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Delegation of Kazakhstan

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN
AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY
REVIEW CONFERENCE**

23 June 2009

Madam Chairperson,
Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to thank the Greek Chairmanship for the splendid way it has organized this Conference.

I should like also to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

As you are already aware, our country has instituted a State programme entitled “The Path to Europe”, which sets out Kazakhstan’s priorities for the time when it will hold the chairmanship of the OSCE. One of the important tasks in that connection has to do with the strengthening of confidence-building measures and regional security. In the words of President Nazarbayev: “The profound geopolitical changes that have occurred in recent years are leading to an understanding that purely European or purely Asian security no longer exists. Instability in any country poses a threat to the security of all Eurasia. It is precisely security-related matters that are at the heart of the OSCE’s activities.”

Recently, our customary view of the world has undergone a fundamental change. A significant increase in a variety of threats, the exacerbation of old problems and the emergence of new ones require a radical improvement in multilateral structures. This, in our opinion, must also apply to the work of the OSCE.

Given these conditions, we need to achieve a mutual understanding and a single interpretation of international norms, treaties and agreements.

We support any constructive dialogue whose aim is to eliminate these gaps. I would emphasize, however, that this must be the kind of dialogue in which the parties hear and listen to one another.

In view of the fact that Kazakhstan will next year head the OSCE, we intend to continue dialogue on the future of the European security architecture. It is our deep conviction that this process must be based on the principles of the rule of international law and of shared and indivisible security for all States.

We are prepared to assist in the discussion in an OSCE forum of the substantive issues involved in the Russian initiative for a Treaty on European Security, the drafting of which we support.

Although the military aspects of security fall within the competence of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Joint Consultative Group, we shall ascribe high priority to the state of affairs in that critical area. In exercising the chairmanship, Kazakhstan will lend its support to any efforts aimed at ensuring constructive dialogue regarding conventional arms control and disarmament.

We are already applying one such form of support. For example, in May of this year, together with the OSCE Centre in Astana and with the backing of the OSCE missions in the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, we conducted a regional seminar entitled “Confidence- and Security-Building Measures 10 Years after the Vienna Document 1999: Challenges and New Approaches in Central Asia and the Caucasus”. The intention behind this seminar was to promote progress in strengthening confidence- and security-building measures within the OSCE area. This event was attended by representatives from the defence and foreign policy departments of the countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus and Europe and also the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Kazakh Institute for Strategic Studies, the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia and the Secretariat of the OSCE.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for organizing the high-level meeting held in Berlin on 10 June of this year, at which there was an examination of issues concerning the future of conventional armed forces in Europe. Despite the fact that the Berlin conference once again revealed the existence of differences of opinion and the lack of a common understanding as to how the problems should be resolved, Kazakhstan is in favour of continuing to search for mutually acceptable approaches with a view to resuming the regime contemplated in the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty).

In 2010 Kazakhstan intends to focus its attention on security problems in the Central Asian region. Measures to combat the new threats and challenges to security, assistance to Afghanistan and the strengthening of border security will be at the Kazakh Chairmanship’s centre of attention.

In concluding my statement, I should like to wish the participants in this Conference fruitful and successful work.

Thank you for your attention.