

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
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AT THE 1149th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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On the 2018 OSCE Programme Outline

Mr. Chairperson,
Secretary General,

We thank you for presenting the 2018 Programme Outline of our Organization. We agree with the approach that this document should act as a guideline for all executive structures in fulfilling their mandates and Ministerial Council decisions and also in assisting participating States. In the first instance, this concerns the heads of the OSCE institutions. We trust that they will strictly follow not only the provisions of their mandates but also the documents adopted by the decision-making bodies defining their activities.

Discussion will begin in the next few days on the programme outline for each institution and field presence. During these discussions, Russia will make concrete proposals for the future work of all OSCE executive structures. For today, however, we should like to confine ourselves to some general comments.

We still have serious criticisms about the plans for the activities of the OSCE's specialized institutions. Unfortunately, in the present Programme Outline we once again see no concrete proposals for improving the functioning of these structures with a view to increasing the effectiveness and transparency of their work. This applies in the first instance to the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, particularly with elections, which has elicited justified comments from many participating States. We look forward to an appropriate response to our specific recommendations for improving work in this area. Their implementation would not only ensure balanced all-round monitoring of election campaigns in all participating States but would also enable it to be conducted in all countries without the need for additional funds.

The programme outline for field presences requires considerable adjustment, above all with regard to long-term tasks already completed.

Firstly, all missions should report on the implementation of paragraph 41 of the 1999 Charter for European Security, which provides for the gradual transfer of their functions

to the authorities in the host country. The planning of project activities of the field presences in Bishkek and Tajikistan needs to take account of the changes in their mandates and the sovereign right of host States to define the format and direction of their co-operation with all OSCE executive structures.

Secondly, there is a need to supplement the Programme Outline through the addition of detailed information on projects being carried out, with an indication of their aims, approximate costs, duration and personnel involved in local implementation. It goes without saying that all these aspects should be agreed upon with the authorities in the host countries. We trust that such information will be provided to the participating States before the discussion of the draft OSCE Unified Budget for 2018.

To avoid duplication of programmatic activities financed from the budget, field presences should notify the participating States of projects being carried out with extrabudgetary funds. This request also applies to the Secretariat and specialized institutions. We hope to see an analysis of this nature already this year prior to discussions on the budget.

As for the financing of future project activities, all executive structures should endeavour to make substantial cuts in budgetary resources. In that regard, the Programme Outline should include concrete cost-cutting proposals based in particular on corresponding proposals by participating States. We trust that this information will be provided not only during the discussion of the Programme Outline but also in the budget requests of all OSCE executive structures for 2018.

Thank you for your attention.