

PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE OSCE

ENGLISH only

FIRST ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

(Vienna, 25-26 June 2003)

GENERAL STATEMENT AT THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION
BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY

Changing Security Environment:

The concept of security has undergone substantial changes since the end of the Cold War. Today, when we talk about security, we no longer define it within the confines of military and territorial security of states. Human security, economic security, environmental security and social security are all new dimensions of security that we have to take into account when we formulate security policies. In a nutshell, we can say that the new concept of security has become ever more comprehensive and more inclusive since the term “comprehensive security” was first coined at the OSCE over a decade ago.

One of the complementary factors of today`s comprehensive concept of security is the changing nature of new threats. New threats to security are multidimensional, transboundary, asymmetric and interconnected.

- They are multidimensional, because their causes and effects are not only military but also economic, social, environmental and even cultural. Failure to sustain economic development, unruly competition for scarce natural resources, environmental degradation, nuclear wastes, natural disasters, racism, chauvinism and xenophobia are only some of the examples of non-military threats.
- They are transboundary, because their consequences are felt not only in one but in many countries at the same time. In an age of globalization all these threats have international repercussions and regional and global implications for security. If ethnic or religious

tensions or territorial disputes are not contained and resolved, they often acquire a potential to turn into regional armed conflicts.

- They are asymmetric, because non state actors can pose serious unconventional threats to the security, stability and welfare of states. One of the most serious threats to security in the 21st century is the possibility that terrorist groups and organized crime networks acquire the means to deploy weapons of mass destruction.
- They are interconnected, because one threat may lead to another. A terrorist group can and often does engage in other criminal activities such as trafficking of arms, humans and drugs or money laundering and extortion.

An efficient and effective security policy must take into account all these new threats and formulate adequate responses. Moreover these responses usually have regional implications and thus require cooperation region-wise. Hence it is also important to put in place a cooperative security structure in order to tackle risks and threats to security.

The Role of the OSCE:

With these general considerations in mind, we welcome the convening of the first Annual Security Review Conference. We believe this Conference and those that will be held in coming years will help in setting out how our Organization can prevent and counter threats and challenges to our security and to the stability of the OSCE region. It will also contribute to the efforts undertaken by other international organizations.

The work of the OSCE is based on the concept of comprehensive, common and indivisible security. As such this Organization has developed norms, principles and standards in different segments of security. We are also action oriented and operational. The task now before us is to increase our responsiveness to new and emerging security challenges. Our Delegation is confident that we shall collectively meet this requirement also.