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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
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TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 September 2011

**Regarding the four-party meeting of the presidents of Afghanistan,
Pakistan, Russia and Tajikistan and the summit meeting of the
Commonwealth of Independent States in Dushanbe**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan, Mr Nuriddin Shamsov, for his substantive statement. We should also like to note the significance of two important events that occurred last week in Dushanbe.

1. The four-party meeting of the presidents of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia and Tajikistan (the third to be held in that format) that took place on 2 September once again confirmed the key role of these countries in dealing with regional problems. The leaders of the four States expressed their support for the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to carry out a programme of national reconciliation and welcomed the beginning of the transfer to the Afghans of responsibility for ensuring security in their country under the “Kabul process”. The presidents noted that despite the ten-year presence in Afghanistan of foreign troops it has still not been possible to ensure the stabilization of the situation in that country.

The key subject of discussion centred on issues involved in countering terrorism and drug-related crime, mainly in the context of the Afghanistan situation. It was emphasized that all the countries of the region are negatively affected by these threats, a fact that has an adverse impact on political stability and the socio-economic situation over a vast area of Central, South and West Asia. The presidents shared the view that in the final analysis it was the countries of the region themselves and not some sort of non-regional forces that have the capability of dealing effectively with these problems, with the aid and assistance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the international community as a whole.

The discussions also focused on the establishment of active ties between the law enforcement and military agencies of the “Four”. The “Central Asian Anti-Narcotics Quartet” was assigned the task, in the intervals between the meetings of the department heads, of maintaining constant working contacts at the level of their representatives. There was also a

discussion of the question of establishing within the “Four” a working group to combat extremism and terrorism.

It is noteworthy that much time at the meeting was spent discussing current questions of economic co-operation. The Russian side expressed a willingness not only to take part in the implementation of such large-scale energy-related projects as the transmission of electric power from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan but also to invest considerable funds in that project. It is obvious that the carrying out of this project will help to promote the economic development of Afghanistan and, accordingly, the strengthening of stability and security in that country.

Among the principal tasks identified by the President of Russia with regard to regional security issues mention was made of the need to improve the combat readiness of the Afghan armed forces so as to enable them to deal on their own with the tasks involved in ensuring the ability of their country to defend itself and to counter extremist groups and drug-related crime.

In view of the importance of the outcome of this meeting, the Joint Communiqué adopted in Dushanbe by the presidents of the four countries will be distributed today on behalf of the delegations of Tajikistan and Russia.

2. As regards the latest in a series of meetings held on 3 September in Dushanbe by the Council of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the main subject on its agenda was the celebration this year of the twentieth anniversary of the CIS. All the participants in the summit agreed that the CIS is playing a special role in ensuring co-operation between and the development of the countries in the post-Soviet space. Dmitry Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation, made the point that “there is no alternative to the CIS as the only platform for ensuring co-operation by concerned States in all possible areas of collaboration”.

As the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan has already noted, in connection with the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States a statement on the outcome of the summit has been adopted by the heads of the CIS member States, which will also be circulated today by the delegations of Tajikistan and Russia.

Thank you for your attention.