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

1 July 2010

**Regarding the report by the external auditors**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the representatives of the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine and thank them for their high-quality and detailed report, the discussion of which took place yesterday in the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance.

The Russian Federation has been consistently calling for order to be brought to the budgetary and financial sphere of the OSCE. For that reason, we attach particular importance to the work of the various oversight mechanisms, including the external audit.

We share the report's positive assessment of the financial report and statements for 2009. We hope that proper account will be taken of the recommendations of the external auditors, all of which were approved by the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to recall once more that one of the tasks of the external auditor in accordance with Article VIII of the Financial Regulations is to confirm to the participating States that "internal oversight, including the internal audit, is at the required level". We should like to hope that this position will be reflected in the next report.

We would also ask our Ukrainian colleagues not to forget to pay the necessary attention to extrabudgetary financing, for it is essential that order should be brought to this field.

We support the existing plans regarding the auditing of field missions, which in practice frequently operate outside the direct control of the Secretary General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization.

We would also still be interested in recommendations concerning the further reform of the OSCE's programme and budget planning with a view to ensuring greater effectiveness, order and transparency.

I should like to conclude by wishing the Ukrainian auditors continued success in their important work.

Thank you for your attention.