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**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT WORKING SESSION I OF THE
OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 1 and 2 July 2008

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As noted by today's speakers, modern-day terrorism continues to pose one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. This threat shows no sign of diminishing in spite of the active and ever more systematic and organized efforts of the international community in the world as a whole and at our, regional, level in particular.

We believe that the counter-terrorism theme must remain a priority in the work of the OSCE in the future given that this area of endeavour is fully in accord with the task of making the Organization's agenda reflect those subjects that are of current relevance to all participating States without exception.

A solid basis exists for these efforts — the Organization has at its disposal a whole set of conceptual and strategic documents on co-operation in countering terrorism, which have been adopted since 2001.

It is important that this basis continue to be developed and strengthened. A number of major events having to do with the fight against terrorism were held in 2007: the OSCE Political Public-Private Partnership Conference on the Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism (May and June), the High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism (September) and the Workshop on Combating Incitement to Terrorism on the Internet (November). The results of these events and the suggestions they produced were instrumental in seeing to it that the decisions adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid (29 and 30 November 2007) gave pride of place to counter-terrorism issues.

In this connection, we might single out the Ministerial Council decision calling for greater attention to be given to the subject of public-private partnership in countering terrorism as a permanent feature of the work of our Organization. Russia intends to work actively to ensure the success of a key event this year in pursuit of these objectives, namely the second OSCE conference on this subject, to be held in Vienna on 15 and 16 September 2008. We are pleased with the gathering momentum and detailed nature of the preparations for this event. I should especially like to mention the extremely active involvement in these preparations of our partners from the business community, in particular the Russian company Norilsk Nickel.

Russia has also supported the Madrid Ministerial Council decision on protecting critical energy infrastructure facilities against terrorist attacks. We are ready to continue to look into the opportunities for developing the best possible ways of co-operating in this important area.

Another important counter-terrorism document adopted by the ministers at the Madrid meeting is the Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The fact that the OSCE is continuing to play effectively its role as a “transmitter” of United Nations decisions in the pan-European environment is of great importance not only for international counter-terrorism efforts but also for enabling the OSCE to continue to maintain its rightful place in the worldwide division of labour, including its counter-terrorism aspects.

We also believe that the efforts the OSCE is making to counter terrorism via the Internet must be continued.

We are extremely concerned at the catastrophic deterioration of the situation with regard to narcotic drugs in Afghanistan, which has in effect got out of control. We believe that the deterioration of the situation in that country is partly a result of the convergence of the interests of drug traffickers and terrorists in Afghanistan. In view of the fact that the growing drugs threat emanating from Afghanistan is having a direct impact on the European continent as well, more active use should be made, in our view, of the OSCE’s capabilities for combating this evil.

Russia favours the expansion of anti-drugs co-operation within the Organization, first and foremost in the context of the Madrid Ministerial decision on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. This decision calls on the OSCE specifically to provide assistance in training Afghan drugs police instructors at the All-Russian Institute for Advanced Training of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs at Domodedovo.

We note that as a follow-up to Ministerial Council decisions that are in keeping with the joint initiative of Russia and our partners within the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) for stepping up efforts to counter the proliferation of narcotic drugs and precursors in the pan-European area, an OSCE conference on international co-operation in this field is scheduled to be held in Vienna on 17 and 18 July of this year. We believe that this forum should succeed in reviewing the implementation of decisions adopted at the first OSCE counter-terrorism conference held in Vienna on 28 and 29 July 2007 and in taking a clearer stand as regards the guidelines to govern the future activities of the Organization in this area.

As regards the question raised concerning the establishment of subject-specific missions within the OSCE area, the Russian Federation supports this idea. “Thematic” missions of this kind could deal with specific problems in all OSCE countries and propose possible alternative ways of solving them. Possible subjects for these missions at the current stage might include countermeasures against narcotic drugs, trafficking in human beings and other forms of organized crime. Both OSCE experts and specialists from competent international organizations and individual participating States could be recruited for work at these “thematic” missions, whose operations should be of limited duration.

Thank you for your attention.