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

18 June 2009

**In response to the report by Ambassador Istvan Venczel,
OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan**

Madam Chairperson,

We should like to join in welcoming Ambassador Istvan Venczel to today's meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for his detailed report.

In response to that report, we should like to focus on the following points.

First of all, we fully support the practice of ensuring that the OSCE's projects are carefully co-ordinated with the authorities in Uzbekistan. This not only strengthens confidence between the Co-ordinator and the host country but also makes it possible to provide concrete and targeted assistance.

We welcome Mr. Venczel's desire to pay greater attention to the quality rather than the quantity of the projects as well as his responsible decision not to request a budget increase for his office next year.

In 2010 the OSCE field presence in Uzbekistan will celebrate its 15th anniversary. In our view, this provides a good opportunity for conducting an in-depth and thorough analysis of its activities. We should be grateful for detailed information on what has been done over those years and what progress has been made in implementing the provisions of the office's mandate. We also believe it is important to assess the effectiveness of the programme activities and the prospects for their successful completion. After all, the work of any OSCE mission in the field is of a temporary nature and, in accordance with paragraph 41 of the Charter for European Security, must facilitate "an effective transfer of the tasks of the operation to the host country, and consequently the closure of the field operation".

We are in favour of strengthening interaction between the Co-ordinator and the international agencies operating in Uzbekistan, in particular the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization. This would make for a better use of the resources available. At the same time, we think it inappropriate for the OSCE to seek

to become involved in various regional projects, there being no such authorization in the Co-ordinator's mandate.

In conclusion, allow me to wish Ambassador Venczel and his staff every success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.