

As Delivered

Original: ENGLISH

2010 Review Conference for the Astana OSCE Summit
(Warsaw Segment)

**Opening; Implementation of
OSCE Commitments in the Human Dimension)**

Delegation of Canada to the OSCE
Statement delivered by Ambassador Fredericka Gregory

(September 30, 2010 - Warsaw)

OPENING STATEMENT BY CANADA

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Canada would like to thank the host country of Poland, the Kazakh OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the OSCE Secretary General, the Director of the ODIHR, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the President of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and the Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee of the Permanent Council, for their comprehensive reports and contributions to the pre-Summit Review process that starts in Warsaw, and then continues in Vienna and later in Astana. Special thanks go to the ODIHR team for their valued work across the OSCE region, and for organizing this segment of the Review Conference.

The OSCE's first Summit in eleven years will be in Astana later this year. It is an opportunity to review all of our commitments in all three OSCE security dimensions, and to take stock of progress made in all aspects of the OSCE's work on regional stability. We have the opportunity and responsibility to bring the attention of our leaders the pressing security issues facing our region today, and to make recommendations on a common course of action.

For Canada, an important Summit deliverable will be the adoption of a forward-looking **Corfu Process Action Plan** that will outline the OSCE's work ahead for the coming years. The Corfu Process dialogue should continue as a tool for delivering the results of the Action Plan, and restoring trust. As the OSCE embarks on putting together a Summit Action Plan, Canada will work hard to ensure that it focuses on enhancing the OSCE's capacity and modernizing its work across all three security dimensions, including the Human Dimension.

Canada continues to believe that the OSCE can bring a real value-added to the efforts in creating greater security and stabilization in **Afghanistan**, including by working on these issues in the broader regional context. The Summit will provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen engagement of the Organization with Afghanistan and our work on threats and challenges stemming from Afghanistan. To do this efficiently and effectively, we need to be able to work on

both sides of Afghanistan's borders, and across all three OSCE dimensions. This is why Canada will continue to advocate the need for OSCE capacity-building projects inside Afghanistan.

We have all agreed that one area with great potential for furthering cooperation by participating States is in addressing **transnational threats**. Canada is hopeful that we can make progress on the way forward for collectively implementing measures for dealing with transnational threats in our region such as terrorism, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, and human trafficking. Canada also believes that the OSCE Summit in Astana will be an opportunity to further advance our work on **modernizing Conventional Arms Control in Europe and Confidence and Security Building Measures regimes**.

We also support making a **better use of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension** to build confidence and for work on conflict prevention and resolution, notably through supporting sub-regional initiatives and cooperation. By focussing on value-added activities, we believe that the OSCE should concentrate its capacity-building efforts on good governance issues (both environmental and economic) and on facilitating greater transparency.

Canada particularly values work of the OSCE in **the Human Dimension** and our commitment to **safeguarding and strengthening the OSCE *aquis***, including the integrity and independence of our OSCE Institutions. We must preserve the gains of the past 20 years in promoting and protecting human rights, the rule of law, tolerance, and democratic development across the vast OSCE region, from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Canada is committed to enhancing support to the full implementation of commitments and improving the effectiveness of the Human Dimension work meetings, including improved follow-up on the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings. We also voice our support for the High Commissioner for National Minorities' Bolzano/Bolzen Recommendations, which provide OSCE participating States with a set of principles and good practices in inter-state relations in matters concerning national minorities.

Canada would also like to underscore the vital work of civil society as partners of the OSCE in the promotion of human rights, rule of law, fundamental freedoms, and democracy. Our NGOs and media workers often work under very difficult conditions and even in the face of threats to their safety, in their efforts to hold OSCE participation States to account for any violations of international obligations or failures to honour OSCE commitments.

On the road to Astana, Canada will continue to work constructively and cooperatively with its partners on issues of mutual concern for the security of our people and our region, and with a view to developing substantive deliverables and an Action Plan for the Summit in December.

In closing, we want Kazakhstan to know that they can count on Canada's full support in organising and delivering a meaningful and substantive Summit. Similarly, we also count on Kazakhstan's full support and engagement, as the OSCE Chair, in strengthening the OSCE's Human Dimension agenda, and in leading by example by fulfilling its 2007 Madrid Ministerial commitments and completing the promised domestic reforms.

Thank you/Merci/Rachmet.