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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 917th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 June 2012

**In response to the statement by Mr. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,
Kostyantyn Ivanovich,

We are sincerely pleased to welcome you to today's meeting of the Permanent Council and thank you for your clear outline of the priorities of the future Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE.

We agree with your assessment of the important role of the Organization in safeguarding security and stability in its area. We fully support Ukraine's determination to contribute to the establishment of a security community in the OSCE region free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security. We believe that this strategic goal, which was defined at the OSCE Summit in Astana, should remain the guiding principle for the work of all chairmanships.

We agree with your thesis that the transformation of the OSCE into a fully fledged international organization will increase interest in it, confirm its status and facilitate the development on an equal basis of relations with other international players. In our opinion, the way towards the completion of this task is through the rapid elaboration and adoption of an OSCE constituent document. We are counting on the Ukrainian Chairmanship to give further stimulus to this work.

Like Ukraine, we are in favour of strengthening the OSCE's role in the politico-military sphere. We are hoping for the resumption of discussion on a new conventional arms control regime in Europe. Russia is also willing to discuss the updating of the document "Principles Governing Non-Proliferation" adopted in 1994.

We welcome the intention of the Ukrainian Chairmanship to actively support the OSCE's efforts to respond to transnational threats, particularly terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. This aspect of the OSCE's work is becoming a priority in the light of the growth of threats and challenges, opposition to which demands the collective

efforts and concerted potential of all participating States and also of international and regional organizations. This work calls for particular attention in view of the announcement of the plan to withdraw the International Security Assistance Force from Afghanistan in 2014. A more pressing task is the strengthening of the borders of Central Asian OSCE participating States with Afghanistan and the interception of the flow of illicit drugs from the territory of that country. In that connection, I should like to make special mention of the results of the regional conference on Afghanistan held in Kabul on 14 June and in particular the willingness expressed by Russia to head a working group on combating drugs.

We share your approach to settling conflicts in the OSCE region by directing the OSCE's efforts towards facilitating dialogue between all parties involved in the conflict. In the light of the determination of the Ukrainian Chairmanship to actively facilitate the Transdniestrian settlement process, I should like to point out that the Russian Federation, as a mediator in the negotiations and guarantor of the settlement process, is also interested in the progress of the settlement. Our position is unchanged and is based on recognition of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and respect for the principle of neutrality enshrined in its constitution. On this basis we are in favour of an agreement on a mutually acceptable long-term political settlement that would guarantee Transdniestria's special status within the Moldovan State.

On the whole we support the Ukrainian proposal for the theme of the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum and its focus on reducing the negative environmental impact of the production, transportation and consumption of energy. In that context we propose that co-operation in innovation and modernization of the economy be included in the OSCE's list of priorities and that special attention be paid to energy efficiency. We also see the development of international transport corridors, migration control and combating corruption as long-term economic and environmental issues.

In the human dimension it is also important to pay continued attention to protection of the rights of national minorities and so-called "non-citizens" in a number of OSCE countries. We agree with the Ukrainian Chairmanship on the importance of freedom of movement in the entire OSCE region. By the same token, we also believe that it is necessary to pay close attention to combating neo-Nazism, manifestations of which are unfortunately not being responded to adequately by the OSCE.

Kostyantyn Ivanovich,

As you know, the Russian Federation has supported Ukraine's efforts to lead the OSCE from the very beginning. We hope that your country will succeed in carrying out this responsible and honourable mission. The Russian Federation offers its closest co-operation and support to the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

We wish you success in the performance of this task.

Thank you for your attention.