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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1284th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 October 2020

On the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone

Mr. Chairperson,

We support the joint statement of 5 October by the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Russia and the Secretary of State of the United States of America as representatives of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, which was delivered by the distinguished representative of the United States.

We strongly urge all the parties to cease fire and de-escalate tensions immediately and unconditionally, and to avoid provocative and belligerent rhetoric. They must return to the negotiating table as a matter of priority.

Russia is continuing its mediation efforts both in its national capacity and together with the other Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at creating conditions for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through political and diplomatic means. We reaffirm our willingness to provide a Moscow platform for the relevant discussions, including a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia with the participation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

We are seriously concerned about the information relating to the deployment of fighters from illegal armed groups, in particular from Syria and Libya, to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone for the purpose of directly participating in the hostilities. This creates long-term security threats to all countries in the region. We call on the leadership of the States concerned to take effective measures to prevent the use of foreign terrorists and mercenaries in the conflict and to remove them immediately from the region.

Thank you for your attention.