

**DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE**

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Statement on Combating Terrorism under Session 1

Delivered by Deputy Secretary General

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Chairman,

International terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are among the main security challenges for the OSCE and its 55 member states. This was clearly stated in the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability adopted by the foreign ministers in Maastricht last year. Terrorism must therefore remain high on the OSCE agenda.

Fighting terrorism is a global undertaking, and we have noted with interest that the UN has decided to strengthen its capacity for co-ordinating international measures. Together with the intensified efforts being made by both the EU and NATO, this should lead to strengthened co-operation and increase the effectiveness of the collective efforts of major international institutions in the OSCE region.

The EU co-ordinator on Combating Terrorism, as well as the representative of the EU presidency, have outlined the important work done by the EU to combat international terrorism. As a participant in the Schengen co-operation, we fully support these efforts. We will continue to participate actively in the development and implementation of measures relevant to the Schengen co-operation.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the Vienna meeting last March co-hosted by the UNODC and the OSCE, on co-ordination and co-operation in the fight against international terrorism.

The role of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism has become more target-oriented since the first annual security review conference. We support the efforts to address travel document security, the proliferation of MANPADS and the establishment of a Counter-Terrorism Network.

Equally important are the current discussions on further measures to suppress terrorism financing.

Border security is an essential element in the fight against organised crime, including terrorism, and co-operation on the control and management of borders must be among our priorities. In this regard, we noted with interest the concrete proposals mentioned by Admiral Loy in his statement this morning. We welcome the work in the OSCE with the aim of reaching an agreement on this issue at the Sofia ministerial meeting in December.

So far, the main emphasis has been on so-called 'hard' security measures. Such measures are undoubtedly needed for combating terrorism in the short term. However, a broad, long-term approach is equally important for the effective prevention of terrorism.

Poverty, injustice and lack of political freedom create the conditions in which extremism and terrorism breed. Our fight *against* terrorism must therefore be a fight *for* human rights, tolerance and human dignity, *for* economic development, education and prosperity for all.
Mr. Chairman,

In the efforts to take on this challenge, the OSCE has a comparative advantage owing to its comprehensive approach to security across all three dimensions, as well as its broad membership. Our organisation is well placed to underline that in the fight against terrorism, violating human rights is counter-productive.

Safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms is thus a vital part of the efforts to combat terrorism. We are pleased to note that the ODIHR is taking a lead in this respect. It is essential that its activities are reinforced by close co-operation with the Action against Terrorism Unit.

We welcome the food for thought paper prepared by ODIHR for this conference. As the current Council of Europe Chair, Norway notes with particular interest the recommendation that the OSCE should formalise its endorsement of the Council of Europe's Guidelines on human rights and the fight against terrorism. While these Guidelines constitute an important normative groundwork, the OSCE has an institutional capacity for ensuring their application. This duality merits a closer co-operation between the two organisations in the area of human rights and the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE has made a number of vital contributions to security and stability. We have every reason to be proud of our achievements in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The organisation is therefore, in our view, well equipped for finding the right balance between short- and long-term measures in the fight against terrorism.

Thank you, Chairman.