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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
AT THE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 25-26 June 2003

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Conference Participants,
Ladies and Gentle men,

First of all, I should like to thank the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe for holding this important event.

The issues being discussed at today's Conference are very timely and relevant for the entire OSCE space because, in our view, the further strengthening of international security and stability in general depends on our joint co-ordinated efforts within the OSCE to counter new threats and challenges to security, such as international terrorism, religious extremism, regional conflicts, trafficking in narcotic drugs and organized crime.

The relevance of this forum consists primarily in the fact that it affords us an opportunity to take a retrospective look at the path we have taken, to detect and analyse shortcomings in our joint activities in the principal areas of the security dimension and also to determine future reference points with regard to security and co-operation in the OSCE area in keeping with the nature of the contemporary threats.

Important steps have been taken in recent years to strengthen the OSCE's potential in all the dimensions of its work and to step up its role in the creation of the European security architecture. Major documents like the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Bishkek Programme of Action are important instruments for joint efforts by our States to eradicate terrorist threats, and they demonstrate that the OSCE is able to meet the contemporary challenges.

Tajikistan advocates the speedy adoption of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century. We are convinced that the priority areas set out in this document clearly define the nature of such threats in the new century and that this document will help us to adapt the Organization to contemporary realities. We believe that the Strategy is particularly important for the Central Asian region because it will, in the future, ensure a better response on the part of the OSCE to the needs of our States in

developing their potential for countering threats to security and stability in the region and establishing effective forms of co-operation between States and OSCE missions in the field.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, the problem of international terrorism and the efforts to counter this evil are among our most urgent priorities, and this has clearly become a long-term factor in the formation of a new world order. At the present time, active practical measures are being taken in Tajikistan, within the framework of the aforementioned anti-terrorism documents of the OSCE, to combat all the manifestations of terrorism. Co-operation between countries to combat terrorism at the national, regional and international level has been expanded considerably. The adoption of documents such as that on measures to step up the fight against terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Act and Tajikistan's accession to nine international conventions on combating terrorism and the Treaty on Co-operation among Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating International Terrorism - all these establish the legal basis for countering terrorism in Tajikistan.

In the context of the fight against international terrorism, the priority task is, in our view, to deprive terrorism of its social basis. This requires joint efforts to implement comprehensive measures to reduce poverty and unemployment, eliminate illiteracy and racial, ethnic, religious or any other kind of discrimination, and deal with the problem of population growth and the limited nature of natural resources, etc. If these economic, social and environmental problems become interwoven with extreme national, religious, ideological or ethnic fanaticism, this could undoubtedly destabilize entire regions and be detrimental to global security.

Given the current circumstances, the reliance on force alone to combat terrorism and extremism may contribute to a violation of human-rights standards, a further radicalization of public demands and a legalization of extremist values and ideologies within society, all of which may, in the final analysis, lead to a new outburst of extremism and terrorism.

We believe that these situations greatly increase the importance of the role played by OSCE, whose basic approach to this problem consists of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, a strengthening of democratic institutions, the separation of powers and strengthening of the authorities, guarantees of freedom of the media, consolidation of the multi-party system and so on. Democratic procedures are undoubtedly the most effective weapon against extremism.

Today, international terrorism must not be viewed in isolation from other phenomena such as financial support for terrorism and drug trafficking. Everyone is aware of the dangerous threat posed to all the countries of the OSCE area by illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs.

Despite the considerable success achieved by Tajikistan - it occupies fourth place in the world for the number of arrests made and confiscations carried out in connection with narcotic drugs - the threat of the increased flow of narcotic drugs through our territory remains a very urgent problem.

Alongside other measures to fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, Tajikistan attaches particular importance to the mobilization of international financial

assistance for the Transitional Government of Afghanistan with a view to transforming that country's economy from a drug-based economy into a normally functioning one. Measures to achieve this should include elaboration and implementation of long-term programmes for alternative development, *inter alia* to deprive drug traffickers of their support among the Afghan population - the main opium producers.

The increasing flow of narcotic drugs through the countries of Central Asia is evidence of the great demand for them in developed countries. For that reason, we believe it necessary to pay particular attention to eliminating the demand for narcotic drugs in these countries.

The Central Asian countries are located on the route taken by large flows of narcotic drugs, something which undoubtedly affects the long-term nature of extremism and terrorism and encourages illegal migration in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As regards other contemporary threats and challenges, Tajikistan is really interested in ensuring border security and preventing attempts by members of criminal groups and terrorist organizations to cross its borders illegally. With a view to stepping up border security and improving training for qualified staff in this area, Tajikistan launched an initiative in 2002 aimed at establishing a network of OSCE training centres in Central Asia to provide training for representatives of law-enforcement agencies.

In this connection, I should like to emphasize in particular the importance of opening an OSCE training centre for border services in Dushanbe as soon as possible. We believe that this initiative will enable us to raise the level of training for personnel combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, arms and weapons of mass destruction and illegal migration, and will also help to strengthen the southern part of the Euro-Atlantic space.

Tajikistan also greatly appreciates the efforts and contribution of the OSCE, in particular its Centre in Tajikistan, to demining exercises and the destruction of anti-personnel landmines in our country. Tajikistan has already ratified the Ottawa Convention and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including two of its protocols, all of which serve as a legal basis for the further development of our country's international co-operation in this area.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, efforts to ensure Central Asian security are becoming ever more relevant in the process of establishing relations between the countries of the region. One of the main sources of conflict creating a real threat to the regional security of the Central Asian countries is the problem of water supply and the joint use of transborder water resources. Today, the state of inter-State relations between the Central Asian countries depends, to a considerable extent, on the degree to which the problems of securing these countries' water and energy resources can be resolved.

At the recent Summit of the Heads of Central Asian States on the Aral Sea held in Dushanbe, a decision was taken to draft a quadrilateral agreement on the creation of a water-power consortium that would accelerate interaction between the countries of the region and regulate water-power resources. We believe that this is a very timely and important step towards settling this contentious regional issue.

We in Tajikistan are deeply convinced that we should, together with donors, focus particular attention on solving urgent socio-economic problems, such as the rehabilitation of the irrigation infrastructure, elimination of the causes and consequences of natural disasters, monitoring of water resources, implementation of social rehabilitation programmes and improvement of the public health system.

In conclusion, I hope that the first Annual Security Review Conference will make an important contribution to defining the tasks and future reference points for our Organization in order that we may fully exploit and strengthen the OSCE's potential in combating the new threats to security in the twenty-first century.

Thank you for your attention.