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

22 June 2010

In response to the address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Kostyantyn Ivanovych,

We are delighted to welcome you, Mr. Minister, to this meeting of the Permanent Council. We are grateful for the clear objectives that you have just outlined, objectives which Ukraine intends to be guided by in the event that its bid for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2013 is successful. In this connection, we should like to reiterate that the Russian Federation supports Ukraine's aspiration to chair the Organization in every possible way, something that was clearly expressed in a joint statement by the presidents of our two countries in Kiev on 17 May.

We believe that Ukraine, as a major European country of strategic importance, will be able, at head of the OSCE, to actively promote the creation of a common space of security and stability from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We were therefore pleased to hear you say that our joint task today is to ensure the genuine indivisibility of this space. The way to do this lies in the consolidation of legally binding guarantees of equal and indivisible security for all OSCE participating States without exception, including reliable security guarantees for countries that have voluntarily given up their nuclear arsenals and for non-aligned States.

In this context, we respect the statements by the President of Ukraine regarding the strengthening of the non-aligned status of his country. It is precisely this kind of approach that could serve as a basis for the further development of constructive dialogue on a wide range of security issues, including the initiative by the President of the Russian Federation regarding the conclusion of a Treaty on European Security and the proposal by the President of Ukraine for the formation in Europe of a new system for collectively countering global threats and challenges to security in the twenty-first century.

It is clear that a Greater Europe cannot be built unless the "visa barriers" that still exist between different European countries are removed. We welcome the intention of the Ukrainian leadership to eliminate dividing lines and create a common space for human

contacts across the European continent. It is our hope that this task will occupy an important place in the work of a future Ukrainian chairmanship of the OSCE.

We are impressed that, among the most pressing problems in the context of the OSCE, the Ukrainian authorities have expressed a desire to look into new opportunities for strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization's executive structures. We hope that by the time Ukraine takes the helm of the OSCE, this "ship" will already have a sturdy keel in the form of a constituent document, which will at last allow it to become a fully fledged entity under international law in the meaning of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

We agree with your assessments, Mr. Minister, that unresolved conflicts pose a serious challenge to global security. We support the intention of our Ukrainian partners to pay particular attention to a just and comprehensive settlement of the Transdnestrian problem, where the Russian Federation and Ukraine act as co-mediators and guarantor countries. The approaches of our countries to the resolution of this difficult regional problem were set out clearly in a joint presidential statement by Dmitry Medvedev and Viktor Yanukovich on 17 May. We need to remember the important stabilizing role of the current peacekeeping operation in the region and to ensure constructive co-operation among all its components. We are convinced that the key to success here lies in close co-operation and co-ordination of efforts among all the participants in the negotiation process in the "5+2" format.

Maintaining peace, stability and the development of co-operation in the Black Sea region is an important element in the collective efforts to create a common space of equal and indivisible security in the Euro-Atlantic region. We are pleased to note that our two countries have managed to find mutually beneficial long-term solutions for the presence of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, which strengthen security in this region.

On the whole, it is pleasing that with the emergence of a new Ukrainian leadership there have been qualitative changes in the organization of long-term ties between Russia and Ukraine. This trend was strengthened by the first official visit in a fairly long time by the President of the Russian Federation to Ukraine on 17 and 18 May, during which important decisions were adopted on the further development of Russo-Ukrainian co-operation and its translation into a real strategic partnership. We are confident that this forward-looking development will be maintained in the future – in the interests of our countries and our peoples – and will be reflected in our joint work in the OSCE.

Distinguished Kostyantyn Ivanovych,

Your statement today coincided with a tragic date that brings together the people of our countries and all European States, namely fascist Germany's attack on the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941. In that war we fought together, shoulder to shoulder, to liberate Europe from Nazi tyranny. May our common victory, the 65th anniversary of which we celebrated in Moscow and Kiev on 9 May, and our joint efforts on behalf of stability in Europe be the key to preventing new tragedies and ensuring lasting reconciliation.

Thank you for your attention.