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**STATEMENT BY MR. VLADIMIR CHIZHOV,  
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE  
OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 25 June 2003

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The holding of the first Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) is an important and, I would say, symbolic event. One year ago, when this idea, which was originally proposed by the United States of America and supported by Russia, was discussed in Vienna, the response to it was ambiguous. Some people saw in it “bureaucratic proliferation” intended to help the Organization avoid criticism - incidentally, often justified - of its inability to react to the new generation of risks and challenges. Others regarded the creation of this new format as an attempt to “bury” existing mechanisms, notably the Forum for Security Co-operation. Fortunately, these fears were unfounded, and today we are pleased to note that the OSCE has been enriched by an important consultative “framework for enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing security work”, as laid down in Decision No. 3 of the Ministerial Council meeting in Porto.

The agenda of the ASRC is very full and covers the most topical and important problems of the work of the OSCE, reflecting the Organization’s concept of common, comprehensive and indivisible security. The Conference is called upon to increase the effectiveness of security work in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

In the future, the ASRC will be directly involved in the elaboration of the **Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century**. Over the next few years, the Conference will be called upon to review the implementation of this document and consider its adaptation. In the meantime, we hope that a detailed and balanced text of the Strategy - which must not reproduce the imbalances that have emerged within the OSCE - will be agreed upon in time for the Ministerial Council meeting in Maastricht. The threats being considered within the Strategy are transborder ones, and for that reason the OSCE’s work to combat them must cover the entire space of the Organization equally and not be limited to the eastern part of it or any other part.

Another task of the ASRC is to review the work on meeting **anti-terrorism commitments**. The unique nature of the OSCE, the broad geographical area covered and the comprehensive approach to security allow the Organization to be used to detect *sources* of terrorism and devise effective measures for combating them.

The new Conference will be called upon to **raise the profile of the first “basket”** of the OSCE. Pursuant to the Porto decision, the ASRC should “provide an opportunity to exchange views on issues related to arms control and confidence-and security-building measures, including the CFE and Open Skies treaties”. We attach great importance to this task, particularly in the light of the problems relating to the ratification of the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

We should like to stress that for all the importance of the ASRC its function is a **consultative one**. The adoption of decisions remains the prerogative of the OSCE’s collective bodies, in particular the Forum for Security Co-operation.

In Porto, the ministers also laid down that the Conference should promote “co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions”, something which is fully in keeping with the **Platform for Co-operative Security** adopted at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999.

Yet another task of the ASRC is to assist in the implementation of OSCE decisions and the carrying out of its activities in the area of **early warning and conflict prevention**. In this task, the Conferences are closely interlinked with the mandate of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, whose work is extremely important for the Russian Federation, particularly with regard to protecting the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic countries.

In the future, we should like matters related to **economic security** to feature prominently on the agenda of the ASRC. In view of the contemporary international realities, this component of the OSCE’s work is acquiring ever greater importance. I recall that the need “to strike a proper balance among the three dimensions of the OSCE” was emphasized in the preambular section of the Porto Ministerial Decision.

Today’s meeting is the first meeting of the Conference. This increases its importance and the responsibility falling on the organizers and participants. The success of any long-term project or undertaking depends to a large extent on how it starts off.

The Russian Federation intends to participate as actively as possible in this new forum, both this year and in the future. We hope that the ASRC will help to strengthen the overall role of the OSCE as a **forum for political dialogue** between participating States.