

PC.DEL/1036/18

30 August 2018

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1194th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 August 2018

**In response to the address by the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Italy,
H.E. Mr. Enzo Moavero Milanesi**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Minister,

We are pleased to welcome you to the OSCE Permanent Council and thank you for clarifying the priorities of the Italian Chairmanship.

We firmly believe that the opportunities provided by the OSCE can and should be used effectively to overcome current disagreements and elaborate acceptable solutions to the Euro-Atlantic security problems. The first six months under Italy's leadership in the OSCE have confirmed that the task of reviving the spirit of Helsinki is entirely achievable when the Chairmanship takes a responsible approach.

It is especially at a time of unprecedented connectivity and openness of economies, freedom of movement of people and dissemination of ideas, the transition to a new technological level and the emergence of a polycentric world order that the co-operative foundations for ensuring international security need to be strengthened. Those countries that are able to come to an agreement and collectively develop global governance mechanisms in the twenty-first century have an advantage in the complex and multidimensional landscape of international relations. We believe that the experience gained, during the 43 years of the OSCE's existence, in solving urgent problems in the Euro-Atlantic region will allow us to continue to use the Organization's inherent unifying potential for the benefit of the peoples of our countries.

We look forward to the continuation of constructive co-operation with the Italian Chairmanship in helping to resolve crises in the OSCE area.

We share the desire for a swift settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict. All the necessary components are in place for this. The Minsk Package of Measures endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 is the road map for a settlement under

international law. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine carries out international verification of the implementation by the parties to the conflict of their commitments. The Minsk-based Trilateral Contact Group provides support and explores concrete measures to help implement the agreements. The Normandy format countries provide support for the dialogue where necessary. We are convinced that all that is lacking for a successful settlement of the conflict, which has been going on for more than four years now, is the political will of the Ukrainian Government to solve peacefully with its fellow citizens in the east of the country the problems that have developed. This needs to be done through direct dialogue with Donetsk and Luhansk.

It is important to preserve the unity of the external mediators in the settlement of the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdniestria, with account taken of the positions of the parties. We note the efforts by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process, Franco Frattini, to maintain the momentum of the negotiation process. After ten years of peace in the Trans-Caucasus, there is every reason to hope for progress in the dialogue between Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia in the Geneva International Discussions. The OSCE should continue to support a political solution to the Kosovo problem on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 1244.

We are in agreement regarding the importance of an open and respectful discussion on all issues. We support the continuation of the Structured Dialogue to de-escalate the politico-military situation.

We still believe that joint work in the first basket has considerable potential. We take a positive view of the Italian Chairmanship's work to that end. We should like to mention in particular the successful counter-terrorism conference in Rome on 10 and 11 May. Faced with the growing threat of terrorism, the establishment of a global counter-terrorism front remains our common task. Joint efforts to address the issue of returning foreign terrorist fighters are as relevant as ever. It is also important to pay attention to combating the spread of terrorist ideology and the financing of terrorism.

We believe it is necessary to raise the OSCE's profile in combating drug trafficking. The importance of this task is confirmed by the depressing figures provided in UN reports. We firmly believe that the OSCE could contribute to the global efforts to combat drug trafficking on the basis of the outcome of the forthcoming 62nd session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

We are open to depoliticized and mutually beneficial dialogue and co-operation in the area of information and communication technology security. We hope that the Chairmanship's upcoming conference on this topic, to be held in Rome on 27 and 28 September, will be successful.

We believe that our common tasks in combating transnational threats should be duly reflected in the results of the Ministerial Council meeting in Milan in December.

We note the effective work of the Italian Chairmanship in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension. We take a positive view of the preparatory meetings held in Vienna in January and in Venice in May for the Economic and Environmental Forum, the theme of which this year is "Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through innovation, human capital development, and good public and corporate governance".

We welcome the plans to prepare a draft declaration on the digital economy in time for the Ministerial Council meeting in Milan. We are ready to play a part in its preparation.

We need to continue the dialogue on economic connectivity and promote the establishment of contacts between integration associations in Eurasia and Europe with the aim of implementing the concept of a single economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok.

The OSCE's human dimension is in need of serious optimization. Skewed thematic approaches and organizational problems persist, and the specialist executive structures frequently exceed their mandates. We hope that Italy will be able to respond to these challenges in the time remaining.

Priority attention should be paid to a respectful attitude towards traditional values, social and economic human rights, the rights of national minorities (including linguistic and educational rights), combating trafficking in human beings, preventing the politically motivated persecution of journalists and the media, preserving cultural and historical heritage, reducing the number of stateless persons, non-interference in private and family life, and eradicating discrimination in sport. We need to step up the efforts to counter the spread of extremist and neo-Nazi ideology, attempts to whitewash Nazis and their supporters, destruction and desecration of monuments to those who fought in the anti-Hitler coalition, and attempts to falsify the history of the Second World War and revise the Nuremberg Tribunal's decisions.

We agree that the migration issue remains relevant. The OSCE can make a contribution to the international community's efforts in this area.

We welcome the conference on anti-Semitism held in Rome on 29 January. We expect progress in the execution of the instructions issued by the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Basel (2014) on elaborating declarations to combat intolerance against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions.

We support the Chairmanship's intention to strengthen collaboration with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation. There are sufficient regulatory frameworks in our Organization for that purpose. The most important thing is to preserve the consensus basis when assisting Partners for Co-operation.

We welcome the Chairmanship's intention to develop relations with other international organizations. We call for active use to be made of the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999, and for this work to be carried out in an inclusive manner, encompassing the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Eurasian Economic Community.

We intend to continue the search for options for strengthening the institutional framework of the OSCE that are acceptable to all by adopting a Charter, rectifying thematic and geographical imbalances, and drafting a common set of guidelines for the executive structures and principles for election observation. We trust that the Italian Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat's senior officials will continue to co-ordinate the activities of the executive structures and field operations, preventing the OSCE's tools from being used in the interests of a narrow group in the current political climate.

Mr. Minister,

Russia stands ready for co-operation with the Italian OSCE Chairmanship on the basis of partnership and equal consideration of the interests of all participating States. We hope that the traditionally busy months of preparation for the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Milan will be fruitful and productive.

Thank you for your attention.