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## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Response to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 1, 2010

We warmly welcome Secretary General Jagland to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report.

The relationship between the OSCE and the Council of Europe has matured and is now well established. Cooperation and coordination in the field and between the respective focal points have become almost second nature. We are pleased that the Coordination Group meetings have taken on a more long-term strategic planning role under the guidance of both organizations.

The United States, while not a member of the Council of Europe, is an active observer and participates in several conventions and partial agreements. We support the work the Council of Europe is doing to promote human rights and democracy, as well as to counter threats to cyber security. We also appreciate the Council of Europe's engagement in Georgia and other areas of special concern, particularly through the work of the Commissioner on Human Rights Mr. Hammarberg, and we understand that you, Mr. Secretary General, are on your way to Georgia soon, and it was clear from your remarks that you appreciate the urgency of finding a solution to that ongoing conflict situation.

Thank you once again for your appearance here today. We wish you every success in your work. We look forward to continued cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe on areas of shared priorities, which will help support the promotion of human rights and the spread of democracy and security throughout Europe.