best to establish co-operation among State structures, businesses and non-governmental organizations to combat various forms of trafficking.

Despite the numerous efforts of the international community, we regret to note that the problem of trafficking in human beings persists in the OSCE area. Among the main reasons for this are increased migration flows, fuelled primarily by the destabilization of the political situation in several regions of the world, and also the growth of poverty, the marginalization of some segments of the population and insufficient social and economic support for mothers and children. We look forward to the timely publication of your report on the identification and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings in the context of mixed migration flows. There is a need to continue to help victims of trafficking, first and foremost, children and women.

It is important that this year the OSCE paid particular attention to combating trafficking in children. The 17th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, held in Vienna on 3 and 4 April 2017, was dedicated to consideration of the best interests of the child. The OSCE seminar "Rights of the Child: Children in Situations of Risk", held in Warsaw on 12 and 13 October, underlined, among other things, the severity of the problems

of unaccompanied migrant children and orphans adopted by foreign nationals. It was stated that sexual exploitation, involvement in criminal activities and trafficking in human organs are just some of the crimes perpetrated against minors falling into the hands of traffickers, who treat them as “living commodities”.

We agree on the need to study new trends in this area. At the same time, linking trafficking in human beings with the activities of terrorist groups requires a thorough verification of the facts and consideration of the international legal framework. The phenomenon of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of removing human organs, tissues and cells requires close attention. The first step on this path was taken quite a long time ago – back in 2013, when the Special Representative prepared a corresponding overview of the state of affairs in this area. We look forward to continuing this work.

Combating trafficking in human beings calls for compromise and non-politicized solutions that unite States for the common purpose of eradicating this evil. It was as a result of this approach that we were able to adopt two decisions at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vienna: on preventing trafficking in human beings and on combating all forms of trafficking in children, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation. We should work together to develop this key area of the OSCE’s work.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you, Madina Jarbussynova, and the staff of your Office for your enthusiastic and effective work, and to wish you all the best for the upcoming holidays, as well as further success.

Thank you for your attention.