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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1033rd (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 January 2015

**In response to the statement by Mr. Ivica Dačić,
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia,
outlining the priorities of the Serbian Chairmanship for 2015**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Mr. Ivica Dačić, as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and thank him for setting out in detail the Serbian Chairmanship's priorities for this year.

Serbia has taken charge of the OSCE at an extremely difficult period in European history. The utmost perseverance and diplomatic skill are called for today in trying to identify a common framework for finding a way out of the current crisis situation. The Swiss Chairmanship set a high standard of professionalism, impartiality and transparency in leading the Organization and showed firm commitment to the idea of restoring dialogue on key European security issues as a shared project. We are confident that Serbia has all these necessary qualities and will ensure the continuity of Switzerland's approach.

We fully agree with the Serbian Chairmanship's motto of rebuilding trust in order to create a positive agenda for the future. This is indeed the most important task today, without which it will not only be impossible to resolve the present conflict in Ukraine but also more generally to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the common and indivisible security space. The erosion of such trust and the loss of a culture of dialogue and the willingness to take account of one another's legitimate interests and work to eliminate dividing lines not in words but in deeds have contributed to the emergence of the current crisis in Europe.

Last year, the OSCE demonstrated that it remains an indispensable part of the pan-European security system, capable of playing a unique role, especially in times of crisis. We firmly believe that the OSCE can and should carry out its historic mission as the bridge between East and West, as it has done in no less difficult times in the past.

There was much talk at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Basel about the need to revive this OSCE function. The decision adopted in Basel on the Helsinki+40 process provides the necessary framework for achieving this goal.

We support the Chairmanship's plans to preserve the Helsinki+40 process among the OSCE's key areas this year. As part of this process, strategic issues such as the causes and way out of the present crisis could also be discussed and security threats and the new role and place of the OSCE in the security system analysed. This would revitalize the Helsinki process, reaffirming key principles of the Helsinki Final Act, including those concerning non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the inadmissibility of subversive activities directed towards the overthrow of regimes. The Panel of Eminent Persons established at the initiative of the OSCE Troika could help the discussions within the Helsinki+40 process by generating fresh ideas, which could then be discussed within the OSCE.

We believe that the OSCE could make a useful contribution to the discussions on the harmonization and linking of the various integration processes in Europe and the formation of a common economic and humanitarian space from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

It will be impossible to resume work on building a security community and strengthening confidence in Europe without a successful resolution to the Ukrainian crisis. Playing a part in a lasting and sustainable settlement will in turn serve to catalyse ideas about what needs to be done to prevent crises like this from happening again in the future.

Russia will provide all the necessary support to the Chairmanship in its efforts to help solve the internal Ukrainian crisis. The participation of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in the work of the Contact Group is important. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) has a particular role to play. We firmly believe that the SMM and other OSCE structures could do more to help establish civil peace and accord, promote inclusive national dialogue with the participation of all the regions and political forces in Ukraine, and implement real constitutional reform. Helping to facilitate a truce and ceasefire, resolve humanitarian issues and secure the release of detainees should remain the OSCE's priorities. The OSCE's potential for ensuring an open and impartial investigation of all the human rights violations and tragedies, beginning with February's events on the Maidan and including the incidents in Odessa and Mariupol, is far from being exploited to the full.

We are in agreement with the Chairmanship that an important event this year will be the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We attach particular significance to the holding of commemorative events, also as part of our efforts to combat the spread of intolerance and discrimination, and manifestations of aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism.

We agree with the Chairmanship's idea of paying greater attention to new threats and challenges. The tragedy in France confirms the need for countries to work together to combat terrorism, radicalization and various kinds of extremism. More attention needs to be paid to countering illicit drug trafficking, especially in the light of the preparations for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in 2016. With regard to information and communication technologies, the focus should be on implementing the initial

set of confidence-building measures and increasing transparency. The prospects for the elaboration of new measures depend on this.

We welcomed the Chairmanship's proposal to devote the 23rd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum to the topic of water governance. Dialogue needs to be established here to boost confidence-building measures and encourage good-neighbourly relations, avoiding unnecessary politicization and taking into account the lead role played by specialist inter-State organizations and institutions.

We are counting on real progress in the reform of the third basket. Combating hate speech in the media, particularly hate speech disseminated with the aid of information and communication technologies, and promoting tolerance and a respectful attitude to traditional cultural, religious, family and moral values are at the forefront here. We expect events to be held on combating intolerance towards Christians, which will complete the series of conferences on religious intolerance and enable us to begin work on draft Ministerial Council decisions on this subject.

Substantive discussion on protecting children is long overdue. A separate event needs to be devoted to the thorough consideration of this topic, including conditions for harmonious upbringing, education, the situation of children in foster families, and the prevention of violence, trafficking in children, child pornography, begging and vagrancy.

We support the Chairmanship's priorities aimed at ensuring the rule of law and the protection of the rights of national minorities. We look forward to constructive dialogue on important issues such as reducing statelessness, the inviolability of privacy and family life, freedom of movement, election observation, and countering trafficking in human beings for the purpose of the removal of organs, tissues and cells.

We are also willing to contribute to the work of other mechanisms, including the activities of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group on a Nagorno-Karabakh settlement, the "5+2" format on a Transdniestrian settlement and the Geneva Discussions on security in the South Caucasus.

In conclusion, allow me once again to thank Mr. Dačić, wish our Serbian friends every success and assure them of our support.

Thank you for your attention.