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Session IV - Towards Reconciliation: a new vision for the OSCE?

*Theses by Dr. Andrei Zagorski*

*Head of Arms Control and Conflict Resolution Studies, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian academy of Sciences; Professor, MGIMO-University, Moscow*

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1. A Security Community cannot be simply designed and/or built like a piece of architecture.

Nor can it be established or implanted by a document or a treaty.

It has to grow out of a process or, rather, out of multiple complex processes.

Altogether, those processes are to bring about an **increasing convergence** among the involved societies, and to produce complex effects of **mutual socialization**.

2. **Reconciliation** is one of the processes which facilitate increasing convergence among nations and societies.

It is also a complex process since it often requires some level of convergence or at least a clear idea that a rapprochement, conversion and closer cooperation are desirable.

There are many historical as well as more recent examples of reconciliation which, against a different but always difficult historic background, have paved the way towards a greater convergence among nations and, ultimately, towards the growing of a security community making a war among nations unthinkable and impossible.

It always required outstanding statesmen to show political will and to take on the lead, as well as the societies to become increasingly open and tolerant to each other.

3. The growing of a Security Community **cannot be reduced to state action or inter-state cooperation**, although states can either make it easier by encouraging and facilitating convergence among them, or make it more difficult by pursuing policies which result in divergence, rather than an increasing convergence of societies.

But, essentially, it is a product of complex and increasingly dense links, communications and mutual engagement between the relevant societies at multiple levels across the borders. It involves political communication as well as, to a no lesser extent, growing communication and cooperation between the civil societies, businesses, cultural and educational exchanges as well as, not least, human contacts and a free flow of information which occur as a result of freer movement of people and ideas across the state borders.

4. The current debate over the need for the progressive reconciliation and for the development of a Security Community within the OSCE area reflects a regrettable development implying that, particularly **over the last decade, processes which resulted in**

**increasing divergence outweighed those which worked towards increasing convergence and cohesion within the OSCE area.**

This **growing divergence has also got gradually institutionalized** in organizations with exclusive membership and limited communication with each other. Regrettably, many OSCE states have increasingly invested in these diverging institutions rather than into common projects or overarching institutional solutions.

It is these developments which gave rise to the concerns over the prevailing vector of developments within the OSCE area, and encouraged the call for a Security Community as well as for reconciliation as a means of reversing the recent trends.

These visions are important not only in order to highlight the dangers entailed in the increasing divergence of our nations, but especially in order to emphasize the alternative path of development – that anticipating increasing political, economic and social convergence.

5. **Reversing the current trend of divergence within the OSCE area** would require dedicated multiple action by the participating states, civil societies as well as different multilateral institutions within the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

It will require by the relevant statesmen decisions based on the common sense:

- to overcome the disputes of the recent years related to either security, such as missile defense, the erosion and decline of the European arms control regimes resulting in vanishing mutual transparency and growing mistrust, or resolution of protracted conflicts
- to embark of practical cooperation in addressing transnational threats and challenges, and
- to further engaging civil societies, businesses as well as individuals in multiple areas, and to strengthen the common foundation of cooperation based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.

It will take the political wisdom and political will of the leaders of the OSCE states to overcome the existing political divisions and to embark on the road of greater political convergence at all levels which should facilitate the growth of a Security Community.

6. **The OSCE** is one of the many European institutions which can and shall play a crucial role in encouraging and facilitating convergence at all levels by

- providing an inclusive pan-European platform for the ongoing political dialogue, including on the military-political issues, and thus contributing to producing convergence and cohesion in identifying the most relevant issues on the agenda of the participating states
- engaging civil societies as well as the states in a sincere dialogue, as well as by
- encouraging the participating states and assisting them, wherever appropriate, in a progressive harmonization of their international commitments and obligations, and in

implementing their international commitments and obligations, including the vast aqis of the OSCE commitments, in good faith.