

PC.DEL/809/10
23 July 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**

22 July 2010

**On the participation of Russia in the restoration of orthodox places of
worship on the territory of the region of Kosovo (Republic of Serbia)**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform the esteemed Permanent Council of the decision of the Russian Government to make a specific voluntary contribution in 2010–2011 to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) amounting to two million United States dollars to finance work for the restoration of orthodox places of worship on the territory of the region of Kosovo (Republic of Serbia).

This decision was taken in keeping with the spirit of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 on Kosovo and within the framework of the international action declared by UNESCO with the aim of providing humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Serbia for the restoration and preservation of cultural monuments that suffered damage during the hostilities.

In agreement with the Serbian authorities and UNESCO work will be carried out on four monuments of orthodox architecture included in the UNESCO World Heritage List (the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery, the Dečani Monastery, the Gračanica Monastery and the Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljevisa).

This decision will also serve as a contribution by Russia to the implementation of the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage as part of the plan to assist in the preservation of unique monuments of the orthodox culture, having a historical significance for the international community.

Thank you for your attention.