



THE HOLY SEE
Politico-Military and Economic and Environmental Sessions
of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference
18-26 October 2010, Vienna
Opening Session
Monday, October 18, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

1. The Holy See welcomes the second part of the 2010 Review Conference dedicated to the politico-military and economic-environmental dimensions of the OSCE. My Delegation would like to thank the organizers, in particular, the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE, the Secretariat and other OSCE bodies, including the Conflict Prevention Centre, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Office of the Economic and Environmental Co-ordinator, for the serious work that has gone into the preparations for this Conference.

2. The Review Conference is a momentous event for our Organization, which will hold its first summit meeting in 11 years in Astana this December. We hope that a thorough review of the implementation of OSCE commitments by all participating States, as well as an examination of the work of the OSCE institutions and their effectiveness will help to provide a real assessment of the state of affairs as regards ensuring security in the Organization's area of responsibility. This is especially important for the first and second dimensions of the Organization, whose numerous and important commitments are perhaps less known.

3. Regarding the politico-military dimension, the Holy See would like to single out the noteworthy contribution offered by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), especially in the context of the Dialogue on Security, where problematic areas are debated without reticence. The Forum is the custodian of important acquisitions in the field of arms control and of confidence and security building measures which, if applied without reservation and in good faith are a powerful instrument in ensuring stability and security.

Equally important is the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, which has the all-important task of *“providing early warning and, as appropriate, early action in regard to tensions involving national minority*

issues". In fact, the question of national minorities continues to assume a notable importance. Consequently, it constitutes a matter for careful reflection on the part of political leaders, religious authorities and indeed all men and women of good will.

Forgotten wars and protracted hostilities continue to cause deaths and injuries, often amid silence and neglect on the part of considerable sectors of public opinion. Future action of the OSCE must necessarily involve a serious engagement to resolve protracted conflicts. There are some weak, yet positive, signs coming from some of the areas of these protracted conflicts. In the opinion of the Holy See, the OSCE is well placed to invite the protagonists of these conflicts to engage in dialogue and to follow the path of negotiation.

4. The discussions in the Corfu Process revealed the centrality of the topic of migration on the OSCE agenda for years to come. Migrants are now a felt priority by the international community. In the opinion of the Holy See, two important topics in contemporary migration are not adequately discussed and given adequate attention in the formulation of policies: the victims of migration flows and the priority that migrants as human persons have over the economy. The whole system of protection and of human rights cannot be relegated to a secondary supporting role; instead, it must serve, as intended, to give assurances that the dignity of all human persons must take precedence.

Present political trends appear clear and slanted in the direction of responding to the more emotional and vocal demands of public opinion for control and integration. But the pragmatic advantages accepted through the admission of migrants are frequently overshadowed by an ambivalent attitude in the media and public opinion that allow for stereotyping and negative generalizations of newcomers. There is a growing consensus on the importance of an inclusive approach and the necessity to pay more attention to migrants themselves and not only to their economic role as temporary workforce or permanent settlers. In this context, the rights of migrants, including that of family reunification, must be a primary consideration. Finally, education can play an important role.

5. I have just outlined some of the priorities of the Holy See in the first and second dimensions. My Delegation will go into these subjects in more detail during the relevant working sessions. Finally, my Delegation pledges to do its part to ensure that our discussions over the coming days are constructive, in pursuit of the goal that has brought us here together.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.