



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Executive Structures

As prepared for delivery by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 29, 2010

The United States welcomes this report on the OSCE's police-related activities and thanks you for your presentation, Mr. Secretary General.

Effective policing is essential to uphold the rule of law, combat organized crime and other threats, defend democratic institutions, and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Police-related activities are a critical element of OSCE efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation. In particular, the OSCE provides value-added in improving policing skills; promoting democratic and community policing; and promoting cooperation and information exchange among participating States, particularly in countering trans-national threats and new security challenges.

We look forward to the continuation of police-related activities in democratic policing, which has an effective track record in securing and sustaining a reduction in crime. One of the particular strengths of democratic policing is that it is based on police-public partnerships and a joint problem-solving approach that strengthens the rule of law and promotes human rights.

We also look forward to continued efforts to combat organized crime, including drug trafficking and trafficking in human beings, and to combat terrorism and extremism. Given the trans-national nature of these threats, we encourage continued outreach to and collaboration with the OSCE's Partners for Cooperation, in particular with Afghanistan. Close coordination and collaboration with regional actors and international organizations will be critical to the OSCE's success in this field.

The OSCE's police-related activities must continue to strengthen and complement the rule of law and good governance. Your report underscores these priorities, and now we, the participating States, must aim to provide strategic guidance for future OSCE police-related activities. We anticipate fruitful discussions at the Annual Police Experts Meeting and the Annual Security Review Conference and hope these discussions will lead to a common vision for the way forward.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.