

ENGLISH only

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT REGARDING
THE PROPOSED OSCE 2008 UNIFIED BUDGET
693RD MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
21 DECEMBER 2007**

Canada would like to begin by thanking the Finnish Chair of the ACMF for her hard work in attempting to reach an agreement on the proposed 2008 OSCE Unified Budget, and to the Spanish Chair for its efforts to facilitate those discussions.

For its part, Canada notes that significant budgetary efficiencies have been found thus far and would be pleased to join consensus on the basis of these agreed savings, which would allow the OSCE to implement its mandated programmes.

We are disappointed that some participating States could not find the flexibility necessary to respect our Organisation's financial regulations and to give the OSCE financial stability for 2008 by agreeing to a budget by this week, before the beginning of the Finnish Chairmanship.

Canada would welcome proposals on potential compromise, and the way forward from delegations, that are not in a position to join the majority of participating States who can agree to the current proposals.

While we are open to further negotiations, our delegation would be hesitant to agree with significant new cuts to the Unified Budget proposal, particularly from ODIHR or the OSCE's field missions.

Canada urges all delegations to continue budget discussions in a constructive, flexible manner and to work in good faith to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

We also note with disappointment that to date we have not met our deadline for an agreement on Scales of Contributions.