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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Andrey I. Denisov,

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations at the plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Agenda item 56 "Cooperation Between the United Nations and regional and other organizations"

21 October 2004

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of a group of States – Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) - Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine, – that signed an Appeal address to the OSCE partners on 15 September 2004 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.

We attach particular importance to further intensification and improvement of the cooperation between the United Nations and international and regional organizations, including the CIS. Such interaction should be built in a strict conformity with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, based on the universal nature of the United Nations and take duly into account comparable advantages of regional and other organizations. Its scope is very broad ranging from prevention and settlement of conflicts up to assistance to social and economic development, combating HIV/AIDS, eradication of poverty and

diseases, countering organized crime and illicit drug trafficking.

The above mentioned cooperation is becoming particularly important in light of the task of combating international terrorism, which has recently become ever more acute and requires increased collective efforts of all members of the international community.

We believe that the current practice of regular meetings between the UN Secretariat high-level officials and leading regional organizations is extremely useful and should be continued.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of which our countries are active members plays an important role in the context of the subject now under discussion.

We note with satisfaction that as a regional mechanism provided for by Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE has established a close and fruitful interaction with the United Nations in a whole range of key areas, first and foremost related to security and settlement of regional conflicts.

Guided by a desire for constructive cooperation within the OSCE, and for strengthening its role in the present-day European security architecture, and in furthering of the Moscow Statement by Presidents of the States – members of the CIS of 3 July 2004 regarding the state of affairs in the OSCE, the meeting of the States – members of the CIS held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 15 September 2004 adopted an Appeal address to the OSCE partners. The main idea of this document is that today's circumstances require additional steps to enhance effectiveness of this pan-European organization.

First of all we propose to reinforce the OSCE activities in combating international terrorism and eradicating its root causes. An improvement of the OSCE mechanisms, particularly through budget and staff strengthening of its antiterrorism unit, is a necessary step along these lines.

We stand for the implementation in full and throughout the Organization region of the provisions of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Stability and Security in the 21st Century adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council at Maastricht in 2003.

We believe it is important to continue the OSCE constructive participation in resolution of regional conflicts throughout its region within the framework of existing negotiating formats and mechanisms. The States – members of the CIS, that signed an Appeal address to the OSCE partners on 15 September 2004 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, are ready to make a practical contribution to implementing the decisions adopted by the OSCE in this important part of its activities.

It is necessary to make full use of, and improve the OSCE's unique capacity in the military-political field. It is important for these purposes to speed up the entry into force of the 1999 Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on the Conventional Forces in Europe, which is the cornerstone of the European security system.

It is necessary to carry on work on the adaptation of the Vienna Document of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures of 1999. A topic for serious discussions could be the issue concerning military doctrines of participating states. We stand for enhancing the role of the Forum for Security Cooperation and for preserving its autonomous status and the right to take independent decisions.

It is important to promote a full-fledged OSCE economic and environmental dimension. The mechanisms established and the documents adopted in this sphere do not ensure in full the proper implementation of the existing agreements. There is a need to promote more balanced OSCE activities in the humanitarian sphere.

We believe it is necessary to move away from the practice of limiting the OSCE field activities to the monitoring of political situation and to lay a priority emphasis on specific project activities in the course of its reform. They should be carried

out transparently through the mechanisms of the Secretariat and the specialized institutions of the OSCE, taking into account the needs and requirements of the receiving states.

For the OSCE to be fully able to implement the task initially set for it - to be a forum for a broad and equal dialogue on most significant issues - it is necessary to overcome artificially created functional and territorial imbalances in the work of this organization.

The Platform for Cooperative Security adopted by the OSCE summit in Istanbul in 1999 is a good basis for further promotion of its partner cooperation with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. It is important to use to the full the potential of this cooperation in the interests of the entire international community.

Thank you for your attention.