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

18 November 2010

**In response to the presentation by the Director of the Central Asian
Regional Information and Coordination Centre**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Beksultan Sarsekov, Director of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) to this meeting of the Permanent Council.

We thank him for his detailed information about CARICC's work in combating illicit drug trafficking and the development of co-operation by the Centre with other organizations with a view to stepping up collective efforts to combat the different forms of cross-border organized crime.

The Russian Federation actively supports the development of international co-operation to counter threats of a criminal nature, with the fight against illicit drug trafficking being one of the most important thrusts.

The growing scale of drug trafficking presents a serious challenge to international peace and security. A further mobilization of efforts by the international community is required to elaborate an effective mechanism to avert the global threat presented by narcotics. The United Nations must continue to play a key co-ordinating role in this process. At the same time it would be useful to make maximum use of the potential of regional organizations such as the OSCE, the European Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Commonwealth of Independent States and CARICC.

In order to increase the OSCE's potential to combat illicit drug trafficking to a significant extent, to provide more effective assistance in developing targeted co-operation between participating States and to enhance collaboration with specialized international and regional structures and mechanisms, a group of countries consisting, apart from the Russian Federation, of Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United States of America has drafted a framework concept for the OSCE's work in

combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and chemical precursors. We are counting on support for this initiative at the Summit in Astana and rapid adoption of the concept in 2011.

We are hoping that systematic co-operation between the OSCE and CARICC will help to improve co-ordination of regional efforts to combat the threat posed by narcotics, and in particular the threat emanating from the territory of Afghanistan.

It would be logical to continue the institutionalization of the links between the OSCE and other organizations. There has long been a need of this kind in the CSTO, which, like the OSCE, is making intensive efforts to combat transnational threats and challenges, including illicit drug trafficking and, in particular, is conducting one of the most successful ongoing regional anti-drug operations by the name of "Kanal". There is also an urgent need to establish co-operation in combating drug trafficking at an operational level between the CSTO and NATO.

There is still a need for an initiative with the involvement of the countries bordering Afghanistan to create anti-drug and financial security zones to intercept narcotics in transport and to intensify the monitoring of cross-border transfer of funds that could have been derived from the illicit sale of drugs.

On the whole, we fully agree with the conclusion that the drug threat, one of the most dangerous threats to society, can be countered only through the concerted efforts of the entire international community.

Thank you for your attention.