



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**  
**MISSION IN KOSOVO**

**Remarks of Ambassador Werner Wnendt,  
Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo,**

*for "Women for Peace" Exhibition,  
on the occasion of the International Peace Day*

**Prishtinë/Priština, 21 September 2006**

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I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this event, organized on the occasion of the International Day of Peace. This day is meant to be a day of global cease-fire, reconciliation and reflection on the ways to bring stability to the conflict-torn regions.

This occasion is especially significant for me and my colleagues, who continue to work in Kosovo on behalf of the International Community. It allows us to reflect on the many ways UNMIK and OSCE try to promote peace and bring together individuals, groups and communities of diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo is the largest OSCE field operation. We form a distinct component of the United Nations Interim Administration and, as many of you probably well know, we are mandated with tasks of institution-building, promoting the rule of law and democracy.

For the first time, the OSCE has been an integral part of an operation led by the United Nations, contributing to building peace within a wider international framework. During past years, we have been able to implement numerous projects and took many actions in an ambitious effort to lay the ground for enduring peace and sustainable development.

Our continuous joint efforts will be crucial in the next months, with the possible conclusion of the future status talks. We do hope that together we can contribute Kosovo to finalise this process in a smooth and peaceful manner, starting a new era of sustainable friendly regional relations.

We know that lasting peace and modern democracy cannot be done without women. As mentioned in the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "on Women, Peace and Security" and in the OSCE Gender Action Plan, empowerment of women is seen as one of the means to prevent future conflict and to create stability. I believe that women's empowerment should be a priority in development and human rights activities. We should promote equal gender participation in democratic processes, as well as in other spheres of public, social and economic life.

Let me wish you all on the occasion of the International Peace Day that peace stability and security for all people here in Kosovo would not remain something abstract and that the Kosovo women will have their fair share in building it.