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2009 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE  
CLOSING SESSION  
STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
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CONCLUDING REMARKS

Let me start by saying that the Chairmanship is very pleased with the outcome of this year's ASRC. The overall theme of the Conference — Co-operative Security — proved to be the right focus as it allowed for a discussion of our major security concerns, thus paving the way for a structured and focussed debate at the informal Ministerial Meeting on Corfu and beyond. It also proved that a thorough debate on the basics of European security is very much needed, that it must be based on the concepts of co-operative and comprehensive security and should involve all the OSCE participating States.

The 2009 ARSC took place against the background of serious challenges to European security coupled with important proposals which create new opportunities for European security dialogue. Significant events which occurred since the last ASRC in 2008 proved that the need for a profound and open dialogue is recognized by all participating States, in order to overcome the challenges and make maximum use of the opportunities available.

In this regard, the work of the 2009 ASRC has benefited greatly from the address of this year's High Level Guest, H.E. Mr. Sergei Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, who presented his country's vision for the future of European Security. The Chairmanship took note of Mr. Lavrov's presentation, in particular ideas for a Treaty on European Security and the basic structure of such a Treaty. Of particular interest to us was the point that in order to create a viable system of security in Europe, the interests of all its participants have to be taken into consideration, something which is at the heart of the OSCE process.

We take note of Mr. Lavrov's argument regarding the importance of the concept of indivisible security and that it should form the basis of a new security system in Europe. Another valuable idea is that the OSCE has the potential, particularly if its structure is strengthened, to play a key role in promoting dialogue on issues related to pan-European security. In this respect, Minister Lavrov suggested that the basic principles and commitments of our Organization should become legally-binding.

Furthermore, he argued for the need for increased interaction amongst key international and regional organizations, on the basis of the OSCE Platform for Cooperative Security.

In addition to Minister Lavrov's address, we heard very thoughtful and thorough presentations by keynote speakers which set the tone for discussions in the various working sessions. I am very grateful for their valuable contributions.

I also appreciate the active and focussed participation of delegations in the debate and, especially, the recommendations and suggestions that were put forward. I hope

that later this week our Ministers in Corfu will have the opportunity to address most of these recommendations. At this stage, please allow me to highlight a few of them:

- There was general agreement that OSCE should remain the key forum for discussions on the future of European Security, due to its wide geographic span, its comprehensive concept of security including all three dimensions, and taking into consideration that all OSCE participating States have equal status. However, other fora may complement our work.
- Restoration of confidence and trust should be the first priority in future discussions on European Security. Promoting the peaceful resolution of protracted conflicts and revitalizing the arms control and CSBMs in Europe are of the utmost importance in this context.
- Furthermore, we need to work on ways to use fully the potential of existing OSCE instruments and mechanisms and consider whether the development of new tools would be beneficial.
- There was agreement that the fundamental principles of the OSCE, enshrined in particular in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Charter on European Security, including the Platform for Cooperative Security, remain the irreplaceable basis of comprehensive and co-operative security on which to structure our dialogue. We should build on this basis to acquire a broader view on European security, including ways to address risks and challenges stemming from outside the OSCE area, including Afghanistan;
- The discussions in Working Session 1, took place against the backdrop of the August armed conflict in Georgia, which showed the serious security implications that protracted conflicts may have for the overall security in the OSCE area.
- The debate made it clear that the OSCE capacity in the area of early warning, conflict prevention and resolution must be enhanced on the basis of agreed principles in these areas.
- Moreover, it was stressed that OSCE Institutions and field operations remain instrumental for purposes of early warning, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution, as they have the capacity to address all phases of a conflict cycle;
- A point was made that in view of occasional difficulties to activate OSCE Mechanisms due to lack of political will, the development of non-consensual procedures in the area of preventive action and crisis management would be advisable.
- In session 2, it was noted that arms control, disarmament and confidence-building are the key to an integrated security policy in the Euro-Atlantic area.
- A common view was that the CFE Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty and Vienna Document 1999 are of particular importance to European security but their effectiveness needs to be improved. Indeed, it was stressed that existing institutions should not be dismantled and security agreements and arrangements already in force should not be abandoned;
- Various speakers stressed that the CFE Treaty has a central position in European security and ways should be explored in order to overcome the current crisis. In this respect, it was noted that intensified negotiations on the “Parallel Action Package” would be the main way forward;
- It was also proposed to convene another Special FSC meeting on the future of European arms control as a follow-up step to the Berlin Seminar on 10 June

2009. Moreover, it was proposed that a Draft Ministerial Council Decision be elaborated on the future activities of the FSC with special focus on arms control tasks;

- The ASRC made it clear that the OSCE needs to find efficient ways to address new threats to security. In this respect the link between terrorism and non-proliferation was highlighted and calls were voiced for the OSCE to build on its strengths and increase its involvement in this area.
- Session 3 outlined that terrorism is one of the most serious threats to European security, especially considering the increase in prominence of modern communication technologies. Therefore, enhanced co-operation between relevant international organizations is necessary in order to combat this threat more efficiently.
- Identification of cutting-edge fields, in which the OSCE can provide added-value, is as important as ever.
- The fundamental elements to combat terrorism must include its root causes including political, economical and social aspects. In that regard, efforts should respect international law, the rule of law, and human rights.
- New threats – which many delegations referred to during the meeting, inter alia in the framework of the wider discussion on European Security - link challenges in all three dimensions. As mentioned by many delegations, the OSCE should be strengthened in order to contribute effectively to the fight against these new threats.

The Chairmanship believes that the proposals put forward during the opening session are by no means incompatible — they indicate different priorities of the participating States and testify that there are many common elements on which we can further build our dialogue.

We believe that a lot of common ground already exists and this common ground will be built upon in our endeavour to continue a cross dimensional process in the upcoming Informal Ministerial Meeting in Corfu.