



STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION BY THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE 2009 OSCE PROGRAMME OUTLINE

**As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 29 May 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

Norway joins other delegations in thanking the Secretary General for his presentation of the 2009 Programme Outline. We also thank the Secretariat and the Fund Managers for their submissions of proposals and programmatic priorities in accordance with the Performance-Based Programme Budgeting (PBPB). We fully share the view that we should also use the PBPB as a tool in strengthening multi-year planning and in establishing the longer-term strategic priorities of the Organization.

The Secretary General's overview of major trends in thematic and regional OSCE activities clearly shows the many important political challenges facing the OSCE. The seven themes chosen as examples in this year's Thematic Overview again contribute to focus our attention on some of the core areas where we should further strengthen our efforts in the coming years, and where the work of the OSCE will continue to have an added value.

In particular, the OSCE engagement with Afghanistan underscores the need for a long-term strategy in order to implement result-oriented activities for instance with regard to the strengthening of border security between Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan. Gender equality and the fight against trafficking in human beings are other areas where long-term involvement of the OCSE continues to be required. Let me also mention the very timely choice of economic and environmental dimension activities, where our discussions related to future priorities and the need for a more focused longer-term strategy already are in progress.

This being said, other areas where the OSCE has proven to have added value, not least with regard to election monitoring and the strengthening of democracy and human rights, should continue to be high on our agenda in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway has duly noted the Secretary General's single reference to the Organization's resource requirements for 2009. Let me reiterate that in our view the resource requirements

should be determined as a result of our political discussions and priorities. We need to secure the financial and human resources necessary to follow-up on political decisions. Thus, we have much sympathy for the view of the Quintet regarding the overall level of the Organization's resources.

Salary scales for local staff, board and lodging allowance and staff standard costs will have to be properly addressed in the context of the 2009 Unified Budget discussions.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Norway fully realizes the importance of successful Programme Outline discussions for the future work of the Organization, and we are looking forward to the political discussions in the Preparatory Committee in the weeks ahead based on the presentations of programmatic strategies of the individual Funds of the Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman