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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE  
1306th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

18 March 2021

**On the situation in the Republic of Belarus**

Madam Chairperson,

Having listened to the concerns of a number of States regarding the situation in the Republic of Belarus, we are once again forced to note the stubborn unwillingness of Western countries to listen to and hear the arguments of the Belarusian Government and also of the OSCE participating States taking a constructive approach to this situation.

As before, we are convinced that the Belarusian people are capable of dealing independently, within the framework of the Constitution and the law, with all the tasks on the domestic agenda. Without the notorious outside interference in domestic political processes and external political pressure. The leadership of the Republic has already confirmed its readiness for a broad national dialogue aimed at strengthening harmony in society.

We consider useful the initiative launched by President Lukashenko to reform the Constitution. A constitutional commission has recently been established, which will make proposals to amend the Basic Law by 1 August. Its composition is fairly representative: it includes prominent public figures, politicians, businessmen and figures of science and culture. We believe that such an inclusive reform process will allow Belarusian citizens to evaluate and choose suitable prospects for the development of their homeland, and to form a vision of the country's future in a reasoned and civilized manner.

We once again call on the participating States to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of the Republic of Belarus and to refrain from promoting anti-constitutional activities, including by not contributing to the escalation of street confrontation during the protests announced at the end of the month. It is not unreasonable to recall what is written in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975: participating States "will, *inter alia*, refrain from direct or indirect assistance to terrorist activities, or to subversive or other activities directed towards the violent overthrow of the regime of another participating State." It is important not to forget this principle.

Thank you for your attention.