

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY MR. YVES BEAULIEU, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2010 OSCE PROGRAMME OUTLINE
762TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
28 MAY 2009**

Madame Chairperson,

Canada warmly welcomes the Secretary General to the Permanent Council and his presentation of the 2010 Programme Outline. We thank him as well as all the OSCE staff involved in preparing the Programme Outline document.

Under the current international economic and financial crisis, the OSCE needs to stay focused on its value-added activities, supported by a result-based management approach. The OSCE should work towards engineering its programming and activities to focus on real and emerging needs, within a flexible framework. In this respect, a prioritization exercise could help guide the way.

In this perspective, Canada highly appreciates and fully supports the Secretary General's six specifically selected topics for 2010. Indeed, these topics are key areas where the OSCE can bring clear and significant added-value and respond to real needs. The inclusion of enhancing OSCE engagement in Central Asia and with Afghanistan and addressing trans-national threats including trafficking in human beings are cases in point.

The situation in Afghanistan is of concern as it directly impacts its neighbouring countries, the region and all OSCE partners. Canada fully supports a greater OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and believes that programming and resources have to match this important decision taken by the Ministerial Council. Strengthening programming in Central Asia related to, for example, police training, border management, fighting crime and other trans-national issues is one way to achieve a greater engagement.

There are also other real needs to be addressed in Central Asia and elsewhere in the OSCE region. Apart from police training, border management activities and combating trans-national crime and human trafficking, the OSCE could increase its assistance in other key areas such as fighting corruption and judicial reform, as well as facilitating the

resolution of trans-boundary issues related to the environment, notably water and dangerous waste management.

In this respect, the OSCE's experience and expertise within the Environment and Security Initiative is highly valuable. We could only but welcome the Secretariat in taking steps to ensure that the experience and lessons-learned are shared across the OSCE and even outside the OSCE region.

In the Human Dimension, the issues of tolerance and non-discrimination, minorities, legal reform and the rule of law represent areas where the OSCE's expertise is not only well-established but again, where there are real needs to be addressed. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) programming should reflect these priorities.

Finally, we should not forget about the core OSCE business that is Conflict Resolution and Prevention. Canada believes that the Conflict Prevention Centre and field operations programming should be strengthened in 2010. Tensions and instability are increasing in several parts of the OSCE region which call for a greater OSCE response, not a lesser one.