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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 19 October 2010

**Economic and environmental dimension (EED)
Session 1: From Bonn to Maastricht and beyond –
Adapting the OSCE economic and environmental dimension
to changing challenges**

Distinguished colleagues,

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Wilhelm Höynck, the first Secretary General of the OSCE, Mr. Vladimir Nikolayevich Shimov, Rector of the Belarus State University and former Minister of Economic Affairs of Belarus, Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Mr. Goran Svilanović and the other participants in the economic and environmental segment of the Review Conference taking place in the run-up to the forthcoming OSCE Summit in Astana.

Our meeting is taking place in the 20th anniversary year of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe. This truly historic event was a milestone on the way to the convergence of the economic systems of the participating States, helping to promote their transition to a market economy. It has resulted in the creation of more stable conditions for development, the emergence of a new economic culture driven by an entrepreneurial spirit, increased production and an improvement in the quality of life.

In spite of these achievements, however, the strategic aims of developing mutually beneficial pan-European economic co-operation consistent with the spirit and the letter of the founding CSCE/OSCE documents in many respects still remain on paper only. A major chunk of the principles and commitments adopted in Bonn have been shoved to the sidelines or in a number of cases even consigned to oblivion.

For example, increasing collaboration in management training, the intensification of scientific and technological co-operation and the sharing of know-how and innovations, improving business conditions for commercial exchanges and the development of business co-operation networks are as relevant today as they ever were. Unfortunately, we have so far made no serious progress in achieving these aims.

An attentive reading of other fundamental documents in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension, such as the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document, also reveal serious shortcomings.

Discriminatory measures in trade relations that are manifestly out of date and a relic of the Cold War have still not been removed. We are also far from fulfilling our commitment as regards the establishment in the OSCE region of open and integrated markets functioning on the basis of compatible or harmonized rules. Much still remains to be done to enhance co-operation in finance, education, investment in industry and infrastructure and joining forces to combat natural and man-made disasters. Before discussing the expediency of taking on new commitments, it is important therefore to deal with filling the gaps in the implementation of collectively agreed decisions.

The financial and economic crisis has only exacerbated the existing shortcomings. Economic models, the finance architecture, technologies and social institutions have changed in the post-crisis world. Flexibility and adaptability have become the order of the day. The urgent need to elaborate collective responses to new threats and challenges has been clearly demonstrated. Of course, the existing problems are already being discussed in various international and regional formats. The OSCE framework should not replace but supplement and intensify co-operation between States, international economic and environmental organizations and financial institutions through its dialogue with business circles and non-governmental organizations.

The OSCE participating States should strive together to prevent the emergence in the Organization's area of responsibility of new dividing lines, particularly with regard to development.

It is important to move away from the automatic assumption that the basic problems in the Organization's economic and environmental dimension are concentrated in the Commonwealth of Independent States or, as it has become customary to say, "east of Vienna". This would imply that the rest of the OSCE area has no problems. Recent events in the Gulf of Mexico and Hungary graphically demonstrate that this is not the case.

We believe that the time has come to reach an understanding on the need to remove the geographical and functional imbalance in the Organization's work. Its future and its ability to adapt to the changing global situation depend in many ways on this.

Our priority task is to work together to intensify co-operation on a basis of equal rights and mutual benefit and a pragmatic search for a balance of interests cleansed of ideology. It is important to consolidate the positive changes in the global economy and expand co-operation in the areas of advanced technology, joint production and innovative research.

We must seek to create the conditions in the OSCE region for sustainable development of the economy, exploitation of the advantages of globalization and neutralization of the risks and costs, and harmonization of integration processes.

Pan-European economic co-operation has great potential for development. We are convinced that the OSCE in collaboration with other leading international organizations could continue to play an important role in this regard. If we concentrate the substance of our

co-operation in these areas, we will create the necessary prerequisites for security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian areas.

Thank you for your attention.