



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**The Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

12-13 June 2014, New York

**Remarks by Mr. Thomas Wuchte, Head on Anti-terrorism Issues**

**Transnational Threats Department**

**OSCE Secretariat**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is the fourth time the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has been given an opportunity to present at this forum its efforts in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Needless to say, the invitation to participate at the General Assembly's biennial review is yet another confirmation of the importance and depth of the partnership between our two organizations. But more than this – the OSCE's presence today is an evidence that regional organizations maintain a well-defined role and well-received mandate in supporting their participating States in activities to translate the UN Global CT Strategy into action.

Foremost, let me reiterate the message that I conveyed to you almost two years ago – the OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) remains committed and a reliable partner working on the integration of programmatic priorities that support the process of implementing the UN CT Strategy among our 57 participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation.

Although the primary obligations rest with the States, we have every confidence to believe that the variety of OSCE expertise and wide scope of its capacity-building on anti-terrorism,

border security, cyber security, human rights, policing and on many other areas significantly contribute to the success of the global counter-terrorism efforts - at our regional level.

To make these efforts more efficient, systematic and sustainable, OSCE participating States adopted (since the 2012 UN review) at the end of 2012 in Dublin the 'OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism'. This unique document clearly highlights operational principles and identifies the strategic focus of future OSCE counter-terrorism activities. It also confirms the role of the Action against Terrorism Unit of the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD/ATU) as the focal point and as an information resource and implementation partner on OSCE counter-terrorism activities.

Drawing on the Consolidated Framework's priorities supporting the United Nations, our activities have been organized to promote the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism, to strengthen travel document security, to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, to counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and to help build public-private partnerships. Moreover, the framework provides us the vision to consider new and emerging trends which we have undertaken this year with the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE.

The OSCE has also been providing capacity-building assistance to its participating States in a number of other areas including improving the security of international transportation, especially container and supply chain security, non-proliferation under UNSCR 1540, terrorism financing, and promoting solidarity with victims of terrorism in compliance with international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.

The OSCE participating States have committed to placing specific emphasis on the strategic area of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of counter-terrorism measures – which will be illustrated further in these remarks – through the work of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) consistent with and supportive of Pillar IV of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in embodying its commitment to “measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism”.

Perhaps most importantly, the Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism highlights the need to further co-ordinate our efforts internally and to co-operate externally with relevant stakeholders to counter terrorism. Internally, our Transnational Threats Department acts as the focal point of co-ordination in the Secretariat to ensure all elements of our strategy are included. Externally, the OSCE pays a particular attention to co-operation with stakeholders of the international community, recognizing the leading role of the United Nations. In other words, we value our close relationship with the Counter-terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and its associated entities and today's opportunity to highlight areas where we see even greater collaboration.

The essence of the effective support and tailored-made assistance offered by the OSCE to its participating States lies in the combination of actions by the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions such as ODIHR, and 16 Field Operations that serve as an "ear to the ground" aimed at facilitating communication and strengthening co-operation with the host countries and of the strategic priorities identified by the Consolidated Framework.

Some examples...the OSCE has successfully supported its participating States in their implementation of the Universal Anti-terrorism Instruments (UATI), currently 19. The ratification rate in 2001 of the – at that time - 12 UATIs in the OSCE region was 65%. We have a strategic partnership and Joint Action Plan with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to ensure that our support is co-ordinated and complementary. The Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) and our experts share many ideas and activities throughout the OSCE region.

In 2014 the ratification rate for the UATIs that are in force is almost 85%. In this area, the OSCE Secretariat has organized more than 50 capacity-building events, workshops and conferences at national, regional and OSCE-wide level, where more than 2,500 experts have participated. The high ratification rate allows the OSCE as one of the first organizations to focus on streamlining and reinforcing preventive measures that are related to the international legal framework against terrorism, but not detailed on it. Such efforts focus on, for example, promoting co-operation and strengthening control mechanisms of legally used explosives (e.g. in mining) and its precursors (fertilizers and other chemicals), or in facilitating the exchange of information at an early stage, to counter preparatory acts of terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the Head on Anti-Terrorism Issues within the OSCE, I would like to share with you significant activities that are in line with the four pillars of the UN Global CT Strategy as outlined in the UN Report of the Secretary General (A/68/841 – 14 April 2014) and consistent with other elements of the CTITF matrix of counter-terrorism projects and activities.

Co-operation with the UN and participation of various other experts at the 2014 annual OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference, organized with the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship recently in Interlaken, Switzerland was a good practical example of sharing information and experience. These OSCE conferences have become an important annual cross-dimensional discussion forum on current counter-terrorism issues and benefited from close OSCE-UN co-operation with the CTITF including remarks by the Executive Director of the Counter-terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), and sessions supported by national experts as well as partners such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), European Union (EU), Council of Europe (CoE), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

The recent 2014 Conference brought together nearly 200 delegates including national counterterrorism coordinators and other governmental experts from participating States and Partners for Co-operation, as well as representatives from international organizations, academia and NGOs. Summarising the results of the debates, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship presented its conclusions. Specific recommendations focus on Financing of Terrorism - “Kidnapping for Ransom”; Ensuring Legality, Transparency and Accountability in Counter-Terrorism; and Responding to the Phenomenon of Individuals Taking Part in Violent Hostilities within or outside the OSCE Area (“Foreign Fighters”) – and we expect to work closely with our UN colleagues on the next steps – especially in light of United Nations efforts in all these areas.

One of the areas also highlighted in Interlaken and elsewhere in the OSCE’s work is protecting the public from terrorism as a major, highly scrutinized and challenging task which requires a more systematic approach. That is why, in the field of countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), we have launched jointly with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the

Transnational Threats Department's Strategic Police Matters Unit a guidebook on Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT): A Community-Policing Approach.

This guidebook provides guidance on the central issues that can have an impact on the success or failure of police efforts to harness a community-policing approach to preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. It is primarily intended for policymakers and senior police professionals, but may also be a useful resource for the civil society with an interest in these issues, in particular for community leaders. We are in close contact with the UN CTED on possible ways to promote this approach.

Another initiative we are pursuing jointly with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) is to advance the roles of women in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. We held last month in Istanbul a workshop with civil society stakeholders to identify good practices and lessons learnt in supporting their efforts to empower women to contribute, in different capacities, to countering violent radicalization. We will have a follow-on workshop for government experts in October in the fall in Vienna, and on the basis of both these events we expect the GCTF will draft a good policy practice document on gender mainstreaming in countering violent extremism. We see this initiative as supporting the spirit of United Nations Security Council resolution 2129 (2013) which reaffirmed the Council's "intention to increase its attention to women, peace and security issues in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda, including in threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts".

Besides the abovementioned OSCE-GCTF joint endeavour, strengthening the rule of law compliant criminal justice responses to effectively prevent and combat terrorism consistent with the universal anti-terrorism conventions and human rights instruments but also international best practices is another area of GCTF-OSCE collaboration. In this regard, the OSCE and GCTF plan to organize three national training workshops in South-eastern Europe and in Central Asia intended for criminal justice practitioners. In order to ensure a coherent approach, be assured, that the training workshops will be closely co-ordinated with other relevant international organizations. A first contact on this training has already been established with UN CTED. We believe that this series of workshops can further

contribute to international assistance efforts that promote effective and rule of law-based national criminal justice systems as part of preventing terrorism.

Besides the programmatic work above, the OSCE since 2012 is invited to take part in the GCTF's Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law (CJ-RoL) and the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Groups due to their relevance to the work of the OSCE in the field of countering terrorism.

In the field of Travel Document Security (TDS), let me also mention that the OSCE has continued to assist its participating States throughout the OSCE region in preventing terrorist movements across borders while strengthening border management. TDS remains a core activity and contributes to fighting other transnational threats such as organized crime, illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings.

The TDS programme is comprehensive, starting with secure and reliable civil registry systems and ending with integrated border security solutions. Key to these efforts is that the documents, related issuing processes and border inspection tools meet international standards and specifications as set out by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Co-operation between OSCE and ICAO is strong and both organizations work together on various capacity-building activities. It is worth noting that OSCE Travel Document Security activities complement UN efforts focusing on the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as UNSCRs 1373 and 1624. We are also supporting relevant UN structures with planning regional CT activities related to border control and security in Central Asia.

Over the last several years, cyber security has emerged as an increasing concern to OSCE participating States. Cyber space has become one of the most important facilitators of all organized criminal activities and terrorism. In this regard, the Internet has become a primary tool for terrorists to identify, recruit and train new members, collect and transfer funds, organize terrorist acts and incite terrorist violence. In the field of countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, we organized throughout 2012-2013 four on-line expert forum discussions to stimulate information exchange on the latest trends and debates related to terrorist use of the Internet. In addition, we have in parallel facilitated and organized a series of national seminars, which have aimed to facilitate discussions among experts, public

authorities and civil society stakeholders on the national level for promoting a comprehensive understanding of the threat posed by the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. Effective counter measures in this field require a comprehensive approach, international co-operation and need to uphold privacy rights and freedom of expression. Since 2005, we have regularly co-ordinated with UN CTITF, UN CTED, and UNODC in these efforts and we stand ready to continue and if possible to deepen this co-operation with UN counterparts in the area of enhancing cyber security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Importantly, the OSCE recognizes that security goes beyond politico-military issues and fully encompasses the security of the individual human being. The OSCE multi-dimensional approach to security does not call for the balancing of liberty and security, or suggests that liberty, or aspects of it, must be sacrificed to achieve security. On the contrary, the OSCE regards the respect for human rights and the rule of law as an integral element of security. Combating and ultimately overcoming terrorism will not succeed if the means to do so are not in conformity with human rights standards.

ODIHR, as mentioned earlier, assists OSCE participating States in strengthening the implementation of their human rights obligations and commitments through monitoring and capacity-building activities. In particular, through its Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Programme, ODIHR assists participating States in developing and implementing human rights-compliant anti-terrorism policies and practices. The Programme offers activities in four main areas: capacity-building; expert advice and analysis, legislative assistance; and cooperation with other key actors working on counter-terrorism.

Specific examples of activities in support of Pillar IV of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy include:

- Development of a training curriculum for police officers on countering terrorism and protecting human rights which aims to adopt an operational approach linking the analysis of potential human rights concerns with the daily work and actions of the police involved in counter-terrorism activities – the first pilot training session is to be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina in July 2014.

- Producing in collaboration with the Strategic Police Matters Unit within the OSCE Secretariat Transnational Threats Department, a practical manual for law enforcement officers on Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism Investigations (November 2013). This manual has been designed to help improve democratic policing practice across the OSCE and to assist law enforcement practitioners in strengthening their compliance with OSCE commitments and international human rights standards in the investigation of terrorism-related crimes.
- Training of senior border officials on the protection of human rights when countering terrorism at borders, in collaboration with the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The most recent training took place in April 2014 for 22 senior border officials from 12 different countries.
- Issuing a legal opinion at the request of the Government of Tunisia on Tunisian anti-terrorism legislation (December 2013) with recommendations aimed at enhancing compliance with international human rights standards.
- Conducting a human rights assessment of the situation of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility – this is in line with ODIHR’s objective to support participating States in meeting their commitments to respect human rights in the fight against terrorism. The results of the assessment will feed into a public report to be issued later this year.

I will also take the liberty of highlighting a few more examples of the OSCE multi-dimensional approach to security and the co-operation among two other OSCE structures. Let me first illustrate it with a recent example related to the economic and environmental sphere – Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection:

The OSCE has published a Good Practices Guide on Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection (NNCEIP) from Terrorist Attacks Focusing on Threats Emanating from Cyberspace. The guidebook has been developed with the involvement of a wide range of government and private business experts from OSCE participating States and international organizations such as the EU and NATO. We were pleased to see that there was a side-event



on infrastructure earlier this week by the United Nations and hope our efforts can find synergies.

Additionally, together with our Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, we are also active in the field of suppressing money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The 2012 OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and Terrorism Financing has strengthened the OSCE's mandate in the fight against terrorism financing, not only by recognizing that weak governance is among the factors conducive to the spread of terrorism, but also by endorsing the implementation of international standards to prevent terrorism financing. A project that will include civil society and UN CTED on non-profit organizations is soon to hold its first event.

Another independent Institution of the OSCE, the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM), plays an active role in assisting participating States to recognize the need for free media and free expression as an essential counterbalance to terrorist activity, believing that only societies that value and encourage free speech can effectively contradict terrorist threats. The RFOM has engaged in public outreach on the issue through print and broadcast media as well as presentations at expert conferences on the need to balance security concerns with the inherent right to free expression, such as its past presentation on public-private partnerships: Engaging with the Media in Countering Terrorism.

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to conclude by making three points.

First, I would like to restate my appreciation for organizing this highly important review and for giving Regional Organizations such as the OSCE an opportunity to speak and to update UN Members States on what we are doing in support of the global efforts of the United Nations in preventing and countering terrorism. I strongly believe that such opportunities to take pause and review progress can only be seen as beneficial and encouraging in further joint efforts.

Secondly, I want to reiterate that the OSCE stands ready to remain a substantive contributor for enhancing capacity at the national, sub-regional and regional levels to prevent and combat terrorism and for providing a framework for multi-stakeholder dialogue, awareness-raising, exchange of expertise and networking while implementing the UN Global CT Strategy in the OSCE area. For this, the OSCE would welcome opportunities to participate in relevant CTITF working groups as appropriate and also receive regular updates on the activities undertaken by the different entities of the CTITF – thus to ensure continued co-ordination and collaboration.

Thirdly and last, I trust that in two years – during the fifth biennial CT Strategy Review – we will be even more confident and efficient in transforming a number of positive words expressed today into action making our world significantly safer and more secure.

Thank you.