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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1429th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 June 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Mr. Volker Frobarth, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, for his comprehensive report.

We welcome the efforts of the field operation to build effective co-operation with the host State authorities in the interests of the development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in line with the large-scale reforms being carried out by the country's leadership and in strict compliance with the approved mandate.

We see that the Office has established effective co-operation with the offices of international and regional organizations and educational institutions in Kazakhstan. In that context, we call for more active use of the expert and practical potential of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

We note the activities of the Programme Office in all three dimensions of the OSCE's work. We would mention in particular the assistance projects in areas such as border security, police reform and countering transnational threats. We appreciate the serious work of the field operation in combating trafficking in human beings.

We have noted the use in the report of the phrases "cyber-enabled" and "cyber-dependent crimes", also "cybercrime" and "use of cyberspace for criminal purposes", which are currently being actively discussed within the United Nations and are not yet a matter of consensus. We would recommend that the precise nature of such offences be clarified in the reports in order to avoid misinterpretation and politicization of the issue.

Further information would also be appreciated (if convenient, it can be sent later by e-mail) regarding the seminar organized by the Office in May this year on the use of advanced software for big data

processing. In particular, it raises the question of where the collected data is to be stored – in Kazakhstan or another country?

In the second dimension, the Office's activities to combat money laundering and corruption deserve attention. We note the efforts of the field operation to assist the host country in building capacity to deal with emergency situations and natural disasters. The environmental and ecological spheres are becoming important areas of co-operation, not least in the light of the development of Kazakhstan's industrial and logistical potential.

In the human dimension, we note the steps taken by the Office to promote electoral issues, support the empowerment of women, and educational activities on the protection of human rights and freedoms, including assistance to local authorities in expanding opportunities for people with disabilities. In that regard, we note the extensive work of the Office in rural areas of Kazakhstan.

The youth dimension of the field operation's efforts, in particular the involvement of young people in the development of solutions at various levels, including local government, looks promising.

We trust that in its work the OSCE Programme Office in Astana will continue to adhere strictly to its mandate, develop its activities with due regard for the interests and traditional way of life of the host country and avoid politicization and bias.

In closing, we should like to wish Mr. Frobarth and his team further success in their work and the best of health.

Thank you for your attention.