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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1120th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 November 2016

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank our Canadian colleagues for drawing attention to this issue.

Combating violence against women in all its forms and manifestations unfortunately remains a pressing challenge in the OSCE area, particularly in the context of conflicts and the migration crisis.

The prevention and combating of all types of violence against women has always been a priority in the domestic and foreign policies of the Russian Federation. Our country has consistently complied in full measure with all of its international commitments in this regard, including the decision of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel in 2014 on preventing and combating violence against women.

We consider it necessary to guarantee observance of the human rights of women in their entirety and not just with regard, shall we say, to those connected with reproductive health. In addressing the important task of combating violence against women, the huge set of commitments to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women in general should not be ignored. Safeguarding the civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights of women is not simply an end in itself but has a direct bearing on progress in the eradication of violence against women.

Thank you for your attention.