



**Annual Security Review Conference  
Working Session III**

The role and perspectives of arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes in building trust in the evolving security environment

**Statement by Mr. Milan Cigánik, Head, Arms Control, Disarmament and Global Challenges Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

During the last decade participating States have experienced remarkable decline of trust and confidence. That is why Slovakia welcomed inclusion of the role of the arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes in building trust, in the evolving security environment into the Athens Ministerial Decision on Furthering the Corfu Process. The Process that we deem to be designed to help us to formulate guidance for our further deliberations and efforts in strengthening our comprehensive and cross-dimensional concept of co-operation and security.

It is essential now to take advantage of the current political momentum and focus our attention on modernisation of arms control regime in Europe. The current situation is being analysed and discussed in several fora. We must not only reduce the potential for conflict in the Euro-Atlantic area, but also strengthen the security of all our nations with common constructive approach to addressing concerns in transparent, reciprocal manner based on the principle of the indivisibility of our security.

We welcome the consensus reached on the Final Document of the Second Review Conference of the Open Skies Treaty. The Conference gave an important impetus to a start of a transition into the Digital Future, into Next Generation of the Treaty and use of imagery obtained during the Open Skies flights for possible contribution to transnational security, inter alia energy security.

Recently the Forum for Security Cooperation adopted a decision establishing a procedure for incorporating relevant FSC decisions into the Vienna Document. But the decision is not an end in itself. It is just a first step on our way to modernise one of the existing politico-military tool boxes. Proposals how to improve the Vienna Document 1999 that gain relevant support among participating States, are now to be thoroughly discussed. Examples at hand are the proposals cosponsored by Slovakia suggesting amendments to rules of

demonstrations of a new type of major weapon and equipment systems and of air-base visits.

Madam Moderator,

In recent months the profile of the OSCE has been raised. We should use the thrust of the current restarted dialogue concerning arms control and CSBMs. Slovakia is ready to support initiatives that can lead us to the accomplishment of our joint goal to improve trust and confidence among us.

Thank you Madam Moderator