



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

White House Countering Violent Extremism Summit  
19 February 2015, Washington, D.C.

### **Intervention by Lamberto Zannier Secretary General**

Mr. Secretary of State,

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has a strong track record of work devoted to countering terrorism and violent extremism, and we are further enhancing our efforts to address this scourge.

The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, which embraces human rights and democracy, economics and environment as well as politico-military security, offers a powerful antidote to violent extremism.

As the world's largest regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE firmly supports the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy. We also have our own unique assets to draw on, including our network of field missions and our dedicated institutions – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the High Commissioner for National Minorities – as well as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Last December the 57 OSCE participating States adopted a Ministerial Declaration committing the Organization to support the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, which specifically mandates further efforts to counter violent extremism.

The OSCE has a wide-ranging counter-terrorism mandate. Some of our recent activities devoted specifically to countering violent extremism include:

- Raising awareness, promoting policy formulation and encouraging public-private partnerships through ten national CVE seminars.
- Convening regional expert meetings to explore and identify good practices and recommendations on the role of civil society and youth in CVE.
- Initiating international discussions on gender aspects of CVE, which last year resulted in the development of draft good practices for adoption by the Global Counterterrorism Forum.
- We have also published a policy guidebook in six languages on community-policing for CVE that can serve as basis for developing tailored national trainings.

The OSCE will support today's call to action with a number of activities at the regional and national levels.

**First and foremost**, the 2015 Serbian OSCE Chairmanship will convene a Counter-Terrorism Expert Conference in Vienna focused on preventing recruitment and departure of foreign terrorist fighters. **This regional summit** will contribute to the international summit against violent extremism on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September.

The OSCE supports **regional dialogue and exchange of experiences on countering violent extremism** in a variety of formats. This year alone, we will hold:

- an OSCE Security Days conference on *Promoting Dialogue to Advance Tolerance and Prevent Radicalization*;
- an OSCE-wide regional expert workshop on *Media Freedom and Responsibilities in the Context of Counter Terrorist Policies* that will introduce an e-learning platform on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; and
- two regional workshops for experts in Central Asia and South East Europe on *Regional Co-operation and Effective Responses to the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters*.

Because many of our follow-up actions involve Ministers of Interior, I am considering holding a special meeting in 2016 to focus high-level attention on their work within the OSCE.

I will also offer our support in creating a **network of women** across the OSCE region united against violent extremism based on our previous work in this field.

This year the OSCE will also support **capacity-building activities** to counter violent extremism:

We will launch a multi-year program to build the capacity of civil society leaders, including youth, women and religious figures. Graduates will form a network to promote and support national CVE awareness-raising and counter-narrative efforts.

The OSCE will also support the **development of national strategies and capacities** for countering violent extremism, including through community policing. For example:

- in **Tajikistan**, the OSCE will continue its “parents against terrorism” train-the-trainer initiative throughout the country.
- in **Kosovo**, the OSCE will support the drafting of a local CVE strategy, action plan and public outreach.
- in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the OSCE will continue to support “local coalitions against hate” involving more than 120 local NGOs throughout the country to condemn hate crimes, violence and discrimination.

**Raising awareness and promoting effective counter-narratives** is critical to the prevention of violent extremism. That’s why I am proposing an **OSCE-wide CVE Campaign** to underscore the commitment of our entire Organization to preventing violent extremism and radicalization. This campaign **would** mobilize every structure within our Organization, which already addresses freedom of media, human rights, migration, integration, tolerance, minority rights, and other relevant issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OSCE has already shown that it can make a meaningful contribution to countering violent extremism, and that it is a reliable partner for its participating States, the United Nations and the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

We must continue to work collectively to live up to our comprehensive approach to security and to prove violent extremists wrong – not only in our words, but also in our deeds.

Thank you.