

**Remarks of the OSCE Secretary General on Strengthening Co-operation between the
United Nations and Regional and Sub-regional Organisations.**

**The High-Level Thematic Debate of the
United Nations General Assembly
4 May 2015
Chamber of the UN Trusteeship Council**

Thank you Mr. President.

President Kutesa,

President Museveni,

Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful for the invitation to participate in this Debate and put forward the perspective of the OSCE on a topic that we consider very important.

This debate, in fact, comes at a time when rapidly evolving developments are spreading insecurity and conflict to many parts of the world. And we see also that the very nature of conflict is evolving, and this requires to constantly review the effectiveness of our tools and our policies, from conflict prevention to peace-building, to peace operations themselves.

We witness the swift and brutal rise of violent extremist groups, which also requires new kind of broader responses. Global challenges are on the rise, and this also highlights the need for the UN and Regional Organizations to step up their efforts to co-ordinate and co-operate more effectively to maintain peace and security.

And also for that reason I appreciate the initiative of the Secretary General to convene a retreat of heads of international and regional organizations to discuss exactly these issues. But this is an issue which is not new on the agenda of the OSCE. More than a year ago we organized in Vienna a “Security Day” devoted to revitalizing Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. From the perspective of regional organizations we felt the need to relook at how the relations with partner regional organizations and the UN were developing. All recommendations went in the direction of creating coalitions and strengthening partnerships. And only last week we

hosted in Vienna a conference on strengthening peace and security in partnerships with a number of organizations from civil society - GPAAC, IDEA, the UN University for Peace - and the Organization of American States as a partner regional organization to look at these issues in a multidimensional way; looking how different actors can work together and build coalitions to address common security issues. I think that is the direction in which we should all move.

In light of the complexity of contemporary security challenges, I am convinced that the success of the international community in preventing and addressing future crisis situations will depend to a large extent on its ability to craft coordinated and joint responses to this broad array of challenges facing us all. In line with their respective mandates and comparative advantages, international and regional organizations should strive to share the burden of their efforts by pooling resources and creating new synergies.

To facilitate this process, we should consider strengthening the institutional side, perhaps a coordination mechanism at the Secretariat level that would make our long-term co-operation more pragmatic and results-driven. UN-led Retreats with Heads of International and Regional Organizations should ideally be convened regularly and their outcomes operationalized through systematic follow-up. Closer co-operation will benefit us in many ways and help us to make the best use of limited financial resources.

As it prepares to mark the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE remains firmly dedicated to supporting the UN in implementing its key mandate of maintaining international peace and security by providing a strong link between European and global security. We have a long-standing and fruitful cooperation with the UN on many thematic and regional issues. This relationship continues to evolve in a positive way, as we intensify staff exchanges and staff talks which are increasingly operational and results-oriented.

Over the past year and a half, the crisis in and around Ukraine has dominated the OSCE agenda. In responding to that crisis, the OSCE has demonstrated that it can live up to its Chapter VIII responsibilities with the support of participating States.

Based on a comprehensive security concept - which brings together the traditional politico-military dimension, the promotion of human rights and the rule of law and cooperation on

economic and environmental issues - the OSCE has made full use of its toolbox that encompasses an array of institutions and mechanisms to build confidence, support dialogue, strengthen electoral processes and monitor human rights, to mention but a few.

The deployment of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine and the Observer Mission at two Russian Checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian border, as well as its facilitating role at the political level in the Trilateral Contact Group, are the most visible examples of the application of this broad concept. But they also offer a good opportunity to showcase our strong interaction with the UN across a broad spectrum of initiatives.

The SMM is a civilian mission performing quasi-peacekeeping functions such as monitoring and verifying the ceasefire and the withdrawal of heavy weapons. As such, it is breaking new ground in the area of peace operations. The Mission has established productive working relationships with various UN bodies, including the Security Council. On a number of occasions, both the Chief Monitor in Ukraine, Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan, and the Representative in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini, have briefed the UN Security Council. And let me add that Ambassador Tagliavini is also offering an excellent example of a high-level women mediator, at a time when the women, peace and security agenda is gaining stronger profile also in the OSCE.

Currently, the SMM benefits from the UN's valuable support on a number of technical and logistical matters, such as advice on the use of UAVs, satellite images and information management. The provision of further operational support is under discussion and may at some point involve the establishment of a UN Liaison Team in Kyiv or, more ambitiously, even the deployment of specific UN support elements.

The excellent co-operation between the SMM and international organisations active on the ground in Ukraine has reconfirmed that Chapter VIII provides a good framework for co-operation in crisis situations in real life. Nonetheless, I believe that there is still room for improving co-operation on broader challenges, particularly at the headquarters level. During my tenure in office I have strived to operationalize UN-OSCE co-operation not only in mediation, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, but also in other equally important areas such as the fight against transnational threats or in the economic and environmental sphere. For this purpose, we have expanded co-operation through a set of tools, including the

Memoranda of Understanding signed with the UN Development Programme and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. We also have a Joint Action Plan with UNODC and meet regularly with its Executive Director to review its implementation.

In counter terrorism, the OSCE closely co-operates with virtually all UN entities taking part in the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The benefits of this kind of collaboration have been plentiful, and have made our contribution more relevant and meaningful.

The OSCE is also one of the founding members of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), a common endeavor to address environmental challenges with security implications in a vast part of Europe. After more than a decade of operation, ENVSEC remains an outstanding example of an innovative partnership with a number of diverse stakeholders, including within the UN family. It has produced concrete results regarding cooperation on critical issues such as water management and climate change.

In conclusion, I would like to express my hope that the linkages between sustainable development and security will get the recognition they deserve in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The OSCE – based on its own comprehensive approach to security and thanks to its numerous cross-cutting activities implemented by its institutions and field operations – is ready to continue serving as a platform for all member States to provide a concrete contribution from a security perspective to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.