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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1249th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 November 2019

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Mr. Chairperson,

This International Day, established by the United Nations in 2000, helps raise awareness of the phenomenon of violence against women. Unfortunately, the problem is still relevant for our region. It requires the collective efforts of participating States, civil society and international structures to address it.

The OSCE's activities have produced some results. We welcome the decision on preventing and combating violence against women, adopted at the 2018 Ministerial Council meeting in Milan with Russia's active collaboration. We believe that our Organization manages to effectively complement the universal approaches within the United Nations.

Without a doubt, United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security is an important point of reference for improving the role of women in conflict prevention and settlement as well as the protection of women in armed conflicts. However, it is unacceptable to impose any action plans on States in this area, especially outside the context of conflicts or post-conflict reconstruction. It is the UN that has always played the leading role here. There is no need to duplicate its efforts.

At the national level, combating violence against women requires a comprehensive approach that includes not only assistance to victims, but also the creation of conditions for advancing women's rights and potential. The development of their economic potential, personal growth and professional qualifications as prerequisites for independence is of key importance. All women's rights – civil and political, economic, social and cultural – need to be ensured.

Russia is taking comprehensive measures to prevent and eliminate different forms of violence against women in accordance with its international obligations. The topic is a focus of attention of the country's leadership and the relevant human rights bodies, including the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation. International co-operation in this area is developing, for example, through the joint project between Russia and the Council of Europe entitled "Co-operation on the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women 2017–2022".

Thank you for your attention.