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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1111th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 July 2016

**On the World Day against Trafficking in Persons**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to our Belarusian colleagues for raising the important issue of trafficking in human beings. The establishment in 2013 of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons is testimony to the global awareness of the scale of this criminal phenomenon, which in terms of its danger to society has long been comparable with illicit drug trafficking and terrorism.

Its manifestations are multifaceted, ranging from sexual exploitation to trafficking in human beings for the purpose of removing human organs, tissues and cells. In that connection, one third of all victims of trafficking are minors. Children are used for begging, child pornography, sexual and labour exploitation, drug distribution and other activities. Like any cross-border criminal activity, trafficking in human beings is well organized and tightly controlled by criminal groups, which is especially evident in the context of the current migration crisis.

In order to successfully counter this type of criminal business, behind which there are human tragedies, we are required to keep up our efforts to improve national legislation and law enforcement practice, to exchange best practices, to increase civil society's awareness of the problem of trafficking and to create socio-economic conditions that prevent it from occurring. Combating the demand for "human goods" in the countries where modern-day slaves are heading is crucial.

Much is being done at a global level to counter this evil, including by the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking headed by Belarus, which initiated the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

This topic also unites the OSCE. We have in our arsenal the Addendum to the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted at the Kyiv Ministerial Council meeting. I should mention in particular the major contribution made by the Special

Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings,  
Ms. Madina Jarbussynova.

For its part, Russia will continue its efforts to resolutely counter the shameful phenomenon of trafficking in human beings.

Thank you for your attention.