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**STATEMENT BY MR. VLADIMIR ZHEGLOV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1260th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 February 2020

**In response to presentation by the Chairperson of the Security Committee of the
OSCE Permanent Council**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to congratulate the distinguished Ambassador Neil Bush on his appointment as Chairperson of the Security Committee of the Permanent Council. We thank his predecessor, the distinguished Ambassador Luis Cuesta Civís, for his valuable and fruitful work.

We are grateful for the presentation of the focuses of the Committee's work this year. We support the commitment of the Chairmanship to keep up the momentum and improve the interactivity of our co-operation and to ensure a balanced content. At the same time, we believe there is a need to take into account the priorities of all participating States. We expect the discussion of pressing security problems to be depoliticized and constructive.

One of the priority items on the Committee's agenda should be strengthening inter-State co-operation to combat terrorism. Among the main tasks are combating terrorist ideology, particularly on the Internet, cutting off the sources of financing, and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

We share the intention to further discuss the issue of the secure use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). It is important to continue implementing the confidence-building measures developed in the OSCE to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs and to prevent the militarization of the information space, interference in the internal affairs of States and violation of their digital sovereignty.

We agree with the planned introduction into the Committee's work programme of the issue of countering transnational organized crime, which continues to pose a direct threat to the development of States and whole regions. The issue of countering the drug threat in the OSCE area has lost none of its relevance. It is important to pool efforts to elaborate comprehensive, balanced and integrated approaches to combating drug dependence and drug trafficking.

This year, the first "basket" will see a number of important events, among which we would highlight the Annual Security Review Conference and conferences on combating terrorism, on cybersecurity and on

combating drugs. They are all effective and in their own way unique platforms for dialogue, which facilitate an exchange of expert opinions and best practices. We expect the Committee to engage in these forums and to provide all possible assistance to the Albanian Chairmanship.

We are counting on the Committee's active involvement in preparations for the Ministerial Council meeting in Tirana, notably through the elaboration of relevant draft decisions.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the distinguished Ambassador Bush every success as Chairperson and assure him of Russia's readiness to participate constructively and fully in the work of the Committee.

Thank you for your attention.