



**United States Mission to the OSCE**  
**Response to CSTO Secretary General  
Nikolay Bordyuzha**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Joint FSC/PC, Vienna  
April 15, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We welcome Secretary General Bordyuzha and thank him for his presentation of the CSTO's current priorities and activities.

We are pleased that the CSTO attaches importance to coordination and cooperation with the UN and regional organizations such as the OSCE. The United States values the OSCE's practical, results-oriented cooperation with other organizations, including the CSTO. We believe the best way to implement this cooperation is by coordinating our efforts in a flexible and informal way.

We also see scope for continued engagement on efforts to stabilize Afghanistan, which shares borders with two CSTO member states. Several CSTO members have made significant contributions -- in part through the OSCE -- to the international community's efforts in Afghanistan, and we hope to see these contributions continue and expand. We believe the OSCE can make valuable contributions in areas in which it possesses unique expertise -- such as border security and management, police training, and elections -- and can potentially engage Afghans in democracy, human rights, economic/environmental, and other activities.

We appreciate your briefing on the CSTO's counter-narcotics efforts. The United States participated in Operation Kanal as an observer and continues to be interested in engaging its CSTO counterparts on counternarcotics. In particular, we believe the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Center (CARICC) provides an effective, inclusive forum for sharing information and coordinating operations to counter the threat of narcotics from Afghanistan.

We would like to underline the importance to the OSCE of a comprehensive, cross-dimensional approach to address threats to security and stability. This approach has been tremendously successful over the past 35 years, having provided the means for peaceful democratic transition and development. The discussions on European security within the OSCE have demonstrated the participating States' commitment to strengthening this comprehensive approach, and making the OSCE an even more effective organization for the 21st century.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.