

Delegation of Germany

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HERBERT SALBER,
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**Working session I: Transnational threats and challenges:
strengthening the coherence of the OSCE response and interaction with
other international actors**

Transnational threats – terrorism, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and cybercrime – have steadily gained prominence in the last few years in the discussion of security policy. Germany and the European Union insisted last year that discussion of the contribution that the OSCE can make to combating these transnational threats should be high on the agenda of the OSCE Summit in Astana. In the Astana Commemorative Declaration, our 56 Heads of State or Government explicitly recognized the need for progress in this area and said: “we must achieve greater unity of purpose and action”.

This undertaking given in Astana has already borne some fruit in the last six months, and we are well on the way to presenting some specific and pioneering decisions for adoption at the Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius.

I should like to point to the draft OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities as a particularly positive step. Germany launched this initiative in 2009 together with our French and Swedish partners. We are willing to take responsibility for this dossier within the delegations in the run-up to Vilnius. Many delegations have already given their approval in principle to this document, and it is now a question in the weeks ahead of making the last fine adjustments to its content. In this regard, we are counting on a constructive attitude by all participating States during the formal negotiations starting in July. This applies in particular to an affirmation by all OSCE participating States of democratic principles, the rule of law and individual basic freedoms – an affirmation that is of primordial significance for the strategy paper. I am also very pleased about a further draft document, the OSCE Concept to Combat the Threat of Illicit Drugs and Chemical Precursors being developed under the guidance of our Russian partners parallel to the police strategy paper, which offers an urgently needed and meaningful definition of the OSCE’s role in police activities.

The approach to cybersecurity is also being more clearly outlined. The Conference on a Comprehensive Approach to Cyber Security held in May provided an important focus and produced some specific proposals. It confirmed that the OSCE has a major pioneering role to play in the development of global cybersecurity, particularly in the area of confidence- and

security-building measures. Germany therefore supports the idea of adopting a decision in Vilnius on cybersecurity that will formulate the tasks to be pursued while taking account of the OSCE's added value.

Germany welcomes the fact that the participating States have now really started to consolidate the numerous OSCE mandates for combating terrorism. It is of the opinion that this cannot be merely a question of drawing up a list. There is a need for a new strategy document in which the distinctive profile of the relevant OSCE contributions and instruments is more clearly marked and a direction given for each programme area for the coming years. This new mandate will have many connections with the above-mentioned decisions on police work, drug control and cybersecurity and for that reason alone the Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius should also be our goal here.

The question of transnational dangers, threats and challenges is inseparably linked with border security and management. Germany believes that, like OSCE police activities, these are special instruments that our Organization possesses with added value and transdimensional character. In the six years since the adoption of the tried and tested Border Security and Management Concept in 2005, the OSCE has developed recognized competence in those areas. The OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe is also an innovative establishment that should be involved, in our opinion, in specific measures to combat transnational threats. The seminar on the occasion of a visit by OSCE ambassadors on 5 April 2011 highlighted some possibilities in that regard.

We support the step-by-step roadmap proposed by the European Union to gradually improve the programmatic co-ordination of OSCE structures and to further develop them if necessary with account taken of available resources and programme focuses. Germany believes it is vital for the new Secretary General to be given a clear mandate in this regard in Vilnius so that all structural options can be examined and specific proposals made next year.

The proposed decisions to be adopted in Vilnius are interdependent. Together they could considerably strengthen OSCE activities to combat transnational threats. This is in line with the overall approach in the Corfu Process, in Astana and in the Chairmanship's work programme, which Germany continues to support, i.e. sharpening the profile of the OSCE's contributions to combating transnational threats as a whole, making them more visible and improving their effectiveness.

The discussion of transnational threats is gaining in significance not only in the OSCE but also in other international organizations and States. This gives all actors a particular responsibility to keep one another informed, to exchange ideas and – where possible and useful – to co-ordinate and network. It would therefore be an important advance if we were to exchange ideas more with the other actors – be it in the field, in the Secretariat or in the ministries of our participating States. A certain amount of work still remains to be done here in the coming years.

The revision of the OSCE's strategic mandates and structures for combating transnational threats that has been commenced this year should not therefore remain a mere academic exercise. In this important field of co-operative security Germany expects the OSCE to make attractive proposals, in particular for capacity-building and an ongoing exchange of information about standards and best practices. This will be the best way of ensuring that it also obtains adequate resources from the participating States.