

PC.DEL/1258/17  
5 October 2017

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1159th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 October 2017

**In response to the report by the  
Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to thank the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), Mr. Marcel Peško, for the report presented. He has once again convincingly demonstrated the impressive range of functions and the scope of the work of that body, which is a strategic component of the crisis response system.

The CPC continues to play a significant role in assisting with a settlement in Ukraine, and we note the work of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. We are convinced that this know-how will be called upon in future crises, not only by our Organization, but also for crisis settlement efforts in other contexts.

The work to assist with a settlement in Kosovo under the current mandate of the OSCE Mission and United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 is still relevant, as is stepping up the work of the OSCE Mission to Moldova on making progress on the Transdniestrian settlement process. We look forward to meetings in the “5+2” format as soon as possible, which should provide impetus to a negotiation process that is currently in danger of stagnating. We support the proposals drawn up with expert CPC assistance on the implementation of the de-escalation measures for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict agreed on at the highest level in 2016, in particular those on expanding the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Mr. Andrzej Kasprzyk. We look forward to further CPC support for the post-conflict normalization of relations between Georgia and Abkhazia and South Ossetia under the Geneva International Discussions on Security and Stability in the Trans-Caucasus.

Quality expert and information support from the CPC is also in great demand. However, it is important not to forget that it is not the most significant factor. Ultimately, the success of conflict settlement and post-conflict normalization in crisis regions stands or falls on the willingness of the parties to engage in constructive dialogue at the political level.

That assumption underlies the discussions in the OSCE on improving the anti-crisis toolbox. In our view, the set of mechanisms already agreed on is fully adequate and in line with the current level of development of the OSCE itself.

It is not possible to achieve a qualitative increase in the OSCE's capacity for combating crises without strengthening the Organization's institutional base by adopting a constituent document and establishing clear rules for the work of the executive structures.

The current optimization of the work of the OSCE missions has long been overdue. Agreed on in individual cases over 20 years ago, the mandates are often outdated, do not take account of the progress of the host countries in implementing OSCE commitments, and do not always fit in with their current requirements.

Field work resources need to be focused on dealing with the practical issues of priority to the host country. It would be useful to review the missions' mandates regularly instead of extending them almost semi-automatically. Each decision of this type should be justified and firmly based on specific results for the coming time period.

We expect that the CPC will be proactive in increasing the transparency of the field operations' programme and project work, including extrabudgetary programmes and projects. Our repeated communications about this have not received a proper response, which of course cannot go on for ever. We must establish a fair geographical representation of staff in the missions.

In the future, it is abundantly clear that we must make more effort to mobilize alternative means for providing direct, targeted support to the participating States. As recent events in our Organization's area of responsibility show, OSCE assistance is not only required to the east of Vienna.

We note the intensive work of the FSC Support Section, providing assistance to the FSC Chairperson and the Troika. The Section's work on assisting in the implementation of projects on the destruction and safe storage of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition is in its way the hallmark of our Organization's politico-military work. Another positive aspect is the organization of regional events on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and other issues. The work on collecting statistics on participating States' fulfilment of commitments under the politico-military documents has practical significance, as does the operation of the OSCE Communications Network.

We are reviewing the CPC's budget proposals for the coming year. We intend to make a substantive decision after receiving the necessary clarifications during the forthcoming round of budget discussions.

We expect that thanks to its truly professional and motivated staff, the CPC will continue to play the role of co-ordinating the work of the other OSCE executive structures at all stages of crisis management, taking into due account the leading role of the Permanent Council and our Organization's consensus basis.

Thank you for your attention.