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**STATEMENT BY MR. MIKHAIL ULIYANOV,
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO
THE VIENNA TALKS ON MILITARY SECURITY AND ARMS
CONTROL, AT THE 2010 ANNUAL SECURITY
REVIEW CONFERENCE**

15 June 2010

**Working Session III: The role and perspectives of arms control and
confidence- and security-building measures in building trust in the
evolving security environment**

Mr. Chairperson,
Colleagues,

I should like to express my appreciation to the keynote speakers for their stimulating presentations which, in our view, reflected an evident and quite worrying fact: arms control on the European continent is not only at a crossroads but also in the grip of conflicting tendencies. On the one hand, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) remains in very deep crisis. Moreover, in the last two and a half years there have been no visibly serious efforts to break the deadlock. We shall return to this topic a little later. On the other hand, it is possible to affirm with cautious optimism that in the last few months we have been witnesses of and participants in some positive changes in the OSCE's politico-military activities, which, for a number of reasons, are beginning to revive after ten years of total stagnation.

The change came at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens, where a breakthrough decision on the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) was adopted. It is important to highlight the emerging positive trend making use in particular of the possibilities offered by the Corfu Process. We believe that specific work in future should be constructed in the following way.

First of all, we continue to believe in the necessity in the OSCE area to continue the elaboration of an integral and effective system of mutually co-ordinated and consolidating legal and political commitments on arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in accordance with the Framework for Arms Control approved at the OSCE Lisbon summit. In this context, we have submitted for consideration a draft programme for further OSCE arms control and CSBM activities, which could be approved this year in Astana. We recall that a similar programme adopted at the Helsinki summit in 1992 made a significant contribution then to strengthening hard security in the OSCE region.

It was on this basis that all other existing basic politico-military documents in our Organization today were elaborated. We believe that it would be useful if the self-confirming experience could be reproduced in the new circumstances at the start of the twenty-first century. A document of this sort would provide a clear orientation for the future work of the FSC in strengthening the politico-military dimension of the OSCE and would make it comprehensive. As the delegations can see for themselves, the Russian draft programme is not ambitious and basically does no more than establish the questions that, in our opinion, need to be worked on in the future. We believe that it could serve as a good basis for future constructive discussions. Given the fact that the initial reaction by our partners has been generally positive, I should like to invite interested delegations to consider co-sponsoring this document.

Moreover, as you know, the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens instructed the Forum to “explore ways in which to strengthen the OSCE’s politico-military toolbox, with particular attention to strengthening current arms control and CSBM instruments, including strengthening the Vienna Document 1999”. As we see it, this task is multifaceted and complex. We are convinced that the adoption as soon as possible of a programme on further OSCE arms control and CSBM activities agreed by all would help in the implementation of that task.

With regard to this ministerial instruction, the problem of strengthening the Vienna Document 1999 and, consequently, of modernizing the CSBM regime as a whole, is becoming particularly pressing. We are pleased to note not only the positive atmosphere in the FSC with regard to this work but also the first practical steps in the form of the FSC decision on a procedure for updating the Vienna Document 1999. We are sure that the participating States will be in a position to confront a goal as ambitious as the elaboration and approval of a new version of the Vienna Document 1999 by the time of the planned OSCE summit in Astana. This will obviously call for retaining everything of value that we already have and agreeing on innovations that respond to the current demands. As far as Russia is concerned, this involves in particular the need to extend the CSBM regime to naval activities and to agree on measures relating to the exchange of information on multinational rapid reaction forces. Since other countries have their own ideas about updating and refining some CSBMs, we are willing to give careful consideration to the relevant proposals.

Last but not least, there is the key question of ensuring hard security in Europe and restoring the viability of the conventional arms control regime. The Russian appeals of the last three years to commence objective work to overcome the crisis in the CFE Treaty appear finally to have been heard. Our partners are elaborating alternative proposals, which we shall study with the utmost attention. If our joint search for a new common denominator is nevertheless to be a “two-way street”, as people used to be fond of saying, it is extremely important that we do not repeat the mistakes in our recent negotiating history on this subject.

In this connection, I should like to conclude my statement by considering the need to step up dialogue in the FSC on key security problems. I should like to recall that in the well-known decision “Development of the agenda of the Forum for Security Co-operation” in 1996 our predecessors effectively enlarged its mandate by way of the following passage: “The participating States will make full use of this body for regular and substantial exchanges of information on the work done and the progress made concerning separate arms control negotiations and processes (for example within the Joint Consultative Group). This procedure would allow views and concerns expressed in the FSC to be taken into consideration in the

course of such negotiations and processes, bearing in mind the OSCE's comprehensive concept of indivisible security." I believe that the Forum should make use of this authority in the very near future. Moreover, in fulfilment of the decision adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens, there is a need to "intensify further the Security Dialogue to address key security issues in the OSCE region, including on the role of arms control and CSBMs in the evolving security environment". We believe that it would be useful to convene a special FSC meeting in the near future to discuss these questions. It appears that this will not be possible at the end of June, as we originally suggested. Perhaps it could be planned for late September/early October.

In general, there is a need for the Forum's status as one of the most important pan-European platforms for considering the major questions of hard security to be restored in the future.