

PC.DEL/197/14
3 March 2014

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 985th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 February 2014

**In response to the address by Mr. Rashid Meredov,
Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the most esteemed Mr. Meredov for finding the opportunity to speak at the Permanent Council on the foreign policy priorities of his country and its approach to working with the OSCE.

We value the high intensity of Russian-Turkmen political dialogue, which in the spirit of strategic partnership permits the resolution of important issues on the bilateral agenda and the enhancement of co-operation in international affairs. We welcome the interest in Ashgabat in intensifying co-operation within the Commonwealth of Independent States and developing of links with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Turkmenistan has always been one of our most important partners.

We agree with the esteemed Minister on the importance of the Helsinki+40 process, whose basic task is the comprehensive adaptation of the OSCE to the new circumstances. We were interested to hear the ideas presented by you today. We regard them as a useful contribution to the ongoing discussion on how to achieve our common goal of creating an equal and indivisible security community and making progress in fulfilling the agreements arrived at during the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana.

We welcome Ashgabat's attitude of giving priority attention to issues with unifying potential that respond to the needs of all participating States.

The Helsinki+40 process itself is already turning out to be an important confidence-building measure aimed at gradually removing concerns and conflicts through dialogue and joint approaches. There is no doubt that the experience Turkmenistan has acquired through its policy of neutrality will be useful in this regard.

We agree with the importance of strengthening confidence in the politico-military sphere in the interests of ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency. We note

the idea of strengthening the preventive potential of our Organization. Efforts should also be stepped up to combat transnational threats, in particular terrorism and illicit drug trafficking.

Our approaches to improving the effectiveness of the OSCE's second basket coincide to a large extent. It is vital for the Organization's activities in the economic and environmental dimension to move away from a narrow approach and to take on a more systematic and strategic character aimed at harmonizing the integration processes in the east and west of our common space. This "integration of integration processes" will provide the economic basis for a future common security community.

We note the increased attention by our Turkmen friends to sustainable energy and transport corridors. Our countries have many points of contact in these areas. We agree on the importance of efforts in the environmental sphere. The idea of establishing an OSCE centre for modern environmental technologies is interesting and could become a useful platform for participating States to exchange best practices.

We are impressed by Turkmenistan's approach to improving OSCE efforts in the humanitarian sphere. We support the call for due attention to be given to issues of interest to all participating States with allowance for the history, traditions and mentalities of their peoples. The focus should be not on differences but rather on common cultural, religious, family and moral values.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize that the key to the success of the Helsinki+40 process is a pragmatic approach aimed at furthering a unifying agenda and achieving consensus. It is only with a philosophy such as this that the OSCE will acquire a "new lease of life" to enable us to approach the anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015 with a conceptual strategic vision of the OSCE forty years on that affirms and develops the principles on which our Organization is based.

Thank you for your attention.