



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

Statement by Norway in response to the report by the
Secretary General and the ODIHR director on the
implementation of Ministerial Decision 5/06 on
Organized Crime

OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna
19 July, 2007

Norway would like to thank the Secretary General and Director Strohal for their presentations and the very comprehensive report. Indeed, the joint report provides an excellent overview and can serve as a point of departure for further discussions.

The starting point is, as the Secretary General just put it, that organized crime threatens our collective security.

Norway is very satisfied with the work undertaken by the Task Force on Organized Crime. Existing knowledge has been consolidated and there has been valuable exchange of best practices. One example being the comprehensive and multi-dimensional work by the OSCE mission in Serbia which is undertaken in close cooperation with the host Government.

Norway is pleased that SPMU will serve as a central contact point for organized crime after the completion of the Task Force. We have also noted that the Programme Outline for 2008 duly mentions activities which can contribute to preventing and combating organized crime.

Mr. Chairman,

The key document for international efforts in this area is the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC - the so-called Palermo Convention). At present 55 of the OSCE participating States have signed the

Convention and 45 have so far ratified. In our view a main goal for OSCE activities in fighting organized crime should be to contribute to implementation of the UN Convention.

The OSCE may serve as a catalyst for implementation. The OSCE can help establishing focal points as the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC has asked for, it can support networking, exchange of best practices and contribute to capacity building.

Norway would like to underscore that any of these OSCE activities have to be very closely coordinated with the UNODC. That said, it is our firm understanding that the UNODC very much would welcome a stronger OSCE contribution in implementing the Palermo Convention.

Norway has earmarked NOK 2 million - equalling some €250 000 at the present rate of exchange - for OSCE activities which can support implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We look forward to further deliberations with the Secretariat, ODIHR and other participating States on how we - in close cooperation with the UNODC - possibly can develop a multi-donor programme to support implementation of the mentioned UN Convention,

Thank you, Mr. Chairman