



## **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

### **OSCE Review Conference**

### **Formal Opening of the Vienna Part of the Review Conference**

#### **OSCE Secretary General**

Vienna, 18 October 2010

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As previous speakers have indicated, our purpose over the coming days is to continue the common endeavour we began so ambitiously in Warsaw. Our meetings here in Vienna will mark the next important milestone in our journey to the Astana Summit. They will also provide you with the opportunity to identify and advance priority issues that should be brought to the attention of heads of state and government. Picking up from where we left off in Warsaw, our attention now shifts from the human dimension to a review of the implementation of our commitments in the Politico-Military and Economic and Environmental Dimensions. We will also have the opportunity to review the OSCE structures and their activities.

Over thirty five years, the participating States of this Organization have developed a far reaching body of commitments that provide the basis for the OSCE's unique approach to security. Implementation of these commitments, in good faith, is a common undertaking of all 56 participating States. The Charter for European Security, adopted in 1999 in Istanbul, underlines that "participating States are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for their implementation of their OSCE commitments. We regard these commitments as our common achievement and therefore consider them to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States".

These commitments form a vast body of engagement that is alive and ever-changing – in reaction to events and to evolving needs. This highlights the nature of the OSCE as a living project that must be constantly maintained and refined.

At this segment of the Review Conference, we look to each other to try to find workable solutions to address common challenges, both old and new. We seek to strengthen our common security through a frank and constructive process of peer review and to reinforce the institutions and structures we have designed together.

This is a valuable and unique opportunity – the first time the participating States of the OSCE have conducted such a comprehensive review since 1999, as they prepared for the last OSCE Summit in Istanbul. Over these eleven years, the OSCE has had to deal with a new generation of security challenges, less easily defined by state borders and OSCE "baskets." The Interim Report on the results of Corfu Process highlighted the unique potential of the OSCE as a unique forum in which participating States can seek to set new directions to combat transnational threats – from organized crime and cyber threats to trafficking and terrorism.

The range of such threats stemming from the territory of Afghanistan is real and affects us all. A renewed effort to assist Afghanistan and the international community in addressing these threats is needed. The OSCE is well-placed to enhance its contribution, drawing on its inclusive membership and its broad experience in cross-dimensional security.

At the same time, many “old” challenges remain with us. Clearly, events of the past several years have demonstrated the need to intensify collective work to achieve the peaceful resolution of our region’s protracted conflicts. Discussions throughout the Corfu Process demonstrated that participating States are committed to further improving the OSCE's capacities across the conflict cycle, to better help the participating States prevent and manage real and potential crises.

Serious efforts are also required to strengthen our region’s arms control and CSBM regime, including by updating the 1999 Vienna Document. The Corfu Process also opened up other possibilities for the revitalization of the OSCE’s first dimension, including:

- intensified work to facilitate implementation by OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540, 1673 and 1810;
- full implementation and further strengthening of the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, including through the identification of financial resources to further support Small Arms and Light Weapons and conventional ammunition projects.

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Over the coming days, we will also have the opportunity to address the implementation of commitments in the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension. Work in this "second dimension" has steadily evolved over the last eleven years, and played an integral, although perhaps underappreciated role, in developing the Organization's "acquis". Key developments have included the adoption of the Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the establishment of the Economic and Environmental Forum process, the creation of the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, the establishment of the Economic and Environmental Committee and the incorporation of economic and environmental elements into the mandates of the OSCE Field Presences.

Discussions in the context both of the annual Economic and Environmental Forum and the Corfu Process have highlighted the changing nature of challenges in the Economic and Environmental Dimension, and the consequent need for constant adaptation, both in terms of priority setting, mechanisms of engagement and response, and forms of co-operation with partners.

Tomorrow, the first session of this conference dedicated to the Economic and Environmental Dimension will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bonn Document. This will allow participants to reflect on the place of the Economic and Environmental Dimension within the comprehensive OSCE Security framework, and to assess the potential contribution it can make in addressing transnational and cross-dimensional challenges.

Excellencies,

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The purpose of a review conference is not only to reflect on what has been achieved – we must also look forward. To face the future, the OSCE needs to be stronger, more effective and better equipped. The working sessions on OSCE structures and activities will allow participating States to review comprehensively the OSCE's operational toolkit, its working modalities and its existing capabilities in order to see what could and should be further strengthened and improved.

The discussions at the OSA sessions could draw upon the Corfu deliberations on enhancing the OSCE's effectiveness, including but not necessarily limited to the proposals reflected in its Interim Report. The Corfu discussions demonstrated that some recommendations of the 2005 Panel of Eminent Persons remain open, and that the transformation of the OSCE from an itinerant conference to an international organization remains a work in progress.

Let me stress that this is a review exercise by the participating States. The OSCE executive structures and I, as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, stand ready to help you in your deliberations, including through specific inputs within our mandates.

In particular I would draw to your attention to various proposals I have put forward over the past months aimed at enhancing the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the OSCE's human and financial resource management. The long-term problem of the OSCE's legal framework deserves a more in-depth and result-oriented discussion, as was the case at the last Review Conference, prior to the 1999 Istanbul Summit. The process of strengthening the operational capacities of all OSCE executive structures was high on the 1999 agenda, and received a strong impulse from the Istanbul Summit. However, follow-up over the last decade has been uneven, and serious operational and administrative issues remain, which require the urgent attention of the participating States.

I look forward to our discussions and wish you every success in your work in the days ahead.

Thank you for your attention.