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RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE  
2011 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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**Global drug trafficking as a factor in the overall threats to  
international peace and security**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

Speaking last week at the United Nations headquarters in New York at the presentation of the World Drug Report 2011 and the day before yesterday in the European Parliament, I was forced to realize that recent information on the effectiveness of the fight against global drug trafficking gives us no grounds for optimism as regards the achievement of the goals set in the 2009 Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly, as had already been the case with the 1998 Political Declaration.

I might recall that the previous Political Declaration set the international community the task of eradicating or significantly reducing the cultivation of illegal drug crops. Furthermore, United Nations Security Council resolutions 1193 (1998) and 1333 (2000) gave concrete form to the task of destroying the drug trade.

In reality, the outcome has been exactly the opposite – there has been a fortyfold increase in the volume of opium poppy production in Afghanistan. This is a depressing picture that requires a dramatic change in the approach and methods of the anti-drug policy with respect to Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, the United Nations and other major regional organizations such as the OSCE, NATO and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) have still not identified drug-related security as a separate type of security or defined it under international law. This prevents the international community from ensuring a systemic and comprehensive approach to improving international security architecture, which is being undermined by the disruptive force of global drug trafficking.

The disruptive impact of global drug trafficking and its consequences for international security as a directed, intensive and large-scale phenomenon can be divided into five principal areas:

1. Disruption of States as units on an international scale and of their ability to resolve problems concerned with the development of society;
2. Generation of a networked criminal infrastructure accompanied by a rise in violence and brutality and an inevitable tendency towards its transformation into extremist and terrorist groups;
3. Provision of sustained and permanent self-financing of criminal activities in all forms, including terrorism;
4. Heating up and spread of regional conflicts, particularly the piracy that has taken hold in the Gulf of Aden, through transnational drug transit;
5. Disruption of the humanitarian sphere of States as a result of drug production, transit and use.

In speaking of the problems of drug-related security in terms of the threats posed by global drug trafficking, it should be underscored that in many respects this is not so much a problem of drugs as such as of the considerable weakening and even destruction of States and of geopolitical challenges to entire regions (for example West and North Africa, Central Asia and the Caribbean Basin region). Global trafficking in cocaine and heroin, sustained production of huge volumes of narcotic drugs and their intensive and targeted transit across borders to consumer countries is a mechanism for the emergence of security threats.

In this connection, criminal groups are not only increasing in number in transit countries but are also progressively evolving into networked paramilitary groups ready for armed rivalry among themselves or with the government forces of those countries. The behaviour of these groups is thus increasingly taking on the characteristics of politically motivated insurgent activity using criminal and terrorist methods to achieve their aims. In this way, global drug trafficking is giving rise to a whole range of far-reaching consequences, including terrorist, military and defence-related effects, through the dramatic weakening of States and their political destabilization.

To that end the Afghan drug industry has invested approximately 1 trillion dollars during the decade of military operations in Afghanistan alone. Furthermore, the European vector for the transit of Afghan heroin from the ports of Pakistan to the Gulf of Aden has, on the one hand, formed a channel for the wholesale delivery of opiates to the Sahel region and North African countries and, on the other, provided significantly increased financing for lawless paramilitary groups in Somalia. There is a clear link between the intensification of this drug transit and the weakening of Somalia and increased pirate raids.

Given the fact that terrorist manifestations and piracy are designated as a danger in international law, the time has come clearly to provide a proper legal qualification of the phenomenon that underlies these manifestations – large-scale Afghan drug production – as a threat to international peace and security. An approach of this kind was already discussed in

the United Nations Security Council in December 2009 and in February of last year at the initiative of Burkina Faso and France, respectively.

A serious step was taken last year by the Heads of State of the members of the CSTO, who urged the United Nations to consider the question of classifying drug production in Afghanistan as a threat to international peace and security. The OSCE's support as a regional organization would be of invaluable practical significance in this regard, since Europe and Russia are the main regions affected by Afghan opiates.

Distinguished colleagues,

The OSCE has a multifunctional approach with three baskets of security. In addition to the politico-military and economic and environmental dimension, it pays considerable attention to the human dimension. In this regard, I should like to call your attention to the fact that perhaps the main victim of Afghan drug production is Afghanistan itself, the population of that long-suffering country and especially its children.

A group of toxicologists headed by a well-known professor from the University of Florida, Dr. Bruce Goldberger, declared that the current generation of children in Afghanistan is doomed because they are classic opium or heroin addicts. Scientists recorded unprecedentedly high levels of drugs in the children's blood. Dangerous concentrations of narcotic drugs are contained not only in the smoke of adult smokers, of whom there are already more than a million, but also in clothing, hair, bedding, carpets, furniture, children's toys and also in the milk of nursing mothers. It was documented that if these children were not given drugs they would begin to suffer terrible withdrawal symptoms and crave their next fix. For example, hair samples from a ten-year-old girl were found to contain 5,607 pg/mg of a metabolite of heroin, 8,350 pg/mg of morphine and 4,654 pg/mg of codeine. According to doctors these levels are equivalent to those for a medically diagnosed adult drug addict. No comment is required here.

It would make sense, so it would appear, to seriously tap into the unique resources of the OSCE, which in recent years, especially since the Astana Summit, has been systematically promoting the linking of the regional concepts of Eurasian and North Atlantic security. This is particularly true now that there are specific proposals for the comprehensive implementation of drug-related security.

Russia proposed a specific plan to the international community a year ago for the elimination of Afghan drug production – Rainbow-2 (which can now be seen on the slide). This plan is fully in line with the European Union's strategy for Afghanistan adopted last December. The day before yesterday in Brussels we discussed with our European colleagues the possibility of a joint five-year plan for the elimination of the Afghan drug threat – a kind of anti-drug five-year plan for the Afghan area.

With a view to ensuring that drug-related security is seen as a multidimensional phenomenon, we are counting on attention and support from the OSCE and the United Nations for the plan we are working on and the inclusion of that five-year plan in United Nations and other international anti-narcotics programmes. All things considered, such a project as important as this would be a suitable subject for a special OSCE conference.

Thank you for your attention.