

**Speaking Notes**  
**of the Chairman of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee**  
**H.E. Ambassador Inocencio F. Arias**  
**Special (477<sup>th</sup>) Meeting of the Permanent Council**  
**on 18 November 2003**

It is a pleasure for me to address you all as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council, to inform you on the main issues of our work, as well as to try to find a way to increase the existing cooperation between this Committee and the OSCE.

First of all, I would like to highlight the importance that OSCE activities represent to this Committee in the fight against terrorism. OSCE was one of the first Organisations in recognising its own responsibility and it decided to take an active role in the observance of the United Nations measures in the fight against terrorism. Today, the scope of your activity covers a broad spectrum of actions in issues of special interest to the CTC, explicitly included in Resolution 1373. Furthermore, the OSCE, far from limiting to unrelated initiatives has dealt with the issue of the necessary coordination of its efforts through plans and documents of great relevance among which I cannot but mention the Action Plan of Bucharest.

For this reason, the work of OSCE in the fight against terrorism is extraordinary and it stands as an example to be followed in other regions of the globe.

But, before considering the way we can make progress together in this work, I wish to briefly explain to you some views on the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

As you are well aware, the CTC was created by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 in order to verify the strict observance of this resolution and, with this in mind, we have been working over two years. The CTC, as a body of the Security

Council and of the United Nations benefits from the broad structure of the Organisation, which reflects the diversity of cultures within the United Nations. But in spite of our differences, we have been able to agree on the importance of having a coordinated and coherent policy against terrorism. We are all convinced that terrorism constitutes one of the greatest threats to peace and security, and that we must take decisive actions to prevent this scourge.

The CTC has developed a very important work in areas such as the fight against the financing of terrorism and the promotion of the participation of all States in relevant International Conventions and Protocols on Terrorism. Apart from the number of letters and reports revised by the CTC, I would like to highlight the impact that our work has in the field of dissemination of international legislation on the fight against terrorism. We have had considerable success in increasing the number of States that are part of the 12 Conventions and Protocols on this subject. This is specially relevant if we consider cases such as the Conventions against the Financing of Terrorism (1999), or the one regarding the eradication of terrorist acts with bombs (1997), where 94% and 71% of the ratifications, respectively, have taken place after the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The field of globalisation of legal instruments in the fight against terrorism is an essential and preliminary requirement to ensure that States count on efficient tools in the fight against this scourge, and the work of OSCE is perfectly complemented with the work carried out by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee.

In the course of our work, from a mere compilation of information on the situation of the States regarding compliance of Resolution 1373, we have moved to a more active action, focused in the identification of the problems encountered, as well as taking progressively more responsibilities in the field of co-operation.

Numerous States, in spite of their political will to fight against Terrorism, lack adequate tools to do it, and here is where the CTC and the International Organizations share a special responsibility to do our best to have their needs adequately assessed to finally

offer them the Technical Assistance they deserve. In this sense, one of the areas we are focusing on now is the adoption and implementation of effective anti-terrorist legislation. In this way, tools as legal codes, better practices and ideal legislation, developed by some of your organisations, are some of the key steps to continue making progress.

At the same time, we are aware that a general responsibility for the coordination of global efforts in the fight against terrorism falls on the United Nations and, in particular, on the Counter-Terrorism Committee, we also believe that Regional Organisations must play a fundamental role. The CTC neither has the means nor the intention to face, by itself, all and each of the topics in the fight against terrorism. To try to do it would be both impossible and useless. In this field, organisations as the OSCE are the ones that count on the will, the means and experience to develop the application of efficient measures in the field. You are the ones to take the leadership in the particular areas or regions where you are already working.

I would like to stop now to point out in detail some concrete issues considered within the CTC where cooperation with OSCE can be increased.

At the present time, a great cooperation between the OSCE and the CTC exists through permanent contacts at various levels. Our experts keep continuous communication with the Action Against Terrorism Unit (ATU) and with the Office of the Coordinator for Issues Against Terrorism for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). We have worked together in various seminars on the implications of Resolution 1373 for States internal legislation. I must mention the recent meeting organised by the Counsellor in charge of terrorism issues from the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations in New York and a delegation of members of Parliament of OSCE where we had the opportunity to analyse the important role of your Organisation.

In the future, we would like to focus even more on more specific topics of our common work.

1.- To allow for a correct identification of the possible deficiencies regarding the fight against terrorism by OSCE Member States, the creation of a permanent system of contact that would allow the CTC to have access to part of the very valuable information available at OSCE would be relevant.

2.- We would like that CTC would get directly involved in the preparation and application of new standards in priority areas of Resolution 1373 (as regards to the already mentioned MANPADS, to give an example).

3.- To share the information available at the OSCE, which allows to identify and takes advantage of all possible sources of technical assistance in the fight against terrorism.

4.- To continue to advance in the field of coordination of our own efforts to achieve a global participation in the twelve International Conventions and Protocols in the fight against terrorism.

5.- The creation of profiles of the States based on their reports, self-evaluations, visits in situ, and other sources of information.

To conclude, although we have covered a great distance in the last two years, there still remains a great deal to do, and the OSCE, as well as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee have the responsibility to play an essential role in the global fight against terrorism.