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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE
1319th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

10 June 2021

**In response to the reports by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and
the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek**

Madam Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome the new Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, the distinguished Ambassador Alexey Alexandrovich Rogov, and also the Director of the OSCE Academy there, Alexander Wolters. We are grateful for their comprehensive reports and their thoughtful and analytical approach. Alexey Alexandrovich, congratulations on your debut!

It is commendable that the Programme Office's activities, despite the change in its leadership, continue to be highly dynamic. In our view, this can be put down entirely to the concerted work of its personnel and management teams. We note the close co-operation with the host authorities and the co-ordination of project activities with them in connection with the country's implementation of strategic reforms in the political, economic and social spheres, the promotion of regional security issues, and the countering of new challenges and threats. It is important that the efforts of this OSCE field operation should not duplicate the activities of other international donors, including Russia, and that when implementing any projects with a regional scope these efforts should be guided by the specific wishes of Kyrgyzstan and its neighbours.

We consider the unpredictable state of affairs in Afghanistan to be one of the main external threats to the progressive development of the Kyrgyz Republic. Building the capacity of the national border guard service to counter cross-border threats complements nicely the major work being carried out through the Collective Security Treaty Organization. We are confident that the participation of Russian experts in the implementation of the Programme Office's initiatives in this domain will continue to be highly sought after.

One should not forget about the difficulties that Kyrgyzstan, like other countries, is encountering in the socio-economic sphere. The revival of the global economy is not proceeding at an equal pace: different countries have different possibilities. This process is fraught with increasing imbalances, growing divides in living standards and the emergence of grave political, economic and social risks affecting the situation within the country. In these circumstances, it is important to continue to prioritize strengthening the

institutional capacity of the State so that the government bodies are able to tackle effectively the tasks facing the country.

We note the balanced nature of the Programme Office's project portfolio. We support this field operation's important projects on combating terrorism, organized crime and illicit drug trafficking, and also its projects on information security. The digital environment is now actively used by everyone, including malefactors. There are many potential threats here – both to general, global security and to individual countries and their sovereignty and national interests.

Russia's approaches to establishing a comprehensive information security framework and to developing understandable and clear rules in this area continue to be transparent and steadfast. It was to a great extent thanks to Russia's efforts that information security issues were incorporated into the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly as far back as 1998 and that a relevant resolution has been adopted annually since then. In February this year, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Russia and Kyrgyzstan signed an intergovernmental agreement on co-operation in ensuring international information security, reflecting how close the positions of our two countries are on this matter.

We stand ready to establish mechanisms for practical co-operation with the Programme Office on securing the global information environment. The scope for a partnership here is very broad: it encompasses the exchange of experience, training and the conduct of research studies.

Turning to the economic and environmental dimension, we commend the continuity of efforts to support national policies for combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism; promoting a "green" economy and its digitalization; mitigating the negative implications of economic activities for the environment; and providing advice to small and medium-sized enterprises. This will undoubtedly make a positive contribution to the enhancement of the business environment as a whole.

As for the human dimension, we note the Programme Office's assistance to the host State in strengthening human rights and the rule of law, supporting judicial and prison reforms, countering trafficking in human beings, and other projects.

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek has acquitted itself well in terms of training and facilitating dialogue among youth representatives from Central Asian countries, thereby helping to bring these together. Russian teachers and research centres are also co-operating with the Academy. We are supporting efforts to transform the Academy into a competitive, fully fledged higher education and research institution, and to increase the focus in its teaching and research programmes on Central Asian regional issues.

We wish to emphasize how Russian-Kyrgyz relations take the form of a strategic alliance. Russia is in "pole position" when it comes to Kyrgyzstan's commercial and economic links.

We co-operate closely in other areas too, these being of the most varied kind. In particular, as part of efforts to combat the pandemic, Russia is providing support by supplying testing systems, antiviral drugs and vaccines. Specialists are studying the possibility of launching production of the Sputnik V vaccine at a facility in the Kyrgyz Republic. As the epidemiological situation improves, business contacts and humanitarian co-operation are picking up again; in-person meetings have intensified at practically all levels of government. The President of Kyrgyzstan, Sadyr Japarov, has paid two working visits to Moscow in the course of the present year and met with President Putin. We for our part intend to support in every possible way the progressive development of brotherly Kyrgyzstan and to contribute to the further strengthening of our bilateral inter-State relations.

In closing, we should like to wish the Head of the Programme Office, Ambassador Rogov, and the Director of the Academy, Mr. Wolters, together with their colleagues, robust health and success.

Thank you for your attention.