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**STATEMENT BY MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1321st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 June 2021

On the report by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan

Madam Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome the distinguished Mr. Volker Frobarth, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, to the Permanent Council meeting. We thank him for his comprehensive report and join in welcoming him.

We appreciate that, in the current challenging environment of the coronavirus pandemic, the Office is firmly committed to the principle of close co-ordination with the host country in seeking a flexible approach to the long-term development priorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, but one that is in strict accordance with the approved mandate. This attitude deserves support.

We mention in particular the assistance programmes within the framework of the first dimension in the now traditional areas of combating terrorism, countering the threat of drugs and organized crime, and strengthening national capacities in the field of cybersecurity. We have taken note of the mention in the report of the Office's focus on tailoring projects in the politico-military dimension for turning over to the host country. We would be grateful for more detailed information in that respect, including any results that are already available.

A number of interesting projects are being implemented in the framework of the second "basket", including trade facilitation and combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. We note the efforts of the Office on issues connected with water resource management and the promotion of a green economy. We find this very useful.

There is constructive co-operation between Russia and Kazakhstan in the field of environmental protection. We are interested in further extending links with the authorities in Nur-Sultan on environmental issues through participation in relevant regional initiatives, including saving the Aral Sea and water management on the Ural and Irtysh Rivers.

We note the Office's contacts with other OSCE field missions in Central Asia and with a number of international organizations operating there. We urge the Office to work more actively with all diplomatic representations representing the various OSCE participating States accredited in the country. We should like

to see a focus on close co-operation with other international bodies active in the region, especially in view of Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Russia and Kazakhstan are allies and partners for integration. This has been particularly evident in the context of the joint fight against the pandemic. Doctors and medical scientists from our countries work together effectively. Production of the Russian vaccine Sputnik V has started in Karaganda. Our trade and economic co-operation is developing at a fairly good pace.

In paying tribute to the fruitful activities of the Office, we should like to highlight Kazakhstan's undoubted progress in implementing the OSCE principles and commitments and its achievements in all three security dimensions. The country's success in various areas confirms its ability to resolve the tasks ahead of it independently.

In conclusion, I should like to wish Mr. Frobarth and his team success and the best of health.

Thank you for your attention.