

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
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TO THE OSCE, AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

The Russian delegation thanks the Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat for their excellent organization of the second part of the Review Conference.

We appreciated the exchange of views on meeting the commitments in the politico-military and economic and environmental spheres, and the analysis of the activities of the OSCE and its bodies and executive structures. The determination of the Conference participants to find collective responses to the trickiest problems and their dedication to the common goals of the Organization have helped us to identify shortcomings in the implementation of the commitments and to develop recommendations on improving the situation in a constructive atmosphere. We believe that the recommendations that are supported by consensus constitute a solid basis for further work.

Overall, we have prepared the ground sufficiently well to start working towards the strategic goal of the Astana Summit, the creation of a new security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok, free of dividing lines and areas of unequal security.

We note with satisfaction the progress in the politico-military sphere. The issue of hard security has a place on the OSCE agenda: discussions on this have become animated and new ideas are being put forward. During the Review Conference, Russia has made proposals on updating the pan-European confidence- and security-building regime, including drafting a revised version of the Vienna Document. The discussions again showed the widespread support for the Russian initiative to develop an OSCE Programme of Further Action on arms control and confidence-building measures. We look forward to seeing these matters duly reflected in the final documents of the Summit.

The discussion on combating transnational challenges to security confirmed the need for supplementary measures within the OSCE aimed at increasing the effectiveness of joint efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, and also threats emanating from the territory of

Afghanistan. The Russian Federation supports a stronger counter-terrorism mandate for the OSCE, with the adoption of a concept on narcotics and development of a plan of action on combating organized crime.

Regarding OSCE activities in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, we think the next steps would be agreement on the definition of a crisis, confirmation of the inviolability of the consensus and the development of unified conflict resolution principles. Also, the OSCE must not be confined to the post-Soviet space and the Balkans, but must also pay due attention to conflict situations to the west of Vienna.

In the economic and environmental sphere, the prospects look good for further work on migration management, transport security, combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. We believe that the “forgotten” imperatives to co-operate on technology and innovation, should, like collective responses to natural and man-made disasters, be included in the final document of the Summit. The OSCE is clearly not in a position to do much about the problem of climate change; the main player here of course needs to be the United Nations with its specialized platforms.

Unfortunately, we have to admit that the discussion on increasing the effectiveness of the work of our Organization and its executive structures did not culminate in a shared vision on resolving this key issue for the future of the OSCE. Views still vary on how to improve the quality of joint activities. Many States are of the view that the way ahead lies in increased “flexibility” and in granting some “operational autonomy” to the institutions and field presences. Russia and a whole group of like-minded countries do not subscribe to an approach that threatens to decentralize the work of the OSCE still further. We believe, as we have made clear once again at the Review Conference, that the Organization needs a firm regulatory basis in the form of a charter and other collectively agreed regulations defining all aspects of its functions. This is how the OSCE can be transformed into a fully fledged regional organization in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, standing shoulder to shoulder with other key international organizations as an important part of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security space.

Other reform initiatives that we have brought to the table in the past along with several partners and that have been reiterated during the discussions at this Conference could also contribute to enhancing the OSCE’s role. These relate to increasing the effectiveness of the work of missions, the appointment of their heads, improving the election monitoring methodology, improving the OSCE’s programme and budget activities and preparing decisions and documents for ministerial meetings. Another issue is to ensure a balanced and egalitarian approach to all the security dimensions, which needs to be reflected in the general way in which meetings of our Organization are held. Another no less relevant matter that needs to be resolved as soon as possible is the development of clear-cut modalities for the participation of non-governmental organizations in OSCE events. The blatant disrespect shown at this Review Conference for the position of one participating State and its consequent refusal to participate in the discussions needs to be taken very seriously and not allowed to happen again.

One outcome of the discussions on this thematic area that we rate as positive is the meeting of minds of most delegations on the need to strengthen the functions and the

authority, including the political authority, of the OSCE Secretary General, and also to improve the structure of the Secretariat.

Overall, the will is clearly there among the participating States to improve the activities of the Organization and to develop its potential. We hope that further constructive dialogue will lead to decisions acceptable to all at the Summit.

As we head for the home straight with the Astana part of the Review Conference, I look forward to co-ordinated, responsible and above all productive work on the final document of the forthcoming meeting of Heads of State or Government, whose salient points have been outlined to us over the past few days by the Kazakh Chairmanship.

Thank you for your attention.