



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Statement of the United States Working Session I 2006 Annual Security Review Conference**

As delivered by the Honorable Powell A. Moore  
Head of Delegation and Representative of the Secretary of Defense  
June 27, 2006

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

First, I would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Kai Vittrup and Mr. Kevin Carty for their thoughtful remarks. Their insights have been indispensable to this discussion. We are grateful to both of them.

Secondly, I would like to offer the commendation of the United States to the Belgian Chair for taking the initiative to devote an entire working session of the ASRC exclusively to the role of policing in achieving and maintaining security and stability. A specific focus on policing is especially appropriate. In fact, given the profound impact policing has on security in all our countries, we should look for opportunities to discuss OSCE policing programs and initiatives more often.

The most important reason policing deserves more of our attention is obvious: democracies really cannot be sustained without professional, democratic police services. Without them, moreover, just about everything this organization does in terms of democratic institution-building is put at risk.

In order to survive, most political systems must have a police service that is professional, well-trained, and capable of preventing crimes and bringing criminals to justice. A democracy, however, must have a police service as committed to protecting human rights and the rule of law as it is to protecting lives and property and to maintaining order. Such a police force must behave impartially and even-handedly towards all. As Mr. Vittrup observed in his remarks, it must reflect in its own composition the ethnic, racial, and religious makeup of the society at large. Ultimately, it must be accountable to the people and community that it serves. As Mr. Carty stated, the rule of law is the hallmark of democracy.

From our perspective, these are exactly the kind of police services that the OSCE is trying to build through its field missions in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, and through the advice and assistance of the Strategic Police Matters Unit and ODIHR.

Overall, the United States is pleased with the work that OSCE is doing in the field of policing, particularly the work it is doing in well-established policing programs in Kosovo, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro. Over the years, we have particularly praised the role the OSCE has played in developing, from scratch, a professional, multi-ethnic police service in Kosovo.

By comparison, the OSCE's Police Assistance Programs in the Caucasus and Central Asia are still in their infancy. Moreover, the money spent to fund the policing programs in this region is but a fraction of the over eight million Euro the OSCE will spend this year on policing programs in the Balkans.

Even though the sum of money is relatively small, the lion's share of policing programs in Central Asia and the Caucasus is paid for by extrabudgetary contributions, rather than out of the Unified Budget, as is done for policing programs in the Balkans.

The United States believes the OSCE should consider paying for some policing programs and activities in Central Asia and the Caucasus through the Unified Budget. We believe all projects should be funded and reviewed on a project-by-project basis so as to ensure maximum coordination. This will help make sure that OSCE's programs are consistent with the generally larger bilateral programs in the Caucasus and Central Asian regions.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the United States would like to endorse here today two important policing initiatives:

First, we would like to signal our strong support for the development of the OSCE Policing On-Line Information System. We think POLIS has the potential to be a great tool for safeguarding, cataloguing, and sharing the wealth of experience the OSCE has gained over the years in its various policing programs with users throughout the OSCE region and beyond.

Second, we would also like to voice our equally strong support for the Strategic Police Matters Unit initiative launched earlier this June to develop an *OSCE Guidebook on Democratic Policing*. Such a guideline will unlock for participating States the most important documents related to police best practices and reform principles. We are currently looking into the possibility of having U.S. experts participate in development of this guidebook and in the expert meeting in September, which will finalize the draft.

In conclusion, I would like to reinforce the point made by both Mr. Vittrup and Mr. Carty that a long-term commitment on policing with adequate resources is needed. As Mr. Carty said, "success will not be achieved overnight."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.