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Canadian Delegation to the
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Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDRICKA GREGORY, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OSCE AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 2009
ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE
JUNE 23 2009**

Madame la Présidente,

Tout d'abord, le Canada tient à féliciter la présidente en exercice pour l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence annuelle d'examen des questions de sécurité. Les trois séances de travail représentent très bien la nature en constante évolution de notre environnement de sécurité collectif.

Allow me to join others in welcoming our distinguished guest, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, and thanking him for sharing his views on his President's Security Treaty proposal, as well as for distributing the Russian Non-Paper.

As we look back over the past year and as we approach this weekend's Informal Ministerial Meeting in Corfu, we note with regret the erosion of the adherence to our OSCE commitments and principles. Canada looks forward, therefore, to discussing both here and in Corfu, a way forward that allows us to reaffirm and revitalize our existing commitments, while at the same time discussing proposals for new security agreements and future cooperation.

Any discussions or proposals to improve **Euro-Atlantic security** must maintain and enhance the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security - that spans both hard and soft security - including the human, economic and environmental, as well as political-military dimensions.

So, Canada remains ready to address substantially any proposal to enhance our regional security. In our view, existing security institutions are sound. So the aim of our discussions should be to make what we have work better, not replace or alter it beyond recognition.

Madame la Présidente,

À la lumière de son expérience récente de l'aide aux pays en développement et aux États fragiles, le Canada constate qu'il est essentiel de rétablir la capacité de l'État à fournir des biens et des services essentiels à tous les échelons, qu'il s'agisse des municipalités, des villes ou des États. En effet, il est crucial d'assurer la sécurité des citoyens ordinaires, de rétablir la primauté du droit, y compris le respect des droits humains, de veiller à l'efficacité des forces de police, des tribunaux et des services correctionnels, et de mettre en place les systèmes d'éducation et de soins de santé ainsi que l'infrastructure matérielle nécessaires.

Dans le même temps, nous devons veiller à ce que la démocratisation et la bonne gouvernance prennent solidement racine. Cela suppose la tenue d'élections, la formation d'organes législatifs, pour la surveillance du pouvoir exécutif, et la création de mécanismes de contrôle gouvernementaux. Or, il serait possible de citer une multitude d'exemples du travail de l'OSCE dans chacun de ces domaines.

The **security of Afghanistan and its neighbors** remains a top priority. We commend the depth and level of consultations held by the OSCE Secretariat with the Central Asian participating States, the international community (including the UN, EU, EC, NATO), the international representatives in Kabul and the people and government of Afghanistan.

We support the Secretary General's common sense and practical suggestions on the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan, they avoid duplication and add value, notably regarding to border security, customs, policing, and electoral challenges. In this connection, ODIHR's election-based support to Afghanistan has been excellent in the past (2004 and 2005) has been excellent and we look forward to supporting ODIHR's Election Mission for the upcoming Presidential elections in August.

We urge the OSCE and its participating States to ensure that our Ministerial Council Decision of 2007 on strengthening the OSCE's Partnership with Afghanistan is carried out. For example, the OSCE's important border security work should take place on both sides of the Afghan borders to be effective.

Less than a year has passed since an armed conflict erupted between two OSCE participating states for the first time in many years. This highlights the importance of OSCE-led efforts in achieving a lasting settlement to frozen conflicts in our region.

Canada's position on the conflict in **Georgia** is well known: we firmly support Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Like the vast majority of OSCE participating States, we condemn Russia's

recognition of the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and continue to call on Russia to implement fully their commitments under the 12 August and 8 September 2008 Agreements.

Given the increasing tensions and incidents in Georgia, we believe there is a need for a greater international presence, not less. As my Foreign Minister The Hon. Lawrence Cannon stated recently, the Russian Federation bears the responsibility for the impasse on Georgia and for the termination of the OSCE presence there, and now – the termination of the UN Mission in Georgia as well. These developments do not send a positive signal or build the much-needed trust and confidence we now need to address European security challenges.

Canada calls again upon the Russian Federation to support the Greek Chairmanship's compromise proposal to extend the mandate of the OSCE's presence in Georgia; it is the only option that maintains a status neutral approach and secures a meaningful OSCE presence in all war affected regions of Georgia.

On Arms control and Confidence-building Measures, Canada remains concerned about Russia's unilateral suspension of its legally-binding obligations under the CFE Treaty and we urge Russia to resume its full implementation. Canada believes that the Treaty continues to play an important role in maintaining peace and stability in Europe and the wider Euro-Atlantic area.

We continue to believe that any solution to the current crisis needs to be based on the Parallel Action Package, which presents the best opportunity for all States Parties to work together to resolve outstanding issues, and with a view to the early entry into force of the Adapted Treaty. We look forward to Russia's continued engagement on this basis.

To conclude, the past 12 months have been difficult for peace and security in our region, but we remain confident that the unique approach and capabilities of the OSCE are now more relevant and needed than ever. With this in mind, we look forward to a constructive discussion on how security in the vast OSCE region may be further strengthened in the interest of all participating States.

Thank you/merci.