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REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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Working Session I: Transnational threats and challenges

Transnational threats have moved up on the agenda of all security organizations. Today's guests speakers have reminded us of this. Transborder security risks like terrorism, trafficking in drugs and human beings and organized crime emanating from non-State actors present acute challenges particularly in the OSCE area. For a good ten years the OSCE has also been supporting international efforts to confront these new transborder dangers together and hence at all effectively.

Within the Corfu Process all participating States have emphasized from the outset a clear guiding principle for OSCE involvement: concentration on activities with genuine added value, also through greater co-ordination with other international actors, especially the United Nations.

We have the impression that the shared understanding of the OSCE's potential has become sharper and more specific as a result of the Corfu consultations in recent months. The OSCE is a regional organization with great political and geographical scope and a multidimensional security concept. Among its participating States it offers political connections that can be used flexibly to exchange expertise and experience but also for mediation in the implementation of international standards or for capacity-building together with other specialized organizations. An outstanding example of this added value by the OSCE in our view was the recent OSCE working meeting to promote the International Civil Aviation Organization's "Public Key Directory". We are in favour of giving clear expression to the special profile of the OSCE in an updating of the 2003 Maastricht strategy as a guideline for all OSCE measures in connection with transnational threats.

A sharper perception of the relevant role of the OSCE is a good intermediate result but does not yet constitute a contribution to combating international terrorism and crime. The recognized added value must now be put into practice with greater consistency and with greater courage in setting priorities. This applies not only to thematic activities but also to the Organization's internal structure and its interaction with other actors, particularly the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Council of Europe. We shall carefully study and evaluate the most recent proposals by the Secretary General in his report of 11 June in this regard.

For the coming years we would like to see the following priorities. The OSCE has special and recognized expertise and capacities in the area of border security and police training. For this reason, for example, Germany supports the new OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe. In Athens we and others launched an initiative for the consolidation and more strategic orientation of OSCE police work. In this regard, for example, we could agree on the adoption of an action plan or a new framework document. We also have the practical contributions by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to take account of human rights and rule-of-law standards in prevention and investigation activities. The document security programme of the Action against Terrorism Unit that Germany has supported in the past also has an interdisciplinary function.

In our view, all of these areas are central catalysts for efforts to combat terrorism, trafficking in drugs and human beings, organized crime and corruption on a sustainable basis. This justifies and calls for a continued focus by the OSCE on these themes.

When our ministers discuss the summit proposed by the Chairmanship in Almaty in the near future, they should agree on the inclusion of transnational challenges as a component of a substantial summit agenda.