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**STATEMENT BY MR. KONSTANTIN ZHIGALOV,
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KAZAKHSTAN, AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE OSCE ANNUAL
SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Hofburg, 14 June 2010

Ladies and gentlemen,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

Allow me on behalf of the OSCE Chairperson-in-office, Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, to open the 2010 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) and to welcome all the participants.

The Kazakh Chairmanship attaches great importance to the work of this forum and commends the participating States' decision to extend its duration to three days. The decision to strengthen the ASRC is evidence of the seriousness of the problems to be considered at this Conference and, more importantly, testifies to the willingness of the participating States to engage in a joint discussion of these problems and to seek appropriate solutions. Unfortunately, this kind of meeting is held only once a year, although the problems that it deals with deserve more in-depth study in our opinion.

The year 2010 marks a whole series of anniversary dates of particular significance for our Organization – the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Eleven years have already elapsed since the signing of the Istanbul Charter for European Security. In 1999 historic decisions were taken in Istanbul in the area of ensuring "hard" security, taking into account the politico-military realities that had emerged following the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. We believe that at that moment we were closer than ever before to creating the conditions needed to build an indivisible area of security from Vancouver to Vladivostok. However, our expectations of the atmosphere of co-operation that reigned at that time have not been borne out.

As the OSCE Chairmanship, we see our main task in ensuring a rapprochement in the positions of the participating States and searching for mutually acceptable solutions in the interests of universal peace and security. We see the crisis of confidence as our main problem. The stagnation of the arms control regime, the failure to resolve protracted conflicts and the lack of progress in restoring an OSCE mission to Georgia, all of which will be at the centre of our Conference's discussions, provide graphic confirmation of this crisis of confidence or trust.

We accord priority importance to this problem of "trust", especially given that it is one of the main components of our Chairmanship's motto. Strengthening trust and confidence and increasing transparency – these are the principles that guide the Kazakh Chairmanship in its work.

Discussions are continuing as regards the prospects for strengthening the OSCE and as to how we can increase the effectiveness of our Organization. And the key to achieving this goal is the creation of an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding.

A unique chance for a renewal of the spirit of co-operation is the dialogue initiated by the Greek Chairmanship on the future of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security known as the "Corfu Process". This Process provides an opportunity to bring together the approaches and ideas of all interested parties with a view to gaining a complete picture of the parameters of a new security system in keeping with the realities of today. The "Corfu Process" is an informal mechanism, with the aid of which the participating States hope to strengthen confidence and increase the effectiveness and usefulness of our Organization given the changing Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security architecture.

As part of this Process the ten most pressing and topical themes for the OSCE have been identified – conflicts, transnational threats, security and arms control, the economy and the environment, humanitarian issues, interdimensional approaches and effectiveness, and Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security. Each of these topics has already been examined during informal discussions. The Chairmanship is preparing an interim report on the results of these discussions, which will be presented to the participating States at the end of June in Vienna. This report will also form the basis for the informal meeting of OSCE foreign ministers to be held in Almaty on 16 and 17 July, which is being convened by the Kazakh Chairmanship to review the progress made so far and to formulate the next steps. It is expected that the informal Ministerial Council meeting will be a key event en route to a Summit and will help give the proposed Summit real substance.

I should like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Chairmanship to express my gratitude to the ambassadors for their important work as thematic co-ordinators within the "Corfu Process".

I might mention that one of the tasks of today's ASRC is to generate proposals for inclusion in the interim report.

We believe that this stage of the "Corfu Process" should mark the transition from general discussions to substantive negotiations. These tasks require further painstaking work, the success of which will largely depend on the political will of the participating States and their willingness to compromise.

It is in this spirit that we welcome the understanding reached on the need to adapt fundamental OSCE documents and the progress made in the area of confidence- and security-building measures, in particular the decision adopted by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) establishing a procedure for incorporating relevant FSC decisions into the Vienna Document 1999. This decision marks the start of substantive work on chapters of the Document, something that will increase the degree of confidence and the effectiveness of the co-operation among the OSCE countries considerably. We are very much looking forward to constructive co-operation within the FSC, for this will enable us to achieve results this year on the eve of a possible OSCE Summit.

We believe that the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START-3) signed on 8 April this year by the Russian Federation and the United States of America has had a positive effect on the general security situation in Europe. In this connection, we are impatiently awaiting the start of negotiations on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) in meetings of the Joint Consultative Group (JCG). At the present time these meetings unfortunately amount to little more than a reading of the agenda. It is our sincere hope that within the OSCE, including in the framework of the "Corfu Process", we shall succeed in reaching the same level of mutual understanding that has been achieved between Russia and the United States in their work on START-3 and that was demonstrated to us by Ms. Rose Gottemoeller (United States) and Ambassador Anatoly Antonov (Russia) at the joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on 1 June when they presented the new treaty.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Conflict prevention and crisis resolution are one of the traditional key themes of our annual review of security problems. This is an area where the OSCE has great potential and expertise.

It is important to continue the active coordination of OSCE activities in efforts to stabilize the situation in Kyrgyzstan.

Unfortunately, despite earlier measures taken and the support provided, the Interim Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was unable to take control over the situation. Political instability has led to more serious consequences - inter-ethnic conflict erupted in the south. I would like to emphasize how topical issues of cooperation in the sphere of inter-ethnic harmony are in the context of the OSCE region security.

Let me express my deep condolences to the representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic in connection with the death and injury of many people during the violence in Osh.

On the 12th of June the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Secretary of State - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan K.Saudabayev had a telephone conversation with the head of Interim Government of Kyrgyz Republic R.Otunbayeva. On the same day, CiO held telephone talks with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, EU High Representative K.Ashton, EU Chairman – Spain Foreign Minister M. Moratinos, Russian Foreign Minister S.Lavrov and Turkey Foreign Minister A. Davutoglu.

During their conversation, they exchanged a wide set of views on the current situation in the south of Kyrgyzstan. The Chairman informed the interlocutors on the decision to send to Kyrgyzstan his Special representative, Deputy Chairman of Mazhilis Ambassador Zhanybek Karibzhanov and the leadership of the Conflict Prevention Centre. UN and EU reported readiness to deploy their special representatives to Kyrgyzstan as soon as possible.

Kazakhstan has been helping in resolving the situation in Kyrgyzstan from the first day of political crisis in neighbouring country and intends to take all necessary efforts in the current difficult conditions, both bilaterally and in the capacity of the OSCE chairman.

Since the moment he took up his post, the Chairperson-in-Office has travelled to all the regions where OSCE field missions are located and visited all the countries where so-called protracted conflicts persist – the South Caucasus in February and the Balkans and Eastern Europe in March and April. The main purpose of these visits was for the Chairperson-in-Office to familiarize himself with the situation on the ground and to obtain first-hand information, assessments and proposals.

In all of these countries, Kazakhstan's desire to exploit the potential of the OSCE so as to increase confidence and solve the humanitarian problems of the people who have suffered as a result of these conflicts met with a positive reception. We are continuing attempts to impart a positive impetus in these areas.

We are carefully following the development of the situation with regard to Nagorno-Karabakh. The 20-year negotiation process has not led to any notable progress and nothing has in fact changed in the positions held by the parties. And this is how things will continue until a compromise is reached on the main problem, namely that of territory. All this time

people are continuing to die along the line of contact. We note with regret that this year has seen an increase in the number of people killed. The parties to the conflict must refrain from any actions that might lead to more sorry statistics of this kind.

Against this background, an extremely positive development was the compromise decision by one of the parties to accept the basic principles of the peace agreement presented by the co-mediators. We support this decision.

Active co-operation continues in the search for ways to deal with the consequences of the conflict of August 2008. We take the position that there is no sensible alternative to constructive dialogue by the parties to the conflict, the non-use of military force and the search for a way out of the current unfortunate situation. We firmly believe that contacts must be re-established on both sides of the line of administrative control. The goal here is to reduce the potential for conflict and ensure normal conditions for the population.

The Chairmanship's work is aimed at supporting the Geneva discussions as the only internationally recognized mechanism for a settlement. In close co-operation with the European Union and the United Nations, we are trying through various means to make the dialogue on security and confidence-building measures a success, with a view to gradually reducing tension and solving the day-to-day problems facing the population who live along the line of administrative control. We are in favour of strengthening the OSCE's role in the region, in particular through the creation of a support group which could pay regular visits to the region. The question of restoring the OSCE's field presence in Georgia is undoubtedly a matter of importance.

Astana advocates a genuine settlement of the Transdniestrian problem exclusively by peaceful and political means and taking into account the interests of all the parties to the dialogue. At the same time, the prospect for progress in a Transdniestrian settlement is complicated by the fact that the main parties have conflicting goals.

We commend the willingness of Moldova to engage in political negotiations without any preconditions. There are still three meetings to be held under the Kazakh Chairmanship in the 5+2 format before the end of the current year. We shall continue our efforts to return the official negotiations to that format.

In the context of transnational threats, the Chairmanship is placing particular emphasis on the need to increase the level of

co-operation between participating States and also with international organizations in preventing terrorism and the spread of radical extremism as well as in combating drug trafficking. The Chairmanship will hold two conferences (in Vienna and Astana) devoted to these problems.

No less important is the problem of border security, including the fight against terrorism, transnational organized crime, illegal migration, and the illicit transportation of nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional weapons as well as the prevention of shipments of hazardous waste or narcotic drugs and trafficking in human beings and their organs.

Aware of the need for focused and result-oriented activities by our Organization, it should be possible to examine the need for conceptual action plans in key OSCE areas for combating transnational threats.

In view of the global nature of transnational threats, strengthening collaboration with the Partners for Co-operation will make a positive contribution to the effectiveness of our Organization's work.

This year at the Chairmanship's initiative, in addition to the three traditional sessions, two additional working sessions will be devoted to Afghanistan and OSCE police-related activities.

One of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship is to help Afghanistan to return to a normal life, a subject on which one of the ASRC working sessions will focus. In mid-May the Chairperson-in-Office visited Kabul, where he held talks with the Afghan Government on possible areas of assistance. The Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for Afghanistan, Ambassador Bitimov, will provide you with detailed information about the results of the Chairmanship's talks, assessments and plans. We have also invited our Ambassador to Kabul, Mr. Smagulov, to participate in the work of that session.

I hope that during the discussions at the ASRC and subsequently at the informal Ministerial Council meeting and the possible Summit, we shall be able to identify the OSCE's role and find a niche for it in terms of assistance for Afghanistan. It is evident that the OSCE must avoid duplicating the work of other international and regional organizations that are successfully providing the country with support. Specifically for that purpose the Chairmanship has initiated work on a Declaration/Statement by the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States on assistance to Afghanistan.

The main task of the session on police-related activities is to discuss ways of increasing the effectiveness of the OSCE's work in this sphere and drawing up specific recommendations to that end.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Annual Security Review Conference provides an excellent opportunity to discuss pressing issues on our Organization's agenda.

I have no doubt that our discussions will make a significant contribution to the continuing dialogue on the future of European security, confidence-building measures, regional issues, including Afghanistan, and the elaboration of effective mechanisms for countering transnational challenges.

I am confident that discussions of pressing issues on the OSCE's agenda will enable the ASRC to achieve its goals and will result in a rapprochement of our approaches to security and co-operation issues.

As you know, the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, has made it clear that the many challenges in our region cannot be resolved unless there is political will and involvement at the highest level. As I have already mentioned, 11 years have elapsed since our Heads of State or Government met for the last time in Istanbul. The Kazakh Chairmanship is convinced that it is time for our political leaders to impart a fresh impulse to our work. Our task over the next three days is to formulate ideas to give substance to the proposed Summit, ideas that will warrant the attention of our Heads of State or Government.

Thank you for your attention. I should like to wish you every success in the work ahead of you.