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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Section for External Co-operation



**OSCE-Thailand Conference
on Challenges to Global Security:
From Poverty to Pandemic
*Bangkok, 25-26 April 2006***



Consolidated Summary

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1 General information

1.1 Venue

The Conference was held from 25 to 26 April 2006, in the Conference Hall of the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok.

1.2 Participation^{*)}

- 1.2.1 Thirty OSCE participating States, including Austria/EU and the European Commission took part in the Conference.
- 1.2.2 All Partners for Co-operation in Asia (Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and Thailand) and two Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Israel, and Morocco) were represented.
- 1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly were represented.
- 1.2.4 Six member States of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) participated as observers.
- 1.2.5 Seven international organizations were represented.
- 1.2.6 Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

1.3 Timetable and Organizational Modalities

- 1.3.1 The Conference began at 9:30 a.m. on 25 April 2006 and ended at 4:30 p.m. on 26 April 2006.
- 1.3.2 The Conference was conducted in three sessions, a special and a concluding session.
- 1.3.3 The welcoming remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Jan Deboutte, Head of Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, and H.E. Mr. Kulkumut Singhara Na Ayudhaya, Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.
- 1.3.4 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.
- 1.3.5 The working language was English.
- 1.3.6 Arrangements were made for press coverage.
- 1.3.7 Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.
- 1.3.8 The seating arrangement is shown in the Annex.

^{*)} See chapter 4 - List of Participants

1.4 Agenda

Tuesday, 25 April 2006

9.30 - 9.45 a.m.

Welcoming Remarks

H.E. Ambassador Jan Deboutte, Head of Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium

H.E. Mr. Kulkumut Singhara Na Ayudhaya, Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

09.45 - 11.00 a.m.

Session 1: The changing face of global security: reflections and perspectives

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Kulkumut Singhara Na Ayudhaya, Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Rapporteur: Mr. Arturo Pérez Martínez, Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE

- Applicability of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-first Century

Speakers (10 minutes each):

- Dr. Salomon Passy, Member of the Bulgarian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, on behalf of the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- H.E. Dr. Helga Konrad, OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- H.E. Dr. Rakhat Aliyev, First Deputy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs – Special Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Co-operation with the OSCE
- H.E. Ambassador Brendan Moran, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

11.00 - 11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 am. - 12.30 pm.

Discussion

12.30 - 2.00 p.m.

Luncheon at Vimansuriya Room

2.00 - 3.45 p.m.

Session 2: Poverty to pandemic: Countering threats to regional security

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Walter Siegl, Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Mr. Jean-Michel Vidal, Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE

- Identification of threats to regional security
- Use of the OSCE acquis in responding to regional threats

Speakers (10 minutes each):

- Mr. Chamnan Wattanasiri, Chief of International Relations Subdivision, Community Development Department, Ministry of Interior of Thailand
- H.E. Ambassador Colin Munro, Head of UK Delegation to the OSCE
- Mr. Kiyosu Taniguchi, Head of Intelligence and Policy Planning Division, Infectious Disease Surveillance Center, National Institute of Infectious Disease, Japan
- Dr. Ir. Azmi Mat Akhir, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General of ASEAN for Institutional Affairs and Special Duties
- Dr. Anne Ancia, UN Regional Co-ordinator for Influenza in Asia-Pacific

3.45 - 4.15 p.m.

Discussion

4.15 - 4.30 p.m.

Coffee break

4.30 - 5.15 p.m.

Special Session

- Keynote Speech by H.E. Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
- Speech by H.E. Dr. Dimitrij Rupel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia
- Speech by H.E. Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary-General
- Speech by H.E. Ambassador Jan Deboutte, Head of Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium

7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Reception hosted by H.E. Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand at Vimansuriya Room

Wednesday, 26 April 2006

9.30 - 11.00 a.m.

Session 3: Challenges and opportunities for regional co-operation for global human security

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Yukio Takasu, Ambassador in Charge of Human Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Rapporteur: Mr. Alexandru Ene, Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE

- Threats to human security, including organized crime, corruption and trafficking in persons and drugs
- Regional response to human security threats

Speakers (10 minutes each):

- Mr. Jong Kook Lee, Deputy Director-General for Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea
- H.E. Mr. Azizuddin Ahmadzadah, Director of the Fourth Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan
- H.E. Ambassador Christian Falkowski, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the International Organizations in Vienna
- Mr. Roy Kamphausen, Director, National Security Affairs, United States National Bureau of Asian Research

11.00 - 11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Discussion

12.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Luncheon hosted by H.E. Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary-General, at Vimansuriya Room

2.30 - 3.45 p.m.

Concluding session

Co-Chair: H.E. Ambassador Jan Deboutte, Head of
Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Belgium

H.E. Mr. Kulkumut Singhara Na Ayudhaya,
Director-General, Department of European
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Rapporteurs' reports of sessions 1 to 3

Chairpersons' summary

3.45 - 4.00 p.m.

Coffee break

4.00 - 4.30 p.m.

Closing remarks

- H.E. Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary-General
- Mr. Kulkumut Singhara Na Ayudhaya, Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

4.30 p.m.

Closing of the Conference

2 Concluding summary by the Co-Chairpersons

At the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and pursuant to the decision (PC.DEC/718) of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) of 19 January 2006, the 2006 OSCE-Thailand Conference on Challenges to Global Security: From Poverty to Pandemic was held in Bangkok on 25 and 26 April 2006. This was the OSCE's second joint conference with Thailand, following the 2002 OSCE-Thailand Conference on The Human Dimension of Security, held in Bangkok on 20 and 21 June 2002. The Conference also followed the Thailand Conference on Sharing of Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: Opportunities for Co-operation, hosted by Thailand on 16 and 17 June 2005 in Bangkok.

A keynote address was given by H.E. Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and special addresses were delivered by H.E. Dr. Dimitrij Rupel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, H.E. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE, and H.E. Ambassador Jan Deboutte, Head of Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium. The Conference was co-chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jan Deboutte, Head of Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, and Mr. Kulkumut Singhara Na Ayudhaya, Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

Thirty OSCE participating States took part, including many representatives from the delegations in Vienna. Five Asian and two Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation were represented. Six member States of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and seven international organizations participated in the Conference as observers.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Suphamongkhon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, outlined Thailand's role in co-operation with the OSCE to address the human dimension of security, highlighting the efforts Thailand had invested in organizing the Conference at a time when urgent attention to human security threats was called for. He maintained that emerging non-traditional threats had implications for humanity that were increasingly complex and just as profound as those posed by traditional threats. He then called for increased and concerted efforts to pool resources and network co-operation among nations at both the regional and the global levels in order to tackle such new challenges, and most of all, prevent them from becoming serious threats worldwide.

Dr. Rupel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, emphasized the need to intensify co-operation with the Asian Partners and gave an overview of the active role that Slovenia had played while exercising the Chairmanship of the OSCE in the past year. Referring to the OSCE's assistance to the election process in Afghanistan, he noted that it sent a strong political signal that the OSCE was ready to go "out of area" when common security stakes required the Organization to do so. He stressed that, although the OSCE was neither a development nor a health organization, it could contribute through its own distinctive approach to reducing the risks posed by poverty and pandemics. He further pointed out that economic development afforded the main solution to the problem of poverty, and that the role of international organizations lay in that area, among others, with a view to removing the obstacles for the business sectors.

Mr. Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General, provided his assessment of developments in the OSCE's dialogue with the Asian Partners, and posed some questions which he hoped would be addressed during the conference, namely:

- How the OSCE could further promote co-operation with its Asian Partners in order to counter the threats from poverty to pandemics;
- What the OSCE could do to further support Afghanistan and Mongolia in their efforts to achieve high standards of implementation of OSCE commitments and norms;
- Whether there was a need to establish a crisis-response network as a mechanism to co-ordinate immediate action in the case of specific threats to security, including those arising from poverty and pandemics; and
- Whether concrete follow-up could be given to the recommendations made at OSCE-Korea Conference in 2005, regarding the deepening dialogue between the OSCE and the ARF.

In the last special address, Ambassador Deboutte noted that the issues of poverty and pandemics were embodied in the broader context of human security, but also in the broader context of the OSCE's comprehensive security. Both poverty and pandemics were classical security threats according to the OSCE's understanding. They were of a transnational character: they knew no boundaries and, in true OSCE fashion, required a concerted and multidisciplinary approach. He further reiterated the Belgian Chairmanship's commitment to strengthening the OSCE's dialogue with its Asian Partners and noted the active steps it had taken to promote the creation of a partnership fund aimed at promoting intensified participation by the Asian Partners in OSCE activities and supporting their efforts to implement selected and relevant OSCE commitments.

The work of the Conference was conducted in three sessions: (1) The changing face of global security: reflections and perspectives; (2) Poverty to pandemic: countering threats to regional security; and (3) Challenges and opportunities for regional co-operation for global human security.

A summary of each session is given below in the Rapporteurs' reports.

In their final summary of the Conference, the Co-Chairmen highlighted the following main points and suggestions, taking into consideration the discussions during the Conference:

- Over the more than 30 years since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE had developed into a complex organization having at its heart a comprehensive approach to security. The OSCE participating States remained committed to promoting security, co-operation, good governance, democracy, tolerance and human rights.
- Moreover, security in one region could not be seen in isolation from events in the world around it. Therefore, the OSCE participating States greatly valued relations with the OSCE Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, with whom they shared common goals and objectives. The annual OSCE Conference in Asia was the climax of the work between the OSCE and its Asian Partners. During the Conference, various concepts had been floated for promoting a more permanent structure for the OSCE's work with the Asian Partners, while taking into account the respect for regional ownership.

- The theme of the Conference, “Challenges to Global Security: From Poverty to Pandemic” had been and was still necessary as well as timely: The progress made by Asian countries towards reaching the millennium development goals (as shown by recent statistical data) brought hope that the scourge of poverty could be overcome in the foreseeable future.
- However, the outbreak of pandemics might constitute additional obstacles to reaching those goals. That issue had rightly been identified as posing new threats to security.
- At the Conference, the participants extensively discussed the definitions of comprehensive security and human security. A valuable exchange of experience and best practices in dealing with such challenges was conducted, concluding that both concepts were still evolving, and becoming broader in scope and depth as globalization continued to bring forth unprecedented tests to humanity.
- What was important for each country was its willingness and ability to identify the true causes and nature of each specific problem. At the same time, policy-makers needed to be persistent and consistent in finding best solutions as well as in seeking co-operation at both the regional and the wider international levels, in order to help make each approach as pragmatic and comprehensive as possible.
- That was what Thailand had always believed in, gaining valuable experience from such an approach. Thailand’s approach was to intensify its efforts to combat infectious diseases, organized crime and trafficking in human being and drugs, as well as strengthening cross-border security and adopting related regulatory measures.
- Many participants expressed interest in Thailand’s experience in community-based development. Thailand would be happy and honoured to share further details of its experience at a later stage. The idea of community-based development might be chosen as the main theme of a future OSCE conference with an Asian Partner. Community-based development provided a more proactive approach to human security, focusing on the elimination of poverty.
- In response to the OSCE Secretary General’s initial questions posed earlier in the special session, it was clear that both the Asian and the European partners would benefit greatly from enhancing their co-operation in order to counter threats of poverty and pandemics. Intensifying closer, more open and regular dialogue between governments, but also involving the private and academic sectors, would be instrumental in that regard.
- The Conference also proposed that concrete links be established between the ARF and the OSCE, emphasizing Track II dialogue.
- The focus areas for dialogue between the respective regions should include both immediate threats and preventive and long-term approaches to human security. A common understanding of threats to security between Asia and Europe must first be established in order to find a common response to security problems. The proposal for the establishment of a crisis-response network as a mechanism to co-ordinate immediate action in the case of specific threats to human security would therefore be an area of significant relevance for all.

The participants thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the OSCE for jointly organizing and hosting the Conference, expressing their gratification at its successful outcome. The Kingdom of Thailand was particularly thanked for the warm hospitality extended to all the participants.

3 Reports by session rapporteurs

3.1 Session One: Changing face of global security: reflections and perspectives

— Applicability of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century

Report by Arturo Pérez Martínez, Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE

The Moderator commenced the session by pointing out that many aspects of global security were well known, but that there were some new threats, such as those linked to poverty and communicable diseases. To cope with them, international co-operation was more and more important.

The representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) underlined the important role of the Partners for Co-operation, all the more since our world was now globalized. Ever since 1975, the OSCE's generic task had been to build bridges between parties. During the Bulgarian OSCE Chairmanship, bridges had been built across the Caucasus and over the Caspian Sea, extending OSCE's action as far as Afghanistan and Mongolia. He proposed admitting the OSCE's Partners as participating States and referred to Australia and New Zealand as natural allies. In that context, China would be a privileged neighbour, and India an indirect member. Such an enlargement would entail benefits for Europe by bringing the spirit of tolerance in Asia, and for Asia by expanding dialogue to an enlarged region. It would further benefit the OSCE by allowing it to acquire an even more transnational character. He went on to stress that the OSCE PA played an important role through its relationship with NGOs. On behalf of the President of the OSCE PA, he invited Asian members of parliament to participate in the OSCE PA's annual meeting in July. In conclusion, he reiterated that security was indivisible and security in Asia was linked to that in Europe. In his opinion, the future of the OSCE lay in Eurasia, and that was why he supported Kazakhstan's bid for the OSCE's Chairmanship in 2009 and at the same time praised Thailand as a developer of "mega-projects".

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Dr. Helga Konrad, OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and Dr. Rakhat Aliyev, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, were unable to deliver their statements in person. However, the Moderator circulated them among the participants. In her contribution, Dr. Konrad stressed the seriousness of trafficking in children, women and illegal migrants, an issue that was still not being adequately tackled. States should change their perception of the victims and distinguish trafficking in human beings from smuggling of them. Co-ordination of efforts was also essential to provide greater focus. Dr. Aliyev's contribution dealt with inter-ethnic and inter-religious tolerance, social integration and protection of the rights of migrants, which posed a challenge for the OSCE at a time of major movements of population in a global world. The issue of a possible clash of civilizations was often brushed aside for reasons of political correctness. Integration should not be separated from fighting segregation while retaining diversity. Finally, the statement referred to the forthcoming high-level OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting on Promoting Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious

and Inter-Ethnic Understanding, to be held in Almaty, and Kazakhstan's bid for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2009.

The representative of the United Kingdom recalled his personal experience of Thailand and the CSCE in the 1980s. A decade later, the second CSCE summit had brought the Cold War to a close. All the participants had confirmed their commitment to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. Now the pendulum had swung back again. It was proving difficult to sustain consensus on democratic elections. That was at the centre of the debate on OSCE reform. But there was consensus on the need for the OSCE to play its part in dealing with what were new threats to security in Europe, such as terrorism, trafficking in human beings and transnational organized crime. There was also consensus on the importance of extending outreach to OSCE's Partners for Co-operation such as Thailand. He invited the participants to consider the prospects for a regional security organization such as the OSCE in Asia, and ways of building on the OSCE's experience in specific fields, such as confidence- and security-building measures and turning police forces into police services, as well as trafficking and border security. In conclusion, he recalled the valuable contribution made to the OSCE by NGOs such as Amnesty International, Transparency International and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The last speaker, the representative of the ASEAN Secretariat, dealt with the sense of community being prompted by ASEAN and the need for members to work together on the basis of clear priorities. He stressed how ASEAN co-operated against threats by applying a comprehensive security concept, and pointed out the importance of new ones, such as environmental degradation and transnational crimes, including terrorism and illicit drug trafficking and trafficking in persons. However, he expressed concern about poverty and infectious diseases, despite progress in the area, with special reference to education, awareness, voluntary work and avian influenza. Regional co-operation was important, but with a global perspective in mind.

The ensuing discussion dealt with how globalization, apart from freedom and progress, also gave rise to disappointment and injustice. Poverty affected security and stability. For one delegation, it was important to remain aligned with the aims of the UN Millennium Declaration and respect the commitments to deal with terrorism in an efficient manner. The representative further complained about the situation in Kosovo and the states of its minorities, and warned that the solutions advocated by some parties concerning the province's future could destabilize the region. The OSCE, in that sense, should be the guarantor of stability and security.

The Thai experience in regional co-operation to face HIV/AIDS, SARS and avian influenza was mentioned.

One delegation referred to the need to contemplate security from different points of view. Globalization required a comprehensive approach to dealing with security issues. The rational use of water, poverty and pandemics were new issues. Concern was expressed about the growing trend towards protectionism in trade.

Another delegation also referred to the Millennium Development Goals and described how its country was struggling against poverty, for reform of infrastructures and towards transition to a market economy, and draw attention to the need for international co-operation and sustainable development.

A third delegation welcomed the comprehensive concept of security adopted by the OSCE as well as by ASEAN, broadening the scope of security. However, it believed that human security went beyond security co-operation at the State level and extended to providing for security of individuals and peoples. When thinking about future Asian security arrangements, Asian ownership was the paramount consideration. The Asian-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) had gone beyond its original mandate of trade and investment to include human security in its work. The ASEAN Regional Forum or the East Asian Summit might serve as a good basis for further arrangements of broader co-operation.

A fourth delegation expressed gratitude to the OSCE for the help received in becoming a Partner for Co-operation, and mentioned climatic change and its disastrous aftermath as a new threat.

Some delegations recalled the history of the changes undergone by international law and the international community throughout the twentieth century. Mention was also made of the two world wars and the collapse of the Soviet bloc as the century's milestones. In a now changed situation, it was necessary to think of a way forward with special reference to the role of the OSCE's Partners for Co-operation that would allow full ownership by them.

Another delegation showed interest in a comparison between the Asian co-operation experience and the integration movement in Europe and inquired about the ARF.

An Asian delegation outlined the 13 years of existence of the ARF and its contribution to understanding, information-sharing and good practices in the area of reducing tensions through its many past and future meetings at various levels. However, it had yet to reach consensus on a possible development from the current stage of confidence-building measures to one of preventive diplomacy. To that end, a group of expert and eminent persons would take the lead to provide new momentum for the future development of the ARF in 2006.

Another delegation added that the ARF dealt more and more with so-called "soft security matters" and referred to its forthcoming meetings in Hanoi (about avian flu) and Beijing (about terrorism and transnational crime). The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and APEC were also seized of those matters and co-operation among them would be necessary to avoid overlapping.

Finally, one delegation stated that the ARF had been present at the Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana in 2005 and that future co-operation with the OSCE could be envisaged, given the new situation in the world.

3.2 Session Two: Poverty to pandemic: Countering threats to regional security

- Identification of threats to regional security
- Use of the OSCE acquis in responding to regional threats

Report by Jean-Michel Vidal, Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE

The second session focused on the identification of new threats to regional security with specific emphasis on poverty and pandemics of infectious diseases, such as avian influenza.

The first speaker, Mr. Chamman Wattanasiri, Chief of the International Relations Subdivision in the Ministry of the Interior of Thailand, emphasized the importance of community development, presenting the Thai experience on poverty alleviation and lessons learnt in relation to poverty reduction, particularly in rural communities. The Department of Community Development had very well trained staff and used sociological knowledge to work with rural communities.

The second speaker, Dr. Anna Ancia, UN Co-ordinator for Influenza in the Asia Pacific Region, provided an update on the avian influenza outbreaks around the world, identifying scenarios for the possible spread of a pandemic. She also presented the UN's response to the threat, focusing on the UN Strategy and Action Plan. She stressed the need for integrated country plans and for an effective co-ordination at the country, interagency and intercountry levels. She also pledged more technical and financial assistance and encouraged countries to share experience and elaborate strategies.

The third speaker, Ambassador Yukio Takasu from Japan, also addressed the issue of avian influenza on behalf of Mr. Kiyosu Taniguchi, who had been unable to participate in person. He recommended strategic actions for responding to the threat of a pandemic by improving the early warning system and accelerating the development of a vaccine. He pointed out that global efforts had been made to strengthen national capacity and called for effective co-ordination between bilateral and multilateral approaches. He referred to a seminar that would take place in Hanoi in May 2006 on that particular topic.

The fourth speaker, Ambassador Brendan Moran, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE, welcomed the importance that was being attached to the issue of HIV/AIDS in the region. HIV/AIDS continued to be the biggest single obstacle to reducing poverty and to attaining the Millennium Development Goals. The key challenges in the coming years would be to sustain and increase the level of resources allocated to HIV/AIDS activities. He further noted the role of women in dealing with the consequences of poverty and pandemics and the significant progress that had been made at the international level to make the issue of women more visible, especially with the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and its implementation by the OSCE. In that context, three decisions had been adopted at the Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana in 2005. One recognized the positive role which women could play in the implementation of OSCE projects and activities. The second dealt with the problem of violence against women, including domestic violence, and the third dealt with the sensitive role of peacekeepers in relation to the sexual exploitation of women and children. He also outlined the findings of the report on ways of developing an institutional capacity to respond on a systematic basis to gender-based violence, launched in November

2005 by a former Irish President and the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Mary Robinson. He finally raised the issue of trafficking and particularly trafficking of children that affected OSCE participating States and Partners.

In the ensuing discussion, several delegations showed interest in the experience that had been acquired by Thailand and its concept of community development. One delegation expressed the desire to introduce the Thai model in its own country.

One delegation pointed out that, although it was important to face problems caused by a pandemic, it was also necessary not to lose sight of the more traditional threats to security, namely, corruption, deficiencies in the rule of law, trafficking in persons and drugs and violation of human rights. The same delegation also recalled that the report on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, on the implementation of PC.DEC/571/Corr.1, submitted to the twelfth Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia (PC.DEL/366/04/Rev.4), provided an extensive list of possible joint projects and activities. Therefore, there was now a need to establish a short list of priorities for 2006 and 2007. The decision on the establishment of a partnership fund, if adopted, would also help to enhance co-operation with Partners.

Another delegation suggested developing co-operation in the area of travel document security.

The representative of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities pointed out that non-traditional security issues were more complex to address and mentioned the specific role of the OSCE field missions in that regard. He also mentioned that the OSCE had developed a number of concrete activities and projects aimed at strengthening good governance, addressing economic aspects of trafficking, developing best practices with regard to migration policies and fighting corruption as well as money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Regarding the fight against HIV/AIDS, one delegation raised the question of the future of the individuals infected by the virus. One last delegation called for increased co-operation on the issue of trafficking in human beings.

The Moderator concluded by saying that, although poverty reduction and pandemics were not directly on the OSCE agenda, a good number of OSCE activities had an impact on those issues, especially conflict prevention, good governance, the rule of law, tolerance and non discrimination, the fight against organized crime and the promotion of human rights in general.

3.3 Session Three: Challenges and opportunities for regional co operation for global human security

- Threats to human security, including organized crime, corruption and trafficking in persons and drugs
- Regional response to human security threats

Report by Alexandru Ene, Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE

The third session was moderated by H.E. Ambassador Yukio Takasu, Ambassador in charge of Human Security Matters in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. In his introduction, he recalled the major initiatives for promoting human security at the global and regional levels. He argued that the conventional security agenda should be broadened to include individual security and stressed the attention paid by the Asian countries to that matter. Freedom from fear and freedom from want were the two basic major freedoms. He went on to offer a working definition for a common understanding of the concept with a view to operationalizing co-operation in the area of human security and spoke of the emerging global relevance of the concept in conflict and post-conflict situations, pointing out that no State was able to tackle such threats alone. At the end of his introductory remarks, he expressed the hope that the discussion would be fruitful and that some recommendations and ideas would emerge from it.

The speakers concentrated mainly on threats to human security, including organized crime, corruption and trafficking in persons and drugs, as well as regional responses to those threats. Two of the speakers were not able to participate in person due to unforeseen circumstances, but their interventions were nonetheless distributed and discussed.

The first speaker, Mr. Jong Kook Lee, Deputy Director-General for Policy Planning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, discussed the shift in the security paradigm in the Northeast Asian region. While in Europe the era of conventional conflicts was becoming a subject for the history books, the Korean peninsula still had to come to grips with traditional threats inherited from the past. At the same time, it was facing non-conventional threats arising out of globalization. He went on to describe the regional responses to threats to human security and stressed the important role played by comprehensive documents such as the Busan Declaration. Turning to interregional co-operation, he said that possible steps towards broadening the co-operation between the OSCE and regional forums such as the ARF might include cross-participation in each other's security dialogues and possible secondments by Asian Partners to the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

The second speaker, Mr. Azizudin Ahmadzada, Acting Director of the Fourth Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, argued that human security was not the problem of a single State, but rather a broader issue which required global joint action. Conferences such as the present one needed to aim not only at discussing human security but also at finding ways and means for regional and international co-operation. He asked what the OSCE and its Asian Partners could do to best mobilize their energies and capabilities to combat vicious phenomena associated with human security

issues. Among Afghanistan's most pressing problems, those related to terrorism, long porous borders and a deteriorated security infrastructure were the most significant. As the country was now firmly engaged on the road towards democratization, the experience acquired since Afghanistan had become a Partner in 2003 had proved that much could be achieved by working in partnership with the OSCE. The Organization had already concretely assisted Afghanistan by deploying an Election Support Team to the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2004 and 2005 respectively. It had also provided border management expertise. He also informed the participants of Afghanistan's readiness to host the next OSCE Conference with the Asian Partners in 2007 in Kabul.

The third intervention, the text of which was distributed on behalf of Mr. Arkhom Termittayapaisith, Deputy Secretary General of the National Economic and Social Development Board of Thailand, focused on the measures undertaken by the Thai authorities to reap the benefits of globalization while minimizing the negative aspects of an increasingly interdependent world. Thailand was actively extending assistance to neighbouring countries. The so-called Thailand's Hub for Integrated National Knowledge (THINK), as well as the Ayeyarwady–Chao Phraya–Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy (ACMEC) scheme, were particularly useful in providing countries such as the Union of Myanmar, the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, Cambodia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam with know-how and expertise in the fields of development and technical assistance. Those initiatives were open to the participation of other relevant actors. This "forward engagement" policy placed particular emphasis on the human security of the peoples in the region.

The statement distributed on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Christian Falkowski, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the International Organizations in Vienna, touched on the European experience that had led to the establishment of security in Europe based on three requirements, namely genuine democracy, political compromise and genuine multilateralism. Civil society might play a stimulating role in the debates concerning the promotion of confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution mechanisms in the region. It might also prove instrumental in providing the ARF with the necessary tools to help it evolve into an organization promoting sustainable development and the eradication of violence.

The third speaker, Mr. Roy Kamphausen, Director for National Security Affairs at the United States National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), called for the enlivening of governmental approaches to new and emerging security risks and challenges through the active input of a possible Asian academic network. Experts could be drawn from the AccessAsia database at the NBR. He advocated the idea of holding an "OSCE for Asia assessment conference" in order to consider the applicability of OSCE processes to Asia. Such an exercise could be held in Tokyo, Seoul or Ulaanbaatar. The exercise would be a longer-term undertaking that would afford participants the opportunity to discuss afresh new and creative approaches specific to Asia.

During the ensuing debate, participants contributed to a lively discussion, which brought about a valuable exchange of information on the various events the participating countries were planning to organize. The Asian Partners proposed organizing a side-event at the 2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Support was voiced for the Secretary General's proposal on establishing a partnership fund that would provide the Partner States with the means to participate in OSCE projects.

Participants also argued that the time might be ripe for more intensified interaction between the OSCE and the ARF, as had also been mentioned by the OSCE Secretary General at the special session.

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