



United States Mission to the OSCE

Annual Security Review Conference 2011 **Working Session I:** **Transnational Threats and Challenges:** *Strengthening the coherence of the OSCE response and interaction with other international actors*

as delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Carol Fuller
Vienna, June 30, 2011

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

As you mentioned in your opening remarks, transnational threats are complex and constantly evolving, challenging the security of the OSCE space. I therefore appreciate our speakers' comments today, as they highlight the importance of addressing these challenges head-on, anticipating and adapting to emerging and future transnational threats, and pooling our resources to coordinate in order to combat them.

We take particular note of Ms. Wegener's excellent presentation on corruption and organized crime. Corruption is a persistent disease that hinders reform, reduces transparency, and affects our ability to address all transnational threats effectively. The OSCE should continue to incorporate anti-corruption measures in its activities on counter-terrorism, police reform, and counternarcotics.

Our Organization has increasingly turned its attention to TNTs, and the United States supports this additional focus. Combating transnational threats requires a highly coordinated approach, to ensure that our capacity-building efforts complement, rather than duplicate, the efforts of other multilateral organization and bilateral donors. It also requires improving our tools and processes to evaluate the effectiveness of our capacity-building work, in order to make the best use of our efforts and resources.

It remains essential that we view transnational threats across all three OSCE dimensions. For example, radicalization can be fueled by a lack of economic opportunity. In turn, terrorist attacks have the potential to impact economic growth profoundly. Terrorism, narco-trafficking, attacks in cyberspace, and other threats are not only transnational, they are cross dimensional, and must be treated as such. The OSCE's comprehensive notion of security is one of its greatest comparative advantages in the TNT field.

We appreciate the Lithuanian Chairmanship's leadership in TNT challenges, and we look forward to the continuation of these efforts under the Irish Chairmanship in 2012.

Over the past ten years, the OSCE has taken on a number of counterterrorism commitments, and has a proven ability to build regional ownership of the global UN counterterrorism framework. The OSCE has also demonstrated that it can strengthen national counterterrorism capacities through training programs and the sharing of best practices.

The OSCE is, therefore, particularly well positioned to engage both the private sector and civil society on counterterrorism issues. In this regard, violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism is an area of particular interest to the United States. We are leading several initiatives, working with OSCE partners like Turkey. We recognize that there is no single path leading to radicalization and violent extremism and that multiple responses aimed at helping counter these troubling phenomena exist. But the OSCE's history of engaging closely with civil society gives us a comparative advantage to support the efforts of NGOs, which have more regular access to reach community leaders, victims of terrorism, and at-risk individuals. We can also leverage OSCE field missions to identify local groups that are capable of participation in OSCE-related activities or initiatives.

On cyber security, last year, in this same forum, the United States encouraged delegations to seek a comprehensive mandate on cyber security that would allow us to address the growing threats in cyber space. We appreciated the "OSCE Conference on a Comprehensive Approach to Cyber Security: Exploring the Future OSCE Role" in May of this year, which brought together experts on a range of cyber issues.

The United States supports a decision at the Vilnius Ministerial that will allow the OSCE to apply its expertise in confidence- and security-building measures to improve transparency and predictability in cyberspace. The OSCE could also explore the engagement of the private sector and civil society on cyber issues. We look forward to the momentum developed under Lithuanian leadership continuing into and beyond 2012.

On border security and management, efforts to promote more security borders remain a principal component of the OSCE's TNT work, and we strongly support OSCE activities in this area. By strengthening activities such as the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, or hands-on training programs, and Economic Resources Centers along critical borders, the OSCE can combat transnational threats while creating conditions for economic development and human contacts for personal and professional reasons.

On nonproliferation, implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 is a key area of nonproliferation cooperation within the OSCE. As the world's largest regional and security organization, the OSCE plays an important role in the full implementation of UNSCR 1540 through effective norm setting and providing leadership that other regional groupings with less developed structures are looking to follow. The United States, with support from other delegations, is pressing for the development of such OSCE tools as: a best practices guide for 1540 implementation for OSCE participating States, integration of the 1540 Advisor who started working in 2010 at the Secretariat level; helping pS develop national action plans; and making use of the OSCE's institutions and training facilities, including the Dushanbe-based Border Management Staff College.

Likewise, the OSCE has important contributions to make towards peace and stability in Afghanistan, an OSCE Partner state sharing a 2,000-kilometer border with our Central Asian participating States. Clearly, strengthening security, prosperity, and democracy in Afghanistan is inextricably linked to strengthening security, prosperity, and democracy in Central Asia and throughout the entire OSCE region. Efforts by the international community in this regard will impact all OSCE participating States, not just Afghanistan's neighbors. The United States continues to support enhanced OSCE engagement with Afghanistan in all three dimensions.

Thank you, Madam Moderator.