



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO
H.E. the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon
As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
8 April 2010

Shortened oral version

Mr. Chairperson,

I will try to respond to your appeal for brevity by subscribing to the words of welcome and satisfaction expressed by previous speakers, both to the Secretary-General of the UN for honouring us with his presence and sharing his thoughts and visions with us, and to the Kazakh Chairmanship for having organized this inspiring event. I can also subscribe to most of the comments of substance made by previous speakers, notably the European Union.

As clearly brought out in the SG's address, the main mission of the OSCE, as the largest regional security organization in the world, established under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, is in fact to implement the principles and goals of the UN in our region. Norway is among the strongest supporters of both the UN and the OSCE, as demonstrated inter alia by our contributions to the work of both organizations. We share the Secretary-General's pride and satisfaction over the results jointly achieved in our region, e.g. in the Balkans, where the situation now is totally different from what it was not so many years ago. And the OSCE has still a lot of work to accomplish, both in the Balkans and in other sub-regions, contributing to peace and stability, with democracy, rule of law and security also for the individual, and promotion of prosperity and economic development.

We hope and trust that the general review undertaken in the so-called Corfu process will result in a further strengthening of our cooperation, including enhanced implementation of commitments already undertaken.

We need the leadership and inspiration of the UN in all areas of OSCE activity, which coincide with the priority areas covered in the SG's address; security and arms control, promotion of democracy and human rights, including gender issues, and in promoting cooperation on

economic and environmental issues, including the highly topical issue of climate change. And we need UN leadership and coordination not least in facing the so-called “new”, transnational challenges, such as the fight against terrorism, trafficking, smuggling and other forms of organized crime. The Economic Commission for Europe and the Vienna-based UN bodies are our highly valued partners in these efforts, and it is our sincere hope that they will be endowed with the resources needed to provide the general normative frameworks and the overall coordination necessary for our joint success.

Finally, let me conclude by wishing the Secretary-General the very best of luck in his daunting tasks.

The full prepared text of my statement will be distributed through the usual channels.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson

Full prepared text

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Norway welcomes H.E. the Secretary General of the United Nations and would like to thank him for his thought-provoking statement. I would also like to take the opportunity to show our appreciation to the Chairmanship for convening this meeting.

As the world's largest regional security organization, recognized by the UN under the UN Charter Chapter VIII, the OSCE has an important role to play with regard to international security. The OSCE area has in general reached high standards in terms of UN-relevant commitments and the organisation is aiming to make further improvements. That is why we attach such great importance to the Corfu Process. Through the Corfu process we have engaged in a systematic assessment of our cooperation and the level of implementation in all three dimensions. We have looked at our mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution. We have scrutinized our common challenges and threats.

Mr. Chairman,

The process has already had a positive impact, and we particularly value the level of common purpose when it comes to new transnational threats and challenges, and challenges in the economic and environmental dimension. Norway believes that the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security is fundamental to the continued security in the OSCE area. Full implementation of all obligations in all three dimensions is paramount. We must bear in mind that genuine security both among and within states is only sustainable when there is security for the individual that is founded on democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. We are open to holding a Summit this year, provided it is motivated by substance.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE has also been an important player with regard to crisis management cooperating with the UN and also with the EU. The OSCE's mission to Kosovo is an example of this as it was established in accordance with UNSCR 1244. The Geneva talks are another example as the UN, the OSCE and the EU are co-chairing the process.

In our view, the OSCE could deal even more effectively with fighting terrorism and organized crime, such as trafficking in drugs, weapons and persons. Our cooperation with the UN at large, and with the UN here in Vienna, is crucial, and we hope that our main partners in the UN will be equipped with the necessary resources to adequately discharge their essential roles in providing the necessary normative frameworks and general coordinating functions.

We also believe that the OSCE has a role to play alongside the UN when it comes to the efforts to stabilize Afghanistan that deal with the overall security of the area, including potential OSCE projects also inside Afghanistan when the situation calls for it.

Norway is pleased with the OSCE's focus on the security implications of Climate Change as we attach great importance to the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Security (2007) and the UNGAR 63/281 "Climate Change and its possible security implications", welcoming the UN Secretary General's report where regional organizations such as the OSCE were invited to action.

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway pays special attention to gender equality, the promotion of which is one of our main priorities, as it is also the case for the UN. Norway welcomes the OSCE's continued focus on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. However, we believe more can be done and that we should follow up on our commitments in this field.

Norway also supports OSCE's role and commitment to promoting full and effective implementation of the UNSCR 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. There should be no doubt that new Trans-national and Multidimensional Threats and Challenges require common responses and close cooperation among states as well as among international organisations. The UN and the OSCE both play important roles in the efforts to counter these threats.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, we would like to conclude by thanking H.E. Mr Ban Ki-Moon for addressing this PC today and wish him the best of luck in his extraordinarily challenging tasks.