



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

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Office of the Secretary General
Section for External Co-operation



**2008 OSCE-AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING
CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE OSCE AND ITS ASIAN PARTNERS
FOR CO-OPERATION TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES TO SECURITY**

Kabul, Afghanistan, 9 and 10 November 2008

Consolidated Summary

Table of contents

1	General information	3
1.1	Venue	3
1.2	Participation	3
1.3	Timetable and organizational modalities	3
1.4	Agenda	5
2	Summary of the opening ceremony	9
3	Reports by session rapporteurs	13
3.1	Session 1: The OSCE's contribution to capacity-building in the OSCE region and the countries of the Asian Partners for Co-operation	13
3.2	Session 2: Threats to the common security and stability of the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, with particular attention to Central Asia and Afghanistan	15
3.3	Session 3: Challenges and opportunities in border security and management, including customs modernization	20
4	Summary of the closing session	24
5	Recommendations and suggestions emanating from the 2008 OSCE Afghanistan Conference	26
6	List of participants	28

1 General information

1.1 Venue

The Conference was held on 9 and 10 November 2008, at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan in Kabul.

1.2 Participation^{*)}

1.2.1 Thirty-three OSCE participating States, including France/EU, the European Commission, and the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan, took part in the Seminar. Australia participated as guest of the host country.

1.2.2 Four Asian Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Japan, Korea and Mongolia) were represented.

1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat, the ODIHR, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly were represented.

1.2.4 The international organizations were represented by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization together with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the World Bank.

1.2.5 Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were able to attend and to contribute to the Seminar and the preceding NGO side-event, in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities

1.3.1 The Conference began at 9.30 a.m. (opening ceremony) on 9 November and ended at 1 p.m. on 10 November 2008.

1.3.2 The Conference was conducted in three sessions.

1.3.3 The opening session was co-chaired by Dr. Davood Moradian, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Centre for Strategic Studies, and Ambassador Marta Betanzos Roig, Chairwoman of the Asian Contact Group. The closing session was chaired by Ambassador Antti Turunen, Head of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE.

1.3.4 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.

1.3.5 The working language was English. The host country provided for interpretation from and into Dari.

1.3.6 Arrangements were made for press coverage.

^{*)} See chapter 6, List of participants

- 1.3.7 Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

1.4 Agenda

Saturday, 8 November 2008

7 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. Reception hosted by the OSCE Secretary General for participants in the Conference – Hotel Serena, Kabul

Sunday, 9 November 2008

9.30–10.15 a.m.

Opening session

Co-Chair: **Dr. Davood Moradian, Director-General,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan,
Centre for Strategic Studies**

**H.E. Ambassador Marta Betanzos Roig,
Chairwoman of the Asian Contact Group**

Opening addresses

- **Welcoming address by H.E. Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan**
- **Opening statement by H.E. Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council**
- **Opening statement by H.E. Ambassador Marta Betanzos Roig, Chairwoman of the Asian Contact Group**
- **Opening statement by H.E. Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE**

10.15–10.30 a.m.

Break

10.15 a.m.

Family photograph

10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

Session 1: The OSCE's contribution to capacity-building in the OSCE region and the Asian Partners for Co-operation

Moderator: **Mr. Enayatullah Nabel, Director-General, Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan**

Rapporteur: **Mr. Andrew Hyslop, Election Adviser, ODIHR**

This session will focus on:

- Promoting institution-building, election capacity-building, respect for and enjoyment of human rights and democratization as components for security and stability;
- The Partnership Fund as a tool to foster deeper relations with the Partners for Co-operation;
- The role of the OSCE in the follow-up to the June 2008 Paris International Conference in support of Afghanistan;
- The relevance of the OSCE human dimension commitments to security and stability in the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

Speakers

- **H.E. Dr. Omar Zakhilwal, Chief Economic Adviser to the President of Afghanistan**
- **H.E. Ambassador Jean de Ponton d'Amécourt, Ambassador of France to Afghanistan**
- **H.E. Ambassador Hideo Sato, Ambassador of Japan to Afghanistan**
- **Mr. Jürgen Scholz, Police Commissioner, Ministry of the Interior and for Sports Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany**

12.30–2 p.m.

Lunch hosted by the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2-3 p.m.

Guided tour of the Afghan Royal Garden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan

3–6 p.m.

Session 2: Threats to the common security and stability of the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, with particular attention to Central Asia and Afghanistan

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Yusuf Buluç, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Mr. Murat Yildiz, Political Affairs Officer, OSCE Secretariat

This session will focus on:

- Follow-up to the July 2008 OSCE Expert Conference on International Co-operation to Combat Trafficking in Illicit Drugs and Chemical Precursors;
- Concrete mechanisms for increased engagement by the Asian Partners in countering terrorism and organized crime.

Speakers

- H.E. Dr. Mohammad Zafar, Deputy Minister on Policy and coordination, Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan
- General Mohammad Daud Daud, Deputy Minister on Counter-Narcotics, Ministry of the Interior of Afghanistan
- Mr. Kai Vittrup, Police Commissioner, Head of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan
- Mr. David Belgrove, Head of Counter Narcotics Team, British Embassy, Kabul

4.30–4.45 p.m.

Break

4.45–6 p.m.

Discussion (continued)

6 p.m.

End of the first day

6.30 p.m.

Reception hosted by H.E. Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan

Location: Foreign Ministry of Afghanistan.

Monday, 10 November 2008

9.30–11.15 a.m.

Session 3: Challenges and opportunities in border security and management, including customs modernization

Moderator: Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Special Envoy of the OSCE CiO on election observation

Rapporteur: Mr. Henry Bolton, Senior Border Adviser, OSCE Secretariat

This session will focus on:

- Best practices in securing borders and streamlining border and customs procedures;
- Increasing State revenue through improved management of borders;
- Fighting corruption and illegal activities, including all forms of trafficking;
- Training initiatives in customs and border management.

Speakers

- **Special address by H.E. Ambassador Kai Eide, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan**
- **H.E. Mr. Sharifullah Ibrahimi, Deputy Minister for Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan**
- **H.E. Ambassador Julie Finley, Chief of the United States Mission to the OSCE**

11.15–11.45 a.m.

Break

11.45 a.m.–1 p.m.

Concluding session and closing remarks

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council

- Rapporteurs' reports of sessions 1 to 3
- **Concluding remarks by H.E. Ambassador Marta Betanzos Roig, Chairwoman of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation**
- **Concluding remarks by Dr. Davood Moradian, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Centre for Strategic Studies**

1 p.m.

Closing of the Conference

2 Summary of the opening ceremony

Report by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The Session was co-chaired by Dr. Davood Moradian, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Centre for Strategic Studies, and H.E. Ambassador Marta Betanzos Roig, Chairwoman of the Asian Contact Group. The ceremony started with a welcoming address by H.E. Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. Opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council and Head of the Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE on behalf of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and by H.E. Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE.

In his welcoming address, Dr. Spanta noted that the Conference was a clear example of the co-operation between the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation. It was evidence of the commitment to implementing the principles, values and goals of the OSCE. Individually and collectively, the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation had the potential to contribute to securing the environment within the OSCE area and beyond, which could only be achieved through strengthened co-operation.

Over the previous three decades, Afghanistan had paid a great price in its struggle against foreign occupation, terrorism and imposed conflicts. Slowly but tenaciously, it was marching towards becoming a stable and prosperous country. Great strides had been made during recent years. Afghanistan had made the transition to electoral democracy and had adopted a modern and progressive constitution. Thousands of schools had been built across the country. Afghans now enjoyed more political, social and economic rights than at any time in the country's history. Afghan women had also regained their status as active members of society, as was shown by their significant numbers in the country's National Assembly. Media liberalization had also enabled a high number of outlets to be established.

Despite all this progress, many challenges remained. A comprehensive strategy revolving around three pillars – security, social and economic development, and good governance – had been elaborated. Terrorism also continued to be the number one challenge. While in the recent past Afghanistan had been the main target, terrorists were now targeting countries like Pakistan. If terrorism was to be defeated, sanctuaries that trained, harboured and equipped terrorists had to be eliminated.

As a measure designed to give it greater responsibility in addressing its own security challenges, Afghanistan had prioritized the national ownership of the security sector, which was the main long-term and sustainable solution to the challenge of maintaining democracy and confronting terrorism.

Illicit narcotics remained a key threat, not only to Afghanistan's national security but also to regional and global stability. A comprehensive strategy was required, including both regional and global efforts. Efforts to reduce demand and consumption were also necessary. As a result of Afghanistan's efforts, the number of poppy-free provinces had increased from 13 to 18. Anti-narcotics efforts were also linked to anti-corruption efforts.

Dr. Spanta reiterated his Government's strong interest in fostering relations with the OSCE. He expressly thanked the Secretariat for the projects proposed as means of implementing the

Madrid Ministerial Decision on engagement with Afghanistan. He also expressed Afghanistan's interest in OSCE support of the country's 2009 presidential elections.

In his opening statement, Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairman of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, noted that during its year at the helm of the OSCE the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship had closely followed developments in relations with the Asian Partners and supported the work carried out by the Spanish Chairmanship of the Contact Group.

He emphasized that the Madrid Ministerial Council had produced two documents of particular relevance to the Partners for Co-operation, namely, the Ministerial Declaration on the Partners for Co-operation and the Ministerial Decision on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. Furthermore, the Permanent Council had adopted a decision on the Partnership Fund.

He reported that the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship had contributed to the Partnership Fund by sponsoring activities both with Asian and with Mediterranean Partners, including the participation of two experts from the Afghan Independent Central Election Commission in last July's Chairmanship election seminar and an additional project aimed at providing technical assistance to the same Commission.

Ambassador Turunen said that the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship considered dialogue with its Asian Partners an important aspect of the Organization's work and welcomed the success of that co-operation, adding that the Conference in Kabul served as a prime example of the relevance and importance of the relations between the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation. He added that Partners were invited to all OSCE main events, and also regularly attended the Permanent Council (PC) and Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) meetings. He also commended the outcome of the second joint meeting of the Contact Groups.

He furthermore mentioned Finland's support for the workshop on human security and its potential relevance to OSCE activities, held in Vienna on 26 September, which had been initiated by Japan and co-sponsored by other Asian Partners and some participating States. In line with the need to continue strengthening relations with the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship had in the spring contributed to an important ARF workshop on preventive diplomacy hosted by Germany.

He noted positively the decision by the Forum for Security Co-operation on promoting voluntary participation by the Partners for Co-operation in activities related to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and was hopeful that in due course progress would be made.

Ambassador Turunen emphasized that the negotiations on the implementation of the Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan had been intense and had continued for many weeks but that so far the discussions had only been partially successful. He stressed that the Chairmanship stood ready to continue facilitating the negotiations.

Concerning the upcoming elections in Afghanistan, Ambassador Turunen underlined that the Organization was ready to consider any concrete and feasible proposals for further OSCE election assistance in Afghanistan next year.

In conclusion, he noted that the OSCE had recently strengthened its role as a forum for discussion by key actors of the most burning political developments across a wide spectrum of issues ranging from conflict resolution and democratic transformation to arms control. The Finnish OSCE Chairmanship was aiming for an ambitious Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki and one that would reaffirm the commitment of all participating States to their vision of common security and their willingness to work together to overcome difficulties.

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut noted that the Conference was a tribute to Afghanistan's active engagement as a Partner for Co-operation, which had been demonstrated from the very first day when the country became an Asian Partner in 2003. Ever since, Afghanistan had distinguished itself through its firm commitment to the OSCE. As the OSCE foreign ministers had made clear at the Madrid Ministerial Council, the OSCE reciprocated that commitment, and remained dedicated to deepening the level of engagement with Afghanistan.

Afghanistan bordered on three OSCE participating States and lay only a matter of kilometres away from a fourth. Its security was inextricably linked with security in Central Asia, with which Afghanistan shared significant historical and cultural ties, and in the OSCE area as a whole.

He further noted that Afghanistan was the only Partner State in which the OSCE had been able to conduct activities out of its area, through the 2004 and 2005 Election Support Teams. Electoral support was now being continued through a joint ODIHR-External Co-operation project.

The adoption of the Madrid Ministerial Decision on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan was of special importance for the development of the Organization's relations with Afghanistan and for addressing the common challenges facing Afghanistan and Central Asia. The decision focused on OSCE action to help secure the borders between the Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan, and on Afghan involvement in relevant OSCE activities.

The Secretariat had worked hard with the Chairmanship to take the Madrid decision forward, developing an initial package of projects designed to strengthen border security and management, to promote and foster cross border co-operation between the Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan, and to enhance national law enforcement capacities. A number of these projects were about to enter their implementation phase, and participation by Afghan officials was eagerly awaited.

The Secretary General added that the OSCE participating States were deeply concerned about the spread by criminal groups of illicit drugs, including heroin. This illicit industry had fostered one of the most profitable and dangerous forms of transnational organized crime in the OSCE area. In this connection, he also noted that the other Asian Partners had also been deeply involved in the OSCE's counter-narcotics work and conferences.

He also pointed out that while discussion at the conference was to include Afghanistan, it was not to be limited to Afghanistan. The broader challenges to the security of the Asian Partners and the participating States would also be addressed. For this, the OSCE framework of comprehensive security remained sharply relevant.

The OSCE worked not only across all three dimensions, but also across borders. International criminal and terrorist networks, and not just drug-traffickers, thrived on weak and porous borders. This recognition had brought about the increased attention paid by the OSCE participating States to questions of border security and management. Supporting the promotion of free movements of goods and people, while at the same time strengthening the interception of illicit trafficking, whether in weapons, narcotics, precursors or human beings, was a major challenge facing the OSCE participating States. In this respect, it was also important that the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept included provisions to ensure the exchange of information and the sharing of ideas, on a voluntary basis, with the Partners for Co-operation.

Effective border management meant more than security just being viewed through the political-military lens. Its impact was felt in economies and in societies as a whole. It was an essential part of revenue collection, upon which healthy States were built. Customs duties represented a significant part of State revenue, and increasing and securing revenue, including customs, enabled governments to meet their commitment to fostering the public goods of economic growth, social welfare, health care and education. At the same time, for revenue collection to be effective, corruption and criminal networks had to be fought. The knock-on effects were both positive and multiple. However, achieving this virtuous circle was a major challenge, for many OSCE participating States and also for Afghanistan, and a challenge that underlined the importance of building strong institutions for the welfare and security of societies and States.

3 Reports by session rapporteurs

3.1 Session 1: The OSCE's contribution to capacity-building in the OSCE region and the countries of the Asian Partners for Co-operation

Report by Mr. Andrew Hyslop, Election Adviser, ODIHR

The first session was devoted to the OSCE's contribution to capacity-building in the OSCE region and in the countries of the Asian Partners for Co-operation. The specific discussion topics focused on: promoting institution-building, election capacity-building, and respect for and enjoyment of human rights and democratization as components for security and stability; the Partnership Fund as a tool for fostering deeper relations with the Partners for Co-operation; the role of the OSCE in the follow-up to the June 2008 Paris International Conference in support of Afghanistan; and the relevance of the OSCE human dimension commitments to security and stability among the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

The guest speakers addressed these topics from different angles, although all agreed that security was the foremost challenge to be overcome and that regional co-operation was vital to the success in meeting challenges in Afghanistan. Many cited the OSCE as a vital part of that co-operation.

Dr. Zakhilwal spoke also of the importance of the Afghanization of the development process and more specifically of having Afghan ownership over Afghan priorities. He also spoke of the inter-connectedness of the different angles of security, as well as the inter-connectedness of security in Afghanistan with the wider region and the need for regional development. He said that success in Afghanistan was achievable, but that it would require continued support from the international community. He noted the important role of the OSCE, especially in relation to regional co-operation. Finally he raised the matter of the importance of economic development for security and referred to Afghanistan's current activities in this field.

Ambassador Ponton d'Amecourt discussed four priorities for Afghanistan. In discussing the security situation as priority number one, he noted NATO's continued commitment to Afghanistan, as expressed at the Bucharest Summit, as well as the bilateral and joint EU support provided in Kabul, notably through the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL), which was supporting the new Minister for the Interior in his tasks. The second priority he noted was implementing commitments from the Paris Conference, which was important in that significant aid had been committed to Afghanistan and also in its comprehensive approach, which had involved the attendance of both civil society and the private sector. The Ambassador stated that the OSCE would play a critical part in the efforts to strengthen democracy. The third priority noted was the upcoming presidential and local elections planned for the following autumn, and the final priority was regional co-operation.

Japanese Ambassador Hideo Sato talked of the importance of human security and its role as a main pillar of Japanese assistance. This pillar was addressed through capacity-building, not only in the sense of developing human resources and institutions but also of empowering individuals through good governance. Such an approach was in line with OSCE human dimension commitments, notably with respect to establishing the rule of law and focusing on sustainable development. Since hosting the international conference on reconstruction and development for Afghanistan in 2002, Japan had increased its involvement, notably through

significant financial support, which was also provided through the OSCE. Primary areas of focus included infrastructure development, security, rural development and meeting basic needs such as education and healthcare. The importance of regional co-operation was again highlighted, as was the OSCE's unique role in this field.

The final keynote speaker, Jürgen Scholz, spoke of the importance of police development. He stated that the initial goals and timelines of the international community in Afghanistan were too short-term, and that what was required was long-term engagement — at least one more decade. He said that police development also required political will, and called on the international community to be decisive in supporting the new Minister for the Interior. He made a number of recommendations in relation to capacity-building for the police force, including: developing common curricula for police training; limiting participants on the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB); holding more international caucus meetings; ensuring that the IPCB only address principal issues; establishing a well-functioning secretariat to the IPCB; deciding whether there would be national police or a national framework for police; and developing an internal investigation department in the Ministry of the Interior. He noted that illiteracy was an overarching problem throughout the police services. New initiatives would require more money and human resources. He affirmed Germany's readiness to deploy more police, and recommended having a training centre outside of Afghanistan. He noted that border police also needed to be set up and considered OSCE participation in this to be an excellent idea.

In the ensuing discussion, participating States noted their support for the OSCE's engagement in Afghanistan and highlighted their own States' bilateral support. There was broad agreement on the importance of addressing security issues and on the need for capacity-building. Participants pointed out that the OSCE's experience in areas such as South-East Europe could be brought to bear in Afghanistan, given the importance of civil society and the location of Afghanistan at the heart of Asia. In particular, one participating State noted its support for OSCE projects inside and outside Afghanistan, and recommended that the OSCE respond positively to Afghanistan's request for support in the elections field. It also noted the importance of the involvement of women in all activities. Another participating State questioned the helpfulness of training police outside Afghanistan. The joint Secretariat/ODIHR project providing Afghanistan with technical election assistance through the Partnership Fund was described in detail, as were the capacity-building activities of the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) and NATO, and some of the efforts made to ensure their effectiveness. One participating State stated that training of trainers should be strengthened and augmented with visits abroad. One Partner for Co-operation noted that democracy was the foundation of security and of fundamental importance for human rights and the rule of law, while another pointed out how conclusions from the previous year's conference were also applicable to Afghanistan, as was its own experience with reforms in democratic governance. One participating State noted how projects supported by provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs) in Afghanistan could be used to augment OSCE projects, and offered technical and financial support in this regard. A local representative mentioned the existence of the inter-ministerial commission for capacity-building and noted how all OSCE activities were linked to capacity development. Finally, economic and environmental aspects of security were discussed: in particular, the roles both of the OSCE and of Afghanistan in the areas of water management, co-operation on electricity, transportation and regional economic development.

3.2 Session 2: Threats to the common security and stability of the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, with particular attention to Central Asia and Afghanistan

Report by Mr. Murat Yildiz, Political Affairs Officer, OSCE Secretariat

In his function as moderator, H.E. Ambassador Yusuf Buluç introduced the topic of the second session. This was followed by presentations by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Zafar, Deputy Minister on Policy and Coordination, Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan; Mr. David Belgrove, Head of Counter Narcotics Team, British Embassy in Kabul; General Mohammad Daud Daud, Deputy Minister on Counter-Narcotics, Ministry of the Interior of Afghanistan; and Mr. Kai Vittrup, Police Commissioner, Head of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL).

The presentations focused on the drug situation in Afghanistan with a particular emphasis on progress, development, and constraints and obstacles in fighting drug-trafficking. The first speaker, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Zafar, Deputy Minister on Policy and Coordination, highlighted achievements made in the previous 12 months, in the course of which the number of poppy-free provinces had increased from 13 to 18. In 2006 there had been only six poppy-free provinces in Afghanistan. Dr. Zafar noted that in 2008 there had been a 19 per cent reduction in poppy cultivation, as a result of the involvement of local communities (the pre-planting campaign), financial support through the Good Performers Initiative (GPI), and the support of international community. Dr. Zafar's presentation provided participants with updated statistics on drug seizures made in last three years.

Seizure (tons)	2006	2007	2008 (to date)
Drugs	35	68	324
Precursors	43	64	95

Deputy Minister Zafar emphasized the importance of drug demand reduction. He noted that there had been a lack of understanding about the drug demand problem in the country. He also briefed the participants about the Government's efforts to promote demand reduction by training and awareness-raising programmes across the country.

Dr. Zafar identified weak border security as a root cause of the increased quantity of precursors coming into the country. He praised the work of the Drug Control Regulation Committee established in 2006 and mandated to authorize and give licenses to the companies and/or individuals for medicine and other recognized purposes.

Dr. Zafar called for collective and co-ordinated efforts in order to fight drug-trafficking effectively. He stressed the fact that Afghanistan could not solve these problems alone and also the need for regional and international co-operation.

Dr. Zafar pointed out a number of problems and constraints, including:

- Border security, due to the geographical difficulties in securing long land borders in areas where large volumes of opiates are trafficked;
- The high level of poppy cultivation still existing in the southern regions of Afghanistan because of lack of security and law enforcement;

- Challenges related to the need to replace the illegal economy derived from drug industry with legal economic activities.

In conclusion, Dr. Zafar spoke about what needed to be done. He highlighted a few important areas needing constant improvement such as border controls, capacity-building in law enforcement, especially in the provinces, and the strengthening of control over and licensing of precursor chemicals.

The second speaker was Mr. David Belgrove, Head of the Counter Narcotics Team at the British Embassy in Kabul. Mr. Belgrove talked about the comprehensive approach to countering narcotics set out in the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy led by the Government of Afghanistan.

He noted that only determined efforts directed at all areas simultaneously (political, legal, economic, and financial) and sustained in the long term would bring about real progress in countering the illegal narcotics industry in Afghanistan.

Like Dr. Zafar, Mr. Belgrove noted that opium cultivation was increasingly taking place in the south of the country, where there was a low level of security. The porous nature of Afghanistan's borders was one of the biggest sources of insecurity. According to Mr. Belgrove, the southern border with Pakistan was regularly crossed both by insurgents and by narcotic smugglers, whose activities undermine the Afghan Government.

Mr. Belgrove also provided statistics concerning the illicit narcotics situation in Afghanistan. In 2008, 157,000 hectares of land were used for poppy cultivation, a decrease of 19 per cent on 2007, and opium production had fallen by 6 per cent. Furthermore, this year the number of poppy-free provinces had increased to 18, that is to say, more than half of all provinces.

He then briefed the participants about the British Government's assistance to Afghanistan. He said that building durable Afghan institutions was fundamental to long-term success and that the United Kingdom was helping to develop the capacity of Afghan law enforcement agencies to gather intelligence, interdict and investigate drug-trafficking networks. He noted that the capacity and impact of Afghan-led interdiction efforts continues to grow. Regular seizures of opium and heroin and the record-breaking seizure of 236 tons of cannabis by counter-narcotics forces constitute strong evidence of the increasing impact of Afghan-led operations.

Mr. Belgrove noted that the UK's assistance in promoting licit livelihoods in 2008 is expected to be around £35 million. Significant investments have already been made, for example, in promoting new crops such as saffron in the Herat province. The UK (Department for International Development) has committed to spend £345m in support of the Afghan National Development Strategy in the period 2009–2012.

In connection with progress made so far, Mr. Belgrove pointed out that over 21,900 community development councils have been established, 9,790 km of roads have been rehabilitated, and over £227 million in micro-finance loans has been disbursed to 443,740 Afghans. The UK also supports the GPI, which was established in 2006 by the Afghan Government to enable the provinces and the provincial leadership to address local needs promptly and effectively.

Mr. Belgrove noted that regional co-operation is an important element in work undertaken to disrupt the activities of narcotics-traffickers. He stressed the need for better working-level contacts and information-sharing between Afghanistan and other countries in the region.

In that context, Mr. Belgrove encouraged the implementation of the recommendations of the UNODC Triangular Initiative (Afghanistan, Pakistan/Iran) regarding pilot border liaison offices and intelligence-based joint operations. Referring to the Good Neighbourly Relations Declaration on counter-narcotics work signed in Berlin on 1 April 2004, he urged Afghanistan and her neighbours to further develop their co-operation.

Mr. Belgrove, and later on the NATO representative, also mentioned the additional clarity provided by the NATO defence ministers on 10 October 2008 in Budapest in relation to the role of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in assisting the Afghan Government's counter-narcotics efforts.

Mr. Belgrove's presentation underlined the need for further work in improving co-ordination mechanisms both between international contributors and with the Afghan Government, in the latter case with a view to ensuring that offers of assistance match the requirements of the Afghan Government.

In conclusion Mr. Belgrove suggested that the OSCE should consider providing assistance to the Afghan Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in connection with the upcoming presidential elections in 2009.

The third speaker was General Mohammad Daud Daud, Deputy Minister of the Interior for Counter-Narcotics. General Daud gave an overview of the work undertaken by the Ministry of the Interior in combating drug-trafficking.

General Daud said the Afghan law enforcement agencies needed international assistance in training and equipment. His presentation drew a number of parallel conclusions with previous speakers. He talked about lack of security and linkage between drug-trafficking and terrorism as well as profound corruption in the police and the army.

His presentation highlighted the Ministry of the Interior's strategy in the field of counter-narcotics. These included dismantling drug-trafficking networks/organizations, poppy eradication and crop substitution.

Regarding poppy eradication and crop substitution, General Daud informed the participants that the "poppy eradication force" would complete its training soon and would be deployed to the southern provinces of Afghanistan. He noted that the force would be responsible for manually eradicating poppy plantations.

General Daud stressed the success achieved in the implementation of the strategic programmes, while still acknowledging the need for further improvement. He called for international support to continue with the poppy eradication programme and to expand the crop substitution programme to other provinces.

With regard to regional and international co-operation, he suggested posting liaison officers to Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan. On the subject of enhancing regional co-operation, General Daud informed the participants that Afghanistan had signed agreements with a number of

countries and was in the process of signing memorandums of understanding with neighbouring countries aimed at improving co-operation, information-sharing, and controlled delivery operations. His ministry's activities in strengthening security at the borders and airports and establishing border control liaison officers were also emphasized.

General Daud endorsed the proposals of the OSCE's package of projects developed in response to MC.DEC.04/07, especially those addressing border security and the training of border patrol police.

He also provided details concerning the special unit that is being established to investigate the shipment and smuggling of precursor chemicals. All precursor chemicals used in manufacturing heroin originate in other countries, making border security all the more important.

In conclusion he followed other who had spoken before him in underlining the role of cross-border co-operation in dealing with cross-border crime.

The last speaker in the session was Mr. Kai Vittrup, Police Commissioner and Head of the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL).

Mr. Vittrup talked about EUPOL's experience in working with the Afghan National Police, particularly in the areas of counter-narcotics, organized crime and international co-operation. He started with challenges faced by the Afghan National Police (ANP), such as lack of popular trust, corruption, casualties due to insurgency attacks, and lack of suitable equipment.

Mr. Vittrup informed the participants about the role of EUPOL, namely, providing strategic advice and mentoring to the Ministry of the Interior and the ANP's regional and provincial offices. EUPOL's strategic priorities included:

- Supporting the Afghan Government;
- Police reform and strengthening of the Ministry of the Interior through the provision of strategic advice;
- Strengthening of the ANP, including its criminal investigations department, border police, uniformed police, Kabul City police, national training strategy, and anti-corruption forces;
- Enhancing cohesion and co-ordination among international actors;
- Promoting linkages to the wider rule of law by advising on police-related criminal justice matters, monitoring law enforcement and legislation, and advising the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office.

EUPOL had been working with the Ministry of the Interior on addressing the major security issues and challenges within the ANP. Particular attention had been given to establishing emergency teams on kidnappings, organized crime, police intelligence, and anti-corruption. EUPOL was also supporting the Ministry of the Interior and the ANP in developing their long-term crime investigation capacity. There was a clear need to set up a functioning structure and to build a structured approach to dealing with investigations.

Mr. Vittrup underlined the importance of Afghan ownership. In the field of counter-narcotics, the EUPOL mandate did not cover the institutional development of the Ministry of the Interior and the ANP. This was because counter-narcotics fell under the purview of the

Counter Narcotic Police of Afghanistan (CNP-A). EUPOL's medium-term objective had been to contribute to mainstreaming the CNP-A into the ANP.

Mr. Vittrup pointed out a few challenges facing the CNP-A. These included deeply engrained corruption, lack of criminal investigation capacity (a countrywide problem), and an absence of crime-recording systems. Providing international support co-ordination was also a challenge. The latter was not under one umbrella and EUPOL was endeavouring to revitalize the co-ordination functions of the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) and its secretariat. He advocated a more transparent structure with clear responsibilities and directions.

Another challenge was the absence of a joint planning mechanism, that is to say, a comprehensive policing plan under Afghan ownership but taking into account the responsibilities and divisions of labour between international stakeholders.

With regard to the rule of law, EUPOL's priority was anti-corruption and strengthening the links between the police and the judicial institutions. He called for more international support for the US-led Focused District Development (FDD) programme and for the mentoring and field training activities.

After the presentations, delegations to the conference shared their observations and stated their positions. The moderator informed the participants about the Turkish contribution to security and development in Afghanistan and circulated a three-page informative document.

At the request of the moderator, the representative of NATO informed the participants about the role of the ISAF after the defence ministers' decision taken in Budapest on 10 October 2008.

Mr. Kevin Carty, the Senior Police Adviser to the OSCE Secretary General, informed the delegates about the work of the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) in the area of counter-narcotics. As the session focused on follow-up to the July 2008 OSCE expert conference International Co-operation to Combat Trafficking in Illicit Drugs and Chemical Precursors, he provided the participants with an overview of the follow-up activities that the SPMU had been undertaking. He further mentioned the upcoming regional workshop to be held on 20–21 November 2008 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, aiming at enhancing regional law enforcement co-operation in combating illicit drug-trafficking.

3.3 Session 3: Challenges and opportunities in border security and management, including customs modernization

Report by Mr. Henry Bolton, Senior Border Adviser, OSCE Secretariat

The third session focused on the theme “Challenges and opportunities in border security and management, including customs modernization”. The specific topics of discussion were: best practices in securing borders and in streamlining border and customs procedures; increasing State revenue through improved border management; fighting corruption and illegal activities, including all forms of trafficking; and training initiatives in customs and border management. The session was moderated by Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on election observation.

The first speaker was H.E. Mr. Kai Eide, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan. In his address, he noted that the highest rate of incidents in Afghanistan had occurred in June, July and August 2008. What was now needed was to try to instil greater confidence and make best use of the upcoming winter months.

Among the positive points made by SRSR Eide were the following:

1. The improved relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan was tremendously important. There was increasing contact between the respective Presidents. This relationship, which held great potential, needed to be supported by the international community.
2. The number of drug-free provinces was increasing, but there was a need to consolidate this trend. The drug issue was now not nationwide, but concentrated in the south.
3. Regarding changes in the Government, the new Minister for the Interior had a history of building up ministries. He was approaching his work with great determination. The EU and EUPOL should enhance their strength, be present in the districts, and focus on the needs of the Afghans. Whatever could be done by the OSCE on border control and customs issues should be encouraged, but with one condition, namely, that co-ordination be woven into its activities. The OSCE was strongly encouraged to tackle issues such as corruption, narcotics, and border control. The close collaboration between the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Local Government should be integrated into an overall strategy.
4. The new Minister for Agriculture would need to make a gigantic effort. Every six months, the country faced a disaster, and resources needed to be developed.

SRSR Eide then proceeded to provide a briefing on developments toward the forthcoming presidential elections. Voter registration started in October. What was needed was a stubborn focus on the objective, not on the question whether elections were doable. The process would undoubtedly be difficult. The OSCE had a great tradition and the most experience in this area, and it would be desirable if it were to play a role.

Regarding the agricultural sector, SRSR Eide noted that the humanitarian crisis being faced was a serious one. What was needed was to pre-position food in districts that would be inaccessible. But a serious problem might be faced in March/April 2009 if donated food ran out and the crops failed. More food pledges were urgently needed. In 2007, 40 per cent of livestock had to be slaughtered because of seed failure.

In conclusion, he made a few points regarding co-ordination on the part of the international community. UNAMA faced an almost impossible task because there was no information. More transparency was required of donors, and a database. Furthermore, mechanisms needed to be established to allocate donor funding and take stock. UNAMA was working with the Ministries of Finance and Economy on this. There was also a need for resources to be distributed fairly. Those in the north felt that the south was getting more support. This might lead to a donor fragmentation of Afghanistan. Donors should see Afghanistan as a whole, and not focus on areas in which they had a military presence.

In the debate following his speech, it was noted that during the previous one hundred years Afghanistan had changed its flag more times than any other country and had seen more of its national leaders killed. This raised questions about whether the notion of national identity was valid at all when the format of Afghan society was so different to that of any other country. The question was also raised as to how one could ensure that all the necessary elements of society were brought to the table. One other participant asked which issues were going to be important for voters, and another sought clarification on how the international community could help Afghanistan in addressing the specific needs of the country, noting that capacity-building, not having been based entirely on thorough analysis, had not been entirely efficient. A fourth participant noted that a good deal of co-ordination had been undertaken by the OSCE in its preparation of the 16 projects in implementation of MC.DEC/04/07, and also of the Conference, and asked SRS G Eide if he believed that the Organization had been able to set a good example in this respect. A fifth participant noted that the concept of Afghanistan as a nation had always existed and that the differences had been related to the question of how the country should be governed. Nevertheless, this belief in the nation was a positive point.

In answer to the above questions, SRS G Eide noted the following:

1. There was a need for strong institutions and a strong state structure. This had to be strengthened, but at the same time central government had to be linked with local communities. Links had to be created between traditional and modern institutions.
2. Security in its wider sense was at the top of the agenda in most parts of the country. Then came jobs, employment and economic growth. There was a need to focus not only on schools and so on, but also on industrial infrastructure.
3. The international community had been seen sending aid that had no link whatsoever to what the Afghans actually needed. Young police officers had been sent with little consideration of whether they had the relevant qualifications. More critical analysis was needed in selecting police officers to be deployed to Afghanistan. Ministries had also sent ad hoc and unco-ordinated requests for assistance in developing administrative systems. There was something to be said in favour of Afghans co-ordinating their own approaches themselves.
4. Everyone might claim to be carefully co-ordinating their activities with other actors, but the jury was still out until these activities were on the ground.

The moderator noted that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCEPA) had passed a resolution on parliamentary co-operation and on how to integrate the Afghan Assembly into international co-operation. The OSCE family as a whole could contribute to the elections in

Afghanistan, both the OSCEPA and the ODIHR. These two institutions could and should work to assist Afghanistan. Afghanistan should be integrated into Central Asian parliamentary co-operation. The Afghan parliamentary assembly was invited to attend PA meetings.

The second speaker was Mr. Sharifullah Ibrahimi, Deputy Minister for Revenue and Customs in the Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan. In his speech, he noted that the Ministry of Finance wanted to achieve capacity-building on the basis of analysis. Most importantly, though, it aimed at what he defined as “reason-orientated projects”.

As Afghanistan was landlocked, an efficient border management system was of the essence. It also needed to curb smuggling of precursors, weapons drugs etc.

The Afghan Customs reform strategy was focused on developing infrastructure at the borders. Some of the main challenges facing the country were:

1. Lack of security, which hampered all development activities;
2. Opium and drug-trafficking, providing 52 per cent of the national GDP and a strong link with terrorism activities;
3. Contraband, which posed a challenge to customs, as his ministry planned to move from revenue collection to control;
4. Weapons of mass destruction;
5. Corruption;
6. Economic situation, including attempts at integrating the regional economy;
7. Social development;
8. Sustaining political will.

Customs could not operate without basic facilities and with a weak organizational structure. The Afghan National Development Strategy should be the first tool to be used. The customs services lacked the means to analyse materials. Such a capability would assist in improving control. Furthermore, the development of customs at the Shir Kahn Bandar port was being promoted, and new facilities were being constructed at Heraton on the Uzbek border.

The speaker then noted the importance of control and enforcement. With regard to a possible OSCE involvement, he stressed that the 16 projects elaborated by the Secretariat enjoyed the endorsement of the customs services, especially the establishment of a training centre at the border. However, OSCE support at the National Customs Central in Kabul was also requested.

The third and last speaker was Ambassador Julie Finley, Chief of the United States Mission to the OSCE. In her speech she stressed that the OSCE needed to be focused in its attempts to support Afghanistan. The OSCE’s specific niche consisted in addressing Afghanistan’s weak and porous borders and the insufficient mechanisms for managing them.

The OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation were all affected by trafficking in precursor chemicals, weapons, illicit narcotics and weapons of mass destruction. The porous borders with Central Asia made the region highly vulnerable. Afghan heroin found its way across borders to the capital cities of every OSCE participating and Partner State. The OSCE had the mandate and expertise to address these issues. However, whether it had the political will to do so remained an open question. It had been good to see that the OSCE Borders Team had worked to include customs in its activities in Central Asia.

The potential benefit of the OSCE's planned activities to the security dimension was self-evident, but such benefits would also extend to the economic and human dimension. Ambassador Finley then welcomed the fact that work would soon start on the Border Management Centre in Dushanbe and encouraged the strengthening of the OSCE's border management network in Central Asia generally.

In conclusion, she noted that Afghanistan had requested the OSCE's support. The country's security was crucial to the security of the OSCE area. The OSCE Secretariat had responded admirably in response to Afghanistan's request, notably with two significant projects along the northern border. Unfortunately, some OSCE participating States had failed to join consensus and the OSCE had been constrained to an unbalanced approach. It was now expected that the OSCE would continue to work along the trafficking routes and would involve the Afghans wherever possible. However, it was desirable that the OSCE revisit the Afghan request. Only then could the OSCE's approach to the region be properly balanced.

In the ensuing debate, one participant offered to share the experience of his country's customs service in creating a "single window" paperless customs clearance system. One other participant noted that his organization was about to complete a basic customs assessment, the results of which would hopefully lead to the development of a risk approach. However, additional resources were needed. A representative of the host country noted that some good initiatives on the borders did exist, but they needed to be co-ordinated. Afghanistan needed a consistent and coordinated approach generally.

A fourth participant noted that the need for a region-wide approach had been stressed by previous speakers. Donors in particular should show willingness to be co-ordinated. The OSCE had vast experience in playing a strategic and co-ordinating role of this kind.

4 Summary of the closing session

Report by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The closing session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council. Concluding remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Marta Betanzos Roig, Chairwoman of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, and Dr. Davood Moradian, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Centre for Strategic Studies.

In her concluding remarks, Ambassador Betanzos Roig noted that the presence of high-level representatives of the Government of Afghanistan, of international community representatives based in Kabul, and of representatives of participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation based in Vienna and in the national capitals had contributed to a lively discussion and had added a much-valued range of different perspectives.

She added that it had been important for the Conference, with its focus not only on Afghanistan but also on broader security implications for the region of Central Asia, to have been held in Kabul. Many of the issues included on the agenda were trans-national, trans-boundary, and trans-regional threats to security. Threats such as trafficking in narcotics and terrorism were indeed a global threat affecting us all, and could not be circumscribed by the boundaries of one country. Likewise, they could not be dealt with by one single State or organization in isolation, but required solid and systematic co-operation.

Ambassador Betanzos Roig furthermore pointed out that there was a wealth of expertise and best practices to be shared by all the States in the region, both participating States and Asian Partners, as had already been highlighted at the 2007 OSCE-Mongolia conference in Ulaanbaator.

Her third point was that regional co-operation also implied an exchange of experience between different regions. Some participants had brought a number of concrete examples drawn from the recent experience in Southeast Europe, which had great relevance to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

She further remarked that the OSCE's coming to Afghanistan was important in itself. As Minister Spanta had pointed out, Afghanistan had in the last few years made great strides on the path toward becoming a stable and prosperous state. Despite such progress, however, many challenges still faced the country and the region of Central Asia as a whole.

Ambassador Betanzos Roig added that the OSCE had a role to play in Afghanistan, as had been clearly underlined by participants. Acknowledging the overall leadership and co-ordination role of the United Nations in Afghanistan, in particular through UNAMA, she greatly welcomed the presence of and address by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Kai Eide, at the Conference.

In her opinion, the potential role of the OSCE vis-à-vis Afghanistan rested on three pillars. First of all, the OSCE's co-operative and comprehensive approach to security was very well suited to addressing the challenges facing Afghanistan and its region. Secondly, as an OSCE Partner for Co-operation, Afghanistan had shown remarkable determination in espousing the OSCE's values. The conference had brought forth some concrete ideas as to how better to use

the existing framework to increase the OSCE's ability to assist the country. In this context she referred to the Partnership Fund as a valuable tool.

The OSCE would do its best to increase the involvement of Afghan officials and experts in relevant OSCE programmes and activities, especially in Central Asia. Possible OSCE support for next year's elections in Afghanistan had also been mentioned. This was not an easy decision for the OSCE to make, but she expressed full confidence that if the Afghan Government were to officially request such assistance, the application would be considered with extreme seriousness by the participating States, as was the case in 2004 and 2005.

The third pillar was the Madrid Ministerial Decision on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. Ambassador Betanzos Roig expressed satisfaction at the support reiterated by the Afghan Government to the package of 16 projects developed by the Secretariat, which were aimed at supporting Afghanistan's capacity-building efforts in areas such as customs, border management and security, counter-narcotics and police. It was furthermore reassuring to hear representatives of Central Asian participating States giving their support to the participation of Afghan experts in projects implemented in their countries.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Davood Moradian, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Centre for Strategic Studies thanked all the moderators, speakers and other participants for their active and stimulating interventions. Holding the annual OSCE conference with the Asian Partners in Kabul for the first time had special significance for the Government of Afghanistan. It witnessed once again the OSCE's determination to continue supporting Afghanistan's efforts towards peace, stability and a fully functioning democracy.

Through the debate, the most pressing needs for Afghanistan had been discussed, touching on many issues that have a direct bearing on the country's security and stability, such as the need for capacity building efforts in areas such as anti-narcotics, police and border security and management, including customs. In particular, he thanked the OSCE for its reiterated willingness to continue supporting Afghanistan, through the adoption of MC.DEC/04/07. In this respect, he reiterated his Government's full support for the package of 16 projects elaborated by the Secretariat in implementation of the Madrid decision, and noted that, should the OSCE reach consensus on the implementation of projects 15 and 16, involving OSCE's engagement inside the territory of Afghanistan, careful consideration may be given to the need to secure regular and coherent co-ordination with the various international and local actors in its activities.

In conclusion, Dr. Moradian noted the forthcoming presidential elections in Afghanistan and recalled the OSCE's support to the 2004 presidential and 2005 general elections in the country. He once again thanked the OSCE for its decision to deploy Election Support Teams on both occasions, who had elaborated a set of recommendations on how to improve the country's management of the election process that had been of extreme value to Afghanistan's election authorities. In conclusion, he referred to Foreign Minister Spanta's support for further OSCE engagement at the 2009 presidential elections, and expressed the hope that the Organization would once again be able to reach consensus in providing assistance to his country on such an important step toward democratization and normalization.

5 Recommendations and suggestions emanating from the 2008 OSCE Afghanistan Conference

Compiled by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat, in consultation with the host country and the Spanish Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group

OSCE-specific proposals

- The OSCE needs to be focused in its attempts at supporting Afghanistan, and should carefully and systematically co-ordinate its possible activities with other actors, throughout their implementation.
- The OSCE should increase the involvement of Afghan officials and experts in relevant OSCE programmes and activities, especially in Central Asia.
- Strengthen the Partnership Fund as a tool to foster deeper relations with Afghanistan and the Partners for Co-operation.
- The OSCE to play a vital part in promoting regional co-operation and development, including strengthened working-level contacts and information-sharing with neighbouring countries in Central Asia.
- The OSCE to consider ways of sharing its experience in other regions such as South-East Europe with Afghanistan.
- The OSCE to examine its potential assistance to the Afghan Government and UNAMA in relation to the upcoming presidential elections in 2009.
- OSCE to contribute to international efforts aimed at the development and capacity-building of the Afghan border police.
- The OSCE to continue consultations on implementation of the 16 Secretariat projects related to MC.DEC/04/07, with a view hopefully to reaching consensus.
- The OSCE's assistance at the northern border of Afghanistan through the Secretariat's 16 projects should be complemented by further OSCE support to the Customs Department in the Ministry of Finance in Kabul.
- Reinforce train-the-trainers programmes through visits abroad.
- Use projects supported in PRTs in Afghanistan to augment OSCE projects.
- The OSCE and Afghanistan to increase co-operation in the areas of water management, transportation and regional economic development.
- Afghan parliamentarians are encouraged to attend meetings of the OSCE PA.

General proposals concerning Afghanistan

- International community to continue promoting security and stability in Afghanistan, including through regional and economic development, as well as through capacity-building by assisting to build durable Afghan institutions.
- Support Afghanistan's efforts to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights as the foundation for security and stability.

- Promote the “Afghanization” of the development process and strengthen Afghan ownership over the country’s priorities in, e.g., security, rural and infrastructure development, education and healthcare.
- Increase civil society ownership and participation in the normalization of the country and strengthen the links between the central government and the local communities and traditional institutions.
- International assistance and donors’ support to Afghanistan must be well coordinated, including through a possible creation of a database, and match closer the requirements of the Afghan Government.
- Continue promoting the involvement of women in all activities in Afghanistan.

Proposals concerning Police, counter-narcotics and border management and security in Afghanistan

- Continue promoting coordinated international and regional efforts to fight drug-trafficking, including by paying increased attention to drug demand reduction and increasing understanding about drug demand problems in Afghanistan.
- The international community to continue supporting police development in Afghanistan through long-term engagement.
- More critical analysis is needed in selecting international police officers to be deployed to Afghanistan, to ensure that their qualifications are relevant to the country’s needs.
- Develop common curricula for police training; establish a well-functioning secretariat to the IPCB; decide whether there is to be a national police or a national framework for police; and develop an internal investigation department in the Ministry of the Interior.
- Counter the illiteracy prevalent in the Afghan police services, as well as corruption.
- Strengthen border control and capacity-building in law enforcement especially in the provinces, and strengthen controls and licensing of precursor chemicals.
- Encourage the implementation of the recommendations of the UNODC Triangular Initiative (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran) regarding pilot border liaison offices and intelligence-based joint operations.
- The international community to continue supporting the Afghan poppy eradication programme and efforts to expand the crop substitution programme.
- Support the establishment of a functioning structure and approach to Afghanistan’s criminal investigation capacity and crime-recording systems. Support efforts to increase linkages between the police and judicial institutions in Afghanistan.
- Increased international support to the US-led Focused District Development (FDD) programme and to the mentoring and field training activities in Afghanistan.

6 List of participants

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Mr. Henry Bolton	Senior Border Issues Adviser, Conflict Prevention Centre
Mr. Andrey Rudenko	Senior Policy and Planning Adviser, Office of OSCE Secretary General
Mr. Murat Yildiz	Political Affairs Officer / Police Matters, Strategic Police Matters Unit
Ms. Aldona Szymanski	Senior External Co-operation Assistant, External Co-operation

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OSCE ODIHR

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OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen MP, Vice-President of the OSCE
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Ms. Anna Chernova Programme Officer

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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Mr. Nicholas Williams Deputy NATO Senior Civilian
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Mr. Albrecht Braun Political Advisor to the NATO Senior
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ISAF

Mr. Thomas Ossowski Acting Political Advisor to COMISAF

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Mr. Bo Asplund Resident Representative in Afghanistan

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