

**OSCE Summit
Astana, 1 – 2 December 2010**

ENGLISH only

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Stefán Skjaldarson,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iceland to the OSCE**

Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at the outset to express my gratitude to our host for the warm hospitality that we have received here in Astana and for the excellent organisation of this first OSCE Summit in Central Asia.

Madame Chairperson,

We are already far into this Summit. Most things that need to be said have already been said. I will therefore confine my intervention to a few basic points.

We have in the context of European security institutions agreed upon and committed to a very large body of norms, procedures, rules and regulations to serve as guidelines in the conduct of our relations. There is no lack of agreed principles and commitments even if upgrades may in some instances be needed.

We do however need to revisit them at regular intervals to recall and reiterate that they are the fundament on which we base our relationship. We share the view that the weak points continue to relate to the implementation of commitments. We would therefore welcome an action plan to fulfil and strengthen our obligations and commitments and restore trust and confidence with a view to developing a common security community in the OSCE area.

A security community in the sense of international relations that fundamentally rely on solving problems through processes of peaceful change may be a tall order. Nevertheless, I think that it provides us at a minimum with a framework and reference point by which to develop a roadmap for the future.

The security dialogue within the Corfu process has brought forward some very concrete ideas and proposals to strengthen the OSCE in terms of conflict prevention and crisis management. There is an obvious need for enhancing OSCEs capacities in this respect. The many unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area, in particular in Georgia, in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh and in Transnistria are stark reminders of the reality that the principle of the non-use of violence to settle conflicts – a principle that we have all subscribed to - leaves a lot to be desired in terms of adherence. In order to be able to contribute in a constructive manner to negotiated solutions to these conflicts the OSCE needs to have meaningful access to and presence in all conflict areas.

As the incoming chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation we fully acknowledge the important work ahead in the FSC, based on the political mandate given at our Summit here in Astana to improve confidence and security building measures. By the end of 2011, we will hopefully be able to adopt a modernized and updated version of the Vienna Document.

In the highly important human dimension of the OSCE, there has been a persistent lack of implementation that needs to be addressed. We would therefore welcome the reaffirmation at this Summit of the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE principles and commitments in the human dimension. In this context the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on the Freedom of the Media are important. They deserve our full support, *inter alia* in election monitoring and follow-up, in promoting the rights of national minorities, including in interstate relations and in protecting freedom of the media.

The fight against human trafficking requires effective international and regional cooperation. In times of economic downturn, it is even more important to be vigilant as economic hardships make possible victims more vulnerable and increase the danger of organized criminal activity, including human trafficking. The OSCE has provided a strong leadership in this regard and we commend the work of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Madame Chairperson,

The Summit document that I hope we are about to adopt will give us guidance on how to move forward. It is now up to us, the participating states, to deliver by strengthening existing instruments and mechanisms in order to allow the organization to respond more firmly to new threats to security and develop additional tools in all three dimensions.

In closing, Madame Chairperson, I would like to congratulate Ukraine on their 2013 Chairmanship and to extend our full support to the incoming Lithuanian Chairman-in-Office

Thank you Madame Chairperson.

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