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**By His Excellency Dr. Solomon Passy,
Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria,
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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased and honoured to address the 2004 Annual Security Review Conference. I wish a warm welcome to all participants.

This conference needs to be put into perspective. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 signified the end of the cold-War era and the threat of a nuclear conflict receded. None of the emerging conflicts were believed to really threaten the global stability. The 9/11 attacks on the USA, the multiple targets of the terrorists in Saudi Arabia, killing of innocent men and women in Madrid, Casablanca, Moscow, Istanbul, Afghanistan, Jerusalem and Iraq, the blowing up of a nightclub in Bali, hotel in Jakarta, the series of attacks in the Philippines however swept away these comfortable assumptions. Suddenly, the world confronted an adversary with no fixed territory and declared military potential. We faced an unprecedented terrorist threat – global in scope, sophisticated in method, and catastrophic in outcome.

Another defining element of the context is the ongoing deep and far-reaching changes in the international security landscape globally and in the OSCE area in particular. 2004 is the year of considerable enlargement of both NATO and the EU. The new European Union Constitution will mark yet another stride towards greater stability and predictability in the OSCE area, in which the constantly expanding cooperation of the OSCE with the EU and NATO will gather even a greater momentum to the benefit of all 55 participating States and also our Mediterranean and Asian partners.

This forum gives us an opportunity to evaluate three, in my opinion, important venues:

1. How we adjust the organization to help participating States deal effectively with non-conventional and asymmetric threats?
2. How the like-minded nations work together in a more cohesive effort against the new risks and challenges?
3. How to step up our co-operation with the UN, the EU and NATO and the other international and regional organizations?

Nowadays the OSCE is focusing considerable and increasing attention on counter-terrorism, border management and security, small arms and light weapons, policing, CSBMs, and the destruction of conventional ammunition stockpiles. We can elaborate on how we step up

border controls, strengthen aviation, maritime and land transport security, enhance security for critical infrastructure and key installations in conformity with the human rights norms and standards of our Organization.

We will continue our efforts to reinforce effectiveness of security activities across all three dimensions of the OSCE, to identify emerging threats and challenges, and to design appropriate responses

After these introductory remarks, allow me to make a brief *tour d'horizon* of some of the main issues that are on the focus of our discussions in the next two days.

So far the attention of OSCE has been on travel document security, the threat of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles to civilian aircraft, and establishing a counter-terrorism network. We need, as well, to continue developing and sustaining effective dialogue to promote tolerance, human rights and education as key elements in the OSCE's approach to preventing terrorism.

I expect this Annual Security Review Conference to become the forum for discussions on how we can speed up the implementation of our **counter-terrorism** commitments.

But let challenge ourselves even further by admitting that putting into practice the current commitments might not be enough.

In view of recent research indicating the increased risk of asymmetric and non-conventional threats, we should devote more attention to the danger posed by Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear materials.

The OSCE might be well advised to start considering how to contribute to increasing the security of container shipments.

The improvement of information sharing and coordination mechanisms within, as well as between states, is critical to the efficiency of efforts to prevent terrorist attacks. There are ways in which the OSCE could contribute to strengthening national and regional counter-terrorism coordination which we wish to explore. The counter-terrorism network is a good start.

We need to do more to disrupt and even cut off the financing of terrorism. More needs to be done to implement the Financial Action Task Force recommendation on alternative remittance systems and non-profit organizations in order to prevent their abuse by terrorist groups. I am glad that we already have a draft decision in this area.

In line with decisions taken by the OSCE, we should further improve our efforts to eliminate the risks arising from stockpiles of ammunition and conventional explosives.

I am content, that after the pioneering OSCE joint Permanent Council / Forum on Security Co-operation workshop on antipersonnel mines and explosives remnants, the PC and the FSC will continue their efforts to further engage with affected states and assist in the development of mine action programs.

The threats posed by the nexus of terrorists and organized crime are an increasing concern. In this regard, the OSCE is rightly paying more attention to issues related to **border security and management**.

The Chairmanship has established an informal Working Group on Borders to develop a Border Security and Management Concept. The challenge is to enhance border management and security operations to a level commensurate with the threats of illegal cross-border activities in all their forms, whilst facilitating legitimate cross-border travel and commerce and protecting human rights. We believe the technical experts conference on border management and security this autumn would bring together a wide range of specialists and contribute to the elaboration of the OSCE borders concept for the 21 centuries.

We also need to do more to break the link between crime and conflict. I dare say that organized crime is a contributing factor to why some conflicts seem intractable or frozen. In some cases, power brokers are profiting from instability and therefore have no interest in conflict resolution. This may require us to approach some conflict resolution situations in a new way.

One area where the OSCE certainly has added value is **policing**. Where there is effective, democratically controlled policing, societies will be more stable and more integrated.

While we adjust our agenda to address new threats, we should not lose sight of the need to ensure **full implementation of the undertakings to which we are already committed**. Indeed, the OSCE acquis on CSBMs, the Code of Conduct, and small-arms and light weapons is considerable. Its full implementation is the indispensable foundation and sound point of departure for our future agenda. Our goal should be to assist States to respect these commitments, and, as necessary, further adapt our instruments.

We must ensure that the work we do in the political-military dimension is plugged into an encompassing, holistic network of efforts to address emerging risks and threats. The challenges we face today cannot be met by a single State or organization. This is particularly the case during crisis situations where we need to have mechanisms to jointly analyse and cope with threats..

The Bulgarian OSCE Chairmanship fully supports fostering a network of cooperation with NATO, the EU, the UN and other relevant organizations and institutions contributing to the promotion of comprehensive security in the OSCE area.

In conclusion, I would like to invite participating States to take advantage of the fullest of this unique forum. We look to you to give advice on the best course of action. Your task is extremely important because good policy depends on good ideas and informed decisions. We look forward to stimulating exchanges over the next two days.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful outcome!

Thank you!