

**PROPOSALS**  
**FOR THE ELIMINATION OF AFGHAN DRUG PRODUCTION**

*Speech by Chairman of the State Antidrug Committee, Director of the Russian  
FDCS Victor Ivanov, to be delivered on June 10, 2010 at the International Forum  
“Afghan Drug Production as a Challenge to the Global Community”*

**Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, guests and participants of the  
International Forum, mass media representatives, colleagues!**

I am happy to welcome you in Moscow at the Forum “Afghan Drug Production as a Challenge to the Global Community”.

On behalf of the organizers I would like to thank you all for participating in our work.

It is for the first time in the world that such an international anti-drug forum is held. We have taken to decision to organize it because the population of this country as well as of most Eurasian states has for a number of years felt a growing pressure from Afghan drug trafficking. The analytical materials and exhibits presented in the foyer demonstrate the scale of the damage impaired in Russia by Afghan heroin.

The problem, which has become the topic of this Forum, damages lives and health of millions of people in our countries. Within these two days we will be analyzing the scale of the threats connected with Afghan drug production and discuss specific steps aimed at solving this problem.

We understand that the current situation cannot be changed by mere force. Improvements can be achieved only in case of consolidating all the international efforts within the framework of a common strategy for Afghan peaceful development.

Today in this hall we can see political and intellectual elite capable of proposing a principally new policy in the sphere of fighting Afghan drug production.

The Forum is attended by representatives of over 40 states, by delegates of different international organizations: the United Nations Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Collective Security Treaty, the North-Atlantic Treaty Organization. We can see among us members of the major confessions, of social organizations, prominent scientists.

Nowadays we are witnessing the alarmed interest and growing concern with which citizens and journalists are viewing Afghanistan and the problem of Afghan drugs. That is why within the framework of the Forum we have conducted a number of press-tours attended by foreign journalists who visited Siberia, the Urals, the Central and Southern regions of European Russia and of course Moscow and the Moscow region. We have given the media representatives a chance to see the daily work of Russian law-enforcement employees: special raids for drug seizure, drug haunts liquidation, criminals detention.

The Forum is organized with the participation of the Russian Information Agency “RIA Novosti”, which is one of the biggest in Russia and is widely known in the world. I would like to thank our colleagues from “RIA Novosti” for cooperation and mark their highest professionalism in organizing the Forum and its information support.

Please, let me introduce the participants of the first round – my colleague, Deputy UN Secretary General, Executive Director of UNODC Mr. Antonio Costa, Deputy Director of the US Presidential Administration’s Division for the Federal Policy in Drug Control Mr. Patrick Word, Chairman of the UN International Committee for Drug Control Mr. Khamid Godse, Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Russia Mr. Sergey Lavrov and Deputy Minister of the Economic Development of Russia Mr. Igor Manylov.

I wish all of us to have productive work and interesting communication.

And now let me present my report to your attention.

### SLIDE 1

According to the UNO, 100 thousand people annually die of Afghan heroin. **About one million people died of Afghan drugs** for the first decade of the new century, while 16 million have suffered morally or physically.

The largest heroin consumption in the world are EU countries, Russia and Iran, which consume over 80 per cent in total.

Over 40 thousand people annually die of opiates just in EU countries and Russia.

### SLIDE 2

The reason for the above is the unprecedented growth of opium production in Afghanistan, which is 40 times higher than the opium output used to be until the world community adopted some notorious resolutions in 2001, and which has fully reflected militaristic development for the past years.

Afghanistan accounts for over 90 per cent of the global opiate production. It is twice more than the whole world produced 10 years ago.

Meanwhile a greater part of this production is localized just in two provinces of the country – Helmand and Kandahar.

Furthermore, according to the past year's results Afghanistan has come out on top in terms of hashish production, having gathered approximately 3 thousand tons of concentrated hashish.

### SLIDE 3

If World War II was the greatest event in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the war that began in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001 could claim this status already in

the new 21<sup>st</sup> century. Over half a million people are directly participating in military operations, and peoples of more than 100 countries are involved via victims of Afghan heroin, Russia and the EU inclusive.

Overview of the situation regarding the global opium production in Afghanistan is shown in chronological order on Slide #4 “Evolution of Political Environment in Afghanistan and Growth of Drug Production”.

#### SLIDE 4

It should be emphasized that the external impact approved by the world community has been becoming stronger and stronger, affecting all internal processes in Afghanistan for almost 9 years.

For a long period of time the Afghan society has not felt any positive changes in either political or economical or social spheres of life.

The critical social situation is depicted by a huge army of refugees that exceeds four million people: it is perceived as a humanitarian disaster and is, by the way, a resource for recruiting drug traffickers.

The above facts had the following consequences:

Firstly. The growing dissatisfaction of the local population has turned into organization of a broad political opposition embracing a number of parties and movements and armed resistance of rebels, where Taliban is no longer playing the key role.

Secondly. The consolidating opposition has, by its violent armed confrontation, produced a tremendously increasing number of military clashes in Afghanistan, opening the way to organized crime due to lack of genuine restoration of order.

Thirdly. High intensity of military clashes has tightly and completely blocked and eliminated economical conditions for peasantry to peacefully grow traditional agricultural crops and has provided enormous competitive advantages for growing of the competitive crop of opium poppy.

Fourthly. Damage to the Afghan people's gene pool due to total narcotization of the younger generation in Afghanistan.

#### SLIDE 5

A group of experts in toxicology headed by prominent Professor of the University of Florida Dr. Bruce Goldberger made a statement that the current generation of Afghan children is doomed, since they are typical opium and heroin addicts. The scientists have registered unprecedentedly high levels of drugs in children's blood.

Hazardous concentrations of drugs are contained not only in the smoke of adult smokers, whose number already exceeded one million a long time ago, but also in clothing, hair, beddings, carpets, furniture, children's toys as well as in the breast milk of nursing mothers.

It is registered that if those children do not get a drug, they begin to suffer from the withdrawal syndrome.

Thus, a 10-year-old girl's hair sample contained 5607 pg/mg of a heroin metabolite, 8350 pg/mg of morphine and 4654 pg/mg of codeine, which corresponds the indicators of a medically diagnosed drug addict.

No comment is needed here.

It is an illustration to the fact that Afghanistan is the very first victim and hostage of transnational organized crime.

#### SLIDE 6

Review of factors impelling peasants to produce opium proves that objective conditions are created in that agrarian country to economically enforce opium production via high risks for cultivation of useful agricultural crops. It is demonstrated on Slide #7 using wheat cultivation as an example.

The slide shows the following: to say nothing of the fact that opium market prices are three times higher than those of wheat, risks related to wheat production are incomparably greater.

This is the essence of the problem and evident failure of the world community's efforts focused on the so-called alternative farming.

Thus, annual donations of the EU and U.S. to alternative agriculture in Afghanistan in the amount of approximately 500 million US dollars actually do not help reducing drug crops, while in Columbia annual costs in the amount of approximately 50 million US dollars, allocated for the same purposes and combined with efficient eradication of coca bushes, provide a stupendous effect.

Therefore, alternative farming costs, not backed up by efficient drug crops eradication measures, are a deadlock a priori.

#### SLIDE 7

It is illustrative that the technique of aerial spraying of special defoliants used by the U.S. in Columbia, produced a stunning effect: 229130 hectares of drug crops were eliminated in 2008, or 75 per cent of all coca crops in that country. It is puzzling that a little more than 3 per cent of opium plantations were destroyed in Afghanistan within the same span of time, where a mechanical technique was mainly applied.

Therefore, efficiency of elimination of drug plantations in Columbia is 40 times higher than in Afghanistan. It is perfect experience to apply.

#### SLIDE 8

When analyzing global challenges and their relationship with manifestations of terrorism, organized crime and transnational narcotic

trafficking, one should look deeper into the cause-effect relations of these seemingly different phenomena.

Definitely, terrorism is several times more conspicuous, since it is based on the effect of intensification, amplification through mass media. However in terms of damage and not publicity, *transnational* drug trafficking generated by expansive drug production is several times more devastating.

Traffics from Afghanistan shown on Slide 10 are the predominant factor of instability, extremism, organized crime and terrorism generation at a considerable distance from the production epicenter, such as in the Caucasus, Kosovo, Fergana Valley and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Thus, incessant activity of terrorists and the organized crime in the North Caucasus is funded by the Afghan drug trafficking.

It is Afghan drug trafficking that has opened the way to tension, armed clashes and unrest in Fergana Valley.

According to the **special** service of China separatism and extremism in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is completely addicted to the Afghan heroin stimulation.

And Kosovo, located in the heart of Europe, has turned into a general distributor of Afghan opiates to the EU markets.

### SLIDE 9

In fact, we are witnessing development of a new global agenda – drug risk as a challenge to all mankind and the strongest factor of global instability.

Here the priority goes to elimination of drug production in Afghanistan.

Russia cannot agree with those who believe that drug control in Afghanistan impedes counterterrorism.

On the contrary, lack of efficient struggle against phenomenal drug production localized in Afghanistan, exports extremism to Eurasian countries via resulting global drug trafficking.

It is absolutely evident that Afghan drug production, which reflects a failure in the global security architecture, as well as transnational drug economy around Afghanistan, inevitably generates and reproduces instability.

And it is not by chance that Afghanistan is in the focus of all global politics today.

Review of the world community's activities convincingly demonstrates highly insufficient attention to and lack of well-founded estimates of the phenomenon of global drug production in the focus of efforts of the world community itself.

Bright evidence of the above is the final documents of the Afghanistan Conference held on January 28 in London, where drugs are timidly mentioned only in Item 27 of 34 items of the Statement.

#### SLIDE 10

It should be mentioned that today's mechanisms of the drug problem solution are operated via the UN General Assembly and the Commission of Narcotic Drugs (Slide #10).

Up till now this approach has been specified by comprehension of the problem just through non-medical drug use and the criminal aspect of the phenomenon.

The foregoing proves that aftereffects of large-scale transnational drug traffics also mean global stability disturbance and a menace to the world peace and security. It in turn requires involvement of the securitization mechanism via the UN Security Council.

Figuratively speaking, a second vertical needs to be arranged, proceeding from the Slide.

Taking into account scopes of the phenomenon and evident negative consequences, it is time to qualify the status of Afghan drug production as a menace to the world peace and security. It is the key provision of the Action Plan proposed by Russia to the world community and presented in the NATO Headquarters, the European Parliament and Beijing.

**Item 2** of the plan consists in elaboration and implementation of the program of revival and development of Afghan economy via infrastructural development of primarily energy and electrification, as well as creation of a sufficient number of jobs, at least 2 million, for Afghan people.

**3.** Eliminating the cultivation of opium poppy through the eradication of crops by well-tested methods and raising the efficiency from 3 to minimum 25%.

**4.** Introducing into the “UN Sanctions List” those landlords who provide their land for growing poppy. For this purpose organizing a special cadastre registration of the territory of Afghanistan’s Southern provinces.

**5.** Introducing into the ISAF mandate the competence and obligation to eradicate opium poppy crops in Afghanistan.

**6.** Providing the necessary level of trust in order to develop operative collaboration, intelligence data exchange, including the information on drug laboratory locations and precursor supplies, as well as transferal of the objects of surveillance, etc.

**7.** Joint well-coordinated efforts aimed at training Afghan Drug Police.

To implement this plan an operator is definitely needed. Possibly as a commission or agency authorized and vested with power by the United Nations Organization.

Our proposals have evoked a wide response in Afghanistan.

For instance, the Pashtun (predominating) population in Afghanistan, including the world heroin granary Helmand, has enthusiastically supported Russia's initiatives concerning landlords, eradication of opium poppy crops and particularly preparation of a land cadastre and a list of owners of poppy plantations.

The Pashtun press organ "Hetmadgar" published a big article expressing solidarity of Afghan Pashtuns with Russia.

Evidently it is time for the world community to get consolidated around our plan.

Thank you.