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## DELEGATION OF AFGHANISTAN

### STATEMENT

1188<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

#### Agenda item 2.

Report by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and  
the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek

7 June 2018

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Thank you, Mr. Chair!

The Afghan delegation warmly welcomes the Head of the Programme Office in Bishkek, Ambassador Pierre von Arx and the Director of the Academy in Bishkek, Dr. Alexander Wolters to the Permanent Council and we thank both for their respective comprehensive reports.

The Programme Office plays an important role in our Central Asian region, across all three dimensions of the work of the OSCE, covering a wide range of security-related areas. We believe there are numerous opportunities for Afghan stakeholders to be engaged, across a broad range of activities. Let me here also mention the upcoming Brainstorming Seminar for a Central Asia – Afghanistan Policy Partnership, co-

organized by the Programme Office in Bishkek and the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, on 11 and 12 July 2018 in Bishkek. We look forward to fresh opportunities and additional forms of co-operation.

Furthermore, customs officers from Afghanistan were invited to participate in a project by the Programme Office, launched to address regional challenges and to enhance the skills of customs officers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Bishkek Academy has become a renowned educational institution, a regional centre of postgraduate education and a forum for regional security dialogue and research. We hope that the number of Afghan students, men and women, can be continuously increased, as we need more young skillful and qualified officers in our administration. Ten years ago, the Bishkek Academy started to accept students from Afghanistan and many of the Afghan graduates from the Bishkek Academy currently hold senior positions in Afghanistan.

Thank you again, Ambassador von Arx and Dr. Wolters for your reports to the Permanent Council today, and for your important work in Bishkek.

Thank you, Mr. Chair!