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**STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY BALAKIN,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1232nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 June 2019

In response to the statement on the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to thank our French colleagues for their detailed description of the key provisions of the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace initiative presented by the President of France Emmanuel Macron in November 2018, and to make a number of brief comments.

In our opinion, the underlying message of that document is the need to ensure peace and security in the global information environment, which is in keeping with the Russian approaches to ensuring international information security, enshrined in our key initiatives on this issue, which were approved by the First and Third Committees of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly at the end of last year.

That being said, we note that the Paris Call contains a number of controversial provisions. For example, the 2001 Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (the so-called Budapest Convention) is being imposed on the global community as the “most important” international legal instrument in the fight against cybercrime, despite the fact that this document effectively establishes the principle of violation of State sovereignty, which most countries find unacceptable. The multi-stakeholder approach to the digital environment proposed by our French partners provides for equalization of the rights of States and non-State actors, thereby eroding the key role of States in ensuring cybersecurity.

In addition, a number of the document’s provisions can be interpreted as recognition of the admissibility of armed conflict between States in the cybersphere using information and communication technologies (ICTs). A controversial and not widely supported argument is put forward about the applicability of existing international law to the ICT environment.

In our view, it is crucial to ensure that conflicts in the information environment are avoided and that ICTs are used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Russia consistently promotes this approach to international information security at key specialized international platforms. Last year, the approach was successfully consolidated in the Russian-sponsored resolution entitled “Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security”, which was adopted at the First Committee of the seventy-third session of the UN General Assembly. The resolution contains a draft code of conduct for

the responsible behaviour of States in the digital sphere, which, *inter alia*, provides for respect for State sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and prevention of the widening digital divide between them.

Thank you for your attention.