

PC.DEL/617/15

15 May 2015

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1050th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 May 2015

Regarding the 2016 OSCE Programme Outline

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Secretary General,

First of all, I should like to express gratitude to the Secretariat staff for the work they have done in preparing the 2016 OSCE Programme Outline. For the second year in a row, this document will now be discussed in conjunction with the report on our Organization's programme and budgetary activities for 2014. This approach will make it possible not only to more clearly determine plans for the future, but also to draw lessons from last year's experience. It is important to concentrate on areas that unite us and on the most pressing issues that enjoy the support of all participating States. At the same time, the current financial and economic situation must be taken into account.

I shall comment on the most important aspects.

In considering the programme of activities of the OSCE executive structures and field presences, it must be kept in mind that the overall expenditure on our Organization's activities grew significantly this year in view of the decisions adopted on the budget for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine up to March 2016. In summary, the OSCE budget for this year exceeded 200 million euros, a growth of almost 50 per cent. Therefore, it is important to take a careful approach to the planning and expenditure of overall resources and avoid unnecessary expenditure, especially on programmes that have not been approved through decisions taken by the OSCE decision-making bodies. It must also be remembered that nearly 3 million euros went unspent last year.

Combating transnational threats, *inter alia*, in the light of the worrying situation in the southern Mediterranean region and Afghanistan, remains a key priority. Co-ordination of the activities of all OSCE executive structures participating in this work must be enhanced. Efforts to implement the strategic documents on combating the threat of illicit drugs and fighting terrorism and on police-related activities must remain at the centre of this work.

We are in favour of consolidating the potential of the Transnational Threats Department, *inter alia*, in countering the threat posed by narcotic drugs. We note the importance of keeping the questions of countering radicalization and foreign terrorist fighters on the agenda. We support the practice of holding annual OSCE anti-narcotics and counter-terrorism conferences.

In the economic and environmental dimension, the focus recently has been on combating corruption, money-laundering and terrorist financing. While we fully share the view that it is necessary to confront these challenges, we think that other important areas of work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities must not be overlooked. Among them are efforts to overcome the effects of the global financial and economic crisis, along with the rise in unemployment and poverty and the deterioration of the living standards of the population. We also think that the Organization could provide a forum for discussion of the question of harmonizing integration processes in the OSCE area.

We consider it counter-productive to give emphasis every year to the same topics in the third basket while ignoring other, no less pressing questions, based on existing OSCE commitments. The topics of protecting the rights of children, responding to police violence against racial minorities in the United States of America and other massive human rights violations in that country, reducing statelessness, combating manifestations of aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism and ensuring the right to privacy should not be dropped from the OSCE's agenda.

Greater attention should be paid to the questions of countering trafficking in human beings for the purpose of removing human organs, tissues and cells, developing an intercultural and interreligious dialogue, fighting manifestations of religious intolerance and promoting mutual respect and understanding, as well as traditional cultural, religious, family and moral values, through education.

The idea of streamlining work within the human dimension must finally be moved out of its impasse.

We call upon the institutions within the human dimension to focus on the tasks set out in OSCE Ministerial Council decisions and not to promote within the Organization ideas on which there is no consensus. With regard to the proposals to increase the budget of these institutions as compared with this year, such ideas can be considered only if further tasks are provided for in the most recent Ministerial Council decisions.

The OSCE's project activities in Central Asia should focus on such areas as combating new challenges and threats, including those emanating from the territory of Afghanistan, and contributing to the economic development of the region. We call upon the heads of the field presences to act responsibly in drawing up their budgets, bearing in mind the OSCE's limited material resources. We suggest that, before requesting an increase in funding, they carry out the necessary streamlining of programme activities, including extrabudgetary ones, and set priorities carefully.

The OSCE's work on the Afghan question must be focused on those areas where it could bring added value and not duplicate the efforts of other agencies. First and foremost,

this means training law enforcement officers, and projects to strengthen border co-operation in combating the drug threat.

The recent developments in the Balkans testify to the necessity of further enhancing the potential of local law enforcement agencies to counter transnational threats. In a few instances, negative tendencies towards the growth of manifestations of extremism and radicalism, drug trafficking, organized crime and trafficking in human beings and human organs are being detected. Greater attention must be paid there to the task of protecting human rights and the rights of national communities and to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. The growth of illegal migration is being observed. The potential for co-operation in responding to natural and man-made disasters has not been fully realized. We trust that the OSCE missions in the Balkans will continue to provide assistance to the host States in confronting these challenges.

We also have questions about the planned budgetary and programme activities of other field presences, including those of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, to which we trust that we shall receive full answers during the forthcoming discussion of the Programme Outline.

Thank you for your attention.