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

20 May 2010

**In response to the statement by the Head of the United Nations  
Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia**

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to welcome Mr. Miroslav Jenca and to thank him for his detailed remarks.

Russia, which is interested in a rapid stabilization of the situation in Kyrgyzstan, values the assistance of the United Nations in surmounting the after-effects of the crisis. We note with satisfaction the active efforts that you personally have made to establish a political dialogue within Kyrgyzstan, and we know about your repeated travels to the country following the events in April.

We think that the United Nations Regional Centre is playing an important role in terms of raising the profile of the United Nations in the resolution of the complex issues facing the Central Asian countries. The activities related to assessing the threats linked to terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and cross-border crime are especially useful.

The narcotics trade originating in Afghanistan is a serious regional challenge. As everyone knows, Central Asia is used as a key transit corridor for drug deliveries to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, especially Russia, and beyond them to Europe. Against this backdrop, the use and production of narcotics are growing in the Central Asian States themselves. A considerable portion of the proceeds from the sale of opiates from Afghanistan goes to finance local clandestine extremist groups.

One of the Centre's main tasks is to undertake co-ordinated efforts with existing regional structures, primarily the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, to neutralize the threats to regional security emanating from Afghanistan. In this respect, we welcome the signing, on 18 March 2010, of the joint declaration on co-operation between the secretariats of the CSTO and the United Nations, which has solid experience in this area.

Regional water management issues have recently begun to take on a distinctly political tinge and are having an ever more negative effect on inter-State relations.

We understand that the Centre which you head is dealing seriously with issues related to the joint use of hydropower resources, among other things, in the context of the environmental situation in Central Asia. The OSCE and the European Union are seeking to become involved in the search for solutions to the intraregional conflicts in that area.

Overall, we share the Regional Centre's balanced approach, based on preventive diplomacy, to the issue of use of water resources in Central Asia. These issues are undoubtedly extremely complex and sensitive, and have deep historical roots. That is also why they must be resolved first and foremost on the basis of agreements between countries in the region, with no outside interference.

We see a role for the Centre in promoting the development of a political dialogue aimed at overcoming existing differences and ultimately establishing an integrated system for regulating water use between countries upstream and downstream of a watercourse. We should like to stress once again, however, that any agreements reached must come from the Central Asian countries, without formulas being imposed by actors outside the region.

In such matters, it is important not to be hasty, and to abide by the principle of "do no harm", because in the final analysis, only the countries in the region can make the trade-offs required for a lasting settlement of water use issues.

On this basis, Russia is open to broad multilateral co-operation on this subject with the United Nations Regional Centre, among others, with mutual consideration given to strategic interests and in conditions of transparency and predictability.

Thank you for your attention.