

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 25 October 2010

Economic and environmental dimension (EED)

Session 6: Environmental cluster – Promoting co-operation on security aspects of the environment by, *inter alia*, sustainable use and management of natural resources and preventing pollution, land degradation, ecological risks, natural and man-made disasters; the way forward

Distinguished colleagues,

The challenges of economic and environmental development are without a doubt interlinked. The scale and consequences of the kind of environmental disasters that have occurred this year in the Gulf of Mexico and in Hungary are so serious that we cannot brush aside the need to draw up additional measures to ensure that these situations are not repeated. Here there is a need to make collective efforts to establish a standard international legal environment, which will regulate the issues arising after such disasters. As you are aware, the Russian President has proposed setting up a global fund to insure against environmental risks.

We believe it is wrong to confine the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to the OSCE area to the east of Vienna. Environmental pollution is after all a universal problem.

In this connection, we propose using the platform provided by OSCE Economic and Environmental Forums to share advanced green technologies. This could make a substantial contribution towards making the Eurasian and Euro-Atlantic regions more environmentally friendly.

In the light of the recent natural disasters, including those within the OSCE's area of responsibility, thought might be given to whether the OSCE could be involved in facilitating co-operation among national emergency response services. For example, thought might be given to establishing a system to quickly deal with visa issues, flights, etc. for their staff who are racing to help one another. We propose to our partners that we consider these questions together.

We still see no reason for the OSCE's involvement in the climate change question in all its aspects, including the assessment of new threats and challenges arising in this sphere.

We might recall that there are forums and formats sufficiently specialized for its proper consideration on the basis of objective and expert analysis. These include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, where the problem of climate change has been made a separate agenda item.

Unfortunately we note that the discussion of climate change in the context of security is becoming increasingly fashionable. As you know, in reality the discussions are based for the most part on forecasts and assumptions that lack a sufficient expert and scientific background. For example, stressing the connection between climate change and specific natural disasters, the drying out of bodies of water and the reduction in crop yields is not always warranted from the point of view of the relationship between cause and effect.

We believe that given the amount of real and immediate threats to international security today it is inexcusable to divert attention towards virtual ones.