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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1018th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 October 2014

**In response to the report by the Director of the  
OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to join in the words of welcome addressed to Ambassador Adam Kobieracki, the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC).

The CPC continues to be one of our Organization's most effective units, responsible for the complex task of co-ordinating the work of all the OSCE executive structures involved in crisis management. We have consistently supported the work of the Centre. In this context, it is our view that all the activities of the OSCE executive structures concerned with conflict settlement should be conducted under the overall operational leadership of the Secretary General, in strict compliance with their mandates and taking due account of the leading role of the Permanent Council in defining OSCE policy. Only in this way can we ensure that we make appropriate use of the limited resources at the OSCE's disposal.

Bearing in mind the CPC's co-ordinating functions in systematically collecting, analysing and assessing early warning signals, we trust that, when the situation requires, such signals will continue in future to be brought promptly to the attention of the Permanent Council.

There is no doubt that the OSCE has, at the present time, a rather extensive and perhaps unique set of instruments for meeting the challenges of crisis management within its area. We consider that the task of further fine-tuning the crisis-management capacities of the OSCE, mandated by the decision of the 2011 Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius on the conflict cycle, is, all in all, being tackled. A substantial intellectual contribution to this work is being made by the staff of the CPC. Our delegation, for its part, is prepared to continue to participate actively in the collective efforts of the Permanent Council, and, in particular, in seeking to improve the mediation capabilities of the OSCE.

With regard to the work of the OSCE's field missions, we would again recall the need for constant monitoring by the CPC to ensure that they remain within their mandates. In this

regard, we note the constructive practice of close co-operation and co-ordination with the host countries followed by the field presences in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and a number of other countries. Project activities should be fully agreed upon with host countries and should reflect the requirements and requests of the latter. We note the need, which is not growing any less important, particularly in the Balkans, for assistance by the field missions in such spheres as combating drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism, extremism and corruption. As progress is made in the field, the mandates of missions should be adapted, gradually reducing activities and transferring responsibility for particular tasks to the host country authorities. There is nothing tragic about this, as some of our colleagues try, at times, to suggest. Missions are temporary instruments for rendering assistance. Unfortunately, there is no monitoring of their fulfilment of their obligations to the OSCE. Attempts to impose co-operation and “services” are inadmissible.

We appreciate the highly professional efforts of the CPC in the efficient and high-quality implementation of the decisions of the Permanent Council on the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), and in the deployment of OSCE observers at the Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk on the Russian-Ukrainian border.

We have already spoken today of our positive findings regarding the work of the observers at the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints. We would again confirm our support for the mandate and activities of the SMM and the increase in the number of monitors to 500 in view of the complex new tasks under the Minsk agreements.

The priority now is to ensure close and objective monitoring of the observance of the ceasefire regime in the security buffer zone separating the forces of the parties to the conflict. Nor should the Mission reduce its attention to its other tasks under its mandate, particularly with regard to encouraging dialogue between the parties and assisting in the exchange of prisoners. The SMM should also continue to closely follow the serious humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine.

We consider it extremely important to ensure the necessary transparency in the sensitive question of the use by the Mission of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for monitoring the ceasefire in the security zone. Their utilization must not create additional risks for the still fragile truce and for the implementation of the Minsk agreements. We insist that the OSCE participating States and, above all, the parties to the conflict themselves be informed to the fullest extent possible of the use of UAVs, their technical characteristics and the areas where they are being employed. The use of such vehicles should be agreed upon with the Donetsk and Luhansk authorities. Without this, their work will be impossible. The utilization of UAVs and the work of the teams servicing them must be strictly in conformity with the civilian mandate of the SMM, and all information received from them must be the exclusive property of the OSCE. We expect appropriate expert consultations on this subject.

We value the CPC’s assistance in the conduct and organization of meetings held as part of the Geneva discussions on security in the Trans-Caucasus and within the “5+2” format on a Transdnestrian settlement.

We note the efforts of the CPC in providing for the staff needs of the field presences. There are various problems in this regard – for example, in the field presences in Central Asia and the Balkans.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Ambassador Kobieracki and all the staff of the CPC further success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.