



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Parliamentary Assembly President, Mr. Joao Soares

As delivered by Acting Deputy of Mission Jeffrey Van Dreal
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 13, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States joins in warmly welcoming Mr. Joao Soares, President of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly. We take particular note of his recent role in leading the PA's election monitoring deployment of 94 election observers to nine geographically and demographically disparate states in the United States. The PA observers did excellent work.

We note that the Parliamentary Assembly in this particular instance, and owing to the absence of short-term observers, opted not to join ODIHR in a consolidated observation mission and in issuing a common statement on the elections. It is our hope, under President Soares's leadership, this will prove to be the exception to the general rule of common statements, given the genuine desire expressed by the leadership of both institutions in this respect, and in accordance with the 1997 Cooperation Agreement between the two organizations.

We join once again in expressing our appreciation for the important work undertaken by the Parliamentary Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.