



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Response to the Program Outline for 2011**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 27, 2010

We warmly welcome the release of the 2011 Program Outline, and we wish to thank all of the Fund Managers and their staffs for the hard work invested in this important document. The Program Outline exercise continues to be of value, focusing our attention on the operation of the Organization.

It serves as the first order of business for the 2011 budget process, and we welcome the work of the 2011 Chairman in Office, Lithuania, who will produce a perception paper based on our deliberations. We wish them the best of luck and pledge our full cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, as we consider many other important events such as the informal Ministerial in July, and follow on events, it is important to remember that the Program Outline is an opportunity to provide the fund managers with a roadmap of where we, the participating States, want this Organization to go, and how we, the participating States, believe it should get there. As the Secretary General has correctly pointed out, the participating States are responsible to provide this guidance to the Organization. We collectively need to know ourselves what we want, or we collectively cannot hope to achieve it.

Mr. Chairman: For two years now, the United States questioned the advisability of removing from the Program Outline all financial information, including indicative overall totals, per fund. The Program Outline is not a budget document, but it has clear budgetary implications. The removal of all budgetary information from this document makes it difficult to determine what programs are—or are not—worth pursuing, as we do not know anything about the cost implications of those programs. Participating States need to know the cost implications of programs in order to help guide this important decision making process.

We continue to believe that we must identify the priorities of this organization, and focus our energies and resources on those activities. There have been challenges to the Organization in the past year, which we were able to meet because of the flexibility of the OSCE and its field missions, supported by the budget. This demonstrates the value of our consultations and the decisions we took to pass the 2010 budget on time. We are confident this will continue. Key to this is that the Fund Managers undertake to examine where rational economies can be made, while allowing the important work of the Organization to continue.

We look forward to the coming debate in the Preparatory Committee.