



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

### **The Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

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**Remarks by Mr. Thomas Wuchte, Head, Anti-terrorism Issues**

**Transnational Threats Department**

**OSCE Secretariat**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is the third time the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has been given an opportunity to present its activities in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy at this forum. The invitation to participate at the General Assembly's biennial review is also a reminder that regional organizations have a well-defined role and well-received mandate in assisting their participating States in generating political will, raising awareness and building capacity in implementing the Strategy. The OSCE is aware of this challenging responsibility and my first main message is that our new Transnational Threats Department places the OSCE in a position to be your closest partner to effectively develop and integrate UN strategies among the 56 participating States and 12 Partners for Co-operation of the OSCE.

This Transnational Threats Department brings together OSCE expertise on anti-terrorism, policing, border security, cyber security and potentially other future areas.

The OSCE continues to support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and works closely with the United Nations' system, as well as with other international and regional organizations to ensure its implementation. The main OSCE anti-terrorism objectives fully comply with the Strategy, thus making the OSCE an active supporter and a regional facilitator of the implementation of pertinent global efforts. Let me link this to my partner institution that focuses on the human dimension.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) supports the implementation of Pillar IV ("Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism") of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. ODIHR assists the OSCE participating States in developing and

implementing human rights-compliant anti-terrorism policies. In particular, ODIHR supports them in strengthening their law enforcement capacities to respect human rights (training on Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights). ODIHR provides also advice and analysis on key human rights issues in the anti-terrorism context, and assists OSCE participating States, upon request, in drafting and strengthening existing anti-terrorism legislation in line with international human rights standards and practices.

The OSCE has recognized that security goes beyond politico-military issues and fully encompasses the security of the individual human being. The OSCE multi-dimensional approach to security does not call for the balancing of liberty and security, or suggests that liberty, or aspects of it, must be sacrificed to achieve security. On the contrary, the OSCE regards the respect for human rights and the rule of law as an integral element of security. Combating and ultimately overcoming terrorism will not succeed if the means to do so are not in conformity with human rights standards.

The OSCE participating States have pledged to fully respect international law and human rights standards when preventing and countering terrorism. They have reaffirmed on a number of occasions that the struggle against terrorism is not a war against religions or peoples, and that anti-terrorist action is not aimed against any religion, nation or people. They have also recognized the crucial role played by civil society in anti-terrorism efforts and are committed to solidarity with victims of terrorism.

Other OSCE structures in the economic dimension, such as the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, are also active in the fields of suppressing money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media monitors legislation on the prevention of the abuse of information technology for terrorist purposes to ensure consistency with freedom of expression and the free flow of information.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the work of the 16 OSCE field operations which provide an “ear to the ground”, and those mandated to do so offer tailor-made anti-terrorism related assistance to their host countries.

Let me illustrate a recent example of all the preceding points. The OSCE has been invited and participated actively in the process leading to the development and adoption of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, adopted by a high level meeting on 30 November 2011. The OSCE’s multidimensional concept of security enables the organization to address transnational threats in a genuine comprehensive way with the aim of translating political commitments into effective and sustainable action. My second main point, our 16 Field Missions can draw on all these assets and can take UN or other programs and offer a platform for sustainable follow-through of partners who are providing resources.

Returning to today’s main focus, anti-terrorism in the OSCE, we are overall active in each of the four pillars outlined in the Strategy, namely (i) measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, (ii) measures to prevent and combat terrorism, (iii) measures to build our States’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism as well as (iv) measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. The OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and field operations implement many activities and programmes relevant to anti-terrorism. Let me give you some examples.

As the Head on Anti-Terrorism Issues within the OSCE’s Transnational Threats Department, I serve as the focal point for co-ordinating the Organization’s anti-terrorism activities, and my

Unit is offering a wide range of counter-terrorism assistance for participating States as part of advancing the global counter-terrorism agenda with a number of specific counter-terrorism programmes.

Promoting the international legal framework can be considered as a genuine success story in this regard. 52 of the 56 OSCE participating States are now party to all 12 Universal Anti-Terrorism Instruments (UATI) which were in force in 2001 when the OSCE participating States committed to become parties to the conventions. That means a rate of ratification of 96%. If we add the new four Instruments adopted in 2005, the rate of ratification/signature of the 16 UATIs reaches 84% in the OSCE area. Currently, 6 participating States are party to all of those four instruments. Out of these four instruments, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism has been ratified by 35 participating States. The OSCE has developed active co-operation with the relevant UN entities, first of all with Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in promoting this international legal framework.

The OSCE is aware that preventing people from embracing violence is of strategic importance in mitigating the threat of terrorism to the maximum extent possible. The OSCE promotes a multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder approach to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), and facilitates the exchange of good practices and lessons learnt. We focus on specific issues such as the role of civil society in countering VERLT; gender and terrorism prevention; community policing and terrorism prevention.

So far, we have organized nine national, sub-regional and regional expert meetings that addressed these unique issues, drawing on the OSCE's multi-dimensional expertise and its wide-ranging contacts in civil society, government and international organizations. We are also currently developing with our Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) a guidebook to provide policy makers, senior police professionals and community leaders with guidance on how to leverage community policing as part of an effective, multi-disciplinary and human-rights compliant approach to preventing terrorism.

We are particularly proud to report that the OSCE has been very active with regard to the growing importance of the Internet, an area that is as well addressed in the UN Strategy. The Internet can be a key strategic device and tactical facilitator for terrorists. Terrorists go online to identify, recruit and train new members, collect and transfer funds, organize attacks, and incite violence.

Building on two Ministerial Council Decisions related to countering terrorist use of the Internet, the OSCE identifies emerging trends and potential counter measures through facilitating the exchange of information and good practices between participating States, the private and public sector as well as civil society. The comparative advantage of TNT/ATU efforts related to terrorist use of the Internet is that they are embedded within the organization's broader efforts to promote a comprehensive approach to cyber security. It allows looking at a specific perpetrator group in a cross-dimensional and integrated way that recognizes the interlinkages of cyber threats, perpetrators and stresses the need for human rights compliant responses.

The OSCE has developed a comprehensive programme on Travel Document Security (TDS), which is cross-cutting to terrorism, policing and border management. The programme has been recognized as a best practice programme of a Regional Organization by ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) and has helped to serve as a model for other regional organizations. The 50 capacity building activities in 18 countries organized so far

and supported by technical assistance programmes have already brought about tangible results. This is a final key point, our travel document security programme perfectly illustrates that OSCE activities related to action against terrorism have not only positive impacts on countering terrorism, but also in reducing other transnational threats such as organized crime or trafficking.

In closing, the OSCE builds consensus and political support among its participating States in order to take comprehensive and effective anti-terrorism action. The organization contributes to building state capacity to implement and comply with international instruments and standards. On the other hand, the OSCE supports efforts by other international and regional organizations, provides a platform for discussions among its participating States, and promotes security within a framework which is based on human rights and the rule of law. Reiterating my three main points: 1) our new Transnational Threats Department places the OSCE in a position to be your closest partner to effectively develop and integrate UN strategies among at least 72 nations; 2) our 16 Field Missions can draw on all these assets and can take UN or other programs and provide a platform for sustainable follow-through of partners who are providing resources; 3) our successes show that the OSCE activities related to action against terrorism have not only positive impacts on countering terrorism, but also in reducing other transnational threats such as organized crime or trafficking.

Your Excellencies, the OSCE appreciates your time and looks forward to building on these three main areas with all the partners in this room. Thank you!!