



Ministry for Foreign Affairs

**OSCE Summit 2010**  
**Statement by H.E. Mr. Carl Bildt, Minister for Foreign**  
**Affairs**

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Mr Chairman,

Mr Secretary General,

Heads of state and governments,

In order for our OSCE to be a relevant actor in the 21st Century, responding to the security challenges that we are facing today, it needs to continue to be built on two pillars.

The first pillar is the principles and values of the OSCE as laid down in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris. This includes compliance with the norms we have all committed to in the three different dimensions of the OSCE. The values of the OSCE, such as human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms and its institutions and field missions must pave the way for the OSCE, if we want this organization to continue to be relevant in the future. We cannot accept that these norms and values are diluted.

The OSCE institutions, in particular the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human rights (ODIHR), with its important work on the election process, the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and its role in silent diplomacy and the Representative for the Freedom of the Media (RFOM) and its highly important work on protection of journalists; these institutions are the guardians of the OSCE. We must continue to strengthen the support to these institutions. They are protecting the OSCE values and advancing our joint agenda.

The second pillar is the comprehensive concept of security and peace in our part of the world, which reminds us that

freedom of speech and freedom on the internet are security issues to the same extent as transnational threats are, and that they are both interrelated.

Mr Chairman,

We are talking about moving towards a security community here in Astana. No genuine security community can exist as long as it does not focus on its own internal conflicts and increases its efforts to actually resolve them. This will indeed be the test for the OSCE in the years to come. How can we tackle all the other challenges such as terrorism, climate change, drug trafficking, cyber attacks, if we cannot manage to make serious progress in resolving conflicts that daily involve our own participating states and their citizens?

What is it that stops us from making progress?

First of all, we need to restore confidence. This is not done by shying away from the difficult issues but by facing them and by addressing them with even more vigour than we have done so far.

The level of confidence between our participating states will not be strengthened significantly until we have resolved the protracted conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and concerning Nagorno-Karabach. They are the Achilles Heel of our organisation.

Second, we need to see renewed political commitment to the peaceful settlement of these protracted conflicts. Our summit is an opportunity to send a signal at the highest political level, that we commit ourselves to making progress in resolving the protracted conflicts and then to take stock in Vilnius in 2011 on the progress made.

We must renew our commitments to support international efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the conflict in **Georgia**, including through the Geneva talks, to stabilise the security situation and address the humanitarian and human rights issues and to restore a meaningful OSCE presence on the ground, in all of Georgia. We must give our firm and unequivocal support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia as recognized by international law. The recent public recommitment by Georgia not to use force to restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty, and the invitation to a political dialogue with the Russian Federation, has already been welcomed by many of the distinguished speakers here today, and I do too.

We must also fully support the efforts of the Minsk Group towards a solution of the **Nagorno-Karabakh** conflict, based on the Madrid principles. Here Georgia's recent recommitment to non use of force could set an important example. We should welcome the intensified negotiations this year and call again upon Armenia and Azerbaijan to take the necessary decisions to achieve a breakthrough and strongly encourage further steps.

We should also remain firmly determined to seek a sustainable settlement of the **Transnistrian** conflict which should be within reach, based on the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Moldova and call for the resumption of negotiations in the 5+2 format. They should be resumed as soon as possible and without preconditions with the aim to establish an action plan outlining concrete steps towards the settlement of the conflict.

Mr Chairman,

By targeting the urgent security challenges that we are facing today and working more closely together and then restoring the trust and establish the confidence, we are creating the very basis for a new security community reaching from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

A strong political commitment should guide us for the future so that we can bridge confidence gaps, and start moving towards that security community, based on values such as peace, human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms for all.

This I hope should also be the priorities for the incoming CiO:s Lithuania, Ireland and Ukraine.

I thank you!