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**STATEMENT BY MR. MIKHAIL ULYANOV,
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT
THE MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR
SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

4 November 2009

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

Allow me on behalf of the delegations of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation to present a draft OSCE Ministerial Council decision on the Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures.

I would imagine that everyone understands the reasons for the appearance of this draft. The Vienna Document (VD 99) was last updated exactly ten years ago and has become noticeably outdated since then. As can be seen from the Russian analysis of the implementation of the VD 99 already distributed in February of this year, around half of its provisions are working only partially or are not working at all. As a result, the effectiveness of this most important instrument for enhancing confidence and security, which requires responsible and careful handling, is suffering. There has long been a need to bring it more fully into line with changing realities. However, in that connection, the co-authors of the draft understand that hasty and ill-considered decisions and a radical reworking of the entire text are unacceptable since many of its provisions have proven their effectiveness and need no improvement. What is called for here is a “targeted” improvement of the document. This is in fact what our draft is based upon, and in its preparation we endeavoured to use as flexible wording as possible, aimed at reaching a consensus.

As is clear from the text distributed before the meeting, the preambular part confirms the paramount importance of the Vienna Document in enhancing confidence and security in the OSCE region, notes the development of the situation over the ten years since the approval of the most recent version of the document and expresses the view that the pan-European regime of confidence- and security-building measures would benefit considerably in the event that the changed realities are taken into account to the extent that this is necessary.

The operative part essentially involves instructing the Forum to conduct a review of the VD 99 in order to identify those areas and provisions that require updating and development, and also to address the relevant findings, as appropriate. We are probably going to be asked which specific areas and provisions requiring revision are we thinking of. A precise answer to that question can only be found jointly, through collective analysis, comparison of national points of view and a search for generally acceptable approaches.

Therefore, at this stage, we can merely repeat once again: in the opinion of the co-authors, a radical reworking of the entire text should be avoided and we should focus on “targeted” improvements. The fact that the relevant decisions will be adopted by consensus serves as a guarantee that precisely this kind of balanced approach will prevail in the review process.

We also draw your attention to the fact that the draft does not envisage exactly how the results of the review will be examined. The relevant modalities will be determined by all of us together when the time comes.

Provision is made in the draft, quite naturally, for the submission of a report on the work undertaken to the next Ministerial Council meeting in Astana. But here, again, it does not envisage whether this should be a final or an interim report. This will be determined in the course of our further work.

On the recommendations of several colleagues, the draft includes an instruction to the Secretary General of the OSCE to provide assistance to the Forum in the fulfilment of these tasks and, in particular, to submit by 1 February a detailed statistical report on the implementation of each chapter of the Vienna Document over the last ten-year period.

The final paragraph of the draft confirms that during the period that the tasks set by the Ministers are being carried out, the VD 99 should continue to be implemented in full. In principle, this goes without saying, but in order to avoid any erroneous interpretations, it would probably be worth confirming this in the Ministerial Council decision.

Distinguished colleagues,

As you can see, the co-authors have tried as far as possible to take into account the results of previous rounds of discussions on the question of a possible updating of the Vienna Document, including the doubts and concerns that had been expressed by individual participating States. We believe that the text that we have submitted for your consideration is suitably flexible and balanced. We trust that there will be a thoughtful, constructive and lively discussion of it. We are ready to consider any comments and proposals as regards improving the draft.

Anticipating possible questions, I should like to say straight away that the co-authors firmly believe that the substance of the draft means it is necessary to formalize the relevant instructions by means of a separate decision, and what is more at the Ministerial Council level. After all, what is involved is, in line with OSCE criteria, a most important issue, and the practical steps in this regard are several years overdue, if not more. In calling your attention to the draft, the co-authors assume, among other things, that the adoption of a favourable decision on it would demonstrate the OSCE’s ability to keep pace with the times and make a real tangible contribution to the strengthening of European security. This would also be a sign that the process launched in Corfu is delivering, and practical confirmation that the dialogue on European security is beginning to show results.

Madam Chairperson,

Our partners in the OSCE will undoubtedly require some time to work on the draft with their governments. We would therefore ask that it be included in the agenda of Working Group B in a week’s time, on 11 November.

Now, however, we should like to hear preliminary comments from our colleagues if they have any.

I would ask that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.