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

1 July 2010

**In response to the report by the OSCE Secretary General on
transnational threats and challenges**

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia, which together with the United States of America initiated Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 in Athens, supports the development and strengthening of the OSCE's activities to combat transnational threats and challenges to security and stability.

We are grateful to the Secretary General for preparing a detailed report with a wide range of recommendations as regards possible ways of implementing the aforementioned Athens Ministerial Council decision.

We agree with the document's principal conclusion: in view of the rapid evolution of new threats and challenges and the increasing interlinkages between them, steps need to be taken to increase the co-ordination of the relevant work of the executive structures and to strengthen the OSCE's co-operation with other international and regional organizations.

It is important that in its work to address transnational threats and challenges the OSCE should not try to replace other formats and should systematically develop its efforts in international co-operation, with a leading role played by the United Nations. Furthermore, we should be sensible with respect to the promotion of the interdimensional approach so that it does not hinder efforts to solve specific existing problems.

We regard as relevant the idea of conducting a regular review of the 2003 Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century and other key OSCE documents on non-military aspects of security, *inter alia* through a more active use of the resources of the Annual Security Review Conference and the organization of a series of thematic conferences/seminars.

We are ready to support steps that would help in the implementation of the task of strengthening the co-ordinating role played by the Secretary General, optimizing the organizational structure of the Secretariat and increasing the accountability of the institutions and field missions.

We reaffirm the importance of intensifying the OSCE's contacts and links with other international and regional organizations on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security, *inter alia* through the holding of expert meetings, the exchange of information and best practices, the co-ordination of programmes and projects, the drawing up of common strategies and the establishment of contact points.

If we talk about priorities in the OSCE's work to address new threats and challenges, particular priority should be given today to tasks associated with countering terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and other forms of organized crime.

We regard as sensible the guidelines for the development of the OSCE's counter-terrorism efforts and also the proposals for the strengthening of the Secretariat's Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) in terms of personnel and funding, *inter alia* through the drafting of a broad mandate for the ATU's work, the enhancement of its co-ordinating role in countering terrorism, as well as an increase in its funding from the budget.

We note the relevance of the tasks set in terms of preventing organized crime, identifying links between money-laundering, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and terrorism, encouraging co-operation among law enforcement agencies, assisting in the implementation of international legal instruments, strengthening criminal justice systems and enhancing the level and quality of the investigation of cases connected with trafficking in human beings.

We agree with the report's findings as regards the need for a comprehensive strengthening of the OSCE's efforts to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs through the drafting of a conceptual framework or action plan, the continuation of conferences on drug trafficking and courses for training personnel, the strengthening of the potential of the Secretariat to combat the drug threat and the creation of a separate anti-drug portal within the Policing OnLine Information System (POLIS). We are counting on the OSCE to take steps along these lines in co-operation with its partners.

We have taken note of the recommendations as regards the usefulness of providing the OSCE with a broad mandate in the area of cyber security through the elaboration of a "strategic document". We believe that it will be possible to produce this kind of document within the OSCE only if the positions of all countries, including Russia, are taken into account. For the time being, given the absence of a broad agreement, we believe any discussions on the creation of a specialized unit within the Secretariat to be premature.

We support the development of the OSCE's co-operation with Afghanistan on the understanding that it will be carried out on the basis of the Organization's existing mandate and capacity and taking into account the efforts of other organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and with account also taken of the opinions of the host countries and the real needs of the Central Asian States and Afghanistan. This concerns the existing border, customs and anti-drug assistance projects for Afghanistan and also potential new projects in the economic, environmental and humanitarian spheres. We cannot support the idea of transferring the OSCE's work to the territory of Afghanistan, the launch of economic assistance projects or attempts to extend commitments with respect to democracy and human rights to Afghanistan. We also see no reason for introducing the post of a special representative of the

Chairperson-in-Office on Afghanistan. We regard as logical the report's recommendations on increasing the internal and external co-ordination of efforts regarding Afghanistan. We are ready to expand the range of professions in which Afghan personnel are given training at the Domodedovo centre.

As for the section of the report concerned with assistance in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, there were a number of proposals and assessments that we could on the whole support and some that raised serious doubts on our part. One example is the view that the OSCE could assist non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the provision of relevant expertise to governments. We do not believe it would be worth our Organization getting involved in this or taking responsibility for recommendations by NGOs, the quality and reliability of which it is not in a position to assess. In general, this section of the report is based on the message that the OSCE should provide participating States with comprehensive assistance and that they in turn should ask for this assistance. It would be more correct, in our view, to deal with this matter from a different angle and, first and foremost, to clarify what kind of assistance States need and whether they want to receive it from the OSCE, which has no experience in these matters, or whether they would in fact prefer to deal with specialized international organizations and the United Nations Security Council's 1540 Committee.

We believe that all these aspects need to be given thorough consideration. In this context, we support our American colleagues' idea of holding an OSCE seminar this autumn on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. The principal purpose of such an event would, in our view, be to try to identify a "niche" for our Organization to assist in the implementation of that important document. Only after such an analysis will it be possible to plan further steps.

Thank you for your attention.