



OSCE SECURITY DAYS

Vienna, 17-18 June 2013

Draft Annotated Agenda

The OSCE Security Days 2013 will be held on 17-18 June, ahead of the Annual Security Review Conference.

Launched in 2012, the Security Days initiative aims at focusing fresh attention on the politico-military activities of the OSCE while expanding the debate on the role of the Organization as a whole. The OSCE Security Days has proven to be a fruitful forum for dialogue between the OSCE and interested Track II initiatives on Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security.

In 2012, participants agreed on relevant lessons learnt. First, they identified lack of trust – as opposed to lack of security – as a key challenge in the OSCE area. Second, they came to an understanding that a security community cannot be established “artificially”; rather, it should be forged progressively by a network of converging interactions on different levels – interstate, business, culture and civil society. Ultimately, one of the OSCE's main functions remains managing and bridging diverging perceptions of security through its cooperative approach.

Bearing this in mind as well as the discussions on the Helsinki+40 Process, the OSCE Security Days 2013 will continue the debate initiated in 2012. Moreover, it is set to act as a platform to explore the role of the OSCE in the 21st century, thus overcoming dissent through an open and informal debate.

The conference will consist of eight panels, which can be thematically divided into two parts. The first part will provide an analysis of current threats covering emerging security challenges stemming both from within the OSCE region and its neighbourhood. The second part will explore potential new tools to promote dialogue and co-operation in order to address such challenges. The conference will further serve as a launching pad for the OSCE network of academic institutions.

The present Annotated Agenda is designed to guide participants through the discussion by highlighting important issues for each session. The questions are not comprehensive and participants are encouraged to elaborate on them and/or to challenge their assumptions.

MONDAY, 17 JUNE

10:30-10:45 **Welcome remarks**

10:45-12:30 **Session I – The OSCE in the 21st Century: Regional Security Organization and Community of Values.**

Laying out the conceptual foundation of the event, this panel will discuss current security challenges and the value of co-operative security in addressing them. Experts will discuss the role of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security in the context of shifting paradigms in global affairs and new challenges facing the OSCE community. The purpose of this session is to identify areas of convergence for strengthening co-operation and reinforcing the role of the OSCE as a regional security organization. Some questions that could be addressed include: How to promote a community of values while respecting historical, cultural and social differences? What are the main areas of convergence and divergence among participating States? Is there a need to reconcile increasingly divergent strategic security interests with a common, co-operative and indivisible approach to security? If so, how might this be done? What should be the priority, strengthening convergences or overcoming divergences? Is there a need for a new strategic vision?

12:30-13:00 **OSCE Medals Award Ceremony**

13:00-14:15 Networking Buffet Lunch

14:15–15:45 **Session II – Perceived Security Threats in the OSCE Region**

This session will focus on identifying existing security threats in the OSCE region and how they are perceived by the participating States and their societies. The debate is intended to foster a shared understanding of existing threats to facilitate a common approach to addressing persisting challenges. The discussion will also focus on current efforts to promote Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs). Some questions that could be addressed include: What are the major security threats in the OSCE region? What are some of the major differences in threat perceptions among the OSCE participating States, and what are their consequences? What additional steps are needed to advance key aspects of the post-Cold War agenda such as facilitating transition processes, addressing protracted conflicts, strengthening arms control and confidence building and promoting reconciliation? Can CBMs and CSBMs address perceived threats effectively?

15:45-16:15 Networking Coffee Break

16:15-17:45 **Session III – Challenges Stemming from Security Developments in the OSCE Neighbourhood.**

The prospect of ISAF withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014, the on-going crisis in Syria and the Arab Spring at large are only a few examples of events unfolding in the OSCE neighbourhood which might have a direct or indirect impact on security within the OSCE region. This session will explore how well prepared the OSCE is to deal with 'out of area' security challenges. Some

of the questions for discussion might include: What constitutes the OSCE neighbourhood geographically? How does the OSCE address challenges in its neighbourhood, and which challenges is it addressing? How might bilateral responses by participating States to security challenges in the OSCE neighbourhood impact the OSCE as a whole? What does the Arab Spring mean for the OSCE region? What is the impact of the Syrian crisis on regional stability? How far-reaching are security developments in the Sahel region?

18:00-19:00 Reception hosted by the OSCE Secretary General

19:00-20:30 **Night Owl - Peace for Tomorrow: How Social Media can Change our World** - The Night Owl Session is a participatory panel discussion especially targeted to a young audience that will address how social media can shape security and the future of online activism. While online tools facilitate information sharing and promote freedom of speech, the role of social media in relation to conflicts and security remains controversial. In this regard, the following questions might be raised: How is social media driving political agendas? Can social media act as an enabler and force multiplier for good? What are the risks in using social media as an advocacy tool? Viral campaigns can be very effective, but are there consequences of over-simplifying a message? Which threats might arise from the manipulation of public perception via social media? What challenges does enhanced connectivity via social media pose for effective and timely crisis response? How do actors like the OSCE make use of social media to enhance their crisis response? Is there a need for a common policy among OSCE participating States on the use of social media?

TUESDAY, 18 JUNE

10:00-11:30 **Session IV – Building a Common Future: Promoting Conflict Prevention**
The OSCE is widely recognized as a key player in preventing potential conflicts and the escalation of existing conflicts within its region. This was reiterated by OSCE participating States in the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Decision on the Conflict Cycle. The need to progressively shift from a culture of “reaction” (post-conflict rehabilitation) towards one of “prevention” (early warning & early action) to address more immediate, as well as deeply rooted, causes of conflict has been already raised on several occasions, including during last year’s Security Days. The OSCE is also involved, in different ways, in efforts to address protracted conflicts. Some of the questions that could be addressed include: Are preventive diplomacy and mediation effective tools for conflict prevention? How can the OSCE “conflict prevention method” be better marketed and its profile raised? What can be done to encourage participating States to more readily share information among themselves and with the Chairmanship on emerging developments that threaten peace, security and stability? How can better intra-regional co-operation among OSCE executive structures and with other regional organizations be ensured? How can the gap between Early Warning and Early Response be closed? What is the particular contribution of women in conflict prevention?

11:30-12:00 Networking Coffee Break

12:00-13:30 **Session V – Building a Common Future: Addressing Transnational Threats from a Regional Perspective**

Transnational threats constitute a global phenomenon that requires a global response. The origins and effects of organized crime, terrorism, cybercrime, corruption and money laundering are increasingly interlinked and transnational. No single State can confront these threats to security singlehandedly – international co-operation is essential at both the political and technical levels to respond to them effectively. During this debate, participants might consider the following issues: How can regional security organizations contribute to countering transnational threats? What are the most prevalent transnational threats in the OSCE region that require prioritization for consolidated action? How should the OSCE strengthen co-operation with other international organizations? How to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication? Is there a specific role for the OSCE in facilitating co-operation on a regional level to counter these transnational threats? How flexible versus institutionalized should the OSCE approach be when dealing with global threats?

13:30-14:30 Networking Buffet

14:30-16:00 **Session VI – The OSCE in 2020: Opportunities and Challenges**

The on-going Helsinki + 40 Process is laying the foundations for consolidating trust and bridging differences among participating States before the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015. This session is dedicated to the analysis of potential opportunities and challenges when it comes to implementing the Astana vision of building a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community. The discussion might address the following questions: What challenges and opportunities will the OSCE face in 2020? What should be the OSCE's role in the evolving security environment? How should its co-operation with other international and regional organizations look like in 2020? How should the OSCE enhance relations with private actors, civil society and think tanks? How should the Organization itself evolve? Can a politically binding and consensus based organization adapt quickly enough to new threats? Is there a need for a new fundamental document or for a new security framework for the OSCE? Who will be part of the OSCE in 2020?

16:00-17:15 **Session VII – The OSCE Network of Think Tanks**

This panel will provide the opportunity to openly discuss the added value, feasibility and sustainability of establishing an informal network of research institutes from across the OSCE region. What added value could a network of think tanks bring to the OSCE and its participating States? How do think tanks see their interaction with the OSCE? How do participating States see their interaction with think tanks in the OSCE region? Who should participate in the network and what should its final goal be?

17:15-17:30 **Conclusions**