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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE
TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Kyiv, 6 December 2013

We should also like to thank the Chairmanship for their hospitality and the wonderful conditions for holding this meeting of the Ministerial Council.

A cross-cutting theme of the Ministerial Council meeting was that of exploring ways of forming an equal and indivisible security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok, in line with the tasks set by the 2010 Astana Summit. We note that the process of reflection included considering the possibility of bringing various integration processes within the OSCE area together under the umbrella of our Organization. This topic genuinely has a great deal of potential because it reflects the original purpose of the OSCE, which was founded to eliminate dividing lines throughout Europe.

In this connection, we appreciate the Helsinki+40 process, which started this year, aiming to bring us closer to achieving the goal of a “security community” and to breathe new life into the Organization. We have just adopted an important declaration on its further development, which is the main political document emerging from this meeting. We trust that the discussion will move to another level next year: finding practical ways to revitalize the Organization and increase its effectiveness.

We regret that it has not been possible to adopt a declaration on Afghanistan.

We welcome the adoption of the declaration on transnational threats as a substantive step towards bolstering the OSCE’s endeavours to resolve the pressing problems of the continent: specifically, combating drug trafficking and terrorism. These issues will be amongst the priorities of the Russian presidency of the Group of Eight (G8) in 2014. We note the positive outcome of work to finalize an initial set of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies.

We note with satisfaction the progress made regarding politico-military aspects of security. The adoption of decisions on small arms and light weapons and on the update of the Principles Governing Non-Proliferation shows a positive trend in the area of “hard security”. We trust that the constructive dialogue on these issues will continue.

This year, the unifying potential of the economic and environmental dimension was confirmed. The Ministerial Council has also acquired valuable assets in the form of documents on the environmental footprint of energy-related activities and on the protection of

non-nuclear energy infrastructure from natural and man-made disasters. The approval of these texts was a good example of constructive work based on the common interests of all countries.

Unfortunately, work on the human dimension once again revealed major problems. We are deeply disappointed that it has not been possible to reach agreement on such fundamentally important issues as freedom of movement in the OSCE area. We see a link between this and the fact that several States are not prepared to fulfil their political commitments to simplify visa regimes, as prescribed in the Helsinki Final Act. We strongly urge them to reconsider their positions. We trust that dialogue within the OSCE on this topic will continue.

The Russian Federation has been an active participant in discussions regarding the draft decision on the protection of journalists. We believe that media professionals genuinely require protection when carrying out their duties. Certain differences of opinion meant that it was not possible for us to adopt a decision in this regard. Nonetheless, the Russian Federation calls upon participating States to devote the greatest attention to this issue.

We are pleased that during the meeting of the Ministerial Council, decisions were adopted on combating trafficking in human beings, on freedom of religion, and on improving the situation of Roma and Sinti. We hope that their implementation by all participating States will contribute to the creation of a common humanitarian community in the OSCE's zone of responsibility.

We believe that the Ukrainian Chairmanship has been a successful one. We should like to congratulate our Ukrainian colleagues. They have genuinely strived to act as an "honest broker", and have had a balanced approach to reflecting the priorities of all participating States in the agenda of the Organization.

We wish our Swiss and Serbian colleagues, who will take up the baton of Chairmanship in 2014 and 2015, every success in this difficult arena. For our part, we intend to consistently support efforts towards unity in our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Ministerial Council in Kyiv.