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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1221st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 March 2019

**On the judgement of the International Residual Mechanism for
Criminal Tribunals in the case of Mr. Radovan Karadžić**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are studying the grounds for the judgement of 20 March by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals on the appeal by Mr. Radovan Karadžić, former leader of the Bosnian Serbs, against the sentence pronounced by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) on 24 March 2016. We note that the Mechanism has now issued an extremely harsh verdict, increasing Mr. Karadžić's sentence from 40 years' to life imprisonment.

The published summary of the judgement highlights the serious inconsistencies that have marked the legal proceedings against Mr. Karadžić from the outset. The body of evidence raises serious doubts. Nevertheless, the Mechanism, mirroring the flaws of the ICTY and blindly pursuing its anti-Serb course, preferred to ignore these circumstances and once again demonstrated the bias and prejudice of the ICTY–Residual Mechanism tandem.

At the same time, the court of “justice” in The Hague did not show any real inclination to reveal the many atrocities committed by the “field commanders” of the Bosnian Muslims and Kosovo Albanians. The illegal actions of the NATO countries during their military operations on the territory of the former Yugoslavia are deliberately left out – in particular, the many thousands of victims among the civilian population and the destruction of civilian infrastructure and social facilities, which have just been mentioned in this room.

Such selective methods clearly not only demonstrate the bias and ineffectiveness of the ICTY and Residual Mechanism but also discredit the very idea of international criminal justice. Considerable resources by United Nations standards have been invested into these bodies, which are expected to provide substantial assistance in the matter of inter-ethnic reconciliation in the Balkans. In effect, however, they have not made any real contribution.

Under these circumstances, we hope that the countries in the region will be able to overcome the difficult legacy of the conflict through joint efforts and constructive co-operation, including the administration of genuine justice on behalf of the victims of the Balkan tragedy. Russia will continue to

render them every possible assistance in the interests of consolidating peace and security in South-Eastern Europe.

As for the Residual Mechanism, we emphasize its temporary and limited nature as outlined in UN Security Council resolution 1966. We expect this structure to be closed after the rapid conclusion of the outstanding cases from the ICTY.

Thank you for your attention.