

**Common position of the Asian Partners for Co-operation for the meeting with  
OSCE Troika at the OSCE Ministerial Council, Madrid**

**(29-30 November, 2007)**

Recalling last year's common position presented to the OSCE by the Asian Partners for Co-operation at the Brussels Ministerial Council (MC.DEL/95/06) and based on the activities that have been conducted in 2007, the Asian Partners for Co-operation note with satisfaction the progress and improvement of co-operation with the OSCE this year.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation warmly welcome and highly appreciate the efforts of the OSCE Troika to have the Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and consider that it will bring a new impetus for the broadening of comprehensive cooperation between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation. We welcome a decision on the establishment of a Partnership Fund.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation are of the view that the success of OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative security between the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation held on 12-13 June, 2007 was a result of joint efforts by all Asian Partners and the participating States, as well as the Belgian Chair of the Asian Contact Group and the Secretariat. We consider that the Chairman's recommendations and suggestions of the OSCE-Mongolia conference (document PC.DEL/589/07) are of valuable importance for further strengthening and streamlining of comprehensive co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation in all three security dimensions, including the economic and environmental, in a balanced manner. In this regard, this outcome document should be examined for wider applicability within the OSCE and may serve as a foundation for moving from recommendations to implementation in the co-operation between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation in the near future.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation were among the co-sponsors of the Workshop on human security that was initiated by the Japanese delegation and held on 15 May 2007 in Vienna. The workshop aimed at promoting the concept of human security in the OSCE area and at sharing our views on human security issues from various perspectives. We believe that it has brought an impetus to a broader understanding of this concept and should be followed up in the next year and thereafter.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation consider that the first joint meeting of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups on 26 July 2007 initiated by the Korean delegation was an important step for creating a mechanism of regular dialogue between the Partners for Co-operation themselves and the OSCE that would lead to the deepening of mutual understanding and increase in activities between the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation. We believe that the concrete proposals and suggestions made on that occasion (document

PC.DEL/0829/07) would have a positive impact for enhancing a co-operative endeavour from both Partners and Participating States. We hope that such joint meetings will be held on annual basis to evaluate the state of our co-operation and seek for better ways of future co-operation.

The Asian Partners continued their efforts to enhance co-operation between the ARF and the OSCE. Thailand was a driving force in organizing a presentation on ARF by the Ambassador of the Philippines at the Asian Contact Group meeting in May. It provided a good opportunity to exchange views on perspectives and concrete steps to bring these two regional security bodies closer by sharing experiences on preventive diplomacy and confidence building measures. Organizing senior-official-level visits between the ARF Unit and the OSCE Secretariat will be helpful to advance the Asian Partners' efforts to this end. We welcome the "ARF Workshop on Confidence building measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe" to be held in March 2008 in Berlin, Germany and call for active participation of Partner States to share their experiences and best practice in this important field of security structure.

Afghanistan was high on agenda of OSCE's meetings this year and the Asian Partners appreciate the initiative of Spanish Chairmanship to propose a specific decision on Afghanistan at the Madrid Ministerial Council.

We welcome proposals of both Chairs of the Contact Groups to regularly inform the Permanent Council on topical matters and activities in the context of the partnership and to submit a yearly report for information of Ministers at the Ministerial Council. We equally welcome a regular examination and report on the implementation of partnership-relevant aspects of Ministerial Council decisions, as well as recommendations stemming from the annual OSCE Conferences with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and OSCE Mediterranean Seminars. In this regard, we highly appreciate the excellent background report of 23 July (document SEC.GAL/143/07) distributed by the Secretariat's Section for External Co-operation on the current status of our co-operation, which can be used as a model.