

**Turkish Delegation
to the OSCE**

ENGLISH only

**SECOND ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE
(Vienna, 23-24 June 2004)**

Session 1: "Preventing and Combating Terrorism"

The second ASRC provides a timely opportunity for a comprehensive overview of the progress achieved in the implementation of decisions and documents adopted hitherto in the OSCE on preventing and combating terrorism.

Terrorism, although not new in its heinous aims, is turning into a global menace, threatening our daily lives. It is dreadful to observe how unpredictable terrorists might be. Rapidly increasing terrorist incidents render security of individuals a priority item together with the security of the whole society.

Turkey has always maintained that, no matter what pretext terrorists may use for their evil deeds, terrorism has no justification whatsoever. On the other hand, adding any prefix before terrorism is dangerous and counter-productive for that matter. It should not be overlooked that terrorism is also an affront to the most important human right, namely the right to life.

The nexus between terrorist groups and other illegal organizations requires a comprehensive strategy to effectively combat terrorism. While national measures are the building blocks of any substantive action against terrorism, only through close cooperation at regional and international levels can this global threat be effectively prevented. This entails participating States to be duly engaged in this combat with deeds as well as with words.

However, in such a transboundary issue cooperation at merely regional level may not be sufficient. We may well be deceiving ourselves if we solely focus on the OSCE geography and fail to look beyond in the fight against terrorism. It's no secret that terrorist organizations easily establish global networks and find "safe haven" in other parts of the world. Therefore OSCE Partners for Co-operation as well as neighboring countries and adjacent areas should be considered as cooperation partners in the world-wide struggle against terrorism.

The UN has a leading role in the universal combat against terrorism. We believe that the efforts of other organizations at regional and sub-regional levels in this field should have a supportive and complementary function to the comprehensive activities of the UN. Full compliance with the provisions of the international conventions and UN resolutions is vitally important for success.

On the other hand, the task of creating a universal legal instrument is yet to be fulfilled. The discussion in the UN on the "Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism" have been stalled for a long time due to differences on the definition of terrorism. Nothing should condone or sanction terrorism. Turkey believes that all states should exert further efforts in order to conclude the convention.

There are several steps taken within the OSCE framework since the first ASRC which we note with satisfaction. The adoption of the OSCE Principles on Export Controls of MANPADS is one good example. Through the adoption of the Wassenaar elements on export controls of MANPADS by the OSCE participating States, the decision now finds a wider group of countries for implementation.

MANPADS pose an imminent threat to civil aviation. The unpredictability factor in identifying “when” or “which airport” or “which airline” urges all states to focus on airport security issue as a priority at all times and necessitates sharing information with each other to the highest extent possible.

Travel document security is another significant measure to prevent unhindered movement of terrorists. ICAO is leading the way and setting the standards. It is of course important that the OSCE participating States also aim to comply with the ICAO minimum security standards. However, the security lacuna created by the existence of those states which either fail to meet the set time frame for implementation or have no commitment to ICAO recommendations should also be taken into account and be duly addressed.

Yet another relevant subject is the further necessary measures to prevent terrorist financing. A draft decision, expected to be adopted soon, addresses this issue. Depriving terrorist organizations from financial resources should be seen as an indispensable part of combating terrorism. However, suppressing terrorist financing is a broader concept and should not be reduced only to non-profit organizations. Based on the Eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing of the FATF, participating States should also attempt to deal with other means of terrorist financing.

It should also not be forgotten that providing “safe haven” and undisturbed existence to terrorist organizations will eventually undermine all our joint efforts.

We deem the issue of container security as outlined today by the Deputy Secretary of US Department of Homeland Security a serious project. Naturally, we will consider the matter within the framework of our existing cooperation with our partners on combating terrorism and non-proliferation of WMD. We are also of the opinion that it would be more appropriate to introduce the modalities of the envisaged system through official channels.

It is essential that we exert every effort to fully implement already existing decisions on preventing and combating terrorism and comply with the relevant documents before we divert our energies for yet new horizons.