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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 916th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 June 2012

Promoting freedom of the Internet in the digital age

Mr. Chairperson,

We take note of the information provided by a number of countries on promoting freedom of the Internet in the digital age.

The Russian Federation advocates a comprehensive and balanced approach to ensuring freedom and responsibility in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT), including the Internet. This approach was reflected in the draft International Code of Conduct for Information Security and the concept of a Convention on International Information Security, which were distributed at the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September of last year as food-for-thought papers to initiate discussion. These documents were based on and took scrupulous account of current international law.

We believe that the principle of freedom of access to the Internet should not be in conflict with the need to counter its use for unlawful purposes. It is important to make provision for regulations to prevent ICT from being used for the purpose of interfering in the internal affairs of States, to the detriment of their sovereignty, national security, territorial integrity, public safety, moral principles or traditional values, or for the purpose of disclosing sensitive information.

The position of the Russian Federation is shared by the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). I should like to draw your attention to the Declaration of the Heads of the SCO member States on building a region of lasting peace and common prosperity, adopted on 7 June of this year, which states that: "The member States will, on the basis of the principles of respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, work to build a peaceful, secure, fair and open information space. The member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation oppose the application of information and telecommunication technologies in a way that endangers their political, economic and public security and will prevent the use of the Internet to propagate terrorism, extremism and separatism ideologies."