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WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES TO THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Athens, 1 and 2 December 2009

The member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are of the opinion that the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has a key role in the European security architecture. And it is for the OSCE to adapt it to the new realities on the basis of the principles of multilateralism, the supremacy of international law and the central role of the United Nations, common and indivisible security for all States, and a collective response to modern-day threats and challenges to security.

We support the Corfu Process and see it as one of the platforms for developing the proposed Treaty on European Security and the idea of holding an OSCE summit meeting in 2010.

The adoption at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens of specific decisions to counter the threats posed by terrorism and narcotics and to combat trafficking in human beings would help to shore up the OSCE's role in reacting to threats affecting all of its participating States.

We support the OSCE's work to counter threats emanating from Afghanistan, in particular the projects for training specialists in the Afghan counter-terrorism, border and customs authorities, strengthening the borders of Central Asian countries with Afghanistan and upgrading the professional potential of the anti-drug service in Afghanistan with the aid of the All-Russian Institute for Professional Development at the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

We believe that it is important to adopt a declaration at the meeting to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. This memorable historical date has great significance in the CIS. At the CIS summit meeting in Chisinau in October of this year an address by the heads of the CIS States to the people of the CIS countries and the world community was adopted in connection with the 65th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945. The address emphasized the adherence to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act and contained an appeal for active co-operation in strengthening security and stability in the world, increased efforts to combat international terrorism and extremism, the peaceful settlement of existing conflicts and the prevention of potential ones.

The Commonwealth of Independent States continues to regard the development of co-operation on the basis of partnership with the OSCE bodies as the most important aspect of the work it undertakes to safeguard security and stability in Europe.