

PC.DEL/1183/15
11 September 2015

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE
1067th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 September 2015

**In response to the report by the Director of the OSCE Conflict
Prevention Centre**

Mr. Chairperson,
Ambassador Marcel Peško,

We should like to congratulate you on your appointment as Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). This is a highly important and very challenging job, especially under present circumstances. We are sure that with your extensive experience you will be able to settle quickly into your new position and be a worthy leader to the Centre's highly professional team.

We have read with interest the report circulated yesterday evening on the CPC's work over the past year and its plans for the future. The CPC is one of the key and arguably most effective units of the Secretariat; its main purpose is to support the efforts of the Chairmanship and collective OSCE bodies with regard to crisis management – a core area of focus of the OSCE's activities. The timely and competent employment of the extensive arsenal of instruments developed by the OSCE for conflict prevention, crisis response and post-crisis reconstruction depends largely on the CPC. These activities must be carried out under the overall operational leadership of the Secretary General, strictly within the current mandate and taking due account of the leading role of the Permanent Council in determining OSCE policies.

We support efforts to improve the OSCE's crisis management tools. These should be based on unconditional respect for the Permanent Council's consensus on all stages of the "conflict cycle", the explicit consent of the parties to the conflict to measures proposed by the OSCE, impartiality and neutrality, and respect for existing negotiation formats.

When these conditions are met, the Organization's crisis management measures will achieve their ends. An example of this is the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). The CPC has played an important role in its deployment and operation. Today more than ever, objective and prompt communications by the SMM regarding developments in all regions of Ukraine; the impartial documenting of violations of the

agreements on a ceasefire and the withdrawal of weapons from Donbas, as well as the impact of shelling on the civilian population; and the monitoring of the humanitarian situation in the conflict zone are much needed. We note the Mission's role in supporting negotiations within the Trilateral Contact Group and the SMM's practical help in rebuilding critical infrastructure that has been destroyed. In the context of the current ceasefire, the SMM should intensify its monitoring activities in the security zone in Donbas; to do so, it must increase its numbers to 1,000 people as soon as possible.

On the whole, we are satisfied with the nature of the co-operation with the OSCE observers at the Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk on the Russian-Ukrainian border.

We commend the CPC's support in organizing and holding meetings within the Geneva International Discussions on security in the Trans-Caucasus and the "5+2" talks on a Transdnestrian settlement.

As for the OSCE's field activities as a whole, the CPC's most important task is to exercise tight control to ensure that missions strictly adhere to their mandates. I recall that their main purpose is to assist the governments of host countries upon their request. The project activities of missions, including extrabudgetary ones, should be as transparent as possible and agreed upon with host authorities at their request.

Many OSCE missions have already played a useful role in assisting with the democratic, institutional, social and economic strengthening of a whole range of States in the OSCE area. With the active support of field presences in these countries, the necessary national capacity was built up, as a result enabling host authorities to refuse further outside help with certain issues. This is their sovereign right, which should be strictly upheld. I recall that paragraph 41 of the Charter for European Security of 1999 directly states that in order to strengthen national capacity, missions must gradually transfer their functions to host States and scale back their activities. It is worth considering how this requirement is fulfilled in practice.

Constant attention must be paid to the quality of the operational communications between field presences, the Chairmanship and participating States. A prompt and precise signal from the field that has not been "retouched" ensures that the emergence of a crisis situation is precisely predicted and solicits an adequate response from the OSCE.

We are prepared to continue supporting the CPC in its work and take a constructive approach to reviewing proposals to strengthen its operational capacity.

It is with regret that we are compelled to note that the CPC Director's written report contains a whole range of ideas that were not approved by the OSCE participating States. We have repeatedly voiced our opinions on them and see no need to repeat them today.

We wish Ambassador Marcel Peško and his team every success in their challenging work.

Thank you for your attention.