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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 948th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 April 2013

**In response to the address by Mr. Yury Fedotov,
Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Yury Viktorovich,

Your participation in OSCE events has become a fine tradition and it is especially important that you are addressing the Permanent Council today. We are grateful for the attention that you and your colleagues are paying to collaboration with the OSCE.

Your thoughts regarding the prospects for co-operation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the OSCE in countering transnational threats, including those emanating from the territory of Afghanistan should be taken into account in the work of our Organization.

For the most part we agree with the approaches set out regarding the priority of resolving tasks connected with the suppression of terrorism, the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, corruption, trafficking in human beings and other crimes. We advocate further intensification of co-operation between the OSCE and the UNODC in promoting important topics such as public-private partnership in combating terrorist threats and the suppression of terrorism, *inter alia* by eliminating the financial support for terrorist activities. We hope that the new UNODC-OSCE Joint Action Plan for 2013–2014 will expand the framework for co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department.

We are looking to continue our now traditional partnership with the UNODC in the joint organization of key OSCE events to counter transnational threats, namely the conferences on combating illicit drug trafficking and terrorism.

We firmly believe in the utility of comprehensively strengthening the OSCE's potential to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and precursors, notably in the context of the Organization's anti-narcotics concept adopted last year. In the light of the key role played by the United Nations in dealing with the world drug problem, we regard the practical measures taken by the OSCE as a contribution to the global efforts in this area, among other things in countering the drug liberalization lobby.

In that connection, I should like to draw the Permanent Council's attention to the potential, in our view, offered by the elaboration and implementation of alternative development programmes in Central Asia to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, with the UNODC playing a co-ordinating role. These programmes should be aimed at promoting partnership with the business community to carry out projects to restrict the socio-economic basis of the narcotics industry and to create conditions for a healthy life style and sustainable development and for respect for the rights of people to a secure and dignified existence and to adequate remuneration for honest labour. The existing practices of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities would be highly useful in this regard.

One of the key areas for co-operation remains the fight against terrorism. The OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism approved last year opens up broad possibilities for joint OSCE-UNODC activities, among other means through the reciprocal participation of experts from the two organizations in different events of the two bodies. In that connection, we believe it a useful practice to invite UNODC experts to meetings of the Permanent Council's Security Committee. In particular, we might mention the wealth of information provided in the briefing by Ms. Marta Requena, Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC, at the Committee's meeting in March.

A new area of work for the OSCE is the elaboration of confidence-building measures regarding the use of information and communication technologies.

Co-operation with Afghanistan as one of the OSCE Partners for Co-operation is an important part of the Organization's practical efforts in dealing with transnational threats. First and foremost, this concerns the fight against terrorism, illicit drugs and their precursors. In view of the 2014 factor, it is essential to work out in good time measures to counter the aforementioned threats. Joint efforts to strengthen the borders of neighbouring States is of particular relevance, as is the training of Afghan law enforcement and customs officers, including at specialist educational institutions in Russia.

This work should take into consideration the activities in the region of other agencies such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States and its Counter-Terrorism Centre, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and its Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure. For example, the CSTO has a common strategy regarding Afghanistan and corresponding programmes, which are carried out in conjunction with the Afghan authorities. There are also plans under the auspices of the SCO, in which Afghanistan has observer status. During the next one and half years unified approaches to Afghanistan's problems will be developed in all three aforementioned organizations, including the provision of assistance to the Afghan national security forces, the solution of economic problems and the eradication of drug production. All this is envisaged in the documents of the aforementioned organizations as a supplement to the plans being implemented under the auspices of the United Nations.

As for co-operation between the UNODC and the OSCE, we are confident that a complementary pooling of efforts of the two bodies will have a favourable effect both on the quality of the services provided to participating States and on the more careful expenditure of budgetary resources.

In conclusion, I should like once again to thank Yury Viktorovich and wish him every success in his further activities.

Thank you for your attention.