

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak before the Security Council of the United Nations in my capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE and to share with you the priorities and activities of the OSCE.

This tradition allows us to share some ideas from the perspective of the OSCE as a regional organization recognized since 1993 under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. The OSCE lends its support to the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Thanks to the OSCE's concept of multi-dimensional and co-operative security and the varied instruments it has developed, the OSCE is well placed to assist in the implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, thus contributing to the co-ordinated responses needed to tackle the security challenges the world faces today.

The three dimensions of the OSCE –the human, the political-military and the economic-environmental dimensions- have allowed us to work together in conflict prevention, crisis management and reconstruction. We have also worked together in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and trafficking, respect for human rights, democratisation, protection of minorities, and environmental security.

The United Nations and the OSCE are joined together by their determination to strengthen a rules-based international order based on the respect for human rights and on co-operation in matters relating to security among States and societies.

The OSCE member States made the commitment to respond to the appeal of the United Nations with the adoption in March 2006 of the *Declaration on Co-operation with the United Nations*. This Declaration strengthens our cooperation and provides support to UN Security Council Resolution 1631 (2005), and reiterates the Organization's commitment to act as a regional organization.

Mr. President,

The current Presidency has strengthened the final objective of the OSCE: to construct a Europe that is free and in peace with itself, being conscious that challenges that affect security are interrelated and of the need to cooperate in a globalised and interdependent world.

For Spain, the OSCE is a bit more than a set of institutions that provide assistance to member States; it is more than 19 field missions in 17 countries, and it is more than a permanent forum of dialogue in Vienna. The OSCE is, above all, a project of strategic relevance: the common will of 56 countries to work together for a safer and more prosperous future. This idea makes the OSCE unique, based on its wide participation and experience, as well as on the equality among participating States and on the extension of its territory, that stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Spain is aware that some of the main objectives have not yet been reached, and new challenges have appeared, which has inspired the work and efforts of this Chairmanship. Without a doubt, Europe has much progressed since the Helsinki Act of 1975. Walls have fallen, families have reunited, and wars and dramatic conflicts have been solved. We consider that we have advanced in the direction of the New Europe, as reflected in the Charter of Paris.

Our commitment to peace building and to strengthening democracies guides the actions of States and civil societies in the OSCE area. We pride ourselves of the responsibility of fulfilling these commitments and, even if the job is not easy, we are not going to reduce our ambition. We will not renounce them while fronts and tensions continue at the heart of the OSCE area.

When Spain sought the OSCE Chairmanship, it was aware of these challenges. We have invested imagination, effort and resources to develop a climate of trust among 56 States, as well as for the participation of civil societies to fulfil the noble goals that make up the foundation of our Organization.

2007 has been a year of challenges for the OSCE, and it is necessary to reiterate the call to member States to work together to overcome these difficulties, with the aim to bring positions closer together and to leave space for a constructive consensus. In the past few years, we have aided Georgia in several serious incidents, such as in Abkhazia as well as in the conflict zone between Georgia and Southern Ossetia. These events concern us and highlight the need to generate trust and cooperation.

As a result of the missile incident in Georgia on 6 August, the Spanish Chairmanship has opted for a forward-looking approach, and has proposed specific preventive measures to avoid similar incidents in the future. The preparation of the proposals, their approval and implementation is a priority for the Spanish Chairmanship, in addition to the narrow cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE to stabilize the situation in Georgia and the region.

Throughout this year, the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, with the active support of the Personal Representative of the Spanish Chairmanship, Mr. José Borrell, have continued their efforts to facilitate a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. These intensive mediation efforts have not resulted in a breakthrough in the settlement process. However, the parties remain committed to continue the negotiations with the aim of finding a common vision on their remaining differences.

The OSCE continues to facilitate a settlement of the Transdnistrian issue in Moldova, through participation in the 5+2 format of negotiations. The mediators are from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and the observers are from the United States and the European Union. During the past one and a half years, we have tried to convince the parties to negotiate, as we share the conviction with other OSCE States that negotiations in this format are the most promising avenue to achieve a sustainable and lasting settlement. It would give Moldova an excellent support to develop and prosper at the heart of the European family.

Regarding these conflicts, Spain underlines the need to prepare the ground for peace. And for this peace to take effect, it will not be enough to have signatures on official documents and treaties; we need to work to overcome distrust and to build platforms for dialogue and understanding. Future peace requires action today in conflict zones, including the commitment of civil societies.

Mr. President,

We are approaching the time for a decision on the future status of Kosovo. The attempts to find a just and lasting formula that will contribute to the stability of the region have been backed by the OSCE and by the Spanish Chairmanship. It is true that we have maintained a neutral position over the years in what regards to the status, as acknowledged by all the communities of Kosovo.

Being unbiased does not mean being non-committal. Quite the contrary since the OSCE is not directly involved in status negotiations; however we contribute to the process of creating necessary conditions on the ground for the implementation of the status settlement. We are ready to stay in Kosovo in order to focus on monitoring protection of rights of communities, particularly in regards to decentralisation and protection of cultural and religious sights. At the OSCE, it is our hope that a solution to the future status settlement of Kosovo will be in the end sanctioned by a new Resolution of the UN Security Council.

The Central Asian States play a relevant and crucial role to strengthen security in the entire OSCE region. The fragility of Afghanistan, the terrorist threat, drug trafficking and organised crime, together with serious structural difficulties, as the management of water resources, are a challenge to our Organisation. We cannot ignore that the situation in Afghanistan impacts security in all of Central Asia. In that regard, the OSCE prepares border management projects, particularly in Tajikistan. We hope to engage Afghanistan in these shared security projects.

Kazakhstan has announced its candidature for the OSCE chairmanship. This announcement has been welcomed by the Organization for very good reasons – the Kazakh candidature is the first from a former Soviet Republic and the first from a Central Asian State. This is a tremendous opportunity for Kazakhstan, for Central Asia, and for the OSCE as a whole.

There is still no consensus regarding the date of the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan. The OSCE will continue to work closely with Kazakhstan, and will further assist in its reform process. As Chairman in Office, Spain is actively involved in reaching a consensus of all OSCE States on this important decision.

In this *tour d'horizon* of the OSCE, I feel obliged to mention the issue of military security, in its most conventional sense; that is, in what concerns arms control and the disarmament regime that supports security in the Transatlantic and Eurasian region.

Mr. President,

The Spanish OSCE Chairmanship notes with deep concern the ongoing stalemate regarding the future implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty. This treaty has been a cornerstone of European security since 1990, and it is imperative that we do not allow hard-won gains to be lost.

The OSCE Chairmanship calls upon all States Parties to renew their efforts to display the necessary flexibility toward a solution to the blockade, in a spirit of trust, transparency, and mutual co-operation. The Madrid Ministerial Council will grant an opportunity to move the process forward, with Spain as an active contributor.

As OSCE Chairman in Office, Spain has acted on this array of challenges in a balanced and concrete manner, and it has placed counter-terrorism as a top priority. We work effectively to support the UN-led counter-terrorism work, including the implementation of the UN Security

Council Resolution 1373 and the international legal framework for combating terrorism. In 2001, the OSCE States committed themselves to adhere to the 12 universal Conventions and Protocols related to terrorism. Today, 48 of the 56 OSCE States are party to all 12 instruments.

This year, we have organized four major conferences on *Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters to Counter Terrorism*, on *Public-Private Partnership in Countering Terrorism*, and on *Travel Document Security*, and two weeks ago, on *Victims on Terrorism*. In addition, a conference on *Incitement and the use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes* is scheduled to also take place.

The OSCE continues to collaborate in helping States to implement international agreements and conventions, as well as to generate the innovative co-operation in key areas in our security.

The Spanish Chairmanship has also championed for a reflection in the OSCE on economic and environmental security, with a particular focus on the threat of land degradation and water management. I am convinced that the OSCE can act as a platform for dialogue and a network for co-operation on environmental security, since they are areas that make up a comprehensive concept of security.

Mr. President,

In 2007, we have strengthened the human dimension of the OSCE, and we have advanced in the promotion of diverse and pluralistic societies –an issue intimately related with the commitment to deepen democracy in States and societies. Diversity is today a fact for all of our societies, and without a respect for diversity, dialogue is useless. As we enter the 21st century, this task should stand at the forefront of our consideration, and the *UN Alliance of Civilizations Initiative* is a good instrument for managing and updating diversity in the areas of youth, education, migration and the media. Without a doubt, the OSCE attaches great importance to this project of the international community.

The OSCE made a substantive contribution towards the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, since in itself the OSCE is an alliance of civilizations in action, even though we look for consensus on proposals for action regarding this UN project.

The *OSCE Chairmanship Conference on the Challenges of Islamophobia* that will take place in Cordoba on 9-10 October lies within the context of the development of the human dimension. It reflects our conviction to promote tolerance and non-discrimination in order to harmonize co-existence in all of its dimensions. This conference is the continuation of the *OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance* held in 2005 also in Cordoba.

The OSCE's to-do list is not shrinking, as it expands upon the arrival of new challenges. It is only natural that our agenda for the OSCE Ministerial Council in Madrid in November is ambitious. Over the remaining months, the Spanish Chairmanship will be actively seeking to forge consensus on vital decisions, including environmental security, the strengthening of pluralistic societies, the deepening of co-operation in counter-terrorism, and the fight against human trafficking.

Mr. President,

Chairing the OSCE is a challenge since it is a delicate political instrument, which due to its nature and evolution, manages the tensions that exist today in Europe and the threats to its security and progress. For that reason, the responsibility of chairing the OSCE is a passionate challenge for the unity of 56 States around a shared vision: that of a free Europe that is in peace

with itself; a vision that was born in Helsinki, consolidated itself in Paris and in Istanbul, and which now we strive to embody every day in our inter-action inside the Organization.

I believe that its strength also has to do with its co-operation with the United Nations, given that we have established a co-operative order in matters of security, based on democratic values and rules as a way to combat the divides and inequalities that still remain today.

Thank you for your attention.