

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

ENGLISH only

FINAL

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2010 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW
CONFERENCE (14-16 JUNE, VIENNA – HOFBURG)**

**Working Session IV: Threats and challenges stemming from the territory of
Afghanistan and the OSCE's contribution to the stability in the region**

**Guest Speakers: Ambassador Omirtai Bitimov, Kazakh MFA; Mr. Daniel Korski,
Senior Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations**

Mr. Moderator:

- Allow me to join others in thanking our guest speakers for their excellent, thought-provoking statements to introduce this ASRC session on Afghanistan.
- Canada has stated consistently that success in Afghanistan will never be achieved through military means alone. That is why Canada has a significant civilian presence on the ground in Afghanistan -- one of the largest civilian contingents among allied nations, working alongside their military colleagues.
- Collectively, we have suffered many casualties in our efforts to help the people of Afghanistan. The legacy of these sacrifices must be realized through our continued collective work to bring peace and prosperity for Afghanistan and the region. Addressing the regional dimension of the Afghanistan challenge has been a G8 priority since 2002, and is a priority again this year during Canada's G8 Presidency in 2010. We agree with the previous speakers that the OSCE has a regional dimension role to play regarding the stability of Afghanistan and neighboring Central Asia.
- Canada welcomes the commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan at the London Conference, including in the areas of security, good governance, and human rights. We now look to the Government of Afghanistan to deliver on these commitments.

- We are encouraged by recent Afghan efforts to launch a new political process for reconciliation in Afghanistan, one that is based on the acceptance by all groups within the Afghan society of the Afghan Constitution and the need to pursue their political goals peacefully. We also look to the Afghan government to take clear steps to improve the credibility, transparency and inclusiveness of this year's parliamentary elections based on lessons learned from last year.
- Canada recognizes the importance of Afghanistan's regional neighbors in achieving stability and security. At the London Conference on Afghanistan, Canada and all conference participants acknowledged Afghanistan's potential role as a land-bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Far East and renewed our pledge to work together actively to this end.
- As stated earlier in Canada's opening ASRC statement, we support the commitment of the Kazakh OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO) to keep the focus on Afghanistan and strengthen the OSCE's engagement with this key regional partner, especially in areas where our Organization has strengths and where its capacity-building work can make a difference.
- I am thinking, in particular, of such key areas of OSCE expertise as: border security, counter-narcotics, policing, good governance and democracy-building.
- As stability in Afghanistan is key for security in the OSCE area as a whole, and especially for Central Asia, Canada will continue to advocate for the OSCE to provide cross dimensional assistance 'inside' Afghanistan.

Thank you.