

PC.DEL/1037/10
4 November 2010

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 November 2010

**In response to the report by the Special Representative of the
Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues**

Mr. Chairperson,

Permit me to welcome Ms. Wendy Patten, the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues. I should also like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate you personally on your appointment and to wish you every success in your work.

Following the report by the Secretary General at the meeting of the Permanent Council on 16 September on the subject of the equality of the sexes, we set out in detail the approaches taken by the Russian Government. Today, I should like to single out only a few of the key points.

We share the objectives pursued by the OSCE in its work on issues of equal rights for men and women and its understanding of gender equality as a necessary condition for implementing the principles of democracy and for promoting and protecting human rights. The Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia in 2004 continues to provide good guidance as we tackle our common tasks in this area.

We take note of the progress that has been achieved in implementing that Action Plan, an indication of the effectiveness of the efforts being made. We think it important to continue work to raise awareness regarding gender equality issues as a necessary condition for the achievement of sustained social progress and the comprehensive realization of human potential. We also think it essential to consistently take into account the issues involved in this area in OSCE programmes and projects and to introduce improved personnel management practices in order to expand equal opportunities for both sexes.

At the same time, we believe that the measures taken must not become an artificial “chase after results”. For example, when hiring staff the key criterion must continue to be the qualifications and professionalism of the candidates and not their gender.

Thank you for your attention.