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United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Director of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Center (CARICC)

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 18, 2010

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The United States extends a warm welcome to the Permanent Council to General Sarsekov. Since its inception in 2005 under the aegis of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), CARICC's work in coordinating regional efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking and in fighting against the trans-border crime associated with drug trafficking has made a vital difference to the states of Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Russia. The Center's role in storing and analyzing information, in organizing and executing joint international operations and investigations and in facilitating enhanced cooperation between CARICC's member states combines cutting edge police work and real-time diplomacy against the scourge of narcotics. We also see CARICC as providing an effective, inclusive forum for sharing information and coordinating operations to counter the threat of drugs from Afghanistan.

For these reasons, the United States is pleased to announce that last month we established a liaison officer at CARICC. Our Special Agent from the Drug Enforcement Administration will work with the Center to share information and coordinate multilateral operations on suppressing the activities of transnational drug groups, both at the regional and international levels.

As the OSCE considers how it can enhance and clarify the contribution it provides in the fight against transnational threats at the upcoming Astana Summit, your presentation today is timely and topical. The United States has joined with the Russian Federation in calling for a thorough examination of the OSCE's role in countering narcotics trafficking and we view partnerships with UNODC and entities such as CARICC as essential in any strategy we devise. The OSCE's existing mandates and programmatic activities to counter transnational threats along with the breadth of our geographic reach and our comprehensive concept of security combine to make our role potentially unique and pivotal.

We thank you, Mr. Sarsekov, for your informative and helpful report today and we wish you and CARICC every continued success.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.