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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Athens, 2 December 2009

We are gratified to note that the Ministerial Declaration on the Corfu Process confirmed the consensus in favour of adopting immediate co-ordinated measures to overcome the deadlock, remove disagreements regarding the control of conventional armaments and restore the viability of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) so as to permit full implementation of the Treaty regime. This is also precisely in line with the intentions of the Russian Federation.

We share the concern about the crisis situation regarding the control of conventional armaments in Europe. Moreover, the basis for this concern did not emerge in 2007, when Russia suspended application of the Treaty, but much earlier, when certain States artificially linked the fate of the CFE Treaty with extraneous questions.

As a result of the refusal of NATO member States to meet the commitment made in Istanbul to ratify the Agreement on Adaption as soon as possible, the viability of the Treaty has been finally lost. It will be possible to restore it and overcome the enduring crisis only through negotiations on the basis of the draft package solution. On 5 May this year the Russian Federation issued an *aide-mémoire* outlining our thoughts on the substantive and qualitative revision of that document.

We hope that our Treaty partners will overcome their passive inertia and finally respond to our urgent invitations to work intensively and systematically on the “package” in the interests of rescuing and restoring the viability of the CFE Treaty regime.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting.