



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Section for External Co-operation

2016 OSCE Asian Conference



Strengthening Comprehensive Security

Bangkok, Thailand, 6-7 June 2016

Consolidated Summary

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1 General information

1.1 Venue

The Conference was held on 6 and 7 June 2016 at the Astor Ballroom, St. Regis Hotel, Bangkok.

1.2 Participation^{*)}

1.2.1 28 OSCE participating States, including the Netherlands/EU, took part in the Conference.

1.2.2 All the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand) were represented.

1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights were represented.

1.2.4 Seven international organizations were represented and two academic institutions. At the invitation by the host country, the Turkic Council registered its representative.

1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities

1.3.1 The Conference began with the opening session at 9.15 a.m. on 6 June 2015 and ended at 12.15 p.m. on 7 June 2015. The Conference was conducted in three thematic sessions. The opening session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Arthayudh Srisamoot, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand in Vienna and the closing session by Mr. Ricklef Beutin, Deputy Head of the Task Force for the German OSCE Chairmanship 2016. During the opening session, keynote speeches were delivered by H.E. Mr. Panyarak Poolthup, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Vuk Žugić, Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, H.E. Mr. Norbert Riedel, Ambassador, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific in the German Foreign Ministry, H.E. Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Ambassador, Secretary General of the OSCE, and H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

1.3.2 A side-event entitled "The OSCE and its Asian Partners – Strengthening Cyber Security" was held on the margins of the Conference. The side-event was chaired by H.E. Mr. Daniel Baer, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the USA to the OSCE.

1.3.3 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.

1.3.4 The working language was English.

1.3.5 Arrangements were made for press coverage.

1.3.6 The rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

^{*)} See part 5, list of participants.

1.4 Agenda

Background

The 2016 OSCE Asian Conference focused on strengthening security co-operation, with emphases on cybersecurity, sustainable development, trafficking in human beings, and illegal migration. It provided a timely opportunity for OSCE participating States and Asian Partners to share views and experiences with a view to identifying avenues for concrete co-operation. The Conference adopted a participatory approach, with time devoted to keynote presentations and with substantive inputs and exchanges from the floor. Participants were encouraged to contribute to the discussions.

Monday, 6 June 2016

8.30–9.15 a.m. Registration of participants

9.15–10 a.m. **Opening session** (Astor Ballroom, 14th floor; open to the media)

Chairperson: H.E. Mr. **Arthayudh Srisamoot**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand in Vienna

Addresses by:

- H.E. Mr. **Panyarak Poolthup**, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
- H.E. Mr. **Vuk Žugić**, Ambassador, Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE
- H.E. Mr. **Norbert Riedel**, Ambassador, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific in the German Foreign Ministry
- H.E. Mr. **Lamberto Zannier**, Ambassador, Secretary General of the OSCE
- H.E. Mr. **Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Photo opportunity and technical break (directly following the opening)

10–10.30 a.m. **Coffee break**

10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. **Session 1: Enhancing international efforts to strengthen security co-operation**

This session focused on:

- Cultivating co-operation in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT)
- Enhancing regional and international co-operation, including best practices in information-sharing to combat terrorism
- Promoting interregional exchange on best practices related to efforts designed to enhance confidence between States in the field of cyber/ICT security

Moderator: H.E. Mr. **Vuk Žugić**, Ambassador, Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Mr. **Andrea De Bono Sant Cassia**, Attaché/Policy Officer, Netherlands/EU

Speakers:

- Mr. **Jang-keun Lee**, Deputy Director-General for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea

- H.E. Mr. **Toshihiro Aiki**, Ambassador, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
- Mr. **Manuel Marion Mainer**, Senior Programme Officer, Transnational Threats Department, OSCE Secretariat
- Mr. **Ben Hiller**, Cyber Security Officer, Transnational Threats Department, OSCE Secretariat

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

1–3 p.m. **Lunch** hosted by H.E. Mr. **Lamberto Zannier**, Ambassador, Secretary General of the OSCE (Rajadamri I and II, 14th floor)

2–3 p.m. **Side-event: The OSCE and its Asian Partners - Strengthening Cyber Security (Astor Ballroom, 14th floor)**

Background

Given calls by participating States and Asian Partners to increase engagement on cyber/ICT security, the side-event sought to share OSCE experiences in developing risk reduction and confidence-building measures and to consider voluntary options for increased understanding and transparency between OSCE participating States and Asian Partners.

Chair: H.E. Mr. **Daniel Baer**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Ms. **Janice Helwig**, Representative of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, United States Mission to the OSCE

Speakers:

- H.E. Mr. **Daniel Baer**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the OSCE, Chair of the Informal Working Group established pursuant to PC Decision No. 1039
- Mr. **Ben Hiller**, Cyber Security Officer, Transnational Threats Department, OSCE Secretariat

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the Chair

3–5.15 p.m. **Session 2: Promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure peace and prosperity**

This session focused on:

- Promotion of measures to lift people out of poverty and improve their living conditions
- Women's empowerment and enhancing the role of women in economic development
- Activities in support of global efforts in tackling the world drug problem in the framework of UNGASS 2016 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Moderator: Mr. **Jang-keun Lee**, Deputy Director-General for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea

Rapporteur: Mr. **Raphaël Bez**, Political Adviser, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE

Speakers:

- Mom Luang **Dispanadda Diskul**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand
- Ms. **Anna-Karin Jafors**, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

6.30–8.30 p.m. **Welcome dinner** hosted by H.E. Mr. **Arthayudh Srisamoot**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand in Vienna
(Viu Restaurant, 12th floor)

Tuesday, 7 June 2016

9–11 a.m. **Session 3: Trafficking in human beings and irregular migration:
sharing experiences and lessons learned between Europe and Asia**

This session focused on:

- Addressing the root causes of THB and irregular migration, including through economic and social development and the improvement of livelihood in at-risk communities
- Strengthening law enforcement to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks
- Enhancing efforts on provision of protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, especially women and children

Moderator: H.E. Mr. **Claude Wild**, Ambassador, Head of Delegation, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Ms. **Janice Helwig**, Representative of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, United States Mission to the OSCE

Speakers:

- Professor Emeritus Dr. **Supang Chantavanich**, Advisor to the Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- Ms. **Sophie Nonnenmacher**, Chief of Mission, IOM Thailand Office
- H.E. Ms. **Madina Jarbussynova**, Ambassador, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

11–11.15 a.m. **Coffee break**

11.15 a.m.–12.15 p.m. **Closing session** (open to the media)

- **Chairperson:** Mr. **Ricklef Beutin**, Deputy Head of the Task Force for the OSCE Chairmanship 2016
- Concluding statement by H.E. Mr. **Arthayudh Srisamoot**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand in Vienna
- Concluding statement by H.E. Mr. **Vuk Žugić**, Ambassador, Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE
- Concluding statement by H.E. Mr. **Lamberto Zannier**, Ambassador, Secretary General of the OSCE

12.15 p.m. **End of Conference**

12.30–1.15 p.m. **Lunch** (Rajadamri I and II, 14th floor)

1–7 p.m. **Excursion to Sampran Model**

Venue: Sampran Riverside, Amphur Sampran, Nakhon Pathom 73110



Picture MFA of Thailand

2 Summary of the opening session

Report by Mr. Xhodi Sakiqi, External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

H.E. Mr. **Arthayudh Srisamoot**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Thailand in Vienna, chaired the opening session. Opening remarks and keynote speeches were delivered by H.E. Mr. **Panyarak Poolthup**, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Mr. **Vuk Žugić**, Ambassador, Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, H.E. Mr. Norbert **Riedel**, Ambassador, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific in the German Foreign Ministry, H.E. Mr. **Lamberto Zannier**, Ambassador, Secretary General of the OSCE, and H.E. Mr. **Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Before giving the floor to the keynote speakers of the opening session, Ambassador **Arthayudh Srisamoot** welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and thanked the OSCE Secretariat for its assistance in preparing the Conference.

Ambassador **Panyarak Poolthup** stressed that the world had been facing increasingly complex global security challenges ranging from violent extremism and radicalization to armed conflicts and irregular migration. The threats had far-reaching implications for the security of States and the well-being of people. In that context, to ensure the sustainability of peace and security, he called for the adoption of a broad and comprehensive approach to security as reflected in the three dimensions of the OSCE's work. While commending the achievements of the OSCE in response to the crisis in and around Ukraine and its various programmes on countering violent extremism and combating other transnational threats, Ambassador Poolthup also expressed confidence that the Organization would continue to help address today's complex and interconnected challenges. He also noted that the OSCE's Asian Partnership was a valuable platform for exploring ways to adapt to the changing international security context and to forge closer co-operation in such areas as combating drug trafficking and trafficking in human beings, disaster risk reduction, confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention. The strengthened engagement between the OSCE and its Asian Partners had allowed them to exchange and share best practices and expertise on how best to approach critical security issues at the top of the agenda. As such, the Partnership had proved to be very useful for promoting international co-operation on tackling current security challenges in a comprehensive and coherent manner. The South-East Asian region could still learn a lot from Europe and the OSCE on promoting regional peace and security through confidence- and security-building measures and preventive diplomacy. Pointing to Thailand's active and constructive role in contributing to the work of the OSCE and its membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), he emphasized that his country could serve as a bridge between the OSCE and ASEAN, which shared many goals and principles.

Ambassador **Vuk Žugić** thanked Thailand for hosting the 2016 Conference, Ambassador Srisamoot and his team in Vienna for all the efforts they had invested in its preparation, and the OSCE Secretariat for the excellent organization of the event. He also expressed appreciation for Thailand's continued engagement with the OSCE, both in the context of the Asian Partnership for Co-operation and through its participation in and active contribution to OSCE events and activities. Noting that security in the OSCE area was inseparably linked to the security of the Organization's Asian neighbours, he highlighted the importance of such

conferences to help build a shared understanding of the current security environment and provide a useful opportunity for exchanging experiences across regions. The traditional security challenges that continued to pose serious threats to regional and global security were also touched upon. In that context, Ambassador Žugić said that transnational and global threats added to the complexity of the current security environment and urged the OSCE and its Asian Partners to engage with and learn from one another. With reference to the topics on the agenda of the Conference, he called for increased co-operation in combating terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT). Cybersecurity and ICT security had become essential elements in international and regional security, and it was increasingly important to exchange best practices on cyber/ICT security efforts to enhance confidence between States in that field. As the OSCE was looking to adopt additional cyber/ICT security-related confidence-building measures, the Asian Partners had the opportunity to actively contribute to the discussions. With regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Ambassador Žugić underlined the nexus between security and development and stressed the need to promote measures designed to lift people out of poverty and to empower women. Turning to the issue of combating trafficking in human beings, he emphasized the need for more effective responses in the light of the recent mass influx of refugees and migrants into Europe. He advocated the adoption of a holistic approach to addressing irregular migration and to dismantling smuggling and trafficking rings. In short, co-operative security was an excellent vehicle for building trust and Ambassador Žugić welcomed the participation of the ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh in the Conference as a clear sign that the OSCE and ASEAN were interested in regular dialogue and more structured co-operation.

Ambassador **Norbert Riedel** thanked Thailand for hosting the event and thanked the Serbian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group and the OSCE Secretariat for preparing the Conference. He underlined the importance of the OSCE-Asian Partnership and mentioned the recent Chairmanship conference in Berlin, which had included Asian economic and governmental partners and had discussed ways to overcome differences and develop closer ties between Asian and OSCE countries and their respective economies. In that context, he also noted that the OSCE could benefit and learn from an open exchange with its Asian Partners. With regard to the OSCE's security agenda, Ambassador Riedel highlighted the importance of an OSCE-Asia partnership on tackling challenges such as terrorism, climate change, cyber threats and hybrid warfare, as well as increased migration and natural disasters. Dialogue and co-operation at the regional and global levels were essential in a world in which threats and challenges were interconnected. He called for joint action to secure stability and peace, stressing the importance of the OSCE Asian Partnership and the need to exchange views, knowledge and best practices. Referring to the OSCE's comprehensive, three-dimensional view of security, as documented in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris, Ambassador Riedel said that it was important to go beyond a purely military concept of security. In that connection, he emphasized the crucial role in overcoming the Cold War played by arms control, confidence- and security-building measures and pragmatic co-operation in the politico-military dimension, provisions for co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension, and commitments in the human dimension. While recognizing Asia's fast economic growth and the rise of its middle class, Ambassador Riedel also stressed that the Asia-Pacific region was still dealing with a number of latent conflicts, misperceptions, misunderstandings and inter-State tensions, notably related to nuclear capabilities on the Korean peninsula. He therefore advocated cross-dimensional instruments that would help resolve those interrelated challenges. The fact that the comprehensive view on security of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN-Plus-Processes was similar to

the OSCE's made it all the more interesting to engage in exchange of experience. In the light of Europe's experience and achievements, five areas were important. Firstly, it was important to develop functioning institutionalized structures for co-operation in times of crisis. Secondly, it was beneficial to involve all relevant actors to achieve fruitful co-operation based on trust. Thirdly, the basis for confidence-building could encompass topics of interest to all actors involved, which could promote trust. Fourthly, he emphasized the advantages of practical co-operation as opposed to discussions about structures. Fifthly, he expressed the hope that fostering economic ties between States would lead to a broader understanding of confidence-building measures that was less focused on the military side of security and therefore could lead to greater stability and prosperity in Asia and in Europe.

The Secretary General of the OSCE, Ambassador **Lamberto Zannier**, thanked the Foreign Ministry of Thailand for hosting the event and Ambassador Srisamoot and his team for preparing the Conference in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat and the Serbian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group. He underlined the importance of the topics selected for discussion by Thailand and Serbia and pointed out similarities with the focus areas of the OSCE. Both the agenda of the German OSCE Chairmanship and the topics discussed during the OSCE Security Days included key focus areas such as migration, countering radicalization, and promoting dialogue; he hoped that those areas would be included in the discussion with the Asian Partners for Co-operation. Noting with appreciation the inclusion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the programme, Ambassador Zannier stressed the important role of regional organizations such as the OSCE and ASEAN in the attainment of the new sustainable development goals. The OSCE's greatest contribution to the implementation of the Agenda would be its enduring work on conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. He offered the support of the OSCE in realizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to secure and protect people, the planet and prosperity. In particular, Ambassador Zannier mentioned three respects in which the OSCE could provide tools to support the Agenda: the OSCE had experience in assisting its participating States in building up and strengthening its institutions in a wide range of governmental areas; effective governance was a precondition for sustainable development; and in connection with the Agenda goal to reduce inequality, he emphasized the OSCE's efforts to leverage its comprehensive approach to security. He also touched upon gender equality, mainstreaming gender into politics, and women's issues. Ambassador Zannier concluded by saying that transnational and global challenges had become interconnected and by calling for partnerships beyond regional boundaries. Given that the return of geopolitics had made co-operative approaches more difficult, he expressed the hope that those hurdles could be overcome and that new confidence-building measures as well as new proposals and projects for practical co-operation could be agreed upon. Ambassador Zannier welcomed the presence of ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh and hoped for a fruitful discussion and the enhancement of the OSCE's co-operation with ASEAN.

The Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E Mr. **Le Luong Minh**, joined others in thanking the Governments of Thailand and Serbia for co-hosting and initiating the 2016 Asian Conference to promote practical co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners and enhance interaction between security-related mechanisms in Asia and Europe. He mentioned the course of evolution of the ASEAN Community and emphasized its important role in shaping the regional agenda, moderating interregional conflicts, reducing the likelihood of confrontation and its outstanding achievements in maintaining peace and promoting harmony in South-East Asia. With regard to the relationship between stability and prosperity, Mr. Le Luong Minh shared ASEAN's positive experience of achieving harmonious inter-State

relations through political means, recognising common problems as well as the need to strengthen partnership to protect mutual interests. The fundamental principles of consultation and peaceful resolution of differences, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, documented in the 2008 ASEAN Charter, created a solid legal position contributing to the resolution of regional issues and to developing an environment of peace and stability; as such, they strengthened confidence among the ten member States. Thus, the establishment of mechanisms such as the ARF, the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus, and the East Asia Summit had consolidated ASEAN's role in the resolution of regional political and security issues. In that context, ASEAN was guided by its Vision 2025, which was aimed at enhancing its capacities to effectively respond to existing and emerging challenges. He expressed confidence that ASEAN would further develop into a globally active and relevant community that addressed important challenges. He listed several similarities between the OSCE and ASEAN. Firstly, there was the comprehensive approach to security, which took into account political, economic, socio-cultural and human aspects of the overall scenario. Secondly, both the OSCE and ASEAN consisted of members with very diverse political and cultural backgrounds, and both organizations were based on consensus and inclusivity, including several common areas of concern and co-operation such as counter-terrorism, fighting violent extremism and people smuggling, and promoting cybersecurity and border management. ASEAN believed in developing and maintaining effective partnership with external partners and he welcomed the promotion and development of the OSCE's engagement with ASEAN. In that context, there could be an exchange between the OSCE and the ARF on the development of confidence-building measures for global cybersecurity, the promotion of dialogue between high-level ARF and OSCE officers, Track II co-operation between academic institutions, and the development of possible joint responses to new and non-traditional threats.

3 Reports by session rapporteurs

3.1 Session 1: Enhancing international efforts to strengthen security co-operation

Report by Mr. Andrea De Bono Sant Cassia, Attaché/Policy Officer, Netherlands/EU

Ambassador **Vuk Žugić**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE, Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group and moderator for the first session, introduced the speakers and thanked the Kingdom of Thailand for its generous hospitality in hosting the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference. Mr. Žugić focused on the need to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) and referenced the Republic of Serbia's efforts, as the 2015 OSCE Chairmanship, in that regard. The 2015 Ministerial Council Declarations concerning terrorism and VERLT were specifically cited.

The first speaker, Mr. **Jang-keun Lee**, Deputy Director-General for International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, described the current international, regional and national work on preventing and countering VERLT. A brief overview was initially provided detailing global activities in that field, with specific reference to three United Nations Security Council resolutions on the issues of foreign terrorist fighters (resolution 2178), on recent terrorist attacks committed by ISIL (resolution 2249), and on the financing of terrorist activities (resolution 2253). Mr. Jang-keun Lee then compared the United Nations 2016 Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism with its predecessor, the 2006 Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The 2016 Plan built upon the 2006 Strategy as it shifted the focus from the countering of terrorism to the prevention of terrorism by seeking to address the root causes and drivers of violent extremism. Such a refocusing signified that the 2006 Strategy had neglected two fundamental aspects necessary to countering VERLT: the need to address the conditions that are conducive to the spread of VERLT and the need to ensure that a counter-terrorism strategy fully respects human rights and the rule of law. Mr. Jang-keun Lee then analysed OSCE initiatives in the field of preventing and countering VERLT. Most notably, these were Permanent Council Decision No. 1063 on the Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, the 2014 Ministerial Council Declaration on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, the 2015 Ministerial Council Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism, the 2015 United in Countering Violent Extremism campaign, and the numerous conferences and regional workshops organized by the OSCE. Asia had similarly witnessed a regional drive for activities to counter VERLT, particularly supported by regional bodies such as ASEAN and APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation). This was evidenced by the 2010 Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement and the 2016 14th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime. Mr. Jang-keun Lee mentioned the Republic of Korea's active international participation, as shown in its support of the United Nations 2016 Plan of Action, its chairing of the Financial Action Task Force, and its active regional participation, evidenced by its support for and participation within ASEAN and the OSCE. Mr. Jang-keun Lee concluded by focusing on possible areas of co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation. Those areas, which included capacity-building programmes to help vulnerable States combat VERLT, public awareness campaigns, information-sharing mechanisms and increased sharing of best practices, had the potential to help overcome terrorism.

The second speaker, Ambassador **Toshihiro Aiki**, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, likewise focused on the need for co-operation in countering VERLT. Addressing the root causes of terrorism was just as important as building counter-terrorism capabilities. He presented a detailed description of Japan's three-pronged approach to dealing with terrorism. Japan's policy emphasized the need for increased diplomatic efforts in the Middle East and the need to strengthen counter-terrorism abilities and implement numerous assistance programmes designed to create societies resilient to radicalization. Practical examples of the approach were Japan's funding of the Border Management Staff College in Tajikistan, the Japanese assistance package for the Middle East and the Japanese-ASEAN integration fund.

Mr. **Manuel Marion Mainer**, Senior Programme Officer at the Transnational Threats Department, OSCE Secretariat, said that the 2015 Ministerial Council Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism underscored the shared perception that terrorism was an acute threat. Furthermore, it specifically invited the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage with OSCE participating States in the sphere of preventing and countering VERLT and was a concrete sign of the institutionalized co-operation between the two groups. Mr. Marion Mainer explained that the only way to prevent terrorism was for the OSCE's participating States and Partners for Co-operation, in conjunction with other organizations, to engage in the timely exchange of information and best practices. It was important for all parties to realize that the whole of society was responsible for addressing VERLT. Civil society, youth organizations and national government entities, such as the Ministries of Education, Health, Family and/or Labour all had a crucial role to play in preventing extremist organizations from manipulating and exploiting vulnerable people. The United Nations 2016 Plan of Action had been welcomed, particularly in connection with its focus on enhancing efforts at the regional level. That underlined the importance of regional organizations such as the OSCE and ASEAN, organizations that stood to benefit if co-operation was enhanced between them. The OSCE was a successful forum for facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices and such activities ought to be extended to the Asian Partners and to ASEAN. The OSCE provided broad support for the ratification of universal anti-terrorism instruments amongst its participating States and encouraged the Asian Partners to take steps towards the ratification and implementation of those instruments, which facilitated judicial co-operation and the exchange of information. The OSCE's advancement of good practices within the field of counter-terrorism, in particular endeavours to promote the use of Advance Passenger Information systems and the OSCE's Border Management Staff College. Mr. Marion Mainer warned against any departure from a counter-terrorism policy compliant with human rights, as that could feed the alienation that made people vulnerable to radicalization. The speaker concluded by encouraging the Asian Partners to enhance their co-operation with the OSCE. The recent participation of all the Asian Partners in the 2016 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference held in Berlin showed that co-operation between the OSCE region and the wider Asian region was growing.

Mr. **Ben Hiller**, Cyber Security Officer at the Transnational Threats Department, OSCE Secretariat, and the final speaker for the first session of the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference, pointed out that cyber/ICT security had become a national security priority for all States. ICTs had added a complex new dimension to inter-State relations as cyber attacks were sometimes difficult to trace back to their perpetrators. Troublingly, cyber attacks could also be directed at a State's infrastructure, for example, at the energy sector or the financial market, and the international community had recently witnessed numerous highly

sophisticated cyber attacks. This, said Mr. Hiller, highlighted the urgency for the international community to enhance cyber/ICT security and develop practical measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs. International and regional measures had been taken to enhance cyber stability among States. Since 2013, the OSCE participating States had adopted 16 confidence-building measures (CBMs) designed to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs. Over 88 per cent of the participating States had implemented one or more of these cyber/ICT security CBMs. Additionally, in March, participating States had agreed on further CBMs to be implemented, designed to facilitate co-operation including between authorities responsible for securing critical infrastructures. Mr. Hiller stressed the significance that OSCE participating States had, despite their ideological differences, made a common commitment to work towards improving cyber/ICT security, though he stressed that there was still work to be done on the actual implementation of the existing CBMs. Moreover, Mr. Hiller argued that the interest in avoiding conflict stemming from the use of ICTs was a concern other regions shared too. For instance, looking at the Asian region it was evident that there were many changes in its security environment fuelled by shifts in economic, political and military power. As a result, Asian Partners for Co-operation were facing many of the same ICT security-related challenges as the OSCE's participating States. As a consequence, both sides should seek to enhance co-operation, possibly through an OSCE-Asian Partnership Conference with the specific goal of achieving progress on the joint implementation of certain cyber CBMs (such as those in the area of critical infrastructure protection).

In the discussion that followed, a representative of the **Russian Federation** reiterated the commitment of the Russian Federation to address the challenges of foreign terrorist fighters, fighting the financing of terrorist acts, and halting the spread of extremist ideology. The addressing of these issues at the 2015 Ministerial Council and at the 2016 Counter-Terrorism Conference had constituted steps in the right direction. The Russian representative stated that in the light of recent incidents there was a particular need for transport security to be given more attention, also expressing the hope that wide support would be given to the proposal put forward by the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Terrorism that civilian aircraft should be equipped with on-board video. He stated that there was an inextricable connection between illegal drugs and terrorism, as illegal drugs provided a major financial resource for terrorist activities. An OSCE-Asia partnership would prove useful to addressing this, particularly in Afghanistan, where the OSCE still had a role to play. Since 2008, Russia had been implementing OSCE projects to train Afghani drug police. He also stressed that the strengthening of efforts to combat terrorism was high on the agenda of other regional organizations such as ASEAN and the Commonwealth of Independent States; the CIS, for example, had recently agreed on a new information-sharing programme aimed at preventing terrorist attacks.

A representative of the **European Union** focused his intervention on the need for a global, co-ordinated and inclusive policy to fight VERLT and its root causes whilst still upholding international human rights standards, democracy and the rule of law. Such a policy needed to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue; focus on capacity-building measures; address the issues of foreign terrorist fighters, border management, and aviation security; and curb the financing of terrorism. The EU was ready to strengthen co-operation with ASEAN on counter-terrorism issues, both on a multilateral level and within the United Nations; and it was already actively engaged in the ARF, notably on issues related to counter-terrorism and transnational crimes. The EU welcomed the increased attention being paid to VERLT in the OSCE, as evidenced by the relevant 2014 and 2015 Ministerial Council Declarations and the

drive to promote the sharing of advanced passenger information systems within the aviation sphere. Similarly, the EU praised the work the OSCE had been doing on operationalizing international cybersecurity norms within the OSCE area, adding that some of the OSCE's CBMs could serve as sources of inspiration or examples of best practice for other regional organizations.

A representative of **Switzerland** highlighted the value of the Asian Partnership and emphasized the need for both the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to focus on the prevention of violent extremism. Praise was due to the OSCE Secretariat for its work in this regard, particularly for projects directly engaging young people. The Asian Partners and the participating States could well co-operate further in the field of cyber CBMs; this was especially necessary given the danger of cyber attacks. It was recommended that the OSCE continue working on the implementation of the adopted set of CBMs whilst also dedicating time to developing further cyber CBMs. The Swiss representative concluded by stating that the OSCE could learn a lot from ASEAN, notably in the fields of effective conflict prevention and economic connectivity.

A representative of **Spain** noted that its country in its capacity as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council promoted world peace and security. With specific reference to the Asian region, the Spanish representative mentioned Spain's support for UNSCR 2210 (2015) renewing the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and its co-sponsoring of UNSCR 2270 (2016) imposing fresh sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in response to its recent nuclear and ballistic tests. Such actions contributed to making the Euro-Asian region safer. Spain intended to support the implementation of UNSCR 2250 with its aim of increasing youth representation at the decision-making level and hoped to invigorate the work of the OSCE's "Group for Youth". The Spanish representative hoped for the support of all OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in advancing their common security agenda and in addressing global challenges such as climate change, cybersecurity and terrorism.

A representative of **Finland** had special praise for Mr. Manuel Marion Mainer's presentation and emphasized the need to counter the root causes of VERLT. In this regard, the Finnish representative called for youth organizations, teachers, families, religious leaders and civil society representatives to be involved in programmes aimed at preventing radicalization.

A representative of **Austria** welcomed the focus on cybersecurity, which was a key foreign policy concern. On the issue of terrorism, Austria was alarmed at the number of terrorist fighters from Austria that had joined ISIL and other extremist organizations. The Austrian representative joined other delegations in calling for a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism that was grounded in respect for international human rights standards and the rule of law. Austria was concerned at the ongoing security crises in the OSCE area. In the hope of resolving such crises and reassuring citizens worldwide, the Austrian representative called for resolute leadership and sincere co-operation within the international community.

A representative of **Slovakia** highlighted the protection of critical State infrastructure as a national concern; Slovakia was planning to create a training centre to serve as a platform for dialogue on the issue of protecting States' infrastructure from cyber attacks (as well as from natural disasters and human errors). All OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation would be welcome to participate in its operations.

A representative of **Australia** referred to the country's substantive activities designed to prevent and counter VERLT. The activities included numerous capacity-building programmes implemented by the Australian government in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. The speaker also highlighted the need to establish a proper way of dealing with foreign terrorist fighters and raised concern regarding the varying cyber-capacities of countries in Asia. Australia intended to continue to work closely with the OSCE in the implementation of the cyber CBMs.

The Ambassador of the **United States of America** to the OSCE expressed the conviction that the Organization had an important role to play in the standard-setting process across its area. The OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation should be looking for concrete opportunities to make progress towards the common goal of increased co-operation. It was now important for all parties to focus on implementing common projects. Specific reference was made to Sustainable Development Goal no. 16, "Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies", which amongst other things called for the development of trustworthy rule of law-based institutions; this issue should also be on the agenda for follow-up with the Asian Partners.

A representative of **Montenegro** stressed the impossibility of associating terrorism with any specific race, religion or nationality and called on the OSCE participating States and Asian Partners to condemn all forms of discrimination in this regard.

In response, Mr. **Ben Hiller** agreed with the USA's view that the OSCE needed to focus on implementing practical co-operation. The cyber CBMs created a more secure environment and were thus an example of practical measures being implemented to the benefit of the participating States, the Asian Partners and their citizens. Mr. **Manuel Marion Mainer** broadly agreed with most of the participants; countering violent extremism should be one of the prime goals of co-operation with the Asian partners, though he also called for more coordination in this field. Ambassador **Toshihiro Aiki** emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of VERLT and of focusing on the important role played by local communities in this field.

3.2 Side-event: The OSCE and its Asian Partners - Strengthening Cyber Security

Report by Ms. Janice Helwig, Representative of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, United States Mission to the OSCE

As Chair, Ambassador **Daniel Baer**, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the OSCE and Chair of the Informal Working Group established pursuant to PC Decision No. 1039, said that the goal of the side-event was to share information on and OSCE experience in developing risk reduction and confidence-building measures for the field of cybersecurity. It was an increasingly important issue, particularly in the light of rapidly evolving technology, and OSCE work on it should also be approached in a global context, notably through exploring opportunities to deepen engagement across regions and share lessons learned.

Mr. **Ben Hiller**, Cyber Security Officer, Transnational Threats Department, OSCE Secretariat, described the work the OSCE had been doing on cybersecurity and considered how it could increase its engagement with the Asian Partners. The growing dependence on information and communication technologies (ICTs) had raised the issue of cybersecurity into a principal national and international security concern. Cyber attacks could be carried out by a variety of actors, including criminals and other non-State actors, and had the potential to have a large impact even when themselves being relatively small and unsophisticated. Turning to the OSCE's work, Mr. Hiller said that the OSCE's informal working group on the issue allowed OSCE States to discuss practical and action-oriented ways to address cybersecurity, notably through the implementation of the confidence-building measures adopted since 2012. He described the CBMs as falling into three categories, focusing on: "posturing", or exchanging information on national policies and planning; "communications", or engaging with another country in response to a specific problem or event; and "preparedness", or building trust among States concerning preparedness in case of attack. The OSCE was building on its existing mechanisms for facilitating information exchange, notably through its POLIS online database. Mr. Hiller asked participants what they thought the OSCE might do to share its expertise with the Asian Partners better, and whether the OSCE could also serve as a bridge to ASEAN work already underway on the issue. Should the OSCE institutionalize information exchange between regions, or perhaps establish regular dialogue through a standing item at future Asian Conferences?

Ambassador **Daniel Baer** discussed lessons learned by the informal working group on how to engage effectively on cybersecurity. It was important to have a vision of what you want to accomplish, to start with easier issues like information-sharing, to focus on goals and purpose while remaining flexible, and to keep the work simple and practical. Baer added that the dual focus approach taken so far by the informal working group – of reviewing implementation while also discussing future issues – had worked well, and that it had been important to include information from the private sector on new and emerging issues.

A representative of the **German Chairmanship-in-Office** noted that it had made cybersecurity a priority for 2016, and had contributed to the decision adopted earlier in the year on new CBMs; however, there was still room for additional measures. Germany planned to propose a decision on cybersecurity and ICTs for consideration at the Hamburg Ministerial Council.

A representative of the **Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States** said that his organization shared many of the same goals and interests as the OSCE, including an inclusive and co-operative approach to regional issues, and invited the OSCE to participate in forthcoming Council events on the role of youth in countering violent extremism and on cybersecurity.

A representative of **Thailand** agreed that regional organizations could be good forums for fostering co-operation on cybersecurity, and stressed that strong focal points must be in place to ensure effective information-sharing. He proposed the development of common guidelines or standard operating procedures.

A representative of **Switzerland** remarked that in the current year cybersecurity had been one of the only topics able to garner consensus for an OSCE decision; moreover, the OSCE was one of first regional organizations to work on the issue, and OSCE work had influenced work at the United Nations, rather than the other way around. Were different categories of cybersecurity issues, such as cyber attacks, propaganda, or unintended cyber issues like the year 2000, problems requiring separate CBMs?

A representative of the **Republic of Korea** noted that owing to problems with a particular neighbouring country, Korea mainly worked bilaterally on cybersecurity issues, rather than regionally.

Ambassador **Daniel Baer** answered that specialized CBMs were needed in some cases. For example, while there was room for constructive dialogue with private companies about hate speech or terrorist propaganda, that would also involve ensuring the protection of free speech – a very different issue from that of addressing attacks on a country's infrastructure. Furthermore, while geographic proximity did not matter in cybersecurity, it was still important to have CBMs among States. Ambassador Baer intended to make proposals to the German Chairmanship on concrete ways to strengthen co-operation with the Asian Partners on cybersecurity and would continue to discuss the issue in Vienna.

3.3 Session 2: Promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure peace and prosperity

Report by Mr. Raphaël Bez, Political Adviser, Delegation of Switzerland to the OSCE

The second session of the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference was opened by its moderator, Mr. **Jang-keun Lee**, Deputy Director-General for International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, who presented the three focuses of the afternoon:

1. Promotion of measures to lift people out of poverty and improve their living conditions;
2. Women's empowerment and enhancing the role of women in economic development;
3. Activities in support of global efforts in tackling the world drug problem in the framework of UNGASS 2016 (UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the light of these focuses, four of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were especially relevant for the discussion: SDGs 1 and 8 ("End poverty in all its forms everywhere" and "Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all"), SDG 5 ("Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"), and SDG 3 ("Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all"). Mr. Jang-keun Lee also underlined the link with the first session of the Conference – entitled "Enhancing international efforts to strengthen security co-operation" – by reminding the participants that the fight against poverty and the efforts to counter terrorism were interdependent, as poverty was one of the driving factors behind radicalization and violent extremism.

The first keynote speaker, Mom Luang **Dispanadda Diskul**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation in Bangkok, introduced the topic of eradication of poverty by introducing the Foundation, which had since 1972 been active in improving the quality of life of the people in northern Thailand, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Indonesia by promoting a sustainable market-driven economy. The Foundation had been self-sufficient for fourteen years, having established itself as a social enterprise active in the production of coffee, macadamia nuts and handicrafts, in the management of its own coffee shops and coffee brand, and in tourism. It collaborated with major international companies such as Ikea or Converse with the goal of filling the gap between the quality provided by local knowledge and the quantity required by the market. A major part of its annual revenue (approximately 15 million dollars) was redistributed to the 1200 local employees and their communities. The Foundation's social impact could be measured through, for example, scholarships and the implementation of the Montessori teaching method, health care programmes, daycare centres, and training of professional skills. This progress had led to environmental improvements such as the revitalization of the forest and the eradication of poppy cultivation, which had led to a decrease in drug trafficking. Mom Luang Dispanadda Diskul especially stressed the importance of ownership by local communities for the sustainability of their programmes. For this reason, the foundation had invested a great deal in gathering information concerning the community's needs and had from the very beginning worked with local people to encourage them to make changes, take initiatives, and prepare to take over when the Foundation withdraws.

Ms. **Anna-Karin Jatfors**, Deputy Regional Director of the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, and second speaker of the session, underlined the

transformative change that took place with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which put a stronger emphasis on the aspect of gender equality than the Millennium Development Goals had. She reminded the audience of the three key elements that had to be ensured to guarantee equal opportunity: 1) women's physical security; 2) women's voice, participation and leadership; 3) women's equal access to and control over resources/assets. The economic growth of the last few years had reinforced gender inequality, with women tending to be more active in the informal economy, lacking social protection, earning less than their male counterparts (global gender pay gap of 24 per cent) and facing more difficulties in balancing their professional and family lives. Even countries with education systems where gender equality prevailed had failed in terms of translating it into equal opportunities in the labour market. However, solutions did exist, which Ms. Jatfors called for: parental leave, accessible childcare, support of women entrepreneurs, increase of women's participation in the growing economic sectors, and the enacting of laws to combat gender-based discrimination. She also highlighted the linkages between the economy and the fight to end violence against women. Women were key economic players: for example, UN Women estimated that in Vietnam violence against women was costing the country 3 per cent of its GDP. The likelihood of a woman victim of domestic violence escaping from an abusive relationship also depended on her economic independence. Finally, Ms. Jatfors spoke in favour of more women in politics, in the police, and in the judiciary system: even if that would not necessarily guarantee gender equality (as social norms and stereotypes were also interiorized by women), women tended to be more inclined than men to raise the issue of violence against women.

A representative of **Afghanistan** presented the country's current stand on the fight against drug trafficking, underlining that law enforcement had improved and production of opium and poppy had decreased in 2015, in spite of demand on the international and regional markets still remaining high. Cultivation of poppy was especially prevalent in the provinces with fewer social and economic opportunities for farmers and greater political instability (drug trafficking being a source of financial support for terrorist activities). What was needed was therefore a balanced approach that included women's empowerment and the improvement of access to the market for alternative products and combined the fight against drug trafficking with preventive measures. Afghanistan welcomed the results of UNGASS 2016 and called for long-term solutions and international support. The country also thanked the OSCE for its continuous support since 2003 on border security and management, training for narcotics officers, economic development, electoral support, water management, anti-trafficking work, and freedom of the media. Afghanistan concluded by reaffirming its readiness to continue the implementation of its National Drug Action Plan.

The **Secretary General of the OSCE** called for global and long-term solutions to current security challenges, as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He underlined the key role that inclusive platforms such as the OSCE could play in a world where there seemed to be a return to geopolitics. There was however also a need to engage with youth, civil society, religious leaders, women, and international financial institutions. While the OSCE was already committed to backing the implementation of the SDGs, especially SDG 16 ("Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies"), the question of support of a more systematic kind remained. The Secretary General concluded by proposing increased engagement with cities and local communities, particularly in connection with preventing and combating radicalization and violent extremism, as these actors had a broader capacity to try and test innovative solutions.

A representative of the **EU** affirmed the Union's commitments towards gender equality, the economic empowerment of women (underlining the need for stronger implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/11 on promoting equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere), and the SDGs, also recalling the 2015 Ministerial Council Declaration on the OSCE Activities in Support of Global Efforts in Tackling the World Drug Problem.

A representative of **Montenegro** called for better national mainstreaming and public communication in the implementation of the four international agreements of 2015: the Iran nuclear deal, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. While underlining the obstacle of transnational crime, Montenegro reiterated its support for a comprehensive and holistic approach encompassing the economic empowerment of women and the inclusion of women and youth in the prevention of and fight against terrorism.

A representative of **Japan** presented the country's national strategy for empowering women and girls, highlighting its three main pillars: 1) Protection of and respect for the rights of women and girls; 2) Enhancement of the lives of women and girls (through education, for example); 3) Participation of women and girls (especially in science and technology studies). Japan also stressed the importance of changing social norms and underlined the positive impact that technology can have on them.

A representative of **Switzerland** called for the immediate implementation of the SDGs based on a gender-sensitive approach, with the inclusion of civil society and the corporate world. Switzerland, while welcoming the outcomes of UNGASS 2016, in particular its emphasis on prevention, condemned the application of the death penalty in drug-related court cases in Thailand and spoke in favour of its abolition.

A representative of the **United States of America** recalled the OSCE's commitments on gender equality and reiterated the USA's engagement to pursuing the ongoing work within the Organization. He also echoed the Secretary General's remarks on the need for partnership with the cities, as these latter were at the forefront of society and had much more authority regarding operational aspects of governance than, for example, international organizations or central governments.

The panellists concluded the discussion by calling for economic growth that respected the world's resources (Mom Luang **Dispanadda Diskul**) and, with regard to the fight to end violence against women, for greater involvement of non-traditional stakeholders such as celebrities and sportsmen and sportswomen, as was done by UN Women with its successful *HeForShe* campaign (Ms. **Anna-Karin Jafors**).

3.4 Session 3: Trafficking in human beings and irregular migration: sharing experiences and lessons learned between Europe and Asia

Report by Ms. Janice Helwig, Representative of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, United States Mission to the OSCE

Moderator Ambassador **Claude Wild**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, noted that millions of migrants and refugees had been spurred to leave their homes by conflict, violence, human rights abuses, natural disasters, or unemployment; as a result, all these people might be vulnerable to human trafficking. The OSCE had recently held several events on the issue of migration, and had also established an informal working group in Vienna on the issue.

The speaker Professor Emeritus **Supang Chantavanich**, Advisor to the Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM) at the Institute of Asian Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, discussed the scope of the problem in South-East Asia, where according to UNODC statistics at least two million people had migrated over the past two years. She said that irregular migrants were vulnerable to both human smuggling and human trafficking and that victim identification could be difficult, particularly as migrants were often part of mixed flows of refugees and economic migrants. She gave an example of a case concerning members of the Rohingyas minority who had been identified as trafficking victims; their traffickers were convicted and assets confiscated to compensate the victims after it had been proven that the victims were exploited through ransom demands along the traffickers' human smuggling route. Ms. Chantavanich outlined some regional responses to irregular migration, including the establishment of an ASEAN trust fund to assist those affected by migration, an ASEAN convention on trafficking in persons signed in 2015, and a special meeting on irregular migration in the Indian Ocean. In order to better respond to human trafficking cases, she said, the international community must address root causes, including push and pull factors and the means used by traffickers to coerce or deceive victims. Protecting victims could also be a challenge, as some refused to remain in shelters. In South-East Asia other issues also needed to be addressed, including poor law enforcement, inadequate protection of vulnerable groups, passive anti-trafficking programmes focusing mainly on training government officials, and slow criminal justice systems. Ms. Chantavanich recommended that governments in the region should undertake more proactive outreach programmes of the kind set up in Europe to provide potential migrants with information and advice on how to avoid traffickers. She also discussed common challenges, including adequate training on how to identify victims, getting victims to testify against their traffickers, lack of public awareness, and the need for interpreters with skills in minority languages.

Ms. **Sophie Nonnenmacher**, Chief of Mission of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), discussed the IOM's approach to migration, which included examining push and pull factors such as poverty, poor governance, instability, and the desire for better economic opportunities. Migration could make people vulnerable to trafficking, though trafficking had different causes. The IOM worked to address both irregular migration and trafficking through awareness-raising, fostering access to education and healthcare in countries of origin, law enforcement training, and legislative assistance. Ms. Nonnenmacher stressed the importance of training to ensuring proper victim identification, and the consequent importance of standardizing training to ensure common identification standards. Countries in Asia should place greater emphasis on victim compensation, in addition to victim protection and assistance. The IOM gave

assistance to victims through voluntary return programmes including a small reintegration grant to help prevent participants from returning into the trafficking cycle, as well as psychological assistance if needed. As a best practice, she pointed to the GRETA programme set up to monitor implementation of the Council of Europe's anti-trafficking convention, and called for the development of similar tools to measure progress in other regions.

Ambassador **Madina Jarbussynova**, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, described recent OSCE efforts and responses concerning migration and trafficking in persons, as well as the Organization's co-operation with its Asian Partners. The large mixed migration flow in Europe had made thousands of people vulnerable to trafficking; some 10,000 unaccompanied minors had gone missing, possibly as the victims of trafficking. Ms. Jarbussynova pointed out that many irregular migrants were pushed into slavery-like conditions; in Asia, more than half of trafficking victims were used for forced labour, particularly in the fishing industry. The main destinations for victims from South-East Asia were North America and the Middle East. Although traffickers might be local, they themselves might be recruited by other traffickers from outside their country, which made convictions difficult. Ambassador Jarbussynova also commended a number of OSCE Asian Partners for their generous contribution to OSCE work, readiness to host several conferences, for offering training programmes, and for promoting international co-operation. The OSCE, for its part, would be conducting three real-time-simulation training exercises in Vicenza, Italy, for law enforcement and customs officers, in which the Asian Partners were cordially invited to contribute. She also described OSCE work on the prevention of trafficking for labour through supply chains, also mentioning a conference on the issue that was to be hosted by the German Chairmanship in Berlin on 7 and 8 September, in which the Asian Partners were invited to participate.

During the subsequent discussion, a representative of the **Holy See** said that trafficking was a crime against humanity that degraded inherent human dignity. Victims could face severe trauma and fall prey to sexual exploitation and sex tourism; the international community must do more to care for victims and address root causes that made people vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty.

A representative of the **UNODC Regional Program in Bangkok** discussed the law enforcement response to human smuggling and human trafficking, and called for increased co-operation among law enforcement bodies, particularly in information and intelligence-sharing.

A representative of **Austria** discussed the challenges his country had faced in handling the some 800,000 irregular migrants who passed through Austria in 2016 and in absorbing the some 18,000 who stayed. Countries must have proper procedures in place to control borders and screen migrants, as well as to assist them as necessary as part of a victim-centred human rights approach. Moreover, Sweden, Germany and Austria had taken in 90 per cent of migrants in the EU last year; other EU countries should also share the burden.

A representative of the **United States of America** expressed support for work in multilateral and regional frameworks to combat trafficking, including ASEAN and the Bali Process. Civil society must be enabled to continue working on addressing the issue, and the OSCE should address trafficking in supply chains. The United States was also working to combat child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children; most notably, the International Megan's Law had created a framework for law enforcement co-operation in this field.

A representative of **Switzerland** stressed States' legal obligation to protect the human rights of migrants, noting that his country had amended its criminal code in line with international commitments, and to strengthen victim assistance. Countries should proactively tackle irregular migration and forced displacement by addressing driving factors, increasing access to basic services and education, and prioritizing victim protection and assistance.

A representative of the **European Union** recognized the need to proactively tackle the root causes of irregular migration and the broader phenomenon of forced displacement, by stepping up efforts on conflict prevention, resolving existing conflicts, and addressing climate change challenges and human rights abuses, all of which were major drivers of forced displacement. The EU pledged to continue to promote collective global responses to the root causes of forced displacement, contribute to finding durable solutions, and build up resilience in vulnerable communities. The EU also recognized the role of the OSCE in strengthening law enforcement operations to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks and in implementing specific capacity-building programmes amongst the participating States, with regard both to policing and to border co-operation. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security had resulted in close co-operation between the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and other departments and bodies such as the Transnational Threats Department and the ODIHR. The EU fully backed the OSCE's supporting role in dealing with the issues of irregular migration and human trafficking. The Informal Working Group on Migration was another channel for exploration of what else could be done on the issue of migration.

A representative of the **German Chairmanship-in-Office** hoped that issues regarding migration raised in the discussion could be reflected in a decision to be considered at the Hamburg Ministerial in December.

4 Summary of the closing session

Report by Mr. Xhodi Sakiqi, External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The session was chaired by Mr. **Ricklef Beutin**, Deputy Head of the Task Force for the 2016 German Chairmanship of the OSCE. Closing remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador **Lamberto Zannier**, Secretary General of the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador **Vuk Žugić**, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE and Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, and H.E. Ambassador **Arthayudh Srisamoot**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the OSCE.

Speaking on behalf of the German Chairmanship of the OSCE, Mr. **Ricklef Beutin** thanked all the Conference participants for their active involvement and valuable contributions, and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for its kind and gracious hospitality. The event had reconfirmed the OSCE Asian Conference's importance as a platform for the exchange of views, best practices and lessons learned on how to address complex problems that no country or region could tackle alone. Mr. Beutin added that as security threats had become increasingly linked, dialogue and co-operation among States and regional frameworks were indispensable to fighting terrorism, preventing radicalization and VERLT, and promoting cybersecurity and sustainable development. In conclusion he reiterated Germany's commitment to the Asian Partnership and noted that as Chair of the Asian Contact Group in 2017 Germany would strive to continue the discussions on these important issues.

Ambassador **Lamberto Zannier**, Secretary General of the OSCE, joined the chair of the session in highlighting the relevance to and impact upon the security of Europe and the Asian Partners of the topics discussed during the Conference. The proceedings of the Conference had clearly reaffirmed the need for an increasingly operational approach in the co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners in areas of mutual interest and concern such as countering radicalization and VERLT, supporting the economic empowerment of women, and addressing challenges related to trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. In this context, while acknowledging that the return of geopolitics had increased tensions in Europe and Asia alike, he noted that there were no viable alternatives to fostering co-operative approaches among States, regions and regional organizations. Phenomena with global impact such as demographics, climate change and migration could only be successfully tackled if international actors succeeded in forging partnerships transcending regional boundaries, also with civil society and the private sector. In his view, the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided an appropriate platform for taking collective action. Mr. Zannier also noted with pleasure that the participants of the Conference had engaged in a substantial discussion on the new sustainable development goals, and praised Thailand for putting this issue onto the Conference agenda. After highlighting once again the important role that regional organizations could play in the implementation of the new sustainable development goals, Mr. Zannier dwelled on the specific contribution to be made by the OSCE. Pointing to the broad array of tools that the OSCE had at its disposal, he added that the Organization would leverage its comprehensive security concept to promote the rule of law, human rights and women's empowerment and to sustain democratic and inclusive societies. Ambassador Zannier concluded by announcing his intention to convene a Security Days event on "strong cities", with a broad working agenda that would discuss the role of cities in fighting terrorism and intolerance, promoting inclusive societies, and fostering sustainable development.

Ambassador **Vuk Žugić**, Permanent Representative of Serbia and Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group, thanked Thailand for its hospitality and for having hosted the Conference. The 2016 OSCE Asian Conference had provided a suitable platform for exchange of views on the state of co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian partners and had established a common understanding of emerging threats. Discussions had indicated that no country was immune from transnational challenges in the current volatile and unpredictable security environment. Since none of these challenges could be addressed alone, the Conference sent out a strong signal on the importance of co-operative and multilateral security efforts in Asia and Europe. The role of regional organizations was to support members facing these challenges; in this context, he said, there was an opportunity to strengthen co-operation between the OSCE and ASEAN. He also reiterated Serbia's commitment to strengthening the OSCE's engagement with the Asian Partners and to implementing the actions proposed in Switzerland's perception paper issued after the 2015 conference in Seoul. Speaking about more specific areas, Ambassador Žugić said there was an expectation of more engagement and a stronger partnership between the OSCE and Asian countries in fighting terrorism. Because of its approach to security, capacity-building efforts, and engagement with women, youth and religious leaders, the OSCE was a suitable platform for cross-regional initiatives. On the subject of cybersecurity, the Conference had been a useful means of briefing the Partners on the activities of the Informal Working Group established pursuant to PC Decision No. 1039. In this context, the US chair of the working group would continue seeking future opportunities for co-operation with the Asian Partnership. Mr. Žugić then pointed to the OSCE's activities aimed at promoting sustainable development, and highlighted the valuable experience of some of the Asian Partners in supporting the new 2030 Agenda. Practical and result-oriented relations between the OSCE and Asian Partners would be an effective way of leveraging respective experiences in this field. On the subject of trafficking in human beings and irregular migration, Ambassador Žugić stressed the importance of co-operative and long-term solutions for the OSCE participating States and the Asian partners, aimed at addressing the root causes of these two phenomena. He also highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to tackling irregular migration, including measures to improve the livelihoods of communities at risk. The rise of smuggling activities could only be tackled through good migration governance, strengthening the rule of law, and enhanced international co-operation in the criminal and judicial field. Ambassador Žugić concluded by emphasizing the opportunities offered by the OSCE Asian Partnership for sharing lessons and best practices, and pursuing joint solutions through concrete projects.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. **Arthayudh Srisamoot**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand in Vienna, once again thanked all the Conference's moderators, keynote speakers and participants. Thanks to the active participation and thoughtful contribution of OSCE participating States and Asian Partners alike, the event had been a success. While noting that Thailand's hosting of the 2016 Asian Conference testified to his country's genuine commitment to the OSCE Asian Partnership, he reiterated that Thailand was interested in forging an even closer relationship with the OSCE, especially by serving as a bridge between the OSCE and ASEAN, of which it was a founding member. In summarizing the Conference's main takeaways, he agreed with the two previous speakers that it had strongly reconfirmed the inextricable nexus between security in Europe and in Asia. In this context, he emphasized the value of the OSCE Asian Partnership as a platform for exchanging experiences and best practices and coming up with joint initiatives aimed at addressing common threats effectively. In his view, this had become particularly important in the light of the growing security threats posed by terrorism, violent extremism,

human trafficking and illegal migration. These challenges were so great that the only way to address them in a robust and comprehensive fashion was through international co-operation and effective multilateralism. Focusing on the newly adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Ambassador Srisamoot noted with pleasure that the Conference had been the first time that the issue had been introduced in an official OSCE document, and been subject of discussions among the participating States and the Asian Partners. Thailand took credit for this achievement, as it had been instrumental in shaping the agenda of the Conference. With regard to this important topic, he also acknowledged the OSCE's extensive experience and multiple tools in implementing the sustainable development goals, and, in this context, called for the establishment of closer synergies with those Asian Partners who had developed valuable experience in this field.

5 List of participants

Country / Organization	Family name	First name	Title
OSCE participating States			
Germany	Riedel	Norbert	Ambassador, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific
Germany	Prügel	Peter	Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bangkok
Germany	Beutin	Ricklef	Deputy Head of the Task Force for the OSCE Chairmanship 2016
Germany	Seedig	Stefanie	Deputy Head, Division for Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific
Germany	Friese	Matthias	Politico-Military Adviser, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE
Germany	Gebauer	Peer	Deputy Head of Mission / Head of Economic Section, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bangkok
Germany	Gebauer	Sonja	Political Counsellor, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bangkok
Germany	Tal	Daniel	Intern, German Embassy in Bangkok
USA	Baer	Daniel	Ambassador of the United States of America to the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe
USA	Killion	David T.	Ambassador, Senior Senate Staff Representative, U.S. Helsinki Commission
USA	Helwig	Janice	Representative of the U.S. Helsinki Commission
USA	Hollabaugh	Allison	Counsel, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Austria	Marschik	Alexander	Ambassador, Director General of the Directorate General for International Affairs, Political Director
Austria	Drofenik	Enno	Austrian Ambassador to Thailand

Country / Organization	Family name	First name	Title
Belgium	Debruyne	Lot, Jos, Fabienne	First Secretary Political Section
Belgium	Gillain	Paul-Emile	Intern
Canada	Cousineau	Patrice	Counsellor (Political/Economic)
Canada	Cordier	Philip	First Secretary (Political)
Canada	O'Callaghan	Conor	Intern (Political)
Canada	MacNeil	Tessa	Intern (Political)
Spain	Moreno	Carmen Moreno Raymundo	Ambassador of Spain to Thailand
Spain	Cuesta Civis	Luis Manuel	Deputy Permanent Representative for Politico-military Issues
Spain	Salcedo	Maria	Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Spain to Thailand
Finland	Westphalen	Kirsti	Ambassador of Finland, Embassy of Finland, Bangkok
Finland	Laitinen	Kristiina	Staff in Political and Commercial Section, Embassy of Finland, Bangkok
France	Fourriere	Sylvain	First Counsellor
France	Samboli	Rudolphe	First Secretary
United Kingdom	Caley	Joanne	Head of Political Section, British Embassy, Bangkok
United Kingdom	Fieller	Daniel	Second Secretary, British Embassy, Bangkok
Greece	Boutos	Pericles	Ambassador of Greece to Thailand
Greece	Poullou	Thiseas	Deputy Head of Mission
Ireland	Gleeson	Shane	Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Ireland in Bangkok

Country / Organization	Family name	First name	Title
Italy	Nisio	Frances Severio	Ambassador, Embassy in Thailand
Italy	Moruzzi	Lamberto Maria	First Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy
Italy	Sereni	Flavio	First Secretary
Italy	Vitalone	Andrea	Attaché of the Embassy
Luxembourg	Lauer	Robert	Ambassador, Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Bangkok
Luxembourg	Haller	Pascal	Trainee, Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Bangkok
Mongolia	Tumurkhuleg	Tugsbilguun	Ambassador, Embassy in Thailand
Mongolia	Bayarsaikhan	Munkhchimeg	Third Secretary, Embassy in Thailand
Montenegro	Milačić	Slavica	Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the OSCE
Montenegro	Šćapanović	Milorad	Ambassador, Director General of the Directorate General for Multilateral Affairs
Netherlands / EU	Sanz Escorihuela	Jesus Miguel	Ambassador, EU Delegation Thailand
Netherlands / EU	Teerling	Guillaume	Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangkok
Netherlands / EU	Pogorzelska Eriksson	Julia	Political Officer, EU Delegation Thailand
Netherlands / EU	De Bono Sant Cassia	Andrea	Attaché/Policy Officer, Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna
Netherlands / EU	Da Waele	Sandra	First Counsellor – Head of Political, Press & Information Section
Poland	Kuchciak	Zenon	Ambassador, Embassy in Thailand
Poland	Krzak-Danel	Anna	First Counsellor, Embassy of Poland in Bangkok

Country / Organization	Family name	First name	Title
Portugal	Vaz Patto	Francisco	Ambassador of Portugal to Thailand
Portugal	Croft De Moura	Maria Filomena	Deputy Head of Mission
Romania	Jacotă	Gruia	Ambassador of Romania to the Kingdom of Thailand
Russian Federation	Polishchuk	Alexey	Deputy Director, European Co-operation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Russian Federation	Barsky	Kiryll	Ambassador, Embassy in Bangkok
Russian Federation	Anopov	Vitaly	2 nd Secretary, Embassy in Bangkok
Russian Federation	Antonyuk	Denis	2 nd Secretary, Embassy in Bangkok
Holy See	Velardo	Carlo	Local Attaché
Holy See	Somsaengsruang	Achra	Delegate
Serbia	Žugić	Vuk	Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna
Slovakia	Koncal	Martin	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Slovakia to IO
Slovenia	Masle	Blaž	Minister Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Switzerland	Wild	Claude	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and the other International Organizations in Vienna
Switzerland	Sieber	Ivo	Ambassador of Switzerland to Thailand
Switzerland	Vavricka	Viktor	Minister/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Thailand
Switzerland	Bez	Raphaël	Political Adviser, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and the other International Organizations in Vienna

Country / Organization	Family name	First name	Title
Czech Republic	Minarikova	Dagmar	Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy in Thailand
Turkey	Akay	Ahmet Idem	First Counsellor and DCM, Embassy of Turkey, Thailand
Ukraine	Beshta	Andrii	Ambassador of Ukraine to the Kingdom of Thailand
Ukraine	Movchan	Bohdan	Counsellor, Embassy in Ukraine in the Kingdom of Thailand
Partners for Co-operation			
Afghanistan	Atifmal	Atiqullah	Ambassador of Afghanistan to Malaysia
Australia	Robilliard	Paul-Emile	Ambassador, Australian Embassy - Bangkok, Thailand
Australia	Jewell	Amanda	Director, Regional Engagement, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Australia	Goh	Kevin	Assistant Director, Regional Engagement, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Japan	Aiki	Toshihiro	Deputy DG, European Affairs Bureau: Ambassador, Special Rep. for Central Asia, Caucasus and GUAM, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Japan	Mochizuki	Kaoru	Official, European Policy Division, European Affairs Bureau, MFA
Japan	Hattori	Takanori	First Secretary
Japan	Mizukami	Yuji	Second Secretary
Japan	Ohmura	Shuutarou	Minister
Republic of Korea	Lee	Jang-keun	Deputy Director-General for International Organizations, MOFA, ROK
Republic of Korea	Kang	Hyo-sung	First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Thailand

Country / Organization	Family name	First name	Title
Republic of Korea	Bang	ChoEun	Second Secretary, MOFA, ROK
Thailand	Diskul	M.L. Dispanadda	Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage (Speaker)
Thailand	Chantavanich	Supang	Prof. Emeritus, Dr., Advisor to the Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University (Speaker)
Thailand	Poolthup	Panyarak	Deputy Permanent Secretary
Thailand	Srisamoot	Arthayudh	Ambassador, Royal Thai Embassy in Vienna
Thailand	Sukchan	Songphol	Director-General, Department of European Affairs
Thailand	Chandraramya	Pannabha	Deputy Director-General, Department of European Affairs
Thailand	Niyom	Sirilak	Director, European Union Division, Department of European Affairs
Thailand	Chindawongse	Chatvadee	Counsellor, European Union Division, Department of European Affairs
Thailand	Chitranukroh	Krirkbhumi	First Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy in Vienna
Thailand	Weerawongphrom	Morakot	Third Secretary, European Union Division, Department of European Affairs
Thailand	Kowattanawaranon	Kulkaew	Attaché, European Union Division, Department of European Affairs
Thailand	Sumitpaibul	Ittimon	Attaché, European Union Division, Department of European Affairs
Thailand	Puntarikkotok	Kulawat	Staff, Department of European Affairs
Thailand	Jiarpinitnun	Ketkanya	Staff, Department of European Affairs

Country / Organization	Family name	First name	Title
International Organizations			
ASEAN	Le	Luong Minh	Secretary-General of ASEAN
ASEAN	Selvaraju	Mala	Head of Security Cooperation Division
CICA	Zhalgasbayev	Nurlan	Member of the Professional personnel
CIS	Polishchuk	Alexey	Deputy Director, European Co-operation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, representing the CIS
ICRC	Kuenzi	Frank	Head of Mission
IOM	Nonnenmacher	Sophie	Chief of Mission, IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok
UNODC	Stinson	Ainsley	Regional Programme Advisor, Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking, UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
UN Women	Jatfors	Anna-Karin	Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and Representative in Thailand
Guests of the Host Country			
Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States	Kocaman	Omer	Deputy Secretary General
OSCE Institutions			
OSCE Secretariat	Zannier	Lamberto	Secretary General
OSCE Secretariat	Jarbussynova	Madina	Ambassador, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
OSCE Secretariat	Sacchetti	Sandra	Head of External Co-operation
OSCE Secretariat	Marion	Manuel	Counterterrorism Senior Advisor

Country / Organization	Family name	First name	Title
OSCE Secretariat	Sakiqi	Xhodi	External Co-operation Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Hiller	Ben	Cyber Security Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Szymanski	Aldona	Senior External Co-operation Assistant
OSCE Secretariat	Alidemaj	Anita	External Co-operation Assistant
OSCE/ODIHR	Link	Michael Georg	Director of ODIHR
OSCE/ODIHR	Jakob	Julian	Special Adviser
NGOs / Academic Community			
Assumption University of Thailand	Voicu	Ioan	Professor