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TALKING POINTS

- The very name of this session requires our attention not only to the cross-dimensionality aspect but also to various challenges to security in the OSCE area. Along with the so-called "new" threats and challenges a number of "traditional threats" or "politico-military" threats continue to exist in some parts of the OSCE area. Those threats which do fall under the purview of the OSCE are, as follows: territorial claims, use or threat of force, including for the acquisition of territories, ethnic cleansing causing a great number of refugees and internally displaced persons, armed separatism; heavy weaponry uncontrolled by participating States located within their sovereign territories, aggressive nationalism, ethnic and religious extremism, terrorism, transnational crime, money laundering in the zones which are not controlled by the authorities of the respective states.

- OSCE does not function any more as a genuine security organisation in a conventional sense. The notion of a comprehensive security by definition including all aspects of security has been gradually substituted by a more limited notion. As a result, it is increasingly difficult to make the PC and FSC compatible in substance, as well as to initiate a genuine security dialogue on pressing issues.

- Regional issues, including settlement of existing regional conflicts should always be at the heart of the OSCE activities as this is an issue of the OSCE relevance for a number of its participating States. Over the recent years under the pretext of inability of the OSCE to effectively influence the process of the conflict settlement there has been very little, if any, consistency in addressing conflicts in the PC or FSC or in any other OSCE institutional framework. Another often used argument to justify this "silent" approach to conflict-related issues is that discussing them in a wider OSCE format or expressing a point of view of individual participating states on them allegedly may negatively affect the settlement process or efforts by mediators. However, one of the strengths of the OSCE has always been a mechanism of political dialogue to improve respect for the OSCE norms, principles and commitments. We do not think that such a dialogue is useless when it comes to conflict-related issues where promotion of respect for fundamental principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act is crucial. Compliance is not always achieved through coercive measures and that is the very philosophy of a dialogue in a multilateral forum.

- Hopefully, the next ASRC will devote more attention to regional issues since otherwise our work at the ASRC will be more confined to scientific or theoretical debates rather than directed at helping practically apply OSCE toolkit in an efficient and consistent manner, tailored to specific cases on the ground.