



**Annual Security Review Conference 19 and 20 June 2007**  
**Statement at the Opening Session**  
**by Ambassador Nils Daag, Deputy Director General**

Sweden aligns itself with the statement made by Germany on behalf of the European Union, but allow me to make some points also from a national perspective on the role of the OSCE and its work in the security field.

Mr Moderator,

Recent developments and experience show that the core activities of the OSCE – conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and confidence-building – are still highly relevant. One unique aspect of the OSCE is that it provides for its 56 participating States, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, a platform for regular dialogue and cooperation on regional security issues. Provided there is political will, the participating States can react and act together at short notice. Another unique aspect of the OSCE is its cross-dimensional competences, allowing the participating States to link security, human rights and development.

Let me highlight some examples of this capacity. The illicit trade and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Conventional Ammunition (CA) continue to pose a grave threat to security and stability, not only in the OSCE region, but worldwide. The OSCE is in the frontline and has taken a leading role in the area of SALW and the implementation of United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its Aspects (UN PoA). We encourage and welcome closer cooperation between the OSCE and other international organizations (UN, NATO, EU) in the areas of SALW and Conventional Ammunition (CA) in order to find synergies, avoid duplication in work and to be as cost effective as possible. The SALW and CA Programme in Tajikistan is to our mind a very good example of how to manage an OSCE project.

I am convinced that we can all agree that the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security has, ever since its adoption in 1994, been a document at the very heart of the OSCE's politico-military dimension, as well as of the OSCE as a whole. Sweden highly values the Code of Conduct and welcomes the work within the FSC on the implementation of the Code. In this regard, I would just like to remind colleagues that Sweden, together with Spain, United Kingdom, Canada, Norway, Finland and Denmark, have presented a proposal concerning adding, within the framework of the Questionnaire, information on national measures regarding the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the OSCE Gender Action Plan. We would very much like to see this decision coming into effect before the next information exchange in April 2008.

Let me say a few words on the protracted conflicts in Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Moldova. While the OSCE continues to exert considerable efforts aimed at peaceful settlement of the conflicts, regrettably, much remains to be done. Sweden firmly believes in confidence-building measures as a vital means of working towards conflict resolution. We have therefore made a large contribution to the OSCE program for the economic rehabilitation of South Ossetia, Georgia. Sweden reiterates the call by the European Union to all those concerned to engage in an open dialogue, to show readiness for compromise and to refrain from all actions that could further heighten tensions.

Mr Moderator,

The OSCE continues to make a valuable contribution to addressing new threats to our common security. Fighting terrorism, trafficking, organized crime and illicit drugs while improving border security require new forms of cooperation and coordination, between participating States as well as with partner organizations such as the UN, EU and the Council of Europe. A prime example of this is the OSCE Political Public-Private Partnership Conference that took place here in Vienna two weeks ago, an event that Sweden found most useful and relevant. The work of the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) is crucial and Sweden will continue to support its activities.

Sweden supports the increased focus of the OSCE on environmental security, an area in which the OSCE can provide added value and cooperate closely with other international actors as agreed at the Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague recently. We consider ENVSEC (Environmental Security Initiative) to be a particularly relevant example of how the OSCE can tackle environmental security challenges in close cooperation with other regional and international organizations. Sweden will continue its financial support to ENVSEC projects.

Last but not least, let me stress that ODIHR remains in our view one of the key pillars of the OSCE. Sweden holds in high regard ODIHR's work in the sphere of election observation, not least its well-respected methodology, as well as its daily contributions in vital areas such as promoting tolerance and gender equality as well as fighting discrimination. Moreover, we highly value the important work undertaken by the OSCE field presences, which transform our shared norms and commitments into concrete action in the areas of human rights, democratization and the rule of law.

Thank you.