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Notes for an Address by

The Honourable Peter Kent

Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas)

Intervention on Behalf of Government of Canada at the 2010
OSCE Summit

Astana, Kazakhstan

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Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished delegates:

It is a great honour for me to speak today on behalf of Canada's Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper.

I would first like to thank our host, President Nazarbayev and the people of Kazakhstan for their warm and generous welcome on the occasion of the first OSCE Summit held in Central Asia.

I also wish to thank Foreign Minister Saudabayev for his efforts and leadership this past year as OSCE Chair-in-Office.

Cette année, nous soulignons le trente-cinquième anniversaire de l'Acte final d'Helsinki (1975) et le vingtième anniversaire de la Charte de Paris (1990) – deux des pierres angulaires de l'OSCE.

This Summit in Astana is an opportunity for participating states to fully reaffirm the principles and values enshrined in these documents. Our Organization's work on comprehensive security remains as vital today as it was 35 years ago.

Full implementation of our OSCE commitments by all and in good faith – not a selective *à la carte* approach – is essential.

Canada helped found this Organization based on an agreement amongst members that security and prosperity are best sustained by democratic states that respect freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

While we're concerned by the current decline in some states in the OSCE region in these areas, Canada is more determined than ever to promote these values and to enhance the OSCE's capacity to follow up and review commitments and their implementation by participating States.

Participating States must continue to engage in the OSCE's strategic dialogue on the future of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security, which has helped pave the way for our meeting in Astana today. This Summit is an opportunity for us to take our dialogue to the next level and start working together to deliver concrete results.

In pursuing our goals and priorities, we have to keep in mind that the global economic crisis is affecting our governments' fiscal realities. This is why it is essential that our organization's resources be used efficiently and effectively, and our activities focused on making a significant difference to security in the OSCE region.

Mr. Chairperson, Canada's main priorities at this Summit are the following four key areas of :

- preserving and enhancing the OSCE's human dimension work;
- modernizing and strengthening Conventional Arms Control regimes;
- making the OSCE an even more effective tool for conflict prevention and crisis management;
- addressing transnational threats and security challenges in Afghanistan.

Canada believes that the OSCE should continue and even enhance its support to Afghanistan and its neighbours to improve security, stability, and democratization.

L'OSCE a une expertise indéniable dans le développement de capacités permettant de faire face à des défis tels que la sécurité frontalière, le trafic de stupéfiants, l'application de la loi et la saine gouvernance.

The OSCE can also foster regional cooperation between Afghanistan and its Central Asian neighbours through activities such as joint training programs for border officials.

The organization continues to play an essential role in maintaining regional peace, security, and military transparency through the application of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures.

In this regard, the Vienna Document 1999 and the Treaty on Open Skies have proven to be very successful arrangements.

Canada recognizes that the evolving security environment requires updating these tools to ensure they are relevant.

However, we must also make certain that the integrity and guiding principles embodied in the core arrangements remain solidly in place.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a lot of work ahead in taking action to implement our shared priorities and objectives, and I assure you that the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship can count on Canada's support and active engagement.

Thank you.