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**WELCOMING REMARKS BY
AMBASSADOR JANEZ LENARČIČ,
CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL,
TO THE TECHNICAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON SUICIDE TERRORISM,
VIENNA, 20 MAY 2005**

ENGLISH only

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE, I have a pleasure to warmly welcome you to this workshop. When Slovenia assumed the Chairmanship, we pledged to further strengthen the OSCE efforts to address the threat that the terrorism poses to all of us. We are delivering on that pledge with the firm support of the Participating States.

This is the third major OSCE counter-terrorism workshop to be held this year in Vienna after two recent successful workshops on enhancing container security and on legal cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism. In October later this year, the OSCE will organise a workshop on combating the use of the internet for terrorist purposes. So you can see, that the OSCE approach is a multidimensional and multifaceted one, and providing a fora to exchange information and best practices, compare notes, and define possible common strategies.

We are therefore most pleased to be hosting this event in partnership with the UN, through its Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). We are very proud of our growing collaboration with UNICRI. This is the fourth workshop we are collaborating on; at UNICRI's request, the ATU participated in three recent sub-regional workshops on Chemical, Nuclear, Biological and Radioactive threat in the OSCE region. And we are now very pleased to have UNICRI Deputy Director Jan van Dijk with us today to join both in this opening and as moderator of the second session this afternoon.

We are also pleased to have with us today a representative from the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The UNODC continues to be a strong partner in our counter-terrorism efforts, particularly concerning the UNSCR 1373 implementation and in fostering legal cooperation against terrorism.

Also, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our other expert international organizations. The International Civil Aviation Organization has taken an active role in deterring suicide attacks on civil aviation and has worked with us previously on the MANPADS threat. We welcome their expert who joined us today. I also welcome representatives from the Anti Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States who are contributing experts.

Your participation, including the large number of you who have come from your capitals, is the strongest confirmation that these expert exchanges are directly relevant to our national and common security interests.

Thanks to generous financial support from the United States Government, and the work of the OSCE's Action against Terrorism Unit, we are fortunate today to have with us the world's leading experts on suicide terrorism. You have come from regions both within and outside the OSCE region. You come from governments, international organizations and academia.

Suicide terrorism is not a new phenomenon. Nor is it a threat confined to some far off place away from our area. Suicide attacks have dramatically increased in number and in lethality in recent years. And they are spreading to regions where the phenomenon was previously unknown. At least nine OSCE participating and partner States have been targets of suicide attacks. Since the year 2000, we have witnessed brutal attacks in Russia, Turkey, the United States, and Uzbekistan. And let us not forget other attacks that have occurred in our Partner States in Afghanistan, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, and Tunisia.

This morning, experts will reveal the unvarnished face of this threat and why it is of growing concern to the international community. The statistics is sobering. And I must warn you that some of the forensic evidence you will see will be graphic. However, only by being witness to the facts can we come to better understand and act against this threat.

As in all of our previous counter-terrorism technical workshops, a key objective is to provide you with concrete, actionable information, so that your governments and organizations can usefully employ against this threat. Our afternoon session will therefore be entirely devoted to counter-measures. Expert presenters will share with you specific actions that governments are now taking to safeguard their citizens. These are lessons often learned through painful experience. So we are all the more appreciative of the sharing of such insights.

This workshop is also important from another perspective. It underscores the continuing importance that the OSCE places on partnership with the UN and other international organizations in addressing current and emerging terrorist threats. Acting quickly and flexibly to address new threats in our region is vital, and we could not do so without all our partners. We expect to continue and enhance our close co-operation in the future.

Before concluding, I would like to thank Mr. Brian Woo, the Head of the ATU, for his excellent leadership and cooperation that the Chairmanship enjoyed. Today's seminar is the last one during his work with us. Mr. Woo, I wish you all the best in your future.

In conclusion I would like to wish you, the participants, every success and a fruitful meeting. The Chairmanship looks forward to the discussion and results of this

workshop which are certain to further our common efforts to thwart the criminal acts of terrorists.

Thank you.