

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1000th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 May 2014

**In response to the report by Ambassador György Szabó,
OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Ambassador György Szabó, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan and thank him for the detailed report on his work.

The Office of the Co-ordinator is continuing to carry out a good deal of useful work in all three security dimensions. We note in particular efforts to implement projects to combat terrorism and drug trafficking, in the areas of good governance, assistance in agricultural development, the use of renewable energy sources, and combating trafficking in human beings. It is contributing to the elaboration of a National Plan of Action on Human Rights and to work on improving the qualifications of members of law enforcement bodies.

It is important for the field mission to fulfil its mandate in line with the comprehensive programme of reforms being carried out by the Government of Uzbekistan. We are impressed by the “step-by-step” approach, as the Co-ordinator himself describes it, to project activity. The close co-ordination of the Office with the Uzbek authorities in planning the field mission’s programme of work is most appropriate. It strengthens mutual trust and enables concrete and targeted assistance to be given to the host country in those areas where it is most needed. Constructive efforts of this type could well be used in other OSCE field missions as well. We support the transition to the new project agreement cycle with Tashkent. We hope that the new scheme will permit the field mission’s potential to be exploited more fully in the interests of the host country.

We welcome the responsible approach by the Co-ordinator to the use of material and human resources, including the planned zero growth in the field mission’s budget in 2015. We also note the timely and almost complete utilization of the Office’s budget allocation, which is not always the case in other missions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russian-Uzbek relations are developing dynamically and progressively, and active political dialogue continues between our countries. We attach great importance to co-operation with Tashkent regarding the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force from Afghanistan, inasmuch as this is directly linked to the security of our States and involves serious risks to the stability of Central Asia. In many respects, the approaches by our countries in this regard coincide or are very close.

In conclusion, I should like to wish Ambassador Szabó and the staff of his Office continued success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.