



**ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE
1-2 July 2008**

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

OPENING SESSION

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Serbia is honoured to address the 6th Annual Security Review Conference, which, again this year, attracts much attention of the participating States. We have gathered here to discuss common challenges to security and to find ways, how to overcome them in a common effort and on the basis of the principles and values of our organization.

It is the basic document of the OSCE – the Helsinki Final Act – that gives us clear guidance for this very purpose, the territorial integrity and sovereignty and the inviolability of frontiers of *all* participating States being the paramount principles of our common foundations. Resolving conflicts and disputes peacefully, through dialogue and compromise, through confidence-building and concord are other crucial principles that we all share.

In this respect it is with concern that we follow developments in the South-Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija. Let me reiterate the firm position of my country that the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Pristina was an illegal act, violating the principles of international law – the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1244. This illegal attempt at secession has struck at the very heart of the binding principles of the international law and the international system as a whole. As a result, a precedent with global reach is being established – one that legitimizes the forced partition of any member-state of the United Nations or any participating State of the OSCE by transforming the right to self-determination into an avowed right to independence, a precedent that legitimizes unilaterally imposing solutions to ethnic conflicts.

This caused instability not only in our country, but in the region as a whole. The Republic of Serbia has ruled out the use of force, in line with our commitments to international principles and values as they are outlined also in the documents of the OSCE.

Mr. Chairman,

In Kosovo we are facing a challenge to security and stability whose repercussions can affect us all. The Republic of Serbia will continue to appeal to all stakeholders to return to the negotiating table and to the principles of conflict-resolution, which are: dialogue, compromise and concord.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman