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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE
1165th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 November 2017

**On the International Conference on Security and Sustainable Development
in Central Asia under the auspices of the United Nations on 10 and
11 November 2017 in Samarkand**

Mr. Chairperson,

The International Conference on Security and Sustainable Development in Central Asia under the auspices of the United Nations entitled “Central Asia: Shared Past and Common Future, Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Mutual Prosperity” took place in Samarkand on 10 and 11 November 2017.

The delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan would like to provide some information on the outcome of this event.

The conference was organized on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the Regional Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Central Asia.

More than 500 participants attended the conference, including the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iran, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ms. Federica Mogherini, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr. Miroslav Jenča, the OSCE Secretary General Mr. Thomas Greminger, the Senior Director for South and Central Asia at the US National Security Council Ms. Lisa Curtis, the heads of the executive bodies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Commonwealth of Independent States, the heads and representatives of UN bodies, a number of international and regional organizations, and also over 100 authoritative international experts and representatives of leading foreign media.

Over the two days, there were more than 70 reports on topical questions of security and development in the region, and proposals were made for effective ways of dealing with them. The two-day forum permitted discussion on specific approaches to improving

co-operation among the countries of Central Asia in political, trade, economic, investment, transport, communication, water-energy, environmental, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

Major initiatives were proposed during the conference for strengthening peace and stability in the region, fostering dialogue and co-operation between the countries of Central Asia and also stimulating partnership between our region and other countries and international organizations.

First, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Mirziyoyev, proposed a number of important initiatives, notably the development of commercial and economic links and the creation of favourable conditions for increasing trade and strengthening co-operation; effective exploitation of the logistical transit potential of the region and promoting the development of the transport infrastructure as a priority; fostering practical co-operation to bolster security and stability in Central Asia; moving more quickly to the conclusion of the process of delimiting and demarcating State borders; regulating problems of equitable water use in the region; and strengthening cultural and humanitarian links, friendly relations and good-neighbourliness between our States and peoples.

The proposal for organizing regular consultative meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia to discuss topical regional problems and elaborate mutually acceptable solutions to them was widely supported by the countries of the region.

Second, the representatives of the countries of Central Asia agreed that all questions in the region should be resolved together based on the principle of the indivisibility of security and on joint responsibility. Among the problems are the threats of concern to us all of terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime, and trafficking in human beings.

Third, in order to further intensify regional co-operation at all levels, the following proposals were also made:

- Creation of a regional economic forum to provide a platform for direct dialogue between the business communities of the countries of the region, which would consolidate and widen economic contacts in the region with a view to the elaboration of promising projects in the fields of commerce, investment and logistics, and also the creation of integrated business technology parks, innovative scientific clusters and free trade zones;
- Establishment of an association of the regional heads of the States of Central Asia to further consolidate interregional co-operation, which would foster direct practical co-operation between the administrations of authorities in charge of neighbouring areas and regions, ensuring effective and timely resolution of economic problems and serving to build trust between countries and further improve the lives of the local populations;
- Elaboration and adoption of a regional programme of transportation development, for which purpose it was proposed that an international conference on the development of regional and international transport corridors be held next year in Tashkent.

These initiatives are designed to deal with tasks of strategic significance for all countries in the region so as to create stable and economically attractive ways of accessing world markets and also to optimize intraregional trade logistics and tariff and transit relations.

The event, “Central Asia: Shared Past and Common Future, Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Mutual Prosperity”, ended with a joint communique drafted by the representatives of the countries of Central Asia with the participation of the UN.

Thank you for your attention.