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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER GRUSHKO,
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE OSCE
ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

19 June 2007

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference. We trust that over the course of the next two days we shall succeed in analysing the state of affairs in the first basket of the OSCE, including new threats and challenges, politico-military issues and conflicts throughout the OSCE area, and in making appropriate recommendations.

The subject of security is undoubtedly a key issue for the OSCE. The Organization itself was established with a view to strengthening the security of all its participating States in the vast area extending from Vancouver to Vladivostok and developing co-operation among States on the basis of partnership and equal rights. This — its intended purpose — has lost none of its relevance to this day. The world is becoming globalized. This global nature means new risks and threats to security. The tools of international co-operation have more of a role to play in neutralizing these challenges than ever before. The OSCE is an integral part of the system of international relations. Its future will largely depend on the extent to which participating States make use of it in this capacity, namely as an instrument for ensuring security.

We welcome the fact that in recent years the OSCE has become increasingly involved in global efforts to counter terrorism, the drugs threat and organized crime. Two weeks ago, on the initiative of the Russian Federation and the United States of America, the OSCE Political Public-Private Partnership Conference on “Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism” took place in this very hall. The Expert Conference on Fighting the Threat of Illicit Drugs is to be held here in a little over a week’s time. We hope that these events will provide the impetus needed to implement specific OSCE programmes in these areas. We are counting on successful implementation of the OSCE pilot project to train Afghan drugs police in Domodyedovo, which may be transformed into something more permanent in the future.

At the same time, the state of the OSCE’s work regarding military aspects of security is prompting the most serious concern. The process of improving arms control instruments and confidence-building measures has come to a standstill. Yet it is precisely in this area that

the OSCE has played a unique role. We regret that the Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), which ended last week in Vienna, was unable to bring States closer together as regards the future of the Treaty and the arms control process in Europe in general. Nevertheless, dialogue will continue on this issue. It is our hope that in the course of this dialogue our partners will rise above stereotypes after all and give thought to the importance of the politico-military dimension of the OSCE as a real tool for ensuring security.

More than eight years have elapsed since the signing of the Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty. Not only has the “old” Treaty come into conflict with the new politico-military realities, but its adapted version may also turn into “dead capital” if it does not enter into force very soon. It has to be honestly recognized that the policy of creating artificial political linkages between ratification of the Agreement on Adaptation and the resolution of issues that have nothing to do with the CFE Treaty has led to complete deadlock. There is now a most urgent need to give thought not only to the renewal of arms control instruments but also to the resumption of systematic political dialogue on these issues that are directly connected with the security interests of all the OSCE participating States.

The latter fully applies to the American plans to station in Europe additional elements of its strategic anti-missile defence system. We are convinced that as long as OSCE States remain committed to partnership and co-operation in the area of security, projects of this kind should not emerge from unilateral assessments and actions. Let us recall the commitment laid down in the Charter for European Security, not to strengthen one’s own security at the expense of the security of other States.

We are convinced that the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, which offers a broad negotiation format and unique experience in the elaboration of politico-military documents, should not depart from discussion of the real problems involved in ensuring military security in the OSCE area. The special meeting of the Forum to be held this autumn should impart fresh momentum to the dialogue on these issues. We also trust that in the very near future the Forum will begin to elaborate new confidence-building measures on the basis of the Russian proposals. It must not be forgotten that arms control is an indispensable instrument for ensuring harmony in the relations between States in the area of military security and for translating declarations of political intent into the language of concrete parameters for development of military capabilities.

The Russian Federation supports OSCE principles regarding the rule of law. We believe that the supremacy of law must be observed not only within individual States but also in their relations with one another. The OSCE is called upon to monitor implementation of the fundamental norms of international law and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

In that connection, we believe that in conflict resolution throughout the OSCE area — both to the east and to the west of Vienna — uniform approaches and principles must be applied. These include the reaching of understandings between the parties to a conflict themselves, serious consideration of each party’s positions, the inadmissibility of the use of force, a cautious attitude towards existing negotiation and peacekeeping formats and the responsibility to ensure that people living in conflict zones do not feel isolated. We have a chance of resolving conflicts in the OSCE area only if we all observe these principles. If we do not, our chances become even more remote, especially when notorious “political expediency” is given paramount importance.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize one further point of key importance. The OSCE is a unique organization. It includes all the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), NATO, the European Union (EU) and a number of other regional structures and associations. They are all in the process of transformation, refining their own functions and missions in the area of security. Reform is also under way within the OSCE with a view to strengthening the effectiveness of its activities.

All of these are objective processes dictated by life itself. But they must be united by one factor — unconditional compliance with the principle of the indivisibility of security. And it is here that the OSCE as a forum for inter-institutional dialogue is able to play its role. The Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the Istanbul summit in 1999 serves as the basis for this.

Mr. Chairman,

Permit me to wish everyone involved in the Conference beginning today every success and to express the hope that the recommendations that emerge from it will impart an impetus to practical projects and dialogue on the most relevant issues affecting the interests of the OSCE participating States.

Thank you for your attention.