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Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

8 April 2010

On the visit of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome the distinguished Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and are grateful that he has found time in his crowded schedule to address the Permanent Council.

The Secretary-General's assessment of the work of the United Nations and of the prospects for its collaboration with the OSCE largely coincides with Russia's views, a point confirmed during his recent visit to Moscow.

Russia has been consistently in favour of developing and improving in every way possible the partnership between our two organizations on the basis of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Chapter VIII, which deals with relations with regional structures and arrangements. What is imperative here is respect for the overriding responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for upholding international peace. We trust that as the OSCE's status as a fully fledged international organization is legally formalized this co-operation will become deeper and more structured.

The practical basis for our joint work continues to be provided by the 1993 framework agreement on co-operation between the United Nations and the OSCE Secretariats as well as the specific memorandums with a number of United Nations specialized agencies, notably the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1998) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2004). It is our hope that the senior officials of the United Nations will make more active use of the possibilities afforded by the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted by the OSCE in 1999, which provides a flexible framework for inter-institutional co-operation among different organizations, taking into account their comparative advantages.

We actively support the initiatives being put forward in the United Nations and the OSCE for strengthening international stability and improving the security architecture. The strengthening of the indivisibility of the space extending from Vancouver to Vladivostok through the formalization under international law of the principle of equal security for all

countries and organizations operating in that region along with the creation of mechanisms for the practical implementation of related commitments are in fact the objectives behind the Russian proposal to draw up a Treaty on European Security.

One of the key factors in ensuring international stability and security is progress in the field of disarmament and arms control. An important step to that end was taken today when the presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America signed in Prague a Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. We firmly believe that the adoption of that document will not only have a favourable effect on the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and on the expansion of the nuclear disarmament process, including the creation of conditions to make it possible to impart to that process a multilateral character over the longer term, but will also mark the transition to a closer partnership between Russia and the United States. It is important that this Treaty was concluded on the eve of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington and the forthcoming Eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be held in New York in May.

Another important component of international stability lies in the resolution of crisis situations and regional conflicts. Russia believes that it is imperative that crises should be resolved peacefully and through negotiations while maintaining the leading role of the United Nations Security Council and the auxiliary function of the OSCE as its regional mechanism.

Co-operation between our two organizations to this end must be based primarily on the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. The tragic events in South Ossetia not so long ago provided convincing proof of the need to reaffirm the conflict resolution principles set out in those two basic documents. The Russian delegation has already proposed a draft decision in that connection to be adopted by the OSCE Permanent Council and the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation.

Constructive dialogue with a view to ensuring stability and security in the Trans-Caucasus with the assistance of international agencies is especially important at this time. Russia is interested in having all the participants in the Geneva discussions, including the representatives of the United Nations, the OSCE and the European Union, work effectively and productively together.

A good example of the effective complementarity that exists between our two organizations can be seen in their joint work in the Serbian territory of Kosovo on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244, which continues to be fully in force and remains the only framework under international law for a settlement of the Kosovo question that is binding on all parties. We wholeheartedly support the work of the United Nations mission in the territory, an integral part of which is the OSCE presence, and take the view that no one has the right to hinder implementation of tasks set by the Security Council or to revise the status-neutral nature of the international presence in the territory.

Combating terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime continues to be a priority in co-operation between our organizations. We are in favour of stepping up the OSCE's efforts to implement at the regional level United Nations resolutions regarding terrorism and drug trafficking, and attach great importance to the holding this year in Astana of the

Conference on the Prevention of Terrorism and of a conference in Vienna to deal with the threat posed by drug trafficking.

We share the concerns regarding the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, given the rise in terrorist activities on the part of the Taliban and Al-Qaida and the catastrophic state of affairs as regards the production of and illegal trade in narcotic drugs. The flow of narcotic drugs from Afghan territory has become a threat to international peace and security everywhere in the world. It is only through common decisive efforts and concerted action by all the international organizations represented in the region that it will be possible to put a stop to this threat. In this context we welcome the signing on 18 March of a Joint Declaration on Co-operation between the Secretariats of the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. We advocate fruitful practical collaboration on the part of the OSCE with the Shanghai Co-operation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization with a view to countering trafficking in drugs originating in Afghanistan.

Given its interest in the sustainable and stable development of Central Asia, Russia appreciates the assistance being given by the United Nations and the OSCE to the countries of the region. Our fundamental position is that all programmes and projects must take into account the views and interests of the host countries, be geared towards the development of national capabilities and have clear time-frames for their completion.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Our meeting takes place on the eve of a signal event, namely the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We note with satisfaction the adoption on 2 March by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution dealing with that date. It is noteworthy that that resolution was co-authored by 58 countries from all parts of the world, including members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Cyprus, Serbia and Poland. It is just such a pooling of efforts that is today required to provide effective responses to new threats and challenges to security so as to ensure that the enormous tragedy of that war is never repeated. Here, in our view, lies the key to successful work by the United Nations and the OSCE, and we are ready to do all we can to achieve that goal.

Thank you for your attention.