

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT AT THE 2008 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE
SPECIAL SESSION IN RESPONSE TO
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE (SACEUR)
GENERAL JOHN CRADDOCK
2 JULY 2008**

Canada warmly welcomes the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General John Craddock, to the OSCE's Annual Security Review Conference today. We view his presentation as an important part of the dialogue and cooperation between two of the principal institutions through which Canada works with its partners toward greater stability and security.

On numerous occasions, NATO and the OSCE have proven to be complementary institutions bringing, their respective fields of expertise together to reach common goals. Whether it be in Kosovo, projects on ammunition destruction, mélange disposal or in treaty verification exercises, Canada commends the level of cooperation and coordination between the two organizations.

In response to the recent escalation of tensions in Georgia, both the OSCE and NATO have called for restraint. We appreciate the efforts of both Organizations to lessen tensions and reiterate the necessity of peaceful and constructive negotiations leading to a resolution of this conflict in a manner that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

As it is for NATO, Afghanistan is a priority international engagement for Canada. Along with our other NATO Allies and partners, we are working to support the Afghan government in its efforts to bring stability and security to the country, so that development and reconstruction can take root in order that Afghanistan never again serves as a haven for terrorists. Canada's commitment was recently reinforced with an extension of our military mission in Kandahar province to 2011, and an additional \$600 million in development and reconstruction assistance announced at the Paris Conference.

We are in Afghanistan to ensure that the vision outlined in the Afghanistan Compact and National Development Strategy, of an Afghanistan rebuilt, safe, secure, democratic and self-sufficient, is realised.

However, as we have heard here today, the situation in Afghanistan remains fragile. Insurgents are seeking to prevent the Afghan government from realising this vision. They

regularly attack schools, clinics, government officials and NGOs in their quest to, once again, impose their will on the Afghan people.

Following nearly three decades of conflict, the international community has a moral obligation to help Afghanistan rebuild. At the most basic, human level, we are trying to deliver on this commitment to ordinary Afghans who deserve a better lot in life.

Canada's commitment to this goal arises from a concern for the lives of all Afghan citizens but equally from our recognition that Afghanistan's security is intrinsically linked to our own individual and collective security.

Canada sees the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) as a key contribution in the campaign against terrorism as well as in the international community's effort to rebuild Afghanistan and place it on a more stable footing.

To ensure our success in Afghanistan, the international community needs to remain steadfast in its support for Afghanistan. We need to ensure that requisite resources are in place to respond to ongoing and emerging challenges. This involves support for security, governance and development efforts, as identified by the people and Government of Afghanistan.

Canada is pleased that the OSCE has been able to draw upon niche capacities to provide support to these efforts at critical junctures. For example, the support provided to the Afghan elections process in 2005 demonstrated the OSCE's capacity to lend expert support to Partners for Cooperation in specific circumstances. Canada is proud to have played a role in and to have supported this exercise, including continued support for core national programs and support for democratic processes such as elections. The next round of elections in Afghanistan will likewise require close coordination with the Afghan side and between all Organizations involved.

We look forward to the OSCE commencing activities with Afghanistan as soon as possible to fill niches identified by our partners in the international community and the Government and people of Afghanistan, as called for by our Ministers at the Ministerial Conference in Madrid last year.

We thank General Craddock for his comprehensive statement and his presence here today, and wish him every success in his challenging work.