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

15 November 2010

**In response to the statement by Mr. Kanat Saudabayev,  
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and Secretary of State and Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome to this special meeting of the Permanent Council Mr. Kanat Bekmurzayevich Saudabayev, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. We are grateful to him for his detailed account of the work of the Chairmanship in the run-up to the forthcoming meeting in Astana of Heads of State and leading international organizations, a meeting that, it is our hope, will mark an important milestone in the history of the OSCE and a worthy conclusion to the Kazakh Chairmanship.

There is every reason to state that Kazakhstan is discharging in a responsible and skilful manner the functions of the Chairmanship, pursuing a balanced and impartial course of action that takes into account the views and interests of all participating States and that ensures a balance between the three dimensions of the OSCE. We must also acknowledge that the Kazakh team has made considerable efforts to strengthen the spirit of consensus and co-operation between countries and, in general, to revive the activities of the OSCE and enhance its authority. It is precisely these circumstances that prompted support for Astana's initiative calling for the convening by the Organization of a Summit meeting during this current commemorative year, which is marked by the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

We note with satisfaction the intensive practical work that has been undertaken by our Kazakh colleagues both in Astana and here in Vienna to prepare for this Summit meeting. This is yet further evidence of the carefully thought out approach adopted by the Chairperson-in-Office to the work of organizing the Summit, to whose successful holding the Russian Government is prepared to contribute in every possible way.

Esteemed Kanat Bekmurzayevich,

We have listened with particular interest to your ideas as to what should be included in the Summit's final declaration and Action Plan. Your view of what should form the substance of these documents largely reflects the objective need to solve the most urgent problems facing the OSCE countries, and obviously deserves support.

In fact, if the Summit is to live up to the expectations of the international community, it will be necessary for it to adopt forward-looking strategic decisions that will provide the basis for the Organization's agenda for many years to come. It is gratifying that we have succeeded in reaching an understanding on the Summit's primary objective, namely that of imparting an impulse to the creation of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian community of common and indivisible security, free of dividing lines and zones having different levels of security.

Also quite logical is the set of priority tasks you have enumerated, the implementation of which should lead to the creation of that kind of community and which must form the basis of the final document.

It is absolutely true that the first priority should be given to imparting a clear impulse to confidence-building measures and to common efforts to revive and strengthen the arms control regime, in particular through the updating of the Vienna Document 1999. An important additional step in this direction would be the approval by the Heads of State of the OSCE programme of further action in the area of arms control and confidence-building measures as well as the creation of the necessary conditions for overcoming the crisis surrounding the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The second priority is also important, namely the movement to a new level of multilateral co-operation in countering transnational threats and challenges, such as international terrorism and extremism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and also the challenges emanating from the territory of Afghanistan.

As regards the third component of the final document, which is concerned with strengthening our Organization's capability in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention and resolution, we urge our partners not to take the path, known in advance to be an unproductive one, of clinging to positions that reflect individual subjective opinions, but rather to endeavour to find a common vision of how to contribute, on the basis of clearly defined principles and within agreed formats, to the earliest possible and effective resolution of the conflicts that exist throughout the entire OSCE area.

We agree that it is necessary that the final document should make reference to the problems connected with inter-ethnic and interfaith tolerance. Here, we might well draw on Kazakhstan's unique experience in providing conditions for the coexistence of a large variety of ethnic groups and religious faiths in peace and tolerance.

We also endorse the affirmation in the Summit declaration of the inviolability of the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Among the latter, particular attention should be given to freedom of movement and the related problems of the liberalization of visa regimes, the protection of the rights of national minorities and the countering of neo-Nazi tendencies.

An important component of the final document should be the area of economic and environmental issues, including such questions as economic freedoms, social justice, the promotion of technological and innovational co-operation, collaboration in the area of transport and migration.

We fully share the Chairmanship's intention to include in the final document a more explicit definition of the role of the OSCE within the system of international and regional security structures, involving a higher level of co-ordination and co-operation between them. In line with this idea, it is important that the Summit declaration should contain a reference in support of the practice of holding regular meetings bringing together the directors of the most important organizations active in the area of security.

We also like the proposal to include without fail in the final document a reference to the need to strengthen the operational and institutional potential of the OSCE and to create the proper legal basis to back up its work. As you rightly observed in your statement, this is necessary if we are to complete the process of transforming the OSCE into a fully fledged international organization operating on the basis of a charter and normative documents that set out the rules governing the activities of all its bodies and executive structures.

In assessing in general terms these component elements of the final document, we can say that the Chairmanship has succeeded in properly identifying and reflecting the goals and tasks that are most topical and that bring together all the participating States. In our view, the revised version of this document that has been presented by the Kazakh Chairmanship following the initial discussions is consistent in terms of both the structure and logic of its exposition with this kind of objective and balanced approach and provides a good basis for a final agreement.

Obviously, not everyone will be happy with everything in it. But a consensus of that kind is impossible in an organization that brings together 56 participating States with different and occasionally even diametrically opposed approaches. What is important now is to find a reasonable compromise and not to permit a drift in the direction of the interests of particular groups of States. This is why, we regard as counter-productive efforts to substantially alter the contents of the draft of the final declaration by massively introducing into it proposals that, it is known in advance, will not find a consensus but will merely complicate our work.

From the very outset of the discussions regarding the points to be included in the final documents drawn up by the Chairmanship, the Russian Government has proposed that we concentrate our efforts on finalizing the drafting of these documents in a constructive way and one that will not change the logical cohesiveness in the contents of the Summit declaration. We continue to take this position and we call on our colleagues to help in reaching a final agreement on the text of the declaration at the earliest possible date and not to drag out this process until the very last minute. We call on all our partners to respond positively to the Chairmanship's urging that we "get to the home stretch by the end of this week". By so doing we shall create a favourable atmosphere for a productive Summit and for normal work by the leaders of our countries.

In conclusion, we sincerely wish you, esteemed Kanat Bekmurzayevich, and all our Kazakh partners a successful meeting at the highest level.

Thank you for your attention.