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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION (THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA,
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN,
THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION) AT
THE 1425th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 June 2023

On Eurasian Economic Union Day

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Member States of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) – the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation – and also as a representative of the State presiding over the EAEU bodies in 2023, I should like to inform you that Eurasian Economic Union Day was observed on 29 May. It is tied to the date of signature, in 2014, of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union – a historic document that laid the foundations for putting into practice a modern model of in-depth and comprehensive economic partnership in the Eurasian area.

In line with the Treaty, one of the main objectives of the EAEU is to enhance the welfare of its Member States' citizens. With that end in mind, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia are actively working to develop an EAEU common market, which is intended to ensure freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and labour. Today, the EAEU comprises over 184.3 million consumers. The aggregate gross domestic product of the EAEU Member States is more than 2 trillion US dollars.

The EAEU was created and is being developed as a purely economic union. Decisions at the EAEU bodies may be adopted only by consensus. The EAEU is thus underpinned by the principles of equality, mutual respect and consideration of the interests of all its participants. The close co-operation that has evolved serves as a mighty wellspring for development of the economies of the countries participating in it.

On 1 January 2023, the Russian Federation took over the duties of the State presiding over the EAEU bodies. Among the priorities of the Russian presidency are the development of Member States' technological capacities; the strengthening of synergies in the field of digital transformation; work on the creation of common energy markets; the harmonization of financial markets; the elimination of regulatory and trade barriers; and the enhancement of transport infrastructure.

An absolute priority is the strengthening of the EAEU's international co-operation, which takes place on an equitable, mutually beneficial and mutually respectful basis.

In accordance with the Strategic Guidelines for the Development of Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025, trade and economic co-operation with interested member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States that are not EAEU members remains one of the focus areas of the EAEU's international activities. The most intensive co-operation is taking place with Uzbekistan, which has the status of an observer State at the EAEU. Cuba has also been granted EAEU observer status.

The EAEU *acquis* includes free trade agreements with Serbia, Singapore and Vietnam; an interim agreement with Iran leading to the creation of a free trade area; and an agreement with China on trade and economic co-operation. Much attention is being given to the ongoing negotiations with Iran (aimed at concluding a full-scale agreement) and Egypt; it is expected that official negotiations will be launched on preferential trade with India. The first round of negotiations to approve the draft of such an agreement with the United Arab Emirates was held in March 2023. Similar negotiations were conducted with Indonesia in April 2023.

The Eurasian Economic Commission has signed 27 memoranda and declarations of understanding or co-operation with the governments or line agencies of such third countries as Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, the Faroe Islands, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

Fourteen memoranda and declarations have been concluded with inter-State and regional integration associations, including the African Union, the Andean Community, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Central American Economic Integration Secretariat, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Competition Commission of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Latin American Economic System, the Pacific Ocean Alliance, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR).

With a view to enabling co-operation on a wide range of global and sector-specific issues, 46 memoranda are in place with universal and specialized international organizations, including United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Eurasian Development Bank, the World Energy Council, the International Trade Centre, the European Public Law Organization and the International Grains Council.

As part of the Russian Federation's presidency of the EAEU bodies, the second Eurasian Economic Forum was held in Moscow on 24 and 25 May this year under the motto "Eurasian Integration in a Multipolar World". The aim of the Forum was to strengthen co-operative ties in the Eurasian space, with a focus on the most pressing issues – and those most relevant to businesses – regarding integration processes in the EAEU.

Shortly before the celebration of Eurasian Economic Union Day, a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council took place in the Kremlin on 25 May, bringing together the Prime Minister of the

Republic of Armenia, the President of the Republic of Belarus, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and the President of the Russian Federation.

An impressive package of documents was signed following the meeting.

With the EAEU having operated for almost ten years now, one may confidently say that this integration project is flourishing and bringing concrete benefits to the economies, businesses and citizens of its Member States.

We request that the text of this statement be included in the journal of today's meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.