

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 May 2010

**In response to the report by the Head of the Action against Terrorism Unit
of the OSCE Secretariat**

Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome Mr. Raphael Perl to this meeting of the Permanent Council. We are grateful to the Kazakh Chairmanship for the opportunity to analyse the OSCE's efforts to counter terrorism, and we are in favour of continuing this useful practice.

Russia takes the position that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations represents one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Any acts of terrorism are crimes and have no justification, regardless of their motives, wherever, whenever and by whomever they are committed.

We note with regret that despite the active efforts of the global community, the threat posed by international terrorism is not diminishing. The continuing brutal terrorist attacks in various parts of the world, including the recent tragic events in Moscow and the Northern Caucasus, as well as the failed attempt in the centre of New York, are evidence of this.

There is clearly a need for even greater co-ordination of international efforts. Everything must be done to ensure that terrorists and those who organize, plan and pay for terrorist acts do not feel safe anywhere. International terrorism can be combated by pooling our efforts on the basis of the decisions that have been taken by the international community, primarily within the United Nations.

The Russian Federation commends the OSCE's contribution to the fight against terrorism and to the development of appropriate international co-operation in this area. The problem of countering terrorism must continue to be one of the priorities of the OSCE.

We shall support in every possible way the policy of further stepping up the counter-terrorism efforts of our Organization. The key to success here is proper financing for the events and day-to-day work of the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) as well as the strengthening of its potential in terms of resources.

A priority task is to continue the OSCE's assistance in the implementation of United Nations counter-terrorism resolutions at the pan-European level, first and foremost the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In our view, the OSCE, with its events aimed at practical results, including the recent seminar on the four universal conventions and protocols against terrorism of 2005, is leading the way in terms of effective regional initiatives.

We attach great importance to the comprehensive efforts to prevent terrorism, including the prevention and suppression of incitement to terrorism, the promotion of basic international documents in this area whether global or European, and the proper involvement of civil society and business circles in relevant events. We note in particular in this context the seminars held by the OSCE on key aspects of public-private partnership, including co-operation with the media and the protection of critical infrastructure.

We regard as the next logical step the Conference on the Prevention of Terrorism to be held in Astana on 20 and 21 October under the auspices of the Kazakh Chairmanship. Given the political importance of that event, the Russian Federation intends to ensure that it is represented at a very high level.

We trust that the Astana forum will help to overcome the remaining deficiencies in international counter-terrorism co-operation, also at the national level, specifically in such areas as curbing the spread of terrorist ideology and propaganda, preventing the radicalization by this means of young people in ethnic and religious communities, countering the use of cyberspace for terrorist purposes, overcoming the mistrust between State structures, business and civil society, and establishing a proper balance between the need to ensure individual freedoms and freedom of speech and the need to protect society against terrorism.

We are in favour of continuing the OSCE's efforts to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, supplementing in this way the work of the United Nations and other specialized organizations.

Further steps to prevent and counter terrorism via the Internet deserve attention.

At the same time, we should like to caution the ATU and the executive structures of the OSCE in general against overly hasty steps on such sensitive issues as cyber security or nuclear non-proliferation before a clear mandate is received from the participating States.

We support the broad use of the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network, including the CTN Newsletter, to increase the exchange of information among the participating States.

From the point of view of strengthening regional stability, we regard as particularly relevant the intensification of co-operation between the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Secretariat and specialized bodies of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization in countering terrorism and the threats associated with it.

In view of the interdimensional nature of the questions involved in combating terrorism, we trust that they will be properly reflected in the forthcoming report by the Secretary General on transnational threats and challenges.

In conclusion, allow me once again to thank Mr. Perl for his useful work and to wish him and all his colleagues every success in carrying out our common tasks.

Thank you for your attention.