



**Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan  
at the Working Session II  
of the 2008 Annual Security Review Conference**

I would like to thank keynote speakers for their very comprehensive and genuinely thought-provoking statements. Those who on practical level are involved in arms control issues - be it related to OSCE's politico-military dimension, CFE Treaty or any other arms control arrangement - do not have the luxury of listening to academic view, which is quite refreshing.

I would add my voice of concord to many of the things highlighted in the statements. Just quickly to pick some of them. I share the idea of Ambassador Bailes that the OSCE is perhaps more successful in responding to the problems that do not belong in its own playground. Yes indeed, in a perspective, it seems that when it comes to "housekeeping issues" in terms of addressing the challenges belonging to the OSCE area, some of which are quite complicated, the OSCE often finds itself stumbled in an attempt to reach any decision. The answer to that is probably to be sought in the very nature of the OSCE and its decision-making mechanism.

One comment about the achievements that are brought by arms control agreements and mechanisms. Apart from being guarantees and watchdogs of stability, security and confidence-building, these instruments are the foremost tools in providing an unprecedented level of transparency in the European continent. I believe, it would not be erroneous if said that in fact *transparency* is the core constituent of all the enumerated merits attained thorough arms control agreements. No arrangement is unique and it will be easier to bridge the differences and overcome divergences if this principle will be duly respected.

Coming to the CFE issue, which was very much the topic of the day today, Ambassador Kobieracki rightly noted that CFE is invaluable tool for managing deep changes and strategic transition in Europe. And since the discussion in this session mainly developed around CFE issues, let us also state the following: My country attaches great importance to the CFE regime and as any other State Party is deeply alarmed with the current crisis surrounding it. It is our firm belief that the CFE regime is one of the important cornerstones of European security, although already outdated for current realities. We also

express our hope that the negotiations aimed at finding ways out of the current stalemate will be productive and accordingly, will take into consideration the concerns of all State Parties.

Yes, the CFE regime is shaking. But it is shaking not only because one State Party has suspended its participation in it. It is also because one State Party even without suspending its participation in the CFE Treaty continues to violate its fundamental principles since the very inception of this Treaty. This State Party is gravely violating this cornerstone Treaty by undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another State Party through the use of force and occupation of its territories. The said State Party is also demonstrating a blatant disrespect to the principle of transparency by hiding large numbers of TLEs belonging to it in the occupied territories of another State Party, and not reporting about them. It should be noted that those TLEs are well beyond the national ceilings set by the CFE Treaty for the State Party concerned. We will follow the suit in not naming and shaming anyone, since we expect that this very State Party will identify itself. However, it is also curious how this State takes a courage to preach about CFE commitments, and refer to Treaty provisions while itself being the harshest violator of them. Unfortunately, we are used to such a behavior, which for many years has been tolerated and looks habitual within the CFE community.

And last but not the least, apart from the CFE issues, let me note that we consider arms control arrangements and politico-military instruments of the OSCE as valuable tools in fostering common feeling of trust and security, which are so essential for our continent. And it is our joint responsibility to make every effort towards their effective functioning and further improvement of their implementation.

Thank you.