

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



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Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT BY FREDERICKA GREGORY, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES  
ON THE 2009 UNIFIED BUDGET PROPOSAL  
735TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
16 OCTOBER 2008**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Canada would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the Secretary General for his presentation of the Unified Budget Proposal for 2009. Canada would also like to express its gratitude to the Secretariat and to all the Fund Managers and their staff for their hard work in delivering this proposal. Overall, Canada is satisfied with the programming choices and the regional focus being proposed.

Canada would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its long-standing position of zero nominal growth with no increase for inflation with respect to its assessed contribution. Canada is, however, amenable to a reallocation in funding priorities providing that this does not exceed the contribution limit. Canada recognizes the vital importance of the OSCE and its related institutions and will continue to be a strong supporter of OSCE activities and contributions towards peace and security.

Recent events in the Caucasus have demonstrated the value of an OSCE presence in this important region. To support peace and stability in the region, it is essential that we continue to promote activities related to conflict prevention, democratization, civil-society capacity development, confidence-building and monitoring activities. Specifically, Canada supports an increase in programming for military monitoring activities in Georgia.

In 2009, our esteemed colleagues from Kazakhstan will begin preparations to assume the important responsibilities and obligations of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010. The lead up year to this Chairmanship will be an important opportunity to strengthen OSCE activities in Central Asia; heighten the profile and awareness of the OSCE in the region; and facilitate the region's desire to assume greater ownership and engagement of the OSCE's work.

Canada will continue to support activities related to policing and border management programming in conjunction with our commitment to strengthen engagement with Afghanistan.

In conjunction with the OSCE proposal, Canada believes that funding activities in the Balkans could be re-evaluated in order to compensate for increased activities in other

regions. Canada believes the proposed level of activity and programming for field missions in Eastern Europe is on target.

The important work and contributions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner for National Minorities cannot be understated and Canada would like to express its ongoing support and commitment to these essential institutions.

To strengthen ODIHR's technical cooperation activities with participating States, Canada believes greater emphasis should be placed on providing additional support to the democratization programme. Additional funding towards ODIHR election monitoring missions should also be encouraged given the value and growing importance of election observation in the OSCE region.

Canada is pleased to see a greater allocation of resources directed towards the Office of the Special Representative in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The rising demand for the expertise of this Office is indicative of its growing importance. Canada would also like to encourage the provision of additional funds to the Gender-Issues unit as well as the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA).

To conclude, Canada would like to address the issue of OSCE administrative costs. The need to address the issue of staff costs and proper compensation has become more evident of late. In this regard, Canada would propose a policy that is reflective of the financial realities of a globalized marketplace, one that takes into account the various factors that assist in the formulation of an effective OSCE mandate.

Mr. Chairperson, Canada looks forward to discussing the budget proposal in further detail over the coming weeks. Canada remains hopeful and optimistic that a consensus will be reached on the 2009 Budget Proposal in a timely fashion.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.