

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON
SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL
COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY**

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, remain concerned about the persistent terrorist threat in the OSCE area.
2. We reaffirm the existing OSCE counter-terrorism commitments and the intention to maintain our counter-terrorist activities as priorities for the OSCE.
3. We recognize the leading role of the United Nations in the international efforts against terrorism and support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006 by the UN General Assembly, which we look upon as providing guidance for OSCE counter-terrorism activities, since the Strategy outlines a comprehensive global approach towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, within a framework based on human rights and the rule of law and complying with all obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.
4. We recall the comprehensive global approach of the Strategy towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, including but not limited to, prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.
5. We note that the UN General Assembly encourages regional organizations “to support the implementation of the Strategy, including through mobilizing resources and expertise”.
6. We recall the commitment to implement all UN Security Council resolutions related to international terrorism, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in their implementation.
7. We support the OSCE Secretariat’s work to promote the implementation of the Strategy, in particular the annual high-level consultations between representatives of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations (Vienna, February 2007) in the “Tripartite-Plus” format, as well as the

roundtables for counter-terrorism practitioners from regional organizations and counter-terrorism centres in Copenhagen (July 2006) and Vilnius (June 2007), organized by the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit.

8. We are satisfied that the OSCE approach to the fight against terrorism corresponds to that of the UN Strategy, because, among other things, it promotes the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems, all of which constitute the fundamental basis of our common fight against terrorism, and that all our counter-terrorist activities could be seen as a contribution to the Strategy's implementation. The OSCE, in particular its participating States, assisted when necessary by the Secretariat, institutions and field presences, will continue to implement counter-terrorism commitments and could focus, albeit not exclusively, on the following activities:

9. The OSCE will continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, in particular the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, encouraging participating States to become parties to them and to implement their obligations under these instruments;

10. After conducting, in the period 2005–2007, in co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a number of workshops at the OSCE-wide, subregional and national levels, aimed at enhancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, and recognizing the emphasis the UN Strategy places on prosecution and related judicial co-operation, the Secretariat will continue its legal co-operation programme with particular — though not exclusive — attention to training assistance to judicial officials at the subregional and national levels;

11. Participating States will use the Forum for Security Co-operation to continue promoting, in close co-operation with the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) given the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists. The FSC will also strengthen co-operation in combating the risk emanating from illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW), including man-portable air defence systems, and conventional ammunition. Participating States will work towards full implementation of relevant existing politico-military commitments, in particular those contained in the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;

12. Having developed a comprehensive programme on travel document security, which fully corresponds to the call of the UN Strategy to step up efforts and co-operation to improve security of manufacturing and issuing of identity and travel documents, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit will strengthen its efforts to facilitate the deployment of technical platforms for accessing Interpol's stolen and lost travel documents database at border control points, will encourage States to report data on lost and stolen documents to Interpol, and will continue to promote technological upgrades of travel documents and the implementation of a comprehensive and secure handling and issuance process, in line with ICAO standards, that protects identity and strengthens civil registry systems which would respect the principle of non-discrimination;

13. Participating States will co-operate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates in or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens. Participating States will take appropriate measures in conformity with the relevant provisions of national and international law, including international standards of human rights, before granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts. They will ensure, in conformity with international law, that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and that claims of political motivation are not recognized as grounds for refusing requests for the extradition of alleged terrorists;

14. Remaining seriously concerned about the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, the OSCE participating States will continue the exchange of information about this threat, and take other measures in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/06 on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;

15. The OSCE will support efforts by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee/Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to advance implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1624 (2005);

16. The OSCE will continue its participation in processes for the resolution of protracted conflicts, which are among the conditions conducive to terrorism;

17. The OSCE will continue its activities in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. Intolerance and discrimination must be addressed and countered by the OSCE's participating States and OSCE's executive structures within their respective mandates. The Permanent Council, with the support of the Secretariat and institutions, will consider in 2008 how the OSCE, with a multidimensional approach, could contribute to the development of a better understanding of the phenomena of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, through sharing of national experiences;

18. The OSCE will continue its activities aimed at promoting supply chain security, especially by supporting and facilitating the capacity-building work of the World Customs Organization in implementation of the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and will endeavour to serve as a platform for co-ordination and co-operation between relevant international organizations and national authorities for the development and application of an integrated approach to supply chain security;

19. The OSCE will remain committed to the promotion of public-private partnerships in countering terrorism and will continue involving the private sector (civil society and the business community) in its counter-terrorism activities;

20. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will continue, in co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Euro-Asian Group (EAG) and other relevant partners, to provide assistance to participating States, at their request, in building up their capacity to counter terrorist financing, by, *inter alia*, the strengthening of financial

control mechanisms and the implementation of the nine special FATF recommendations on terrorist financing and the 40 FATF recommendations on money laundering;

21. Working in close co-operation with UNODC, the OSCE will remain seized of the threat of illicit drugs, following up on activities successfully carried out in 2006 and 2007 on this issue;

22. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will continue to assist participating States, at their request, in ensuring that their counter-terrorism initiatives are human rights compliant, pursuant to their OSCE commitments. The ODIHR will continue to offer technical assistance and advice on the human rights aspects of the drafting and implementation of national legislation aimed at countering the threats posed by terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and will continue to facilitate dialogue between State and non-governmental actors with a view to exploring areas of co-operation and mutual assistance;

23. The OSCE institutions will continue their overall effort aimed at combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding, *inter alia* through projects and programmes involving all sectors of society;

24. The OSCE will continue addressing the issue of solidarity with the victims of terrorism, drawing, *inter alia*, on Permanent Council Decision No. 618 on solidarity with victims of terrorism and taking note of the High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism held in Vienna in September 2007.

25. We reiterate that the OSCE, including its Secretariat, institutions and field presences, is ready to work closely with the United Nations system, and other international and regional organizations for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The OSCE will continue supporting the UN in its counter-terrorism efforts and will co-operate with other international and regional organizations active in this area, facilitating their capacity-building assistance to participating States, supporting and promoting their counter-terrorism and security standards, identified as best practices for countering terrorism as well as contributing to networking between counter-terrorism practitioners from participating States and international and regional organizations to bring about better co-operation and synergies in their work, thus making its contribution to the global effort against terrorism.