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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1513th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 March 2025

**In response to the address by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Armenia, H.E. Mr. Robert Abisoghomyan**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed Robert Vagramovich,

The Russian Federation has consistently supported the efforts by the Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan aimed at a full and comprehensive normalization of relations on the basis of the set of trilateral agreements reached at the highest level between 2020 and 2022. In that regard, we welcome the finalization of the Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiations on the text of a draft peace treaty.

We for our part intend to continue providing comprehensive support to our partners, including in overcoming the remaining obstacles to the signing of a peace treaty, and also in the unblocking of transport links, the delimitation of borders and the tackling of humanitarian issues. We reiterate our readiness to make a Russian platform available for contacts between representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the whole spectrum of topics, including for the purposes of signing an agreement.

The recent increasingly frequent reports of rising tensions on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border are somewhat concerning. We believe that it is essential to resolve all disagreements that may arise through peaceful, political and diplomatic means. We call upon the parties to refrain from any steps liable to lead to an escalation of the situation in the border region.

As for the future of the OSCE Minsk Conference's structures, the position of Russia remains unchanged. Following Armenia's *de facto* recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as an Azerbaijani territory (as one of the outcomes of the summit held in Prague on 6 October 2022), and also the fundamental transformation of the situation on the ground in the autumn of 2023, the OSCE-approved mandate of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group has lost its relevance. What is more, after the US and French Co-Chairs decided in February 2022 to break off without explanation all contacts with their Russian counterpart, there is in principle no chance of reaching and implementing new agreements in this format, and there are no discernible prospects for the work to continue. In addition, we believe that the future of the Minsk Conference's structures specifically needs to be decided within the framework of a common understanding

between the Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan, which should come forward with a joint proposal on that score.

Thank you for your attention.