

**OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting on 5-6 December 2005  
in Ljubljana**

**Statement by Sweden delivered by State Secretary for Foreign Affairs  
Hans Dahlgren**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first thank the Chair for the very skilful way it has handled its duties throughout the year.

I would also want to say that we my support for the statement made by the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

Three of the hallmarks of the OSCE are its broad security policy concept, conflict prevention approach and field orientation, the OSCE is a great asset in the European security policy architecture. That is why Sweden actively participates in the ongoing process of strengthening the OSCE.

The broad membership of this organization is another great benefit. Participating States may be different in many ways, but we have the same rights, and duties, based on the same set of values.

The importance of the field presence of the OSCE can hardly be overestimated. The OSCE is there, through its missions and offices, on the spot, making a difference; concretely supporting participating States in developing human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

A particularly great value of the OSCE is its institutions. Their independence and autonomy is an imperative for us. However, this does not mean that they cannot, or should not, act in a transparent and accountable way.

The OSCE plays an essential role to find solutions to the frozen conflicts. All Participating States share this responsibility. In this context I would especially like to underline that the Istanbul commitments must be fulfilled.

Mr Chairman,

While we gathered in Sofia a year ago dramatic events were taking place in one of the participating States, Ukraine. Sweden warmly welcomes the democratic development in Ukraine and expects to see progress in this respect also elsewhere in that neighborhood.

As I just stated, the participating States share the same values. In this respect I deeply regret that in May this year the government of one of the participating States in a brutal and violent way attacked its own civilian citizens. The OSCE should follow this up through an independent inquiry of what happened in Andijan.

Mr Chairman,

We are pleased that the OSCE's work regarding Small Arms, Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition is becoming increasingly operational.

Mr Chairman,

The United Nations is one of the closest partners of the OSCE. From this follows that the OSCE should actively implement relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. One very important such resolution is UN SCR 1325 on Women and peace and security. In this resolution the OSCE is given a clear task. The decision on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, which we are to take here later today, is a natural step in the implementation.

The notion of gender must be present also in the work on the strengthening of the organization itself. It is our responsibility to make sure that the notion of gender mainstreaming is being properly reflected when we continue to work on the strengthening of the OSCE. Simply put, this is a must, if the OSCE is to remain a modern organization.