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**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE FIRST WORKING MEETING
(PREVENTING AND COMBATING TERRORISM) OF THE
SECOND ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 23 and 24 June 2004

Mr. Chairman,

Anti-terrorism may be the field in the OSCE's activities in which in recent years there have been the greatest developments. It has acquired an inter-dimensional character, affecting all the "baskets" and institutions of the OSCE.

We take a positive view of the Organization's practical work in various areas of the fight against terrorism and in the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Maastricht. We note the contribution of the workshops held this year on countering the threat of man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS) to civil aviation at airports and enhancing the reliability of travel documents. The decision of the Forum for Security Co-operation to extend the Wassenaar Arrangements on MANPADS export controls to the entire OSCE area is of great importance.

Universal conventions and protocols

What is important today is that all participating States should concentrate on the practical implementation of their commitments — both political commitments within the OSCE and those under international law within the United Nations. We share the view expressed by the representatives of the European Union regarding the need for additional assistance to OSCE participating States in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 and the 12 universal conventions and protocols, to which as yet only 29 of the 55 OSCE countries have acceded.

Russia is party to 11 of these 12 instruments. The ratification of the last one, the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, is in the final stage.

Given the great importance of accession to counter-terrorism instruments, we should like to propose that a joint working meeting of the OSCE and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should be held in Vienna on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373. Subsequently, as a follow-up to that meeting, it would be useful to organize a series of national or subregional seminars with a view to providing assistance to

States in the preparation of a national legislative framework for the implementation of that resolution and of the conventions and protocols mentioned in it.

Combating the financing of terrorism

Efforts to combat the financing of terrorism are of particular importance. It is largely thanks to the OSCE that most OSCE participating States have submitted to the Secretariat of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) self-assessment questionnaires on the implementation of FATF recommendations on the suppression of the financing of terrorism.

We are gratified at the fact that we are nearing consensus on the decision, under discussion at the initiative of Russia, calling for additional steps to combat the financing of terrorism, with emphasis on the eighth FATF recommendation on non-commercial and charitable organizations frequently used for the routing of terrorist funds. We support the proposal to extend OSCE commitments with regard to FATF recommendations to OSCE partner countries. We call for the approval as soon as possible of the draft Permanent Council decision on these issues.

Civil society and the combating of terrorism

In the context of the aforementioned decision, the role of civil society in the combating of terrorism is acquiring new resonance. Until now, the issue discussed within the OSCE has been “human rights and terrorism”. We propose that the subject be expanded and that thought be given to the holding of seminars on the role of non-governmental organizations and the media in countering terrorism.

Strengthening OSCE institutions

In connection with the expansion of counter-terrorism activities, the question inevitably arises of how the OSCE institutions involved in co-ordinating those efforts might be strengthened. This applies, first and foremost, to the Secretariat’s Action against Terrorism Unit. Today, only two professional staff members are employed in that unit, for whose work 1.6 per cent of the funding intended for the Secretariat is allocated. We are in favour of strengthening this Unit, in terms both of personnel and of funding.

In conclusion, I should like to say a few words about an issue on which our distinguished colleague, Mr. James Loy (Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America) has spoken at some length, namely the question of better security for container shipments. Clearly, we are aware of the importance of this work, which, as has also been mentioned, should not create difficulties for international trade. We need to determine to what degree the OSCE could be of genuine use in this area and what kind of “added value” our Organization can contribute to the efforts of other, more specialized international organizations. It seems to us that, in order to study this subject, the OSCE could at this stage organize an appropriate workshop, with the participation of national experts.

Thank you for your attention.