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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1052nd MEETING OF  
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 May 2015

**In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Markus Müller once again to this room. We commend the activities of the field presence.

We welcome the OSCE Office's close co-operation and co-ordination with the authorities of Tajikistan in its project activities. This kind of approach, aimed at practical results, is crucial for the successful work of the OSCE presence. It should continue to be aimed at strengthening the national capacity of the host country in those areas where the Organization's assistance provides concrete added value.

We believe it important that the Office's attention remain focused on resolving regional stability issues, ensuring the security of the Tajik-Afghan border and countering transnational threats and challenges, primarily in combating terrorism and illicit drug trafficking. Countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, especially among young people, should also be among the presence's priorities in its work.

We share the serious concern expressed in the report of the presence head regarding the growing terrorist threat from the territory of Afghanistan.

In this context, the task of providing assistance in the implementation of programmes to strengthen the capacity of the Tajik border services and reform the country's police force remains especially relevant. We note the Office's contribution to the training of Tajik and Afghan border guards, and its determination to provide such assistance to Kyrgyzstan as well.

We welcome the Office's aid to the authorities of Tajikistan in advancing an extensive programme of reforms, solving socio-economic development problems, improving the investment climate, fighting corruption and ensuring environmental security.

We understand the scale of the tasks ahead of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan. We are confident that the significant resources, including extrabudgetary resources, made available to

it under the augmented budget approved for 2015 will make it possible to carry out this work in full. At the same time, when formulating budget requests that increase year-on-year for what is already one of the largest OSCE field presences, it is important to remember that the Organization's resources are not limitless. We still see no reason for changing the existing procedure for the financing of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, especially given that the problem has in the meantime been removed. It needs to be recognized that Russian specialists in this area still have many questions regarding the training programme and its effectiveness.

Mr. Chairperson,

For Russia, Tajikistan is a key partner, certainly one of the main ones. We greatly appreciate our friendly relations, based on trust, with Dushanbe, which seal the alliance and strategic partnership between our countries. We intend to continue to strengthen these ties. This was also reflected in the important bilateral documents signed on 2 April 2015 on the margins of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) summit, which took place in Dushanbe under Tajikistan's chairmanship.

Our countries have arrived at a qualitatively new stage in the development of bilateral relations, primarily in trade, economic and integration issues. In view of the growing terrorist threat from the territory of Afghanistan, military co-operation between our two countries remains crucial. We firmly believe that it makes a substantial contribution to maintaining peace and stability in the region and will help to strengthen the security of Tajikistan and Central Asia as a whole. Russia is committed to meeting its obligations vis-à-vis Tajikistan in strengthening its defence capabilities also within the framework of CSTO decisions.

Joint measures to provide assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan in securing the Tajik-Afghan border are one of the priorities of the CSTO's activities.

Russia will continue to strengthen its alliance with Tajikistan. We will do everything possible so that Tajikistan can live in inter-ethnic harmony as a stable and prosperous country. As for migration policy, this is a domestic matter, which we are working on together with the Tajik authorities.

In conclusion, I should like to wish Ambassador Müller and his staff further success in their endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.