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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE 2008 OSCE ANNUAL
SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

On the question of OSCE engagement in Afghanistan

Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday, at the opening of this Annual Security Review Conference, our delegation noted that the situation in Afghanistan is one in which the interests of the majority of States and of the international and regional organizations come together. We share the many concerns voiced by General J. Craddock regarding that country.

None of us can fail to be moved by the disturbing situation in Afghanistan, which is exerting a negative effect on security within the OSCE area. The increase in subversive activities by the Taliban and al-Qaida along with the stepped-up illegal production of narcotic drugs on Afghan territory make it imperative that the international community consolidate its efforts.

Priority areas of concern in these efforts must be the struggle against terrorism, organized crime, and political and religious extremism, the suppression of the smuggling of drugs from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the import into that country of precursors, along with the arrest, extradition and bringing to trial of the principal Afghan drug barons.

We must without delay translate into practical terms the political decisions on countering the Afghan narcotics threat adopted as part of the "Paris-Moscow process". United Nations Security Council resolution 1817 adopted on 11 June of this year on the question of controlling Afghan narcotic drug precursors is of great importance in further strengthening international co-operation in achieving an overall solution to the problem of Afghan drugs. We think it essential that the OSCE actively contribute to the implementation of that resolution.

We support the idea of increasing the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan. Given our Organization's existing experience and capabilities, it could play an important role in strengthening border control arrangements on the northern frontiers of Afghanistan and in assisting in the training of personnel for the drugs police and the border and customs services of that country. Russia is already making a concrete contribution of its own along these lines, having initiated and launched within the OSCE a project for the training of Afghan drugs police personnel at the All-Russian Institute for Advanced Training of the Russian Ministry

of Internal Affairs at Domodedovo, and it is our hope that this project will become a long-term undertaking.

We regard as extremely important the genuine involvement of the OSCE in work to establish anti-narcotic *cordons sanitaires* around Afghanistan. There is also an urgent need for increased interaction between the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the OSCE in countering the flow of drugs from Afghanistan.

It is important that the efforts of the OSCE should not duplicate but should supplement those already being taken by the international community to carry out the programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction in Afghanistan. The United Nations is playing the leading role in those endeavours. We take the position that, together with the Afghan Government, the international forces in that country bear the primary responsibility for ensuring security in Afghanistan.

We have received proposals prepared by the Secretary General of our Organization regarding OSCE projects. We intend to study them carefully with a view, among other things, to determining the possibility of Russian participation in a number of them, and we shall be expressing our views. Our position is that the implementation and financing of any OSCE budgetary or extrabudgetary projects having to do with Afghanistan should be carried out under the supervision of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.