



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**WELCOMING REMARKS**

Conference on Disarmament  
24 June, 2010  
Ashgabat

**OSCE Secretary General  
Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**

Distinguished Deputy Prime Minister Meredov,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to President Berdimuhamedov and to the people of Turkmenistan for their invitation and for their hospitality.

Thank you for the honour of addressing this important international Conference on Disarmament. It is a great pleasure to speak before such a distinguished audience, immediately after Secretary of State Saudabayev. I thank the Government of Turkmenistan for hosting and organizing this timely event focusing the attention of the international community on disarmament issues, building on the extensive experience of Turkmenistan in the field of neutrality.

The world faces many challenges in the 21st century. In order to address these challenges, the common efforts of the whole international community are required to promote a comprehensive approach. Disarmament and arms control lie at the core of both security policy and development policy. On these issues, it is hopeful to see that

multilateralism is regaining centre-stage. In this respect, I appreciate that Turkmenistan is fully engaged in regional and global matters.

Central Asia is fully engaged by developments in the field of arms control and disarmament both at the global and regional levels. The farsighted and historic decisions by Kazakhstan to forgo Nuclear Weapons and close its test facilities set the stage for further initiatives to create a Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty in harmony with other regional initiatives. The Treaty adopted by all countries in the region is now an integral part of the global framework of legally binding arrangements that seek to limit Nuclear Weapons in the context of the NPT Treaty and CTBT.

Similarly, while only part of the territory of Central Asian States is covered by the CFE Treaty on conventional arms control all of the Caspian and Central Asian States are covered by the CSBMs of the OSCE. These provide a framework of reference that can be further elaborated through regional security arrangements. CICA, CSTO and SCO are also relevant broader frameworks that address transnational threats in cooperation with key actors outside the region. None of these arrangements is exclusive of intensified cooperation among regional actors such as Central Asia and the Caspian Basin initiative suggested at the UN General Assembly by the President of Turkmenistan. There is therefore room for complementary and mutually reinforcing developments between global instruments, trans-regional ones and regional developments.

I am convinced that this Conference will demonstrate the critical role of disarmament and international non-proliferation in reinforcing regional and global security and stability. Global UN based arrangements can be reinforced by initiatives at the regional and national levels, taking into account the situation and needs of each region and each country. At the same time, when searching for adequate responses to specific local and regional circumstances, States do not stand alone. The existing international framework encourages inter-regional cooperation to complement the actions of States and this is clearly at the core of the mandate of the UN Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia, based here in Ashgabat.

This Conference augurs well for the progress that can be achieved in disarmament, peace, and security within our respective mandates and in the overall context of Chapter 8 of the UN Charter, which calls for the involvement of regional arrangements or agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security. The OSCE with its comprehensive, cross-dimensional approach to security attaches great importance to the complementary role of regional arrangements in the field of disarmament.

Experience shows also that politico-military affairs can not be addressed in isolation from the economic and human dimensions of security. These different aspects come together to form a single whole that is inter-linked. Here also there are possibilities that could be further elaborated between Central Asian and Caspian countries which already have a dense network of organizations addressing economic, social and development cooperation.

In this respect, I wish to underline the importance of the role of civil society in multilateral and international efforts. Civil society can provide expertise, it can bolster support and it can reach out also to the wider public. It is a rich resource.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Cold War may have ended 20 years ago, but Cold War thinking has taken longer to disappear. The ability to act constructively depends on an ability to think with clarity in an open way. Today's globalised world is increasingly multi-polar and also includes non State actors like criminal groups and extremist movements. This world does not have to be a more dangerous world if States are solid and cooperative. But if we want to prevent a new era of competition and offset the risk of conflicts, we need to adapt and strengthen our multilateral security regimes so that they address these emerging threats.

I believe that there is a strong body of expertise and global initiatives in the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, fighting terrorism, fighting all forms of

trafficking. Combating these is not a simple task, but we are developing the necessary means to act.

The OSCE is promoting international peace and security in a region that includes all the countries here represented -- tackling emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, transnational organized crimes, working with other international and regional actors in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, co-operating in dealing with issues such as migration, trafficking of human beings, climate change and other global problems.

In all of these areas, the OSCE can serve as a powerful reference and tool for all and as a catalyst for cooperation.

The OSCE does not work in isolation from the rest of the world. The 1975 Helsinki Final Act included the idea that the security of the OSCE area was linked to security in neighbouring regions. Important security concerns cannot be separated artificially by regional lines.

We are aware of the importance of the Afghanistan factor in all aspects of the security of the Central Asia and Caspian area. They are a key part of the work of the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE and will be discussed in three weeks time at the informal Ministerial Council meeting in Almaty.

Here lies a key to the future – the common conviction that security requires politico-military co-operation between States, healthy economic and environmental governance and respect for the rule of law, human and democratic rights, and fundamental freedoms. Events in Kyrgyzstan have reminded us of this basic truth and serve as a strong call for intensified cooperation to insure stability for the whole region.

I look forward to hearing your views and express my thanks once again to the Turkmen Government for organizing this excellent event and acting as always as a force for peace and understanding.