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**730th Meeting of the Permanent Council
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Human Security Network**

Mr. Chairman,

At the Ministerial Meeting of the Human Security Network in Athens on 30 May this year Ireland assumed the chair of the Network in succession to Greece. I should like to inform the Permanent Council briefly about our priorities for the Network in the coming year. In addition to the ongoing work of the Network the core theme of Ireland's year in the chair will be gender-based violence. This is an issue which affects every society in every region of the world and which is particularly relevant in regions in conflict or post conflict situations. The first event on the subject was an international conference under the Network's auspices held in June at Cork University on the subject of "Reforming the Law on Sexual Violence: Using the Lessons of International Law."

A second event will be a Conference on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which will be held in Dublin on 17 November 2008. You will all recall that the elements of Resolution 1325 which are relevant to the OSCE were incorporated in Ministerial Council Decision 14 of 2005 adopted at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council. We should therefore hope to see a strong representation of participating states at that Conference.

Side events will also be organised in New York and Geneva to highlight the work of the network and a special event to mark International Women's Day on 8 March 2009 is under consideration.

Ireland and our partners in the Network and the friends of Human Security have always taken the view that the Human Security concept is directly relevant to the work of OSCE. The impact on Human Security is one of the criteria we use in evaluating programme proposals from the Secretariat, Institutions and Field Presences. Our work in this organisation in areas as diverse as human trafficking, de-mining, terrorism, policing and rule of law impacts directly on the human security of millions. We recognise that there is some reluctance to see the mainstreaming of the human security concept in OSCE activities and will continue our work to promote that idea.

It is the intention of our Asian Partners to hold a second Workshop on Human Security with the title "Human Security Projects in the OSCE Region" will be held here in Vienna at the end of September. Ireland is pleased to be among the sponsors of this workshop and urges all participating states to attend and support this valuable initiative.

Thank you Mr. Chairman