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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 September 2010

**Regarding the quadrilateral meeting of the presidents of Russia,
Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to report on the meeting of the Heads of State of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, which was held on 18 August 2010 in Sochi. This was already the second summit in this format; the first one, as you know, was held on 30 July 2009 in Dushanbe.

We consider this meeting as an important step in terms of broadening and strengthening multidimensional co-operation between Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia and Tajikistan, as well as a significant factor in the process of strengthening regional stability and economic development.

The situation in Afghanistan was at the centre of attention of the participants in the summit, along with countering terrorism and drug trafficking. The Heads of State discussed in detail urgent questions concerning the development of multifaceted co-operation in the quadrilateral format and the dynamic of the evolving political and economic situation in the region.

The outcomes of the Sochi summit included the adoption of a joint declaration noting the importance of collaboration with a view to stabilizing the situation in the region, among other things, within the framework of existing international and regional structures, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The declaration underscored the priority of combating the drug threat throughout the production and distribution chain for narcotic drugs. The presidents expressed their readiness to continue participating actively in the implementation of the Action Plan on the Problems of Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Organized Crime, which was adopted by the member States of the SCO and Afghanistan at the special conference on Afghanistan held in Moscow on 27 March 2009 under the aegis of the SCO. The heads of the four countries underscored the importance of the anti-narcotics operation "Kanal" carried out under the aegis of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and expressed support for broadening the number of States taking part in this operation as observers.

It is noteworthy that the scale of production and distribution of narcotic drugs is characterized in the declaration as a threat to international peace and stability. We think that it is precisely the global character of this threat – which must be countered collectively, among other things, through the OSCE – that should be our starting-point. In this connection, we trust that countering Afghan drug crime will become a key area of activity for our Organization.

Questions concerning economic co-operation, collaboration in the energy sphere, transport infrastructure and fossil fuel extraction were also discussed in Sochi. There was talk of the need for the elaboration and execution of joint regional projects, in particular, the rehabilitation of the Salang tunnel, and the setting up of the country's hydroelectric complex. At the meeting, a conversation was also held separately on providing assistance to Pakistan, which was suffering from severe floods. Our country has already provided urgent aid to Pakistan, having dispatched to Islamabad two aircraft carrying food and other essential items.

Thank you for your attention.