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**STATEMENT BY
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REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE, AT THE FIRST
ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 25-26 June 2003

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I imagine that you have had an opportunity to familiarize yourselves with the paper distributed earlier and prepared by the representative of the Kazakh Foreign Policy Department, who unfortunately is unable to participate in the work of today's conference.

Let me share with this distinguished audience some basic considerations regarding the problem under discussion today.

I am very familiar with this issue, as is my distinguished co-speaker Mr. Cofer Black. I was in charge of the anti-terrorism work of the Kazakh intelligence services, *inter alia* during the period of the radically new circumstances following 11 September 2001. These circumstances confirmed our very worst predictions, namely that international terrorism knows no borders and is unaffected by distance or differences in racial and ethnic identity.

Our country greatly appreciates the role that the United States of America is playing as the leading force in the fight against global terrorism.

At that time, the motivation for my future professional activities developed: however evil terrorism is, a greater misfortune would be submissiveness and a failure to resist this threat.

It is clear that at the present time stability and security in the OSCE's geographical space is inextricably linked with the situation in Central Asia, one of the most difficult and potentially explosive regions.

In that connection, we need to recognize that the measures being taken to combat international terrorism are far from perfect and are not always leading to a reduction in the potential threat that terrorism poses to the global community.

What are the reasons for this? Why does the use of what would appear to be a long list of possible resources not bring the desired results?

For me, one of the principal purposes of our Conference is to enable all of us together to try to find the answers to these questions.

There is no doubt that the unique knowledge gained by the OSCE in ensuring comprehensive security can be used effectively to find new approaches to and methods for solving this most important problem.

It is precisely the practical experience of professionals that must be used as much as possible in the work of international organizations concerned with security and in devising a true concept for fighting terrorism and extremism.

One of the paramount tasks in combating new threats is to strengthen the common international legal framework. First and foremost, there is a need to ensure that the anti-terrorism conventions in force become genuinely universal.

Differences in interpretations of international documents should not distract us from the task that affects us all, that of establishing a legal system to combat terrorism.

I should also like to stress the importance of giving greater consideration to the circumstances that are conducive to the emergence of terrorism and also the conditions that make it possible for it to thrive. Hardly anyone would dispute that internal economic difficulties, a set of unresolved socio-political and social problems and a high level of illegal migration in a number of countries form accompanying conditions for the spread of terrorism and extremism in Central Asia.

In my view, it is necessary to finally give serious thought to the deep-seated reasons for the emergence of the phenomenon of terrorism and to understand its social basis. There are a whole number of factors which may not be well defined or formulated or which it may not be quite politically correct to mention but which are real: national humiliation, economic and political isolation at the State level, the existence of long-standing regional problems, a unipolar world, etc.

Another of today's phenomena is the appearance on the international stage of charismatic figures and radical leaders who profess absolute knowledge and offer simple and clear answers to all the fundamental and complex questions of the modern world. Essentially, Osama bin Laden appears as the head of a terrorist State that has no borders and concentrated logistical and financial infrastructure but, nevertheless, acts in every way like an aggressor State or a terrorist State.

On the subject of the influence of globalization on the development of terrorism, it surely has to be agreed that globalization is a pivotal problem, giving rise to the main confrontation of the twenty-first century.

In the twentieth century, the pivotal problem was probably the conflict between two world systems.

Recently, during discussions on the nature of terrorism, the issue of the Islamic factor has somehow arisen. We must not keep silent about the serious problem manifested in attempts to link Islam and terrorism. The fight against terrorism should not be allowed to turn into a war against a particular religion, culture or country.

Following the events of 11 September, people of many different confessions expressed their solidarity with the people of the United States of America. This clearly demonstrated that terrorism does not have a national or religious identity.

Islam is a world religion, something that is confirmed by its thousand-year history. Extremism in the Muslim world results from a number of factors which create a fertile ground for terrorism in several States. How, when and why these conditions emerged is a separate subject for serious research.

I believe it advisable to draw the audience's attention to the opinion of certain analysts that there is currently a trend in the OSCE's zone of responsibility to justify crackdowns by the authorities against religious opposition under the pretext of the increased threat of terrorism. It is difficult to overestimate the role and importance of the OSCE in this context, because our Organization has internationally recognized tools for countering this dangerous trend.

A most important aspect of the fight against terrorism is ensuring the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The danger of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or their components falling into irresponsible hands greatly increases the destructive potential of international terrorism.

We need to step up efforts to consolidate the regimes for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In that connection, I would like to point out that the experience of Kazakhstan, which renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal, should be an example to other countries, including those that have nuclear ambitions.

Separate and substantive discussion needs to be given to the situation in Afghanistan, where the already difficult situation is being exacerbated by the growing influence of terrorist groups that are consolidating their positions around the surviving Taliban and al-Qaida structures and the terrorist and other anti-government groups under their control.

It is well known that the illicit drug industry is one of the principal sources of finance for terrorist activities.

We have to realize that terrorism will never be eradicated unless we put a stop to the illicit drug business. Despite all the efforts of the central government of Afghanistan, however, this country remains one of the world's principal suppliers of dangerous narcotic drugs, the production of which is constantly increasing. Around 75 per cent of the illegal narcotic drugs produced in the world come from Afghanistan. According to our information, around 90 per cent of the heroin found in Kazakhstan is of Afghan origin.

I hope that the fact that Afghanistan has been made an OSCE Partner for Co-operation will help to normalize the situation as quickly as possible in this country that has suffered so much.

The rising level of illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives is an important factor in the spread of terrorism and extremism.

It cannot be ignored that 55 per cent of known firearms stocks, which amount to 305 million units, are currently in private hands.

The OSCE's Bucharest Plan of Action on Combating Terrorism and Bishkek Programme of Action have great potential for the implementation of counter-terrorism measures. It needs to be pointed out, however, that up to now these projects have not been the basis for any practical action in the form of comprehensive measures to combat international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

In supporting international co-operation to combat terrorism, we should bear in mind that the more countries and international organizations, including non-governmental organizations, are involved in the efforts to combat terrorism and the more co-ordinated our joint activities are, the less chance terrorists will have and the quicker we will achieve real success.

Thank you for your attention.