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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 938th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 January 2013

Regarding the terrorist attack on the gas plant in Algeria

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia resolutely condemns the terrorist attack in Algeria, which claimed the lives of Algerian and foreign citizens. We express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the hostages killed and of the Algerian law enforcement officers. We wish a speedy recovery to all those who suffered injuries at the hands of the terrorists.

We reaffirm our solidarity with Algeria, a country with which we enjoy friendly relations and an OSCE Partner for Co-operation, in its efforts to eradicate the terrorist threat. Russia has always been in favour of resolutely combating terrorism in all its manifestations.

As you are aware, the group “Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb”, well known for its involvement in major terrorist attacks on Algerian territory, has assumed responsibility for this heinous crime. There can be no justification for the actions of extremists who frequently use religious slogans as pretexts. Attacks of this kind, whether they occur in the Sahel, North Africa or the Middle East and whatever their motive, are manifestations of terrorism, against which the international community must take a united and uncompromising stand. This also applies to our Organization.

This crime once again speaks volumes for the central importance of stepping up the OSCE’s work in countering transnational threats and challenges in line with the decisions adopted last year.

Thank you for your attention.