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| <p>First Annual Security Review Conference Working Group A (Preventing and Combating Terrorism)</p> |
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Mr. Chairman, Colleagues

Let me first of all thank our distinguished colleague, Ambassador Cofer Black, for a concise and comprehensive, thought-provoking and action-oriented key-note speech. It provides a splendid starting point for the tasks this working group must undertake.

OSCE and the fight against terrorism – a good record

Today it is safe to say that – given the means at its disposal - the OSCE has given an adequate answer to the continuing global threat of terrorism:

- With the Declarations of Bucharest, Bishkek and Porto, all 55 participating states have developed a **relevant and efficient normative acquis** which unambiguously documents our united stance in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. At the same time, we adhere to the rule of law, international standards of human rights, the UN Charter and international humanitarian law.
- Our **18 field presences** contribute tremendously to our fight against terrorism by creating and preserving a political environment that reduces the root causes of terrorism. We continue to regard our field presence as an indispensable element for the OSCE's ability of crisis management and conflict prevention and thereby to prevent terrorism.
- We believe in the continued relevance of the implementation of all **politico-military instruments of the OSCE**, in particular the Code of Conduct and the SALW document to prevent or combat terrorism. In the OSCE-Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism all participating States have underscored their commitment. The thorough implementation of the instruments will help to create and foster a climate of predictability, transparency and stability. In this context, we would also like to encourage a further debate on how to use these instruments in order to reduce threats from outside the region affecting OSCE participating States.

The German Commitment

The German Government is firmly and actively committed to fighting terrorism within the framework of the OSCE and beyond. The most visible part of that commitment is evidenced by

- 1.200 German troops engaged under the mandate of "Enduring freedom" and
- 2.400 German soldiers serving the ISAF in Kabul, where we recently painfully experienced the meaning of terrorism first-hand, when four of our soldiers fell victim to a cowardly terrorist attack in the Afghan capital and 29 were seriously injured.

Concrete proposals:

- **establishing a Border Security and Management Unit (BSMU)**
- **strengthening the ATU**
- **strengthening the SPMU**

Cofer Black has touched on the question of border security. My Government proposes to significantly broaden the expertise of the Conflict Prevention Centre in this field through the establishment of a **Border Security and Management Unit (BSMU)**. It should operate under direct supervision of the head of the CPC. The tasks of such a unit are manifold. Let me just mention the most urgent ones:

- **Trafficking:** the 11th Economic forum has proved that increased efforts in border security and border management are essential in fighting trafficking in its various manifestations.
- **Ohrid implementation:** the Ohrid conference on Border security and border management has tasked the OSCE with ambitious work which it will have to carry out hand-in-hand with NATO and the EU.
- **Requests for assistance:** a number of participating states have explicitly requested assistance in their efforts to reform border forces effectively by implementing modern border management and policing standards.

We thank the US-Government for having made Brian Woo available to the OSCE. He will give the ATU the impetus needed for the challenging tasks ahead. Richard Monk and his Strategic Police Matters Unit deserve our support and we fully endorse the Unit's ambitious project in Kirgistan. The creation of a Border Security and Management Unit and the ATU and SPMU will continue to receive my government's full support during the 2004 programme outline and budgeting process. We call on our partners to join in this effort. In doing so, we will not fail to contribute significantly to the revival of the OSCE as a security organisation that adapts itself to the challenges of our time.

Thank you.