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**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT  
WORKING SESSION 1 OF THE SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE ON  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY ON OPEN SKIES**

7 June 2010

**Distribution and accounting procedures for active quotas**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The distribution of active quotas is one of the most important mechanisms in the Treaty on Open Skies and touches the interests of all States Parties to the Treaty. Russia supports the planning carried out by the States Parties during the annual distribution of active observation flight quotas. The expert-level negotiations on active quota distribution held in Vienna since 2006 as part of a two-day conference are an extremely important stage in the work of the Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC) for the implementation of the Treaty.

The sharing of observation flights by two or three States Parties is becoming increasingly important these days in the annual active quota distribution. This mechanism arose from the situation when the number of requests for observation flights over the territory of a particular State Party exceeded its total passive quota. The Treaty does not specify a mechanism for sharing active quotas nor an accounting procedure for active and passive quotas. It would be useful for the OSCC to pass a corresponding decision setting out a detailed mechanism for sharing and accounting for quotas. Experience shows that the procedure for changing the annual active quota distribution also needs to be formalized in an appropriate document.

It should be pointed out that the decision on the distribution of active quotas over the calendar year adopted by the OSCC does not preclude future amendments to it. In our opinion, the annual distribution of active quotas should pursue two basic aims:

- It should facilitate measures to co-ordinate planned observation flights;
- It should provide States Parties with an indication of the observation flights planned in the course of the year to enable them to plan the allocation of resources for them to be carried out.

The Treaty does not prohibit the subsequent re-distribution of quotas among States Parties provided that the active quotas allocated under the Treaty are not exceeded. In such cases a State Party must accept requests for observation flights over its territory if these requests do not exceed its total passive quota.

It is clear that such changes should not become systematic and it is preferable that they are made by mutual agreement of the Parties.

We would like to stress the need to attempt to solve this type of question during the planning of the annual distribution of active quotas. At the same time it is impossible to exclude the possibility of agreement by States Parties to make changes, including the re-distribution of quotas.

Thank you for your attention.