



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



**Concept Paper**

**Rationale**

The concept of comprehensive security has always been at the heart of the OSCE's philosophy and action. With the rapid expansion of globalization and the emergence of new security threats, the traditional conceptual approach towards security is being challenged. This requires strengthened knowledge and understanding of traditional and new threats to security. This is particularly true for Asia, Europe and North America who in recent years have witnessed the proliferation of non-traditional security threats such as trafficking in human-beings, drugs, HIV/AIDS, piracy, SALW, illegal migration, SARS and Avian Influenza.

The UN High - level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change chaired by former Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun of Thailand, issued a report in December 2004 entitled "A more secure world: Our shared responsibility", which classifies "poverty, infectious disease and environmental degradation" as one among six clusters of threats which the world must be concerned about now and in the decades ahead.

Similarly, the UN Secretary-General's report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" reiterated that poverty and denial of human rights are factors that greatly increase the risk of instability. Poverty leads to human insecurity by limiting people's chances of obtaining higher education, better jobs and increased income. Deprived of opportunities to ensure a secure future for themselves and their families, individuals become more vulnerable and at risk of being lured into the network of transnational organized crime and terrorism. To this effect, a UN Review Conference will be held in 2006 on Implementation of the Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in which the OSCE continues to play a leading role. Poverty is also a contributing factor to human and drug trafficking that are threats to individual, national, regional and global security. Thailand places great importance on solving the transboundary trafficking issue as addressed in the 2002 OSCE - Thailand Conference on "Human Dimension of Security" and the 2005 Thailand Conference on "Sharing Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: Opportunities for Cooperation"<sup>1</sup>

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- The 2002 OSCE - Thailand Conference on "Human Dimension of Security" during 20-21 June 2002 addressed the social and economic aspects of trafficking in human beings and drug trafficking, the current practices of the international organizations in each region and future prospects for cooperation between the two regions.

- The Thailand Conference on "Sharing Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: Opportunities for Cooperation", in cooperation with the OSCE, during 16-17 June 2005 addressed the overview of the situation in Asia and Europe, law enforcement measures and models for co-operation .

The outbreak of new deadly infectious diseases in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as HIV/AIDS, SARS and Avian Influenza, has caused many countries to strengthen their capacity to fight against these pandemics. The recent spread of the H5N1 virus caused by migratory birds to Europe has alerted governments of the need for global cooperation and the necessity of effective prevention through a strengthened programme of regional cooperation. An insufficient capacity to fight against the pandemic in any single country, especially the poor countries, might worsen the situation.

### **Objectives**

- To identify areas which are a threat to global security.
- To examine contributing factors to global insecurity in all its different forms.
- To review the current situation and explore possible solutions to the problems.
- To exchange views, best practices and success stories in each region.
- To explore future prospects for regional cooperation towards eradicating human trafficking, trafficking in drugs and SALW, illegal migration, and other manifestations of new security threats.
- To promote networking among the relevant actors in participating and Partner States of the OSCE.

### **Modalities**

- Two full-day conference and a one-day field trip programme to Ayutthaya for interested participants. (free of charge)
- Four plenary sessions.
- Three speakers, a moderator and a rapporteur for each session. Each speaker will be allowed 10 minutes for his/her presentation. There will be a Q&A at the end of each session and a fifteen-minute coffee break after the completion of presentation and before the Q&A.
- Details of participation, the agenda and a tentative programme of the conference as outlined in the OSCE document PC.DEC/718 dated 19 January 2006.
- Venue: Hotel Dusit Thani, 946 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10500, THAILAND.

### **Annotated Agenda**

#### **Session 1: The Changing Face of Global Security: Reflections and Perspectives**

##### Possible areas of discussion

- Examining global insecurity, its manifestations as well as the social, economic and political context in which it occurs.
  - Applicability of the OSCE strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century
  - Review of new forms of threats to global security to inform participants of the overall picture and new developments in each region. Discussions
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will then later shift to focusing on poverty, pandemic and other threats in the following sessions.

- Exchange of views on future perspectives of global security.

## **Session 2: Poverty to Pandemic: Countering Threats to Regional Security**

### Possible areas of discussion

- Identification of threats to regional security: relevant threats can be identified for an in-depth discussion, focusing on how governments can best respond.
- Use of the OSCE acquis in responding to regional threats: discussions could focus on the capacity of the OSCE to identify, analyse and take co-ordinated action in response to threats, further development of co-operation among participating and partner States in various areas, including other international organizations and institutions.
- Poverty eradication: Poverty is one of the major threats to human security and is a contributing factor to trafficking in drugs and human beings, terrorism and transnational organized crime. Discussions could include an overview of poverty and the economic situation in relevant regions, and an exchange of views on promoting human security, the role of regional organizations as catalysts to economic development and proposals for follow-up.
- Fight against pandemics (i.e. Avian Influenza, HIV/AIDS, SARS): Topics for discussion in this session may include, among others, reviewing the threat of pandemics to regional and global security, overview of the current situation, and an exchange of views on the best practices in introducing preventive measures by governments, the role of regional / international organizations and state actors in fighting against these pandemics to promote global human security.

## **Session 3: Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Co-operation for Global Human Security**

### Possible areas of discussion

- Threats to human security, including organized crime, SALW, corruption and trafficking in persons and drugs.
- Regional response to human security threats, including an examination of the best developmental strategies in each region. Exchanges of best practices, joint cooperative programmes, etc.
- Explore areas of co-operation between Asia, Europe and North America.

## **Session 4: Concluding Session**

- Summary by Chairpersons/Moderators of the three main sessions.

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