

PC.DEL/1155/10
16 December 2010

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 December 2010

On the results of the OSCE Summit meeting

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE Summit meeting, which took place in Astana after an 11-year interval, was unquestionably a significant event in the recent history of our Organization. In the final analysis, the important thing was the very fact of a meeting by Heads of State of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian regions for the purpose of restoring a culture of political dialogue within the OSCE forum and of formulating political guidelines enabling us to move forward.

Much credit for all of this lies in our view with Kazakhstan. An event of this scale would hardly have taken place under any other chairmanship. The OSCE participating States paid tribute to a country that over a period of 19 years has achieved impressive progress in all areas of domestic development and has coped commendably with the difficult responsibility of leadership in a significant number of major international organizations.

And this is not only the opinion of the Russian Government but also the collective conclusion of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and also of those of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), as stated in the documents submitted by those organizations at the CIS and CSTO summit meetings held on 10 December in Moscow.

Also to be commended is the fact that it proved possible in Astana, following difficult negotiations, to agree on a general political declaration setting the task of creating a "security community" operating on the basis of universal principles of international law and general human values, free of dividing lines or zones with different levels of security, where collective interests prevail over group interests or unilateral actions and where no one considers the use of force. We regard this concept in the context of the Russian proposal for the drawing up of a Treaty on European Security. This initiative taken by the President of Russia is a forward-looking one, and the time for its implementation will inevitably come, as pointed out by President Medvedev in his statement at the Summit.

We are pleased that the final document reflects current issues having to do with the strengthening of politico-military stability and the enhancement of the effectiveness and

capacity of the OSCE and that it sets out guidelines for moving to a new level of co-operation in meeting transnational threats and challenges and in developing co-operation between international and regional organizations on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted in 1999.

We are not inclined to dramatize the fact that it was not possible in Astana to reach a consensus on the Action Plan. This overly detailed document had from the outset little chance of success, given the attempts by a number of countries to include in it their own priorities, particularly with regard to regional conflicts, which were known to be incompatible with the position and obligations under international law of other countries.

High-level meetings are no substitute for painstaking work in crisis management. This is the task of the appropriate negotiating forums involving the participation of all parties to a specific situation, whether this be Kosovo, Nagorno-Karabakh, Transdniestria or the Trans-Caucasus. At summit meetings one may attempt to build on the progress achieved at the relevant negotiations and to strengthen the agreements between the parties themselves, acting according to the principle "first do no harm". It was precisely this kind of realistic approach that made it possible to adopt on the fringes of the Summit a well-balanced statement by the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the heads of the Russian, United States and French delegations regarding a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

We recommended that this same approach be followed when discussing the situation in the South Caucasus when we spoke out in favour of calling in the Action Plan for support by the OSCE for the Geneva international discussions on questions having to do with security in the Trans-Caucasus and the return of refugees, and when we emphasized the importance of mechanisms to prevent incidents. We also spoke of the OSCE's project activities in the Trans-Caucasus, aimed as they are at strengthening confidence, as well as of our willingness to regard positively requests by the parties concerning the continued presence of the OSCE in that region. This would substantially enhance the role of our Organization in helping to establish peaceful relations in the South Caucasus, taking into account the new realities. A similarly constructive position was taken by Russia with regard also to the settlement in Transdniestria, where we again stressed the importance of resuming official negotiations in the "5+2" format.

We trust that the OSCE will move forward in the wake of the Astana meeting. Here we should all draw lessons from what happened at the Summit. We need to rise above narrowly nationalistic priorities and learn to seek compromises in the interests of the common good. Taking into account the instructions by the Heads of State or Government to draw up a concrete action plan, we believe it would be useful to approach this task in a reasonable and balanced manner. Where the positions of the participating States are close and there is a proper mandate, one might move to agree on and adopt thematic documents. This might concern, for example, many aspects of activities in the politico-military and economic and environmental dimensions and, to some extent, the role of the OSCE in conflict prevention and resolution. In addition, we fully support the Chairmanship's intention to conclude next year the updating of the Vienna Document 1999 and also to reach a final agreement on the Programme of Further Action in the Field of Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. In other areas it will be necessary to continue discussions with a view to bringing about a convergence of approaches. Here we think it counter-productive to

seek possible ways of tying in the achievement of progress on some matters with the solution of problems in other areas.

On the whole, we believe that the OSCE has sufficient resources and instruments to enable it to play a constructive role in European affairs. We have a unique chance to regain the original and primary purpose of our Organization, namely that of functioning as a forum for a broad and open political dialogue on the basis of equality between countries on key issues of co-operation and security. By effectively acting as a mechanism for the regional implementation of universal instruments of international law in all areas, whether having to do with maintaining politico-military security, assisting in conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, countering transnational threats and challenges, or supporting economic and environmental co-operation and the protection of human rights, the OSCE is capable of making a significant contribution to the building of a single and indivisible security community extending from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The main thing now is to embody the “spirit of Astana” in specific agreements and documents. Here the Russian Government is prepared to co-operate constructively and fruitfully with the incoming OSCE chairmanships – those of Lithuania, Ireland and Ukraine – with a view to taking practical steps towards the formation of a community of common and indivisible security.

Thank you for your attention.