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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE
1311th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

29 April 2021

**In response to the report by the
Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe**

Madam Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri for his detailed report.

The world today is going through a challenging period of development. The global spread of the coronavirus infection, which has resulted in manifold negative socio-economic consequences for almost all countries, is exacerbating an already difficult situation in many parts of the world. An analysis of the Dushanbe field mission's activities during such a difficult period shows the continued wide coverage of the projects being implemented. This is evidence of the close co-ordination with the host authorities and the willingness to make adjustments to project activities, including within the Partnership Platform, which will undoubtedly increase the practical impact of such work.

We believe that one of the priority tasks is to help build the capacity of Tajikistan's border guard service. The state of affairs in the Central Asian region largely depends on the situation in neighbouring Afghanistan, where it has been observed that international terrorist organizations are increasing their activities and focusing their attention on the northern parts of the country. For geographical and ethno-confessional reasons, the Afghan factor seems to be very significant for Tajikistan.

We support the Office's efforts to assist the host authorities in strengthening regional security as part of the fight against transnational challenges and threats such as terrorism, extremism and illicit drug trafficking. We note the projects on humanitarian demining, the handling of explosives and the reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

We commend the field presence's activities to preserve the thematic diversity within the second dimension. Projects to promote long-term programmes for the country's socio-economic development, attract foreign investment, combat corruption, reduce disaster risk and so on should foster innovative and effective ways to accomplish the tasks facing the country and prepare for potential future challenges.

We welcome the Office's efforts to promote human rights, facilitate criminal justice reform and combat trafficking in human beings and domestic violence.

Russia and Tajikistan have celebrated 29 years of diplomatic relations. We are interested in the steady and safe development of our ally. This explains the intensity of our top- and high-level bilateral contacts and the active work through our parliaments and the relevant ministries and agencies.

We wish Ambassador Chiveri and his team good health, success and fruitful work.

Thank you for your attention.