



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General  
*Section for External Co-operation*



## **2008 Mediterranean Conference**



**The OSCE approach to  
regional security —  
a model for the Mediterranean**

***Amman, Jordan  
27 and 28 October 2008***

**Consolidated Summary**

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## **1 General information**

### **1.1 Venue**

The Conference was held on 27 and 28 October 2008, at the Hotel Le Royal, Amman, Jordan.

### **1.2 Participation<sup>\*)</sup>**

1.2.1 Thirty-seven OSCE participating States, including France/EU, the European Commission and - at the invitation of the host country - the Palestinian National Authority took part in the Conference.

1.2.2 All the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) and three of the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Korea, Japan and Thailand) were represented.

1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly were represented. The Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions; the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims; and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, also participated in the Conference.

1.2.4 The following international organizations were also represented: Council of Europe, International Committee of the Red Cross, League of Arab States, Regional Cooperation Council, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNESCO, and the Alliance of Civilizations Secretariat.

1.2.5 Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

### **1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities**

1.3.1 The Conference began at 9.15 a.m. (opening ceremony) on 27 October 2008 and ended at 1 p.m. on 28 October 2008.

1.3.2 The Conference was conducted in three sessions.

1.3.3 The opening session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and Head of the Greek Delegation to the OSCE, and the closing session by H.E. Ambassador Harri Mäki-Reinikka, Ambassador of Finland to Syria.

1.3.4 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.

1.3.5 In accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 858, on the agenda and organizational modalities of the 2008 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, a side event on “Co-operation with Mediterranean civil society and NGOs in

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<sup>\*)</sup> See part 5, list of participants.

promoting tolerance and non-discrimination” for Mediterranean NGOs was held on the eve of the Conference.

- 1.3.6 A report on the side event was presented before the start of the first session.
- 1.3.7 The working language was English. At the request of several participating States, interpretation was provided from and into French.
- 1.3.8 Arrangements were made for press coverage.
- 1.3.9 Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.
- 1.3.10 The seating arrangement is shown in part 7.

## **1.4 Agenda**

**Monday, 27 October 2008**

8.30–9.15 a.m. Registration of participants

**9.15–10 a.m. Opening ceremony**

Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

- Keynote address by H.E. Dr. Salaheddin Al-Bashir, Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, on behalf of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
- Opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Nikolaos Kalantzianos, Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force
- Opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE

10–10.30 a.m. Coffee break

**10.30 a.m.–12.45 p.m. Session 1: Politico-military aspects of security**

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Eric Lebédel, Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE  
Rapporteur: Mr. Dmitry Balakin, Russian Federation

This session will focus on:

- Furthering co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners in countering terrorism, including the 2008 Follow-Up OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism (Vienna, 15 and 16 September 2008);
- The OSCE experience on CSBMs — relevance and opportunities for the Mediterranean region.

Speakers

H.E. Ambassador Dr. György Molnár, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the OSCE

H.E. Mr. Yasar Qatarneh, Director, Regional Centre on Conflict Prevention, Jordan Institute of Diplomacy

Mr. Pascal Heyman, Deputy Director, Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE Secretariat

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

12.45–3 p.m.

Lunch hosted by H.E. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General

**3–6 p.m.**

**Session 2: Linkages between the environment and security in the Mediterranean region**

Moderator: H.E. Dr. Alia Bouran, Jordanian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, former Minister of Environmental Affairs

Rapporteur: Ms. Dimitra Georgantzoglou, Greece

This session will focus on:

- Promoting co-operation and dialogue in the Mediterranean region on managing water scarcity and combating land degradation, desertification and soil contamination in the Mediterranean region;
- Assessing the environmental impact of economic activities in the Mediterranean region, including the loss of livelihoods and enhancing border management co-operation.

**Speakers**

- H.E. Ambassador Somaya Saad, Deputy Foreign Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt
- H.E. Ambassador Marios Lyssiotis, Head of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the OSCE
- Mr. Yosef Dreizin, Special Adviser, Water Resources and Desalination, Israel Water and Sewage Authority
- H.E. Ambassador Lars-Erik Lundin, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the International Organisations in Vienna

Discussion

4.15–4.45 p.m.

Coffee break

Discussion (continued)

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

6 p.m. End of the first day

8 p.m. Dinner hosted by H.E. Dr. Salaheddin Al-Bashir, Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Tuesday, 28 October 2008**

**9.30–11.30 a.m. Session 3: The OSCE's human rights and tolerance commitments and their relevance to the Mediterranean region**

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Ian Cliff, Head of the United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Ms. Entela Gjika, Albania

This session will focus on:

- Applying OSCE commitments on combating intolerance and discrimination to promote mutual respect and understanding;
- Intercultural dialogue, including as a conflict-prevention tool in the Mediterranean region;
- National human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights, with a special focus on migrants;
- The role of civil society in supporting reforms, economic, social, and cultural development and the democratic process; exchange of views on the experience of the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Speakers

- A report from the side event on “Co-operation with Mediterranean civil society and NGOs in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination”, presented by Ms. Cherifa Kheddar, *Djazairouna*, Algeria
- Mr. Marc Scheuer, Director, Alliance of Civilizations Secretariat
- Ms. Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Council of Europe Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport; Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue

- H.E. Dr. Muhyieddeen Touq, Jordan Human Rights Commissioner

Discussants

- Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions
- Ambassador Ömür Orhun, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims
- Professor Gert Weisskirchen, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

11.30 a.m.–12 noon

Coffee break

**12 noon–1 p.m.**

**Concluding session**

Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador Harri Mäki-Reinikka,  
Ambassador of Finland to Syria

Reports by session rapporteurs

Concluding statement by H.E. Ambassador Makram M. Queisi,  
Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in  
Vienna

Concluding statement by H.E. Ambassador Mara Marinaki,  
Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean  
Partners for Co-operation

1 p.m.

End of Conference



## **2 Summary of the opening ceremony**

### ***Report by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat***

The session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The ceremony started with a keynote address by H.E. Dr. Salaheddin Al-Bashir, Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, on behalf of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office; H.E. Ambassador Nikolaos Kalantzianos, Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force; and H.E. Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE.

In his keynote address, Foreign Minister Al-Bashir reiterated that Jordan attached great importance to its partnership with the OSCE and fully agreed with the three pillars of the Organization and with the Helsinki Final Act, linking security in Europe with that of the Mediterranean. Jordan had worked tirelessly to promote cultural understanding and provided a model of religious tolerance and cultural understanding.

Issues such as further co-operation in countering terrorism, linkages between the environment and security in the Mediterranean region, promotion of dialogue and understanding, assessment of the environmental impacts of economic activities, and the role of civil society in supporting reforms genuinely affected people's daily lives in the Mediterranean.

He noted that the situation in the Middle East, remained fragile, given the many events taking place, irrational actions and inevitable reactions that were destroying the prospects for peace and endangering security and stability. An urgent remedy was needed, and the international community needed to play a more active and sincere role to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as a prelude to comprehensively settling the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. The re-negotiations that had originated in Annapolis were a very important step in that direction.

Only a just and permanent solution based on international law could lead to peace in the region, which should be based on full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories that had been occupied in 1967, establishment of an independent Palestinian State, and accomplishment of a fair and equitable solution to the refugee dilemma. All Israeli settlement activities must immediately cease.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Antti Turunen, the Chairperson of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, was pleased to note the level of participation in the Conference. He also welcomed the presence of the Palestinian National Authority at the Conference as a guest of the host country. Ambassador Turunen noted that Finland, the then incoming holder of the OSCE Chairmanship, had, at the Fifteenth Ministerial Council Meeting in Madrid, strongly supported the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on the Partners for Co-operation, and had also supported the adoption of Permanent Council Decision No. 812 on the Partnership Fund. He was pleased to note that the Partnership Fund had proven to be an excellent tool with which the OSCE could further promote its co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation.

Regarding the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference, Ambassador Turunen expressed the Chairmanship's gratitude for the organization of civil

society events on the eve of the Conference. He stressed that civil society and non-governmental organizations were fundamental partners in building truly democratic and transparent societies.

He pointed out that, during 2008, the Partners for Co-operation had been invited to all the OSCE's main events, and had regularly attended meetings of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation. He also commended the outcome of the second joint meeting of the Contact Groups.

Ambassador Turunen also reported that, in the spring, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States had been invited by the Finnish Chairmanship to address the Permanent Council. Delegations from the League of Arab States and the African Union had also visited Vienna to learn about the OSCE's conflict prevention toolkit.

He also mentioned Decision No. 1/08 of the Forum for Security Co-operation, which called for promoting voluntary participation by the Partners for Co-operation in activities related to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Affairs, and he expressed the hope that progress on that issue could be achieved in due course.

In conclusion, Ambassador Turunen noted that the OSCE's role was more important than ever, even though taking forward the achievements of the past into a new context would require sustained efforts by all the participating States. The Finnish OSCE Chairmanship was aiming for an ambitious Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki, one that reaffirmed the commitment of all the participating States to their vision of common security and their willingness to work together to overcome difficulties.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Kalantzianos, Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, noted that the Mediterranean Conference was taking place just two months before the start of the Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE. The Mediterranean Sea was the birthplace of Western civilization. It did not form a natural barrier that separated peoples, but on the contrary, it was the bridge that brought them together. Greece as a Mediterranean country fully shared the vision of the Helsinki forefathers, that security in Europe was closely interlinked with security in neighbouring regions such as the Mediterranean.

Leading the Mediterranean dialogue of the OSCE in 2008 had provided an excellent year of apprenticeship for Greece. It had fully embraced the spirit of the Partnership Fund and had made a substantial contribution already in March, when it had sponsored a seminar for young diplomats from the Mediterranean Partner Countries and from the Quintet. Greece was also working closely with the Action against Terrorism Unit on organizing a Mediterranean workshop on supply chain security, which would also be funded through the Greek contribution to the Partnership Fund. It was widely recognized that there was a great need for an integrated approach to supply chain security, as the supply chain was very complex, involving not only a great number of stakeholders, but also many different modes of transportation and nodes for the handling and processing of cargo.

During 2008, the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners had exchanged views and concerns in the framework of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and had focused on issues in a cross-dimensional way, taking into account the principles of the OSCE.

The Conference's agenda touched upon all three dimensions of security. CSBMs had been one of the OSCE's major achievements throughout its history. The OSCE's CSBM regime was unique and had contributed to the achievement of a remarkable climate of trust and transparency among the participating States. Greece would very much welcome steps by the Mediterranean Partners toward their voluntary implementation, with the stress placed on the voluntary, goodwill nature of the exercise.

As incoming holder of the OSCE Chairmanship, Greece had already started working on the Economic and Environmental Forum for 2009. That was why it welcomed the inclusion in the Conference's agenda of issues related to water shortages, land degradation and desertification, as well as the environmental impact of economic activity. Unless issues such as an equitable, sophisticated and responsible management of dwindling water resources were addressed, tensions were likely to emerge.

As far as the human dimension was concerned, phenomena like racism and xenophobia, as well as anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, were not only repugnant, they were also a major source of instability and tension in societies. Hopefully, the debate at the Conference would build upon the already rich experience accumulated by the OSCE in that domain.

He went on to note that the ODIHR's Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools was a remarkable publication, prepared with the help of many prominent representatives from all the major religious communities. Greece would be prepared to finance translation of the publication into Arabic, to have it circulated among the communities in the Mediterranean Partner countries that were working on the issues concerned and that believed in fair treatment of a subject as sensitive as religion in public schools. Educating children to true tolerance, but also to curiosity and appreciation for other religions and cultures was the best guarantee of a peaceful and stable future.

With regard to tolerance, he added that injustice created gaps, undermined the foundations of global prosperity and opened a Pandora's box of intolerance and discrimination. Serious consideration and respect ought to be given to people's identity, cultures, religions and ideologies.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary General noted that the Conference's agenda was one of continuity with the past and a perfect tribute to the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act and its persisting relevance to the Mediterranean region. That continuity was reflected in two major themes: (1) the continuing relevance of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security; and (2) the ever growing interdependence between the OSCE's security and that of the Mediterranean region.

On the first point, he noted the OSCE's main achievements in all three dimensions, including establishment of a framework of arms control and confidence-building measures that had allowed an orderly reduction of the stockpiles of weapons inherited from the cold war; OSCE documents that had considerably strengthened the OSCE's ability to address modern challenges such as transport and energy security and linkages between the environment and security; and the adoption of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, which had put forward an ambitious vision for building a society of democratic States with respect of human rights and the rule of law and with open economic systems.

Those achievements had indeed been assigned great prominence in contacts with organizations from outside the OSCE region, such as the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and, in Asia, the ASEAN Regional Forum, all of which had clearly stated that the OSCE's experience in creating a Conflict Prevention Centre and a CSBM regime had been a happy one.

Regarding the second point, he recalled that, already in 1975, the CSCE/OSCE forefathers had had the foresight to stress the interlinkages between European and Mediterranean security. Today, the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners faced an increasingly complex array of threats and risks from both outside and inside their borders. Those included terrorism, trafficking in human beings, extremism, cultural rifts, uncontrolled migrations and environmental degradation. Those risks were often driven by non-State actors, such as international terrorist and organized criminal networks.

In addition, States were once again facing an increasingly prominent ideological dimension in international relations. Culture, intolerance and discrimination, and lack of respect and understanding – such intangibles mattered intensely for relations between States and peoples, as well as for developments within States. Culture in a broad sense was now a security issue, as witnessed by the very active agenda the OSCE had set for itself, with its cycle of conferences on tolerance and the various decisions adopted at recent Ministerial Council meetings on tolerance and non-discrimination matters.

Those security challenges posed important dilemmas for the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation (and the representatives of their civil societies). How could such a complex array of challenges best be responded to? How might the OSCE experience and the toolbox be useful for the participating States themselves and for their close neighbours? How could the Partnership Fund be used to further increase States' ability to address the many challenges they faced? A regular dialogue on what initiatives it would be best to take with this new instrument ought to be established in the near future.

Challenges such as fighting trafficking and terrorism, and promoting police reform and capacity-building, healthy economic and environmental governance, freedom of the media, and tolerance and non-discrimination were all challenges that States and organizations alike could not address alone or in isolation. That was why participation by NGOs in the Conference was most welcome. The side event had addressed a fundamental limitation in the participating States' dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners, namely the lack of engagement by their civil societies in the OSCE process and on security issues.

In conclusion, he reiterated that the OSCE remained an indispensable forum and laboratory for new and innovative ideas.

### **3 Reports by session rapporteurs**

#### **3.1 Session 1: Politico-military aspects of security**

##### ***Report by Dmitry Balakin, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE***

The first session of the 2008 OSCE Mediterranean Conference was introduced by three prominent speakers: the Head of the Mission of Hungary to the OSCE, Chairperson of the OSCE Security Committee, Dr. György Molnár; the Director of the Regional Centre on Conflict Prevention of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, Mr. Yasar Qataneh; and the Deputy Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, Mr. Pascal Heyman. They focused on an increasingly complex array of common threats and risks which were being faced by the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners, coming from both outside and inside their borders. The working session was conceived as a stage for presenting the OSCE's experience in the field of countering terrorism and creating confidence- and security-building measures and mechanisms aimed at jointly finding the right responses to those challenges.

A Jordanian non-governmental viewpoint on prospects for interaction by the OSCE with its Mediterranean Partners in the politico-military field was presented, calling for an expansion of the existing partnership in the sphere of security as well as for assistance by the OSCE together with the international community with a view to helping the countries of the Middle East and North Africa region to tackle the existing problems. A need for public diplomacy was voiced, aimed at achieving a better mutual understanding in the areas of strengthening of tolerance and non-discrimination, and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. In that context, the necessity of using the existing Mediterranean intellectual network was stressed, and it was proposed that open-ended high-level political consultations should be held between the OSCE and the Mediterranean countries.

The ensuing discussion focused on priority areas of the OSCE's work in the politico-military sphere. The Organization's efforts in the security field received high praise. The debate centred on two main subjects:

- Furthering the co-operation of the OSCE with the Mediterranean Partners in fighting terrorism, including the 2008 Follow-Up OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism;
- The OSCE's experience in respect of CSBMs — their relevance and opportunities for the Mediterranean region.

The debate resulted in agreement on three sets of conclusions:

1. The first one referred to the phenomenon of terrorism itself. Overwhelming and unchallenged support was voiced for the thesis that there was no purely military solution to the transnational phenomenon of terrorism. Rather, fighting terrorism required international as well as transregional co-operation. The experience of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation in that sphere was mentioned. Equally, all the speakers agreed in rejecting any association of terrorism with religion and

nationality or regional origin, and in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was further stressed that addressing the phenomenon would pave the way for a resolution of the long-standing Middle East conflict. In that context, there were voices calling for the adaptation of the OSCE terminology to the existing realities. The outcomes of the OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships were welcomed as important elements to bring about closer interaction of States with civil society and public opinion that could in a broader context lead to the creation of some kind of confidence-building measures. In that regard, a closer involvement of civil society in countering terrorism was called for by some delegations. The need to strengthen the synergy between the OSCE and all other institutions, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, was considered worthy of pursuing further. Likewise, there was support for the possibility of establishing closer links with the African Union and furthering contacts between the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the League of Arab States (assisting in the creation in the League of its own toolkit for conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms). Such strengthened relations would be aimed at ensuring stability and countering terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime in the Mediterranean. According to the views expressed, that could be done by conducting joint seminars and workshops and providing OSCE technical assistance to the countries of the region. Special attention was devoted to the elimination of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons. The activities of the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit were praised.

2. The second set of conclusions related to the need to create a fourth generation of confidence- and security-building measures, with special emphasis on qualitative aspects of economic, social and cultural origin, in addition to the military measures. Key elements of CSBMs were political will and mutual trust. Support was expressed for establishing an academic network to nurture the existing CSBMs and for supplementing that work with a dialogue at the non-governmental level. The Turkish initiative to launch a politico-military project in the Middle East by organizing a conference on security and co-operation in the region was referred to. The discussion revealed a difference between CSBMs and CBMs that was stressed by several delegations, which stated that that difference should not be underestimated. The main idea was that each military CSBM should be accompanied with a CBM. A common understanding was reached on the need for joint work to ensure the continuity of CSBMs or CBMs. It was suggested that the establishment of regional CSBMs would enhance security in the Mediterranean and could contribute to the settlement of the long-standing problems of the region and facilitate a meaningful results-oriented peace process with a two-State solution. The need for cross-fertilization and exchanges of expertise between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners was voiced. Mention was made of the South Ossetia economic rehabilitation programme run by the OSCE, as well as of work by the Mediterranean Partners on water and environmental security.
3. The third set of conclusions referred to ways of improving the co-operation between the Mediterranean Partners and the OSCE in all spheres. Some ambitious proposals were put forward, including the possibility of increasing the number of Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation by including more countries. Other practical short-term proposals reflected the need to develop co-operation in the economic, social and cultural fields, as well as in respect of tolerance and non-

discrimination, and to use public diplomacy in joint efforts to achieve a better mutual understanding that could lead to CBMs.

### **3.2 Session 2: Linkages between the environment and security in the Mediterranean region**

#### ***Report by Dimitra Georgantzoglou, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE***

Session 2 was devoted to the linkages between the environment and security and, more specifically, to the promotion of co-operation and dialogue in the Mediterranean region on managing water scarcity, land degradation, desertification and soil contamination, while assessing the impact of economic activities in the Mediterranean region on the environment.

The moderator, Dr. Alia Bouran, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Kingdom and former Minister of Environmental Affairs, launched the discussion and emphasized that the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security clearly referred to the impact of the environment on security as well as to the importance of establishing co-operation and confidence-building measures in that field. She also stressed that Jordan attached particular importance to environmental protection and, therefore, it was a signatory to most of the relevant international agreements.

The first keynote speaker, Ambassador Somaya Saad, Deputy Foreign Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, analysed the international relations framework in the early 1990s, when, for the first time, during the UN Conference on Environment and Development, environment and sustainable development had been treated not as developmental issues, but as political ones. After the end of the cold war, the phenomenon of globalization had led to the creation of a bipolar world, not between two military camps with different ideologies, but between two groups of nations, where the less advanced suffered from military conflicts, population growth, food crises, desertification and drought, and social regression. Ambassador Saad focused on the Mediterranean region, where wars, tensions and conflicts, mainly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, constituted a serious threat to regional security and the environment, while jeopardizing prospects for development. She expressed the view that prospects were good for the Mediterranean, provided there was a political will to transform insecurity into security. Issues such as climate change could be addressed only through co-operation. She concluded by saying that more engagement by the OSCE in the Mediterranean region, was required.

The second keynote speaker, Ambassador Marios Lyssiotis, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the OSCE, described the environmental situation in the Mediterranean region, which was one of areas most affected by global warming, a factor which led to water scarcity, desertification, land degradation, rural poverty and loss of biodiversity, thus exacerbating tensions and conflicts. In order to tackle those issues, Ambassador Lyssiotis emphasized the need to promote international co-operation on developing renewable and efficient energy systems, increasing environmental awareness and sharing expertise and best practices among the Mediterranean countries. As an example of good practice, he mentioned the establishment of a thermosolar unit for the simultaneous production of desalinated water and electricity through the use of concentrated solar energy. Finally, he pointed out that the OSCE's added value consisted in raising awareness of environmental challenges and their impact on security, stimulating the political will to address those issues and promoting environmental co-operation as a tool for conflict-prevention and confidence-building.



The third keynote speaker, Mr. Yosef Dreizin, Special Adviser at the Israel Water and Sewage Authority, described the phenomenon of water shortage in Israel and the different policies - such as the establishment of sea water desalination plants - that had been implemented in Israel in order to address the issue, and spoke about the country's main national water supply system. More specifically, Israel had adopted a sustainable approach to water resources management and development, in terms of both quantity and quality. The Israeli Water Authority's objective was to ensure sustainable, available, reliable and cost-effective water in the required quantities, locations and qualities. He concluded by emphasizing that Israel's "New Water Development" comprised four major parameters: sea water desalination, the Red-Dead project, sewage reclamation and transport from Turkey.

The fourth keynote speaker, Ambassador Lars-Erik Lundin, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the International Organisations in Vienna, focused his presentation on the EU's initiatives aimed at enhancing co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners. He mentioned the launching of debates among member States on the basis of a contribution on climate change and international security by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Mr. Javier Solana, and the European Commission, or through the revision of the European Security Strategy and, also, through the European Neighbourhood Policy. Ambassador Lundin stressed that the key word was "ownership", or better, "co-ownership" for effectively addressing the common challenges facing the EuroMed region. That "joint ownership" had also to be implemented in the context of the OSCE, given that environment and security needed to be addressed within a broader context.

The ambassador of one Mediterranean Partner pointed out that environmental issues, namely, desertification, land degradation and water scarcity, constituted major challenges for the countries of the Mediterranean region. In her view, the most appropriate term to use in that case was not "threat", but "challenge", in order to avoid considering countries afflicted by such environmental problems as potential sources of threats to security and stability. As far as water scarcity was concerned, she stressed the need for inter-State co-operation, at the regional level, on water management, aimed at sharing the water resources of the area equitably. At the national level, the issue of water scarcity was being addressed through the establishment of the first sea water desalination plants utilizing fossil energy, but also nuclear or solar energy. In that context, the OSCE's role should not be confined to the simple identification of the challenges, but it should contribute, in co-operation with other international and regional organizations, such as the European Union, to raising awareness among the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners, sharing expertise and best practices, and transferring technology and financing relevant projects.

The ambassador of one participating State noted that the notions of security, environment and water resources were interlinked, and much effort had been expended in that respect. He welcomed the examples provided by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the OSCE, pertaining to the South Caucasus River Monitoring Project and the water management project for the Chu and Talas rivers in Central Asia. He expressed the view that, using those activities as examples, the OSCE could contribute to exchanges of expertise and best practices between the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners in the regions of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The ambassador of another Mediterranean Partner described the situation in his country pertaining to the problem of water scarcity, noting that, since the early 1970s, the country had

been affected by water shortages. Water was being wasted due to the non-adaptability of the irrigation systems. He expressed his support for the sharing of expertise and best practices as well as transfers of technology, while pointing out that that was not always feasible due to financial and political obstacles. Therefore, close co-operation among competent authorities at the national level, and also within the EU context, was required, with a view to elaborating a long-term strategy. Moreover, security in the Mediterranean region could be preserved through joint management of the shared water resources in the area.

The ambassador of one Asian Partner for Co-operation highlighted the need for environmental cross-boundary co-operation and joint responses by the relevant countries and international organizations, including joint research activities and combined projects. He mentioned that the phenomenon of desertification resulting from global warming had worsened in his country, which was surrounded by the vast desert areas of Mongolia and China. He gave the example of transfer of technology and best practices between Korea and Tunisia.

Ambassador Lyssiotis, commenting on the interventions, agreed on the need to address environmental issues not as “threats”, but as “challenges” which could be used as a means of generating confidence and transparency. He added that the establishment of co-operation and confidence in the environmental field, in conjunction with the appropriate institutional framework, could serve as a safeguard to security. Mr. Yosef Dreizin, in his comments, highlighted the interdependence between energy and water, adding that even environmentally friendly policies were not completely free from environmental burdens. The solutions adopted should primarily take into account the circumstances and the kind of populations they were intended to serve. Ambassador Lundin mentioned that 261 of the world’s rivers were shared; 48 belonged to three countries, while 37 were shared among four countries. Those figures pointed to the need for an enhanced inter-State co-operation on shared water resources. Moreover, he gave the example of the Danube River, where downstream countries had established confidence-building measures.

The moderator concluded that bilateral, regional and even cross-continental co-operation was of the utmost importance, since water resources, oil reserves and biodiversity were related to security matters. The link between environmental degradation and security was a rather new concept that had led countries to search for the best ways to enhance regional co-operation with a view to sustainable development.

### **3.3 Session 3: The OSCE's human rights and tolerance commitments and their relevance to the Mediterranean region**

***Report by Entela Gjika, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna***

The third session was dedicated to the OSCE's human rights and tolerance commitments and their relevance to the Mediterranean region, with a specific focus on the four sub-items: applying OSCE commitments on combating intolerance and discrimination to promote mutual respect and understanding; intercultural dialogue, including as a conflict-prevention tool in the Mediterranean region; national human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights, with a specific focus on migrants; and the role of civil society in supporting reforms, economic, social, and cultural development, and the democratic process.

At the beginning of the session, Ms. Cherifa Kheddar, representative of the Algerian NGO *Djazairouna*, presented the report of the civil society side event on "Co-operation with Mediterranean civil society and NGOs in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination". The report stressed that the security of the OSCE region was inseparable from that of the Mediterranean and acknowledged that the resolution of regional conflicts would foster mutual respect and understanding.

The highlights of the report were the recommendations of the NGOs, calling on the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to respect OSCE commitments and other provisions of international law regarding the promotion of equality, tolerance and human rights, and the reduction of violence, inequality and discrimination in the region; to respect national and cultural minority rights, with a special focus on education in people's own language; to protect human rights defenders and activists; to support the civil society organizations working on tolerance and non-discrimination as well as the creation of civil society networks in the OSCE region; and to foster the links between those networks and NGOs based in the Mediterranean region.

The first keynote speaker, Mr. Marc Scheuer, Director at the Secretariat of the Alliance of Civilizations, presented the most recent developments in the UN Alliance of Civilizations, its structure, its way of working and its goals, and provided some interesting and stimulating ideas on how the Alliance's work was relevant to the OSCE.

Keynote speaker, Ms. Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Council of Europe Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport; Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue, started her presentation by introducing the Council of Europe's activities with Mediterranean countries in the area of intercultural dialogue, as well as the activities conducted by the CoE in co-operation with other organizations, including the OSCE, and civil society. She also introduced the CoE's White Paper entitled "Living together in dignity", and elaborated on the CoE's activities in relation to it. She stressed that intercultural dialogue was a key responsibility of public authorities and civil society, religious communities, private enterprises, the media and of every individual. Intercultural dialogue must be promoted at all levels of society and must also inspire international relations. She concluded by stating her belief that intercultural dialogue could serve not only as a tool of conflict prevention, but also as a tool of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation.

The third speaker, Dr. Muhyieddeen Touq, the Jordanian Human Rights Commissioner-General, gave a presentation on the main activities of the Jordan Human Rights Commission, providing inspiring information on the Commission's mandate and activities, in particular in the sphere of elections, and work with migrants.

After the keynote speakers, the three discussants, Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Ambassador Ömür Ohrun, and Professor Gert Weisskirchen, Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on tolerance-related matters, contributed to the debate by raising some questions for both the speakers and the audience, from the point of view of their respective mandates. In particular, they welcomed the inputs to the debate by NGOs and called upon governments to take them duly into consideration.

Ms. Crickley's discussion built upon the migration phenomena of the current decade in the OSCE region. She stressed the importance of the migrants' contribution to the societies they emigrated to, focusing particularly on the need for the advancement of women migrants and safeguarding of their rights. Moreover, she expressed her belief that the challenge of creating real intercultural and religious dialogue was living together as equals; it was not simply a matter of acknowledging diversity, but one of sharing power between the majorities and the minorities.

Ambassador Ohrun emphasized the importance of education and outreach towards youth to stimulate understanding and tolerance. Particular stress was placed on the questions of identity which served as the starting point for Professor Weisskirchen's comments. He argued that the process of modernization was bringing out the clashes in societies. After introducing the concept of multiple identities, he expressed the view that effectively addressing the question of identities was urgent and key to the establishment of more tolerant and harmonious societies.

The ensuing debate was extremely lively and raised a number of important questions. The involvement of NGOs in the 2008 Mediterranean Conference was welcomed by many, and it was suggested, for example, that civil society preparatory meetings should be supported and financed preceding all OSCE conferences with the Mediterranean Partners. Discrimination and hatred based on religion were condemned, and the responsibilities of the political class in countering discrimination were duly underlined.

Some participants noted that tolerance and non-discrimination could work, citing the terrorist attacks in London, Madrid and Amman, which had not led to any repercussions against the communities of the perpetrators.

In his concluding remarks, the moderator highlighted the main elements of discussion, including intercultural dialogue as a factor leading to respect for other cultures and ultimately to political power-sharing, the media's role in promoting cross-cultural issues, and respect for human rights. The OSCE played an important role in conflict resolution, including through history teaching, which was of great relevance for different cultures. Furthermore, greater recognition of diversity in increasingly complex societies was a way of defusing tensions. The issue of election observation had been addressed. There had been a strong emphasis throughout on the importance of gender equality. In concluding, the moderator noted that the structure of the session needed to be reconsidered for the future, to allow time for a large number of speakers while at the same time allowing ample time for debate.

## **4 Summary of the closing session**

### ***Report by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat***

The session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Harri Mäki-Reinikka, Ambassador of Finland to Syria. Concluding remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Makram M. Queisi, Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna, and H.E. Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Ambassador Queisi noted that the Conference had dealt with very important subjects, not just from the point of view of the OSCE, but also from that of its Mediterranean Partners. The partnership was as much a vehicle for enabling the participating States to learn about the concerns and aspirations of the Mediterranean countries, as one for enabling the Partners to learn about the OSCE's experience and the security concerns of the participating States.

That channel of communication was a two-way street that had only become more important over time. Discussing issues ranging from the politico-military aspects of security to linkages between the environment and security in the Mediterranean region, as well as the OSCE's human rights commitments and their relevance to the Mediterranean region, had been of great importance. The lively and constructive discussions had very much enhanced the value of the Conference.

He also extended his thanks and appreciation to all the NGOs that had participated in the NGO side event the day before. He very much appreciated their recommendations and was sure all the delegations shared his view.

In conclusion, he thanked the Finnish Chairmanship, the Greek Chairmanship of the Contact Group and the Secretariat for all their support, which had ensured the success of the Conference.

Ambassador Marinaki noted that Greece, as an OSCE participating State in the Mediterranean basin, had proven its commitment to fostering good neighbourly relations and co-operation in the Mediterranean region and to recognizing the importance of the common interests and concerns that it shared with its Mediterranean neighbours.

Greece had deemed it necessary to prepare an agenda which would reflect the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. The aim had been clear: first, to promote mutual understanding and dialogue among the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation and, second, to share with the Partners the OSCE's experiences in the fields of concern.

In addition, the side event on the topic "Co-operation with Mediterranean civil society and NGOs in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination", held on the eve of the Conference, had aimed at promoting a more constructive dialogue between the representatives of participating States, the Mediterranean Partners and NGOs on the implementation of the OSCE commitments in respect of tolerance and non-discrimination, while strengthening the capacity of various actors of civil society to exchange information and best practices and also to share their practical experience with other regional and international NGOs.

With regard to the substantive discussion, some very important conclusions had been reached. In the field of terrorism, the participants had agreed that there was not only a military solution to terrorist activity, but that a cross-dimensional approach was necessary to address both the phenomenon and its underlying causes.

With regard to CSBMs, the participants had recognized their crucial role in establishing mutual trust, transparency and predictability in the OSCE area. At the same time, they had discussed the usefulness of adopting regional CSBMs in the Mediterranean region, tailor-made for its specific needs, applicable on a voluntary basis, and developed in an incremental way.

On issues related to the second dimension, the participants had had the opportunity to examine water scarcity, land degradation and desertification in the Mediterranean region and the impact of environmental issues on security. Both the Partners and the participating States had agreed on the need for enhanced co-operation, at the regional and the inter-State levels, aimed at sharing the natural resources of the area, exchanging expertise and best practices, and transferring technology.

With regard to the human dimension, implementation of the OSCE commitments on combating intolerance and non-discrimination by utilizing the appropriate tools developed by the OSCE remained a priority. Moreover, the contribution of civil society and national human rights institutions had been duly acknowledged. There was a need to strike new balances between traditional cultural patterns and modernized societies, including in relation to women's rights in education. Religion had also been pinpointed as the enemy of exclusion and discrimination, while its important role in the construction of peace had been highlighted.

In conclusion, she expressed her sincere gratitude to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its readiness and willingness to host and organize the 2008 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, to the Finnish Chairmanship for its valuable support throughout the year, and to the Secretariat for its invaluable support for and contribution to the organization of the Conference.

## **5 Recommendations and suggestions emanating from the 2008 Mediterranean Conference**

*Compiled by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat, in consultation with the host country and the Greek Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation*

### **Session 1: Politico-military aspects of security**

- Consider expanding the existing partnership with the international community in the sphere of security, as well as OSCE assistance, in order to help the countries of the Middle East and North Africa region to tackle existing problems.
- Consider increasing public diplomacy efforts, with a view to achieving a better mutual understanding in the areas of strengthening of tolerance and non-discrimination, and dialogue between cultures and religions.
- Use the existing Mediterranean intellectual network and conduct open-ended high-level political consultations between the OSCE and the Mediterranean countries.
- Increase international as well as transregional co-operation to fight terrorism, recognizing that there is no purely military solution to this transnational phenomenon.
- Strengthen public-private partnership, with a view to closer interaction of States with civil society and public opinion that could lead to the creation in a broader context of some kind of confidence-building measures.
- Promote closer involvement of civil society in action to counter terrorism.
- Strengthen the synergy between the OSCE and all other institutions such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- Establish closer links with the African Union and further contacts between the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the League of Arab States (assisting in creating in the League its own toolkit for conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms). Such strengthened relations would be aimed at ensuring stability, and countering terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime in the Mediterranean region. This could be done by conducting joint seminars and workshops, and providing OSCE technical assistance to the countries of the region.
- Continue promoting the creation of a fourth generation of confidence- and security-building measures, with special emphasis on qualitative aspects of economic, social and cultural origin, in addition to the military measures. Promote the coupling of each military CSBM with a CBM. Promote joint work to ensure the continuity of CSBMs or CBMs.
- Establish an academic network to nurture the existing CSBMs and to supplement this work with dialogue at the non-governmental level.
- Establish regional CSBMs in the Mediterranean region.
- Promote cross-fertilization and exchange of expertise between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners (examples brought: the South Ossetian economic

rehabilitation programme run by the OSCE, as well as work on water and environmental security by Mediterranean Partners).

- Extend the OSCE's Mediterranean dialogue to additional countries.
- Develop co-operation in the economic, social and cultural fields, as well as tolerance and non-discrimination, using public diplomacy in joint efforts to achieve a better mutual understanding that could lead to the establishment of CBMs.

### **Session 2: Linkages between the environment and security in the Mediterranean region**

- Address issues such as climate change through increased co-operation.
- Promote international co-operation on developing renewable and efficient energy systems, increasing environmental awareness and sharing expertise and best practices among the Mediterranean countries.
- Promote good practices such as the use of thermosolar units for the simultaneous production of desalinated water and electricity, with the use of concentrated solar energy.
- Raise awareness, through action by the OSCE, regarding environmental challenges and their impact on security; stimulate the political will to address these issues; and promote environmental co-operation as a tool of conflict-prevention and confidence-building.
- Promote inter-State co-operation, at the regional level, on water management, with the aim of sharing the water resources of the area equitably. The OSCE to contribute, in co-operation with other international and regional organizations, such as the European Union, to raising awareness among the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners, sharing expertise and best practices, as well as transferring technology and financing relevant projects.
- Contribute, through action by the OSCE, to exchanges of expertise and best practices between the participating States in the regions of the South Caucasus and Central Asia and the Mediterranean Partners.
- Promote close co-operation among competent authorities at the national level, and also, within the EU context, develop a long-term strategy.
- Promote joint management of the shared water resources in the area.
- Promote cross-boundary environmental co-operation and joint responses by the relevant countries and international organizations, such as joint research activities and combined projects.
- Address environmental issues, not as “threats”, but as “challenges” which could be used as a means of generating confidence and transparency.

### **Session 3: The OSCE's human rights and tolerance commitments and their relevance to the Mediterranean region**

- Foster mutual respect and understanding through the resolution of regional conflicts.
- Support the civil-society organizations working on tolerance and non-discrimination.



- Support the creation of civil-society networks in the Mediterranean region and foster the links with existing NGO networks in the OSCE region.
- Promote intercultural dialogue as a conflict-prevention tool, but also as a post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation tool.
- Governments to give due consideration to the input by NGOs into the Conference.
- Promote the advancement of women migrants and respect for their rights.
- Create real dialogue between cultures and religions by living together as equals. Not simply acknowledge diversity, but foster real power-sharing between majorities and minorities.
- Promote education and outreach towards youth to stimulate understanding and tolerance.
- Support and finance civil-society preparatory meetings preceding all OSCE conferences with the Mediterranean Partners.
- Use greater recognition of diversity in our increasingly complex societies as a way of defusing tensions.

## 6 List of participants

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Mr. Ömür Orhun	Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims
Prof. Gert Weisskirchen	Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating anti-Semitism

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**Alliance of Civilizations Secretariat**

Mr. Marc Scheuer

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