



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Chairpersonship conference on:
“Anticipating technologies – for a safe and humane future”
7 May 2026, Geneva
Welcoming remarks by the Secretary General

Dear Chairman in Office,
Dear Director General of UNESCO,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you today in Geneva. I thank you dear Ignazio for convening this timely conference. And I thank CERN for hosting us.

We meet at a moment of profound transformation. The security environment across the globe is becoming more contested, more fragmented, more unpredictable. Conflicts persist. Trust is under strain. Geopolitical competition is intensifying. And at the heart of our region, in Ukraine, the war continues to inflict immense human suffering. It deepens divisions across Europe. It must end.

Distinguished delegates,

As the security environment is becoming more volatile, technological change is accelerating at an exceptional pace. These dynamics are deeply interconnected.

Emerging technologies are reshaping the security landscape. They always have, and always will. Technology influences how information flows, how societies function, and how power is exercised. They also transform the nature of conflict: how it emerges, how it is conducted, and how it can be prevented.

Today, artificial intelligence is advancing rapidly, and could reshape the world as we know it. Autonomous systems, including drones, are proliferating. Cyber capabilities continue to expand. These developments are already shaping military doctrines and strategic postures. They also create new risks and escalation pathways. Criminal and terrorist actors are misusing these technologies. Disinformation is spread at scale. Critical infrastructure is more exposed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The participating States of the OSCE have long recognized that new technologies can increase risk and create uncertainty. The response was clear: to develop common principles and commitments.

Through the Helsinki Final Act and later the first Vienna Document, participating States introduced confidence-building measures. To increase transparency, predictability, and trust in an evolving security environment. As technologies advanced, so too did our tools. In 1999, the OSCE Communications Network was created. It enabled fast and secure information exchange between States. It helped reduce risks. In 2016, at the Ministerial Council in Hamburg, participating States agreed to cyber confidence-building measures.

There is a thread connecting all these measures: they promote transparency, communication, and co-operation. This is especially important in a domain where uncertainty and misunderstanding have serious consequences. This reflects a clear lesson from our history: technological change creates new risks. And those risks must be managed, because common security requires shared norms, principles, and commitments.

Today, emerging technologies are evolving faster than the frameworks that govern them. This is very clear when we think of Artificial Intelligence. There is a widening gap today: between what technology can do, and how we manage it. This must be addressed through dialogue, our most important stabilising force in uncertain times like these.

Distinguished delegates,

Emerging technologies also offer significant opportunities. They can strengthen security, improve early warning, underpin verifiable arms control, and support informed decision-making. They can help us address transnational threats, organized crime, terrorism, trafficking, cybercrime. They can enhance resilience across economies and societies. And improve co-operation across borders.

Used responsibly and transparently, technology can build trust. It can reinforce institutions. And it can bring societies closer together.

This is where the OSCE has a unique role to play. Our comprehensive approach to security, connecting politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects of security, remains as relevant as ever.

We provide what is increasingly rare: inclusive platforms for dialogue, at a time when dialogue is urgently needed.

Across the Organization, we are already adapting to new technologies. We support participating States in practical terms: we address the misuse of technology by criminal actors; we strengthen cybercrime investigations; we promote good governance in the digital age. This includes anti-corruption and financial crime prevention. We address technology-facilitated human trafficking; we tackle environmental and energy risks with forecasting tools; we use data-driven tools for early warning and conflict prevention; we also support media literacy and digital inclusion; and we promote the protection of fundamental freedoms online.

But more can be done. We must strengthen our ability to anticipate. Foresight and horizon scanning should become integral to our work. This will help us better understand emerging risks. We must deepen dialogue on the governance of new technologies. Particularly, Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, and digital finance. They require shared understanding, and shared responsibility. Exchange of best practices on transparency, accountability, and human oversight are essential.

We have to build bridges across sectors. Policymakers cannot do this alone. Neither can scientists. Nor the private sector. This conference is a good opportunity to connect actors.

Excellencies,

Technology shapes our security environment. But our choices shape how technology is used. Those choices matter, they define our future.

The OSCE was built on a simple idea: security is shared, dialogue reduces risk, co-operation builds trust. This idea remains as relevant as ever. Let us use this conference to listen, to learn, and to connect. Let us bridge science and diplomacy; innovation and responsibility. Let us ensure that technological progress serves security, and the well-being of the more than one billion people we represent.

Thank you.