

ADDRESS OF ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO THE OSCE

MR. ZVI HEIFETZ  
OSCE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
4-5 DECEMBER, BASEL

MR. CHAIRMAN

ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I WISH TO THANK SWITZERLAND FOR HOSTING THIS YEAR'S OSCE MINISTERIAL.

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE SWISS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TO HIS TEAM IN VIENNA FOR CHAIRING THE OSCE SO SUCCESSFULLY, AND TO WISH MUCH SUCCESS TO THE INCOMING SERBIAN AND GERMAN CHAIRS.

TERRORISM IS A WORLD-WIDE EPIDEMIC THAT MUST BE FOUGHT WITHOUT COMPROMISE. IT IS NOT LIMITED TO ANY REGION, RELIGION OR DOCTRINE.

WE ARE AT A NEW AND VERY DANGEROUS STAGE OF THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM, A STAGE IN WHICH NON-STATE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND TRANSNATIONAL TERRORIST NETWORKS ARE AMONG OUR PRIMARY THREATS. WE MUST DEFEAT THEM WHILE WE CAN.

ISRAEL WELCOMES THE BOLD INITIATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES IN LEADING AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION AGAINST ISIS - AS PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU STATED, ISRAEL FULLY SUPPORTS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CALL FOR UNITED ACTION.

WE COMMEND THE OSCE ON STRENGTHENING ITS MULTILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS IN COMBATING TERRORISM. WE ARE PROUD TO NOTE THAT ISRAEL - IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OSCE, UNODC AND CTED - HOSTED AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO TERRORISM" IN NOVEMBER.

TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY POLICY, TERRORISM MUST BE FOUGHT ACROSS ALL THREE OSCE DIMENSIONS.

TOWARDS THIS END, ISRAEL HAS COLLABORATED FOR THE THIRD TIME WITH THE OSCE, UNODC AND IOM ON AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

HELD IN HAIFA ON THE “CRITICAL ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”.

AS THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION IS ONE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE AREAS IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY, WE ARE PLEASED TO TAKE PART IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE “VALENCIA INITIATIVE” WORKSHOP ON “ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY ISSUES IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION”.

ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT OF THE “TRACK II” INITIATIVE, AIMED AT FOSTERING AN OPEN DISCUSSION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACADEMIA ON SECURITY ISSUES IN OUR REGION.

WE CONTINUE TO SEEK AN HISTORIC PEACE WITH OUR PALESTINIAN NEIGHBORS. FOR PEACE TO BE ACHIEVED, ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS MUST BE MET. THIS CAN ONLY BE SERVED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, ANY DISCUSSION ON THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY BECOMING A PARTNER FOR COOPERATION IS PREMATURE.

RECENTLY, WE WITNESSED AN ALARMING RISE IN ATTACKS AGAINST JEWS AND JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE - ATTACKS SO BRUTAL THAT WE ARE REMINDED OF AN EARLIER TIME WHEN EUROPEAN JEWRY FACED ANNIHILATION. WE WERE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED IN BERLIN BY ISRAEL'S DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT THE COMMEMORATION MARKING THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE “BERLIN DECLARATION”.

WE ASK THE OSCE TO STRENGTHEN ITS CONDEMNATION OF ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND TO MAKE THIS A PRIORITY IN ALL MULTILATERAL FORA.

THERE CAN BE NO PROMISE OF SECURITY WHEN OLD AND NEW HATREDS AGAINST JEWS, MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS, LGBT PERSONS AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES ARE ALLOWED TO FLOURISH, AND WHERE HATE CRIMES ARE IGNORED, DENIED OR GO UNPUNISHED.

IN CONCLUSION, THE SECURITY CHALLENGES WE FACE TODAY DO NOT AFFORD US THE LUXURY OF REMAINING STAGNANT. COUNTER- TERRORISM POLICIES NEED TO BE ADAPTED TO THE CHANGING REALITY IN ORDER TO WIN NOT ONLY THE BATTLES, BUT THE OVERALL WAR AGAINST TERROR.

THANK YOU CHAIR.