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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE OSCE, AT THE OPENING
PLENARY SESSION OF THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 18 October 2010

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are pleased to welcome the participants in the Vienna segment of the Review Conference convened in preparation for the forthcoming OSCE Summit in Astana. We thank the Kazakh Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat for their excellent organization of the meeting, which opens today.

An important stage in our work together on the problems of the human dimension at the Warsaw segment of the Review Conference has now been completed.

Here in Vienna we shall be concentrating on a wider range of issues concerning the fulfilment of commitments in the politico-military and economic and environmental dimensions and also a comprehensive analysis of the OSCE's activities, bodies and executive structures.

We are committed to equal treatment of the three dimensions of the comprehensive concept of security. We must overcome the functional imbalance with its bias towards the human rights basket and pay attention to the development of the first and second dimensions.

We believe that the forthcoming discussions should enable us to identify what still needs to be done to implement commitments and to elaborate ways together of making the most of untapped opportunities. It is of fundamental importance to conduct a review of all commitments and not to pick out merely those that coincide with the priorities of individual countries or integration associations.

It is to be hoped that the Conference will result in agreement on strategic orientations worthy of consideration by the Heads of State or Government in Astana on 1 and 2 December that will further strengthen the OSCE as a pan-European organization for security and co-operation.

The summit meeting, which the discussions at the Review Conference should logically be working towards, should provide a powerful stimulus to the restoration of a more

positive and unifying phase in Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian politics and the establishment of a new security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok that is free of dividing lines and regions with different levels of security. This very idea is the thrust of an initiative by the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, regarding the conclusion of a Treaty on European Security.

Arms control and confidence- and security-building measures remain fundamental to pan-European security. The commitments elaborated within the OSCE help to foster stability in the military sphere, as well as confidence and the development of co-operation among participating States. We call for objective consideration during the Review Conference of the arms control situation with a view to the adoption of specific measures to overcome the crisis in connection with conventional arms control in Europe, to modernize the pan-European confidence- and security-building regime, in particular by updating the Vienna Document, and also to approve a programme for future arms control and confidence-building measures by the OSCE.

We support the development and strengthening of OSCE activities to combat transnational challenges to security and stability, including the spread of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, and also threats emanating from Afghanistan. It is important that the OSCE does not attempt to replace other formats in its work and that it consistently sees its efforts as part of a regime of international co-operation with a leading role being played by the United Nations. Above all, it should seek judiciously to promote an inter-dimensional approach so as not to obstruct the resolution of specific problems in each of the baskets.

With the rapid evolution of new threats and challenges and their increasing interconnectivity, there is a need for approaches designed to improve co-ordination of the relevant activities of the executive structures and to strengthen the OSCE's co-operation with other international and regional organizations. We think that it would also be useful to conduct a regular review of the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century and other key OSCE documents on non-military aspects of security with a view to adapting them to the times and considering their need for revision, particularly through the more active use of the resources of the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference and the organization of annual wide-ranging thematic conferences and joint meetings of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

Like other countries, Russia regards the OSCE's activities in the area of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation as key tasks. We are also in favour of improving the Organization's potential in this sensitive area. Unlike a number of our partners, however, Russia proposes that we move forward by strengthening the consensual basis in the work of the OSCE, above all with regard to crisis management and also the elaboration and adoption of uniform conflict resolution principles.

We believe that unconditional observance of consensus at all stages of the crisis cycle along with the clearly expressed consent of the parties to the conflict with respect to all the OSCE's activities in the conflict settlement process through a mandate of the collective bodies, namely the Permanent Council and the FSC, or their joint decisions, should be at the basis of any OSCE crisis management activities. It is also important that the OSCE does not confine itself to the post-Soviet space or the Balkans but gives due attention to conflict situations to the west of Vienna.

We suggest that conflict problems should not be turned into bones of contention, as has unfortunately occurred in the past, but that efforts should be made to elaborate a common vision, on the basis of clear principles and established formats, of ways of resolving existing conflicts quickly and effectively and of not allowing new crisis spots to emerge.

Growing economic interdependence in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian regions calls for more active concerted efforts to resolve fundamental global economic problems. In this regard, improving the effectiveness of the economic and environmental dimension of the Organization's activities and adapting them to the new reality are becoming particular important.

In our opinion, the commitments set forth in the Helsinki Final Act regarding scientific and technical co-operation have been undeservedly forgotten. It is clear that in the post-conflict phase the resolution of the majority of problems facing the OSCE region, and the whole world for that matter, is impossible without the use of innovations and advanced technologies. We believe that as a resource the OSCE would be completely appropriate for advancing the concept of modernized alliances, a concept that could be put into practice through multilateral intergovernmental agreements. Indeed, it is on the basis of shared modernizing needs that a unifying agenda can be consolidated and the necessary prerequisites created for security and stability in the OSCE region.

The collective response to natural and man-made disasters is becoming particularly important today. OSCE efforts to promote inter-State co-operation in devising models for effective management of migration are equally called for. In our view, the efforts in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to safeguard the security of land transport, particularly by elaborating uniform standards, look promising.

We are willing as well to co-operate further with OSCE partners in questions of energy security, and also in combating corruption, money-laundering and financial terrorism.

In the preparations for the Summit, the closest attention should be paid to improving the effectiveness of the OSCE and transforming it into a fully fledged international organization. To start this process, the long overdue task of elaborating and adopting a charter for the Organization needs to be resolved. Other tasks of equal urgency include the further strengthening of the decision-making bodies, improving the effectiveness of the Secretariat, institutions and field missions through agreement of clear and precise rules for their operation, and correcting functional and geographical imbalances.

The Russian delegation will be considering all of the above-mentioned topics at greater length in the course of the session discussions.

In conclusion, I hope that our work at this Vienna segment of the Review Conference will be fruitful and will make a contribution to the "kitty" for the meeting of Heads of State or Government of the participating States that has been convened after an 11-year break.

Thank you for your attention.