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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1008th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE OSCE  
PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 July 2014

**In response to the statement by Mr. Ivica Dačić,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, on the priorities of the  
Serbian Chairmanship in 2015**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank Mr. Dačić for his interesting statement outlining in detail the priorities for the work of the Serbian Chairmanship in 2015.

The Ukrainian crisis has shown that the OSCE retains its relevance in the pan-European area. A culture of political dialogue, decision-making by consensus and depoliticizing pressing practical issues has made it possible to utilize the toolbox at the OSCE's disposal. In that connection, the need for thorough reform of our Organization, bringing it into line with the current geopolitical situation, has become even more evident. We cannot allow the present crisis to deepen dividing lines in Europe. On the contrary, this is an opportunity to really assess what is happening; to get to grips with restoring pan-European unity through joint efforts. The OSCE Chairmanship plays an important role in this process. The "double Chairmanship" of Switzerland and Serbia offers a good opportunity to ensure continuity in the most effective approaches. We are counting on your readiness to act in an impartial, balanced and transparent manner, in co-operation with all the participating States, to solve common problems.

Today, in a world that is once again multipolar, Russia advocates strengthening the capacity of international organizations and respecting the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter for European Security and the instructions of the OSCE Summit in Astana. We are guided by the sovereign equality of large and small States, the right of peoples to control their own destiny, the inadmissibility of interfering in domestic and foreign affairs which fall within the remit of other countries, the need to refrain from the threat or use of force and the inadmissibility of strengthening one's own security at the expense of the security of others. The OSCE has a unique opportunity to rectify imbalances and harmonize the processes taking place with a view to building a common and indivisible "security community" without dividing lines, stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

We are seeking ways to adapt the OSCE within the Helsinki+40 process. Its success will, to a large degree, determine the future of our Organization. It is important to keep this process afloat so that all the tools necessary for stabilizing the teetering pan-European security structure are at hand when needed.

The OSCE can play a central role in the European security system, becoming a fully fledged international organization with all the required attributes; one which will neither duplicate other international forums nor simply carry out monitoring functions.

The key to a successful OSCE lies in its activities being balanced in terms of geography and topics, and in equal consideration of the interests of all participating States. A culture of co-operation does not rule out different approaches to or views on international problems. The OSCE must retain its importance as a forum for intensive political dialogue. At the same time, it is necessary to refrain from attempts to steamroller onto the agenda issues that previously did not have consensus and are politically motivated or alien to the OSCE – to the detriment of topics that have a unifying potential.

It is time to review the existing arrangements and agreements in the politico-military dimension. Dialogue should be aimed at establishing agreed “rules of play” and strengthening the basic principles of co-operation and mutual respect of one another’s interests. We believe it is possible – without preconditions or unnecessary politicization – to begin negotiations on possible parameters for the future conventional arms control regime in Europe. As for the Vienna Document, the Code of Conduct and other agreements, we believe it is necessary to work on improving their implementation with a view to stabilizing and enhancing the politico-military situation. Attempts to introduce additional commitments at a time when some participating States are not implementing the existing provisions in a satisfactory manner or failing to implement them altogether are hardly justified.

Careful attention needs to be paid to countering transnational threats and challenges: international terrorism, extremism, organized crime and illicit trafficking in narcotics. We support the idea of holding annual thematic events on these subjects in 2015, using the opportunities for horizontal co-operation with field presences.

Conflict resolution should be promoted in a status-neutral manner, on the basis of the principle of consensus, taking account of the positions of the parties and within the agreed formats for negotiations. A political solution to the Kosovo problem is the only one possible and should be found through dialogue between Belgrade and Priština and on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244. We shall actively support the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and also advance the Geneva Discussions on stability and security in the Trans-Caucasus. We reaffirm our unwavering support for the work of the “5+2” negotiation format on a Transdniestrian settlement.

The European security architecture can no longer be limited to “traditional” arrangements of politico-military relations but must also encompass commercial and economic ties. The OSCE’s economic dimension can, at last, stop focusing on trivial subjects and concentrate on systemic issues, such as switching from mutually exclusive methods of economic integration to their harmonization. Fighting corruption and managing water resources are important issues providing a unifying agenda and, along with the aforementioned, are also among Serbia’s priorities for 2015. We look forward to working on these issues with our colleagues in a productive manner.

We welcome among the human dimension priorities combating trafficking in human beings, safeguarding the rule of law, protecting national minorities, and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. It will be absolutely essential to step up efforts to combat racism, aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism. We support Mr. Dačić's idea that we should not forget the victims of wars, especially given that in 2015 we shall mark the 70th anniversary of victory in the Second World War.

I should like to comment on the statement by the representative of the United States of America. He constantly harps on about supposed violations by Russia of the Helsinki Final Act in an attempt to hide the countless violations by the United States itself.

The United States violated a number of Helsinki Final Act principles in a most flagrant manner in 1999 when Yugoslavia was bombed for a period of 72 days in order to separate it from Kosovo by means of force. More than 2,000 people were killed. Since then, the United States has unceasingly violated another principle of the Helsinki Final Act regarding non-intervention in internal affairs. Their intervention has already cost many countries dearly – Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, Egypt and Syria. Even among European countries and members of our Permanent Council, there are many who have experienced the disastrous consequences of such intervention. Unconstitutional revolutions primed from the outside and the practice of unilateral sanctions are another form of intervention intended to subjugate the will of other countries. This is seen in the spying scandals which are currently sending shockwaves around the world. The purpose of this intervention is obvious to us. The main thing is to prevent the dividing line in the Eurasian area from being erased.

We have a different task – to secure a return to the international practice of effective principles of co-operation in Europe. This should be based on the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the 1999 Charter for European Security and the instructions of the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana on building a common and indivisible security community free of dividing lines.

In conclusion, allow me once to thank Mr. Dačić for his report and wish our Serbian friends every success in dealing with the considerable tasks facing the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.