

OSCE Annual Security Review Conference

Working session I:

Transnational threats and challenges: strengthening the coherence of the OSCE
response and interaction with other international actors

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We strongly endorse the views of those who see a clear role for the OSCE in fighting the transnational threats in networking of international actors and enhanced assistance in capacity building.

Terrorism

The Republic of Armenia resolutely condemns terrorism and is fully committed to the international struggle against it.

Along with developing national legislation on combating terrorism Armenia signed the UN, Council of Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) anti-terrorism conventions and other documents, and offered military and strategic assistance.

For the time being Armenia doesn't have any specific bilateral treaties or agreements on counter-terrorism. However, Armenia signed bilateral treaties on cooperation on criminal issues including issues relating to terrorism and organized crime with Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, United States and Lithuania.

Preventing and combating terrorism is one of the key elements of the activity of the CSTO. The Committee of the Security Council's Secretaries is coordinating the efforts of the CSTO member-countries in this sphere. On 5 September, 2008 the Collective Security Council (CSC) adopted the Collective Action Plan on implementation of the UN Global Anti-terrorist Strategy for 2008-2012.

The decision of the CSC on the establishment of the CSTO Collective Forces of Rapid Reaction on 4 February, 2009 is an important step in the field of combating terrorism, trafficking of illicit drugs, illegal arms and armaments trade and other forms of transnational threats.

According to the decision of the Committee of the Security Council Secretaries from 9 December 2010 the CSTO member states finalized the List of terrorist and extremist organizations.

The decision of the Council of the CIS Heads of States on 21 June 2000 on adoption of the three-year Programme on Combating Terrorism and Other Forms of Extremism played a key role in uniting of the anti-terrorist efforts of the CIS member-states. According to the above decision the CIS Anti-terrorist Centre was established. Since last 10 years the Centre has hold annual anti-terrorist exercises in the CIS member-states. The Centre pays special attention to the issues of coordination of anti-terrorist security of strategic objects representing anthropogenic and ecologic danger, identification, tracing and detention of members of terrorist and extremist organizations.

For the time being the fifth Programme on Combating Terrorism for the years 2011-2013 is being elaborated within the framework of the CIS Council of the Heads of Security Services. Besides, a wide range of other documents in that field has been adopted within the framework of the CIS.

The CIS “Border-Barrier” special initiative is aimed at preventing and revealing the groups involved in organized crime, terrorist and extremist groupings, as well as the cases of illicit trafficking of arms and armaments.

The issue of combating terrorism has also been included in the Armenia-NATO/EAPC cooperation. In particular, an appropriate system of proceedings has been envisaged in order to strengthen the measures for fight against terrorism in Planning and Review Process as well as in Individual Partnership Action Plan between Armenia and NATO. A Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism in the EAPC/PfP framework has been specifically designed as well in order to deal with this issue.

Border Security and Management

Armenia develops active cooperation with NATO in the field of border security within the framework of the Individual Partnership Action Plan.

The issue of border security is one of the components of Armenia-EU cooperation under the Eastern Partnership Programme and a very effective cooperation is developing with the FRONTEX.

The working meeting of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) Programme was held from March 31 to April 1, 2011 in Vilnius. A training of specialists within the framework of the same Programme took place on 13-14 April 2011 in Kyev.

The border related issues are discussed at the annual meetings of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point (NFP) Network. The recent annual meeting of the NFP Network was conducted on 1-3 June 2011 in Vilnius during which exchange of experience of the OSCE member states in the field of combating organized crime and corruption with regard to the border security and management field took place.

Armenia cooperates with the CIS countries within the framework of the CIS Council of the Commanders of Border Guards at the basis of the Agreement of the Council of the Heads of the CIS Member States on Armed Forces and Border Guards. The 65th session of the Council of the Commanders of Border Guards was held on 18-24 April 2011 in Ashgabat.

The agenda of the session included security of the external borders of the CIS member states, integrated measures on crisis management of the CIS external borders, cooperation between the border security agencies of the CIS member states, etc.

Illegal Migration

The problem of counteraction to illegal migration is another central component of the CSTO agenda. The activity in the above field is implemented in the format of CSTO Coordinating Committee of the Heads of Competent Agencies on combating illegal migration in conformity with the CSTO member-states Action Plan for the period till 2012 on formation of collective system of counteraction to illegal migration of the third countries' citizens. Accordingly, regular consultations are held for the purpose of exchange of experience in the field of visa regulations, establishment of national systems of passport and visa documents of new generation with application of biometric information.

The competent agencies of the CSTO member-states hold annual operative preventive field operation "Nelegal" (Illegal migrant) with the aim of counteraction to human trafficking and illegal migration.

Combating the illicit turnover of drugs

CSTO member-states are actively cooperating in the field of combating trafficking of illicit drugs. Since 2003 regional interstate anti-narcotic operation "Kanal" is being held with the aim to identify and prevent the illicit turnover of drugs from Afghanistan and other countries. As of 2010, 15 rounds of the operation have been held with participation of observers from different countries.

Police related activities

Internal Forces of the Republic of Armenia are within the structure of the Police Service. In conducting its activities the Police Service is guided by the Constitution of the Republic along with relevant laws, decrees of the President, by normative acts of the Service approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. The Police Service acts on the basis of norms of international law as well as principles of justice, democracy and human rights.

Police forces are charged with the obligation to strengthen legal system and to maintain order on the territory of the Republic. They shall:

- guard and protect objects of special significance,
- convoy and protect the special importance transportations,
- disarm armed groups and/or individuals,
- assist border guards in detecting and arresting border intruders,
- guard prisons and convicted persons

In October 2009 the Working Group on Police Reforms was established with the aim to prepare a reform package within 2010-2011 in cooperation with the OSCE and EU. The Programme of the Reform covers 11 areas, including reforms for increasing the effectiveness of the combat against trafficking and illicit drug circulation, and reforms for increasing the effectiveness of combating organized crime, corruption, money laundering and cyber crimes.

Improvements in each of the above areas require changes in the existing laws and regulations or adoptions of new ones. They also have an inherent interlinked/cross-area character, for example the community-based policing, many elements of which are linked with Structural and Organizational Reforms, Educational Reform, Reforms for Improvement of the Cooperation with other Agencies and Organizations as well as Reforms for Building Confidence in the Police.