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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1047th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 April 2015

Regarding the elections in Uzbekistan

Mr. Chairperson,

The course of the presidential elections held on 29 March in Uzbekistan was closely monitored in the Russian Federation. The international observers included a significant number of experts from international organizations and foreign countries, including a representative mission from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) comprising 72 observers.

The observers from the CIS specifically came to the conclusion that the elections were held in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the electoral legislation in force in the country, that they were free, open and competitive and in line with international norms, and that the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan corresponded to generally recognized principles and standards of international law and constituted a sufficient legal basis for holding free and democratic elections. It was also noted that candidates were nominated and registered in accordance with the requirements of the legislation in open and transparent conditions and that the candidates were provided with a level playing field for the electoral campaign and political competition. Certain shortcomings recorded during the course of the elections were not large in scale and could not have affected the results of the voting.

These assessments were provided on the basis of an analysis of factual material on the results of long-term and short-term observation.

The contradictory assessments of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights observers which, apparently, concentrated yet again on seeking out shortcomings and were based to a significant extent on the opinions of anonymous informants confirms the need to hold election observation methods to a common standard. Of key importance here is the preparation of a single methodological basis and modalities for election observation, agreed on within the OSCE format. We hope that the forthcoming events on elections this year will serve as a good platform for relaunching expert discussions followed up by substantive work in this area.

Thank you for your attention.