



**Statement by H.E. Dr. Danilo Türk, President of the Republic of Slovenia,
at the Summit of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,
Astana, 2 December 2010**

Madame Chair,

It is a great pleasure to address this Summit and its participants. It is exciting to be involved in this important event, in particular because it has the purpose of testing ideas, setting priorities and defining orientation for the Organization at the highest political level. Slovenia has been a firm supporter of Kazakhstan's important initiative throughout the past year. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev for this event and the hospitality we enjoy.

I believe that as participants of this important meeting we should provide the answer to the following question: what kind of organization is the OSCE today and what exactly we expect from it in the future? After all, the world has changed dramatically in the 35 years that have passed since Helsinki. No longer burdened by ideological divisions and animosities, we now face a host of global threats arising from poverty, economic crisis and deteriorating environment, as well as terrorism and various forms of organized crime, and the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Military deterrence, while still necessary, has long ceased to be the sole guarantor of safety and it is obvious that the various variables that ensure today's stability are inextricably linked.

In light of these developments it is important that the three dimensions of the OSCE should remain closely linked. The comprehensive concept of security carries one very clear message: increased attention on "hard" security goes hand in hand with what is often and somewhat misleadingly referred to as "soft" security. The role of OSCE/ODIHR in election observation is therefore important and should remain so. Protection of national minorities, as expressed *inter alia* in the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations, needs to be given full attention.

Contemporary European, Eurasian and Euro-Atlantic security is highly interdependent. It is, therefore, important to acknowledge that one of the defining characteristics of the OSCE area remains the diversity of political cultures. These are different from one country to another and from one region to another. Therefore, not only persistence, but also patience in the realization of political recommendations and commitments is therefore of utmost importance. We have to learn to be patient and tolerant of one another. We need to improve the level of confidence among ourselves.

Mutual respect is crucial for deepening the trust among us. And we need to trust each other in order to find solutions to the specific crisis situations and to broader security challenges. Also known as "frozen conflicts", these have persisted for far too long. The process of solving them needs to be expedited. And I would like to emphasize that a solution especially needs to be found for the oldest one, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which has been on our agenda for already two decades. Let us not lose goodwill. The efforts within the OSCE Minsk Group have already produced a broad framework for the solution. Now the parties to the conflict need to be encouraged to build confidence, to take initially small steps and then

move to larger elements within a meaningful timeframe. The path towards solutions does exist. It needs to be taken.

The strengthening of trust is not only a key factor in ensuring better cooperation between different countries, but also between different organizations. NATO is one of them and just two weeks ago it held an important Summit of its own in Lisbon, where it adopted a new strategic concept. In it, the Alliance clearly stated that it is prepared to develop partnership relations with other organizations. The OSCE should take advantage of this development, with a view of creating synergies in the successful settlement of various conflicts.

NATO also decided to take the important step of strengthening its relations with the Russian Federation. This too should serve as an inspiration to our Organization. In this connection, I would like to recall that a significant contribution to a comprehensive review of the security issues in the area between Vancouver and Vladivostok was made this time last year by the President of the Russian Federation. His proposal for a European Security Treaty represents an innovative and farsighted contribution to the effort to create a legal framework for a pan-European security system and should also contribute substantially to the maintenance of global peace and security. It should be therefore approached not only with an open mind, but also with creativity and vision of a more integrated and safer world.

In this context, let us ask ourselves: what is expected from the Summit in Astana? Its main mission is to provide a new impulse to develop and transform the Organization. What we need are new ambitious ideas and plans about what needs to be done in the OSCE area. The outcome of this Summit needs to reflect the positive change of mood. I would, therefore, like to strongly encourage all participating States to reach consensus on a forward-looking Summit document, particularly a full-fledged Action Plan, which would enable our Organization to address current challenges to security in an efficient way.

Before concluding, let me take the opportunity to commend our Kazakh hosts in their role as this year's OSCE Chairmanship. They showed a deep understanding that a Chairmanship is not only beholden to the advancement of its priorities, but also to ensuring continuity and follow-up in the work of the organization as a whole. In this way they were able to combine their four-T agenda of "trust, tradition, transparency and tolerance" with the three-R agenda of "revitalize, reform and rebalance" of the previous Slovenian Chairmanship of 2005.

Finally, let me say that the Helsinki Final Act, which was signed in 1975, is a living document. Although it was created in a state-centered environment, it managed to introduce human-centered elements into our understanding of security. The principles it espouses are not in any way part of some bygone era. The foundations on which we stand today are, therefore, sound and this also means that they can be strengthened and, where necessary, upgraded and refined, so that they can withstand even better the weight of the new political and security reality in the OSCE area.

So, Madame Chair, let us work together for a new OSCE and a successful Summit.

Thank you.