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PC.DEL/906/19
18 July 2019

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1236th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 July 2019

In response to the report by the Secretary General of the OSCE on gender equality

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Secretary General,

We are grateful for the detailed report on the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, which we studied carefully.

While the content of the document testifies to the successful implementation of this plan, we still believe that implementation should be based on reasonable approaches, operational need and professional merit, and not the struggle for quantitative indicators.

The OSCE has a vast array of commitments in the area of gender equality, that is, equality between women and men. At the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Milan in 2018, a decision was adopted on combating violence against women. The main thing now is to implement these commitments in good faith.

Equally important is the balance when considering this issue in the context of various human rights. For example, without downplaying the importance of encouraging women's participation in public and political life, we consider it necessary to give due consideration to their economic, social and cultural rights, as mentioned, in particular, during the meeting of the Human Dimension Committee of the Permanent Council on 15 July.

Attention must continue to be paid in the OSCE to such issues as the protection of motherhood and childhood, the professional retraining of unemployed women and men, ensuring paid leave for the care of young children, and the protection and support of large or low-income families, and also single parents.

It is necessary to avoid promoting in our Organization, notably through reports by the Secretary General, non-consensus language or dubious concepts. I am referring in particular to the fact that there is no mention of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the OSCE commitments, and also to efforts to link sexual violence with the occurrence of conflicts or to artificially introduce climate change issues.

We reaffirm that our position with regard to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security remains unchanged. This document provides important guidance on

strengthening the role of women in conflict prevention and settlement, and also on the protection of women during these conflicts. That quite clearly outlines the scope of the resolution. It is unacceptable to impose on States national action plans in this area, especially outside the context of conflicts or post-conflict reconstruction.

In general, we are ready for a constructive exchange of views on the promotion of equality between women and men, including through the Gender Section of the OSCE Secretariat. The head of this section, Ms. Amarsanaa Darisureen, will visit Moscow at the end of July. We are pleased to have an opportunity to welcome her and look forward to a successful trip. Russia has gained a lot of positive experience in protecting and promoting the human rights of women and improving their position in society. We are ready to share this experience.

Thank you for your attention.