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**United States Mission to the OSCE**  
**Special Session on the**  
**OSCE Partners for Cooperation**

**OSCE Annual Security Review Conference**  
**29 June – 1 July 2011, Vienna, Austria**

as delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
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I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our keynote speakers for this discussion on strengthening our interaction with the Partners for Cooperation. We are very glad to have you here with us today; to us, your presence demonstrates that OSCE principles and expertise are recognized and valued beyond OSCE's borders. We fully support this, of course, and believe that discussions such as this one today can make a positive contribution to addressing the challenges we all face.

The dramatic changes taking place in North Africa and the Middle East are moments of great challenge and great opportunity. As Secretary Clinton said in a speech to the U.S.-Islam World Forum in April, the demonstrations across the Mediterranean region have destroyed a number of myths: the myth that governments can hold on to power without responding to their people's aspirations or respecting their fundamental rights; the myth that the only way to produce change in the region is through violence and conflict; and, most pernicious of all, the myth that Arabs somehow do not share universal human yearnings for freedom, dignity and opportunity.

The United States has a profound interest in long-term stability -- not only in the OSCE region, but also in the Mediterranean and Asian regions. The Helsinki Final Act itself noted thirty-six years ago that "the process of improving security should not be confined to Europe, but should extend to other parts of the world." In Astana, our Heads of State and Government emphasized that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas and pledged to enhance the level of our interaction with our Partners for Cooperation. We encourage the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to develop a set of meaningful human dimension projects for our Mediterranean Partners to be implemented within the OSCE region on an urgent basis. Understanding that work beyond the OSCE region would require consensus, we call upon our Mediterranean Partners to let us know what technical assistance they would prefer to see conducted within their own countries.

For the U.S., this means increased involvement of the Partners in the daily work of this organization and sharing the OSCE's experience and expertise with our Partners, should they so wish. Our States face many of the same challenges, and we have much to learn from each other in how best to deal with them. The rapid emergence of transnational security risks and threats demands collective action, and there is certainly scope for us to work together within the OSCE to address and meet these significant challenges. The proposal to hold a session on the Partners at the ASRC is a small, yet important step in this direction. We must do more,

however, in particular to assist our Afghan Partners to address transnational threats to security.

The United States strongly believes that the participating States must contribute, individually and collectively through the OSCE, to international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan. We would welcome a renewal in Vilnius of the OSCE's commitment to enhancing engagement with Afghanistan.

Security Sector Reform is an inherent component of the transition to democracy. Without it, no democratic transition is complete. We believe that the OSCE's experience and expertise in police reform and community policing would be particularly valuable to our Partners. The Code of Conduct's conclusions on ensuring civilian, democratic control of the armed forces is another area in which we believe we could establish useful cooperation with our Partners. We understand, however, that some of these topics would require a commitment on the part of interested participating States and Partners. For the moment, it may be more feasible to start smaller, perhaps by translating relevant OSCE guidelines into languages useful to our partners. This effort has begun with the Guidebook on Democratic Policing (which was translated into Arabic) and could yield results that could more than justify the expense. This and other translated guidebooks could be released in combination with experts' visits or in-region workshops on the application of the concepts. Such efforts could focus on other topics of interest to Partners and critical needs of the moment, such as migration management.

Cooperation should go beyond individual relationships with Partner States, and extend to other organizations active in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The United States would particularly welcome enhanced OSCE interaction with the League of Arab States, an organization that has been providing much needed support for democratic change in the Mediterranean region. We are pleased that the NATO Secretary General will be here tomorrow as the keynote speaker of the ASRC. NATO is and must continue to be a partner of the OSCE.

We fully support the Lithuanian Chairmanship's proposal to adopt a decision in Vilnius on enhancing our engagement with the Partners for Cooperation. Such a decision should take into account the evolution of our Partnership over the past few years, as well as the unforgettable events of this spring, and provide new impetus to help fulfill the promise made in Astana to enhance the level of our interaction. We believe the OSCE has experience and expertise that would be beneficial to our Partners and improve security and long-term stability throughout our wider region.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.