



STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION BY THE
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE 2010 OSCE PROGRAMME OUTLINE

**As delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative Asbjørn Brandsrud
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 28 May 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

Norway joins other delegations in thanking the Secretary General for his presentation of the 2010 Programme Outline. We also thank the Secretariat and the Fund Managers for their submissions of programme proposals in accordance with the Performance-Based Programme Budgeting (PBPB). We share the view of the usefulness of the PBPB in establishing longer term strategic priorities and thereby the strengthening of multi-year planning of the Organization.

This year's Overview of Thematic Activities once more clearly exemplifies the many important political challenges facing the OSCE and the need for a focused and coherent approach in the coming years in some of the areas where the work of the OSCE has proven to have an added value.

Mr. Chairman,

Crises management and conflict settlement, including settlement of protracted conflicts, must continue to be at the core of the OSCE agenda. We agree with the need for the Organization to further strengthen its work at all stages of the conflict cycle in order to respond to situations that may threaten security and stability in the OSCE area.

We also subscribe to the views on further enhancing the focus on OSCE engagement in Central Asia and with Afghanistan, and the need for a comprehensive and coherent approach to our work in the region in close cooperation with other key international actors.

In addressing economic and environmental threats, their security implications should be more in the forefront of our attention, not least in the light of the financial and economic crises, and we are looking forward to further streamlining of the activities in this dimension based on the ongoing discussions.

We also acknowledge the valuable work of the Organization in addressing transnational threats to security and stability, including trafficking in human beings.

More generally, implementation of core commitments in the human dimension, including further strengthening of democratization, human rights and the rule of law, should remain high on our agenda. Norway continues to believe that the very valuable work of the ODIHR, the HCNM and the RFOM is a main asset of this Organization.

Norway strongly supports the important work of the OSCE field operations. Our presence in Central Asia, and our cooperation with Afghanistan, should be further strengthened. There is also a clear need to strengthen OSCE presence in South Caucasus, especially throughout Georgia, while consolidation and restructuring reflecting the changing needs on the ground will be a key challenge for some of our field presences in South Eastern Europe.

Mr.Chairman,

The 2010 Programme Outline clearly demonstrates the many important tasks ahead of us. With regard to the Organization's resource requirements, Norway reiterates her oft stated view that the resource requirements should be determined as a result of our political discussions and priorities. We need to secure the financial and human resources necessary to follow-up on political decisions. This being said, we realize that the current financial and economic crises may have effects on the Organization's total available resources, and that we would need to focus even harder on the priorities we set in the planning of next year's work. We are looking forward to the further political discussions in the Preparatory Committee based on the presentations of programmatic strategies of the individual Funds of the Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.