

OSCE Political Public-Private Partnership Conference: “Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism”

31 May – 1 June 2007 (Vienna, Austria)

**Closing Session
(Friday, 1 June 2007)**

Summary by the representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office

The Chairmanship wishes to share this document based upon its perception of the initiatives that have been put forward by participants in the OSCE Political Public-Private Partnership Conference: “Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism”, held in Vienna on 31 May and 1 June 2007.

I. General Introduction

- Participants emphasized that terrorism remains one of the top threats to the security of OSCE participating States and Partners. Participants shared a deep concern about the increase in terrorist acts throughout the world and their indiscriminate violence.
- Accordingly, participants reiterated their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, recalling that it can never be justified by any circumstance or motive, and highlighted that there must be no safe haven for those perpetrating it, financing it, or harboring or otherwise supporting those responsible for such criminal acts.
- Additionally, participants recalled that the identification of terrorism with any nationality or religion should be firmly rejected and it should be reaffirmed that action against terrorism is not aimed against any religion, nation or people.
- Participants called for effective, resolute and coordinated multilateral counterterrorism co-operation in the framework of international and regional organizations, and in accordance with the rule of law, the United Nations Charter and the relevant provisions of international law, international standards of human rights and, where applicable, international humanitarian law.
- Participants emphasized that this Conference was a contribution of the OSCE to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

II. Justification and Importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- Participants expressed their support for the G8 initiative to establish and foster an antiterrorist partnership of states and the business community. Additionally, they noted the outcomes of the Global Forum for Partnerships between States and Businesses to Counter Terrorism (Moscow 28/30 November 2006) and the resulting International Strategy.

- Participants underscored that the primary responsibility for preventing and countering terrorist threats, as well as for managing the consequences of terrorist acts, rests with States.
- However, participants acknowledged that given the nature and scale of today's constantly evolving terrorist threat, states alone cannot successfully counter terrorism in all relevant areas without the deployment of all elements of national power (diplomatic, military, financial/economic, intelligence and law enforcement) together with joint efforts of States, the business community and civil society as a whole. Such voluntary co-operation, based upon the principles of partnership and mutual trust, can be enhanced by taking due account of the relevant functions, tasks, and specific expertise of all partners involved.
- Enhanced public-private co-operation demands better information sharing mechanisms and the active dissemination of best practices in this respect.
- All sectors of society can benefit from working together to counter violent extremism and terrorism and their ideological justification.
- The private sector is a clear target for terrorists and its active involvement in support of counterterrorism can complement political, law enforcement, developmental, and other governmental activities already underway.
- Therefore, participants noted that states could have an important role to play in the articulation of trusted networks leveraging the entire professional and creative capacity of private citizens, youth organizations, educational networks, women's empowerment and local development initiatives, multilateral institutions and business entities that work collaboratively, under the rule of law, to reduce the threat from terrorism.
- Importantly, participants reiterated their solidarity with the victims of terrorism, their families and relatives, and appealed for increased efforts to establish effective dialogue and co-operation in the "states - businesses - civil society" format to develop effective measures to assist the victims of terrorism, including psychological rehabilitation, material compensation and risk insurance.
- Participants called on the OSCE to continue to promote PPPs in countering terrorism through its political discussions and practical activities.

III. Recommendations

- Participants acknowledged throughout the Conference the need for joint antiterrorist efforts by government bodies, civil society and business. They welcomed the discussion regarding models of continuous and active exchanges of information between them on issues regarding prevention, suppression and mitigation of terrorism.

Session 1 – Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) that promote economic stability and security and address underlying factors, such as social, political and economic conditions which terrorists exploit

- Participants acknowledged that in today's increasingly interconnected world, the pursuit of security interests, development efforts and promotion of democracy, rule of law and human rights are not separate and distinct activities, but rather demand an integrated approach, consistent with the three OSCE security dimensions.
- Participants found this Conference useful in its review of existing models of public-private partnerships that help combat terrorism, and its assessment of how furthering PPPs can advance the goals of increasing economic development and promoting of democracy and civil society, while protecting societies.

- Participants highlighted that there are various social, economic, political and other factors, such as poor governance, corruption, illegal economic activity, high unemployment, widespread poverty and large disparities, demographic factors and unsustainable use of natural resources that engender conditions in which terrorist organizations are able to exploit with their radical message and thus recruit and win support. Participants noted that a combined effort involving governments, civil society and business is necessary to enhance joint, independent or coordinated multi-disciplinary research on terrorism, including the studies of structural and other factors contributing to radicalization and recruitment of terrorists.
- Participants encouraged efforts to draw attention to public-private partnerships that can promote trade and investment into new regions and help turn conflict into co-operation and contribute to preventing terrorism. Because, in general, terrorists are non-state actors thriving among disaffected populations, private sector efforts can be at least as important as government activity. The private sector offers enormous potential in countering terrorism, including among other things economic resources and efficiencies reflected in fast and flexible responses to market and security conditions.
- While in most countries regulatory action has traditionally played the lead role in influencing private sector behavior, voluntary public-private partnerships that shape the risk environment through market-based incentives can complement a regulatory approach. The voluntary dialogue offers private sector organizations an opportunity to take concrete steps to contribute as reliable partners with governments in combating terrorism.
- Participants noted that PPPs are critical components of an effective and sustainable economic empowerment strategy in remote and developing regions. Therefore, they stressed the need to support private sector and NGO empowerment initiatives in such regions, as they can help address the economic malaise which can feed violence by offering employment as an alternative to terrorist militancy in post conflict areas, including those used as safe havens.
- Participants believe in the feasibility of engaging the private sector to help solve development problems, including by identifying existing gaps in order to reach innovative market-based solutions and building trade capacity, thus enabling developing countries to enter the global trade system.

Session 2 – PPPs that promote tolerance, human rights, the rule of law, democracy, good governance and inter-faith dialogue. PPPs with media and educational institutions that promote public awareness and outreach, while encouraging intercultural, inter-religious diversity.

- Participants underlined the need to address conditions that terrorists exploit, in particular by fully respecting democracy and the rule of law, by allowing all citizens to participate fully in political life, by preventing discrimination and encouraging intercultural and inter-religious dialogue in their societies, by promoting human rights and tolerance and by combating poverty.
- Participants stressed that promoting democracy, good governance and the rule of law provide the best long-term means of defeating terrorism by allowing greater segments of the population to participate in building their future.
- In this respect, NGOs play a vital role in stimulating accountable and democratic governance, and it is thus essential that governments work in co-operation with NGOs with a view to contributing in promoting democracy.

- Participants equally noted the need of all sectors of society to work together in order to raise awareness of the value of cultural and religious diversity as a source of mutual enrichment. In this regard, participants recognized the importance of the initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General on the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Participants acknowledged the pressing need to counter the increasingly active and efficient propaganda activities of terrorist groups and their ideologues, which manipulate and abuse interpretations of religious dogmas in order to radicalize and recruit new members, while at the same time promoting freedom of expression.
- Participants underscored that civil society and the private sector can have a key role in encouraging moderate attitudes, tolerance, and social integration, especially in the context of the media and the Internet, where discrediting terrorists is possible by promoting open and well informed discussion of the relevant issues, and by broadcasting messages that completely condemn terrorism, its apologists and its glorification.
- Furthermore, participants encouraged governments, the mass media, Internet-related businesses and civil society as a whole to develop an active and continuous dialogue, building on the framework and ideas discussed at this Conference, taking into account efforts in other frameworks, especially the G8 initiative for Partnerships between States and Businesses to Counter Terrorism.
- Participants also called on governments, civil society, the business community and religious institutions to combine efforts to promote moderation, tolerance and social integration through appropriate educational programmes drawing on OSCE good practice activities such as human rights education for the youth.
- Participants welcomed the entry into force on 1 June 2007 of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism - the international treaty which criminalizes public provocation to commit a terrorist offence as well as training and recruitment of terrorists - and called upon the OSCE participating States to consider the accession to this instrument.

Session 3 – PPPs to protect critical infrastructure (i.e., transportation, energy, port, border, aviation and cyber security) and address preparedness/consequence management issues.

- Participants identified the need to build public awareness to support a culture of preparedness and resilience in all elements of society, from governmental officials to private sector, local community representatives and individual citizens.
- In this respect, the development of educational and training programmes can ensure that professionals and organizations are capable of carrying out preparedness and consequence management responsibilities.
- Participants expressed support to follow-up action aimed at developing models to conduct risk assessments on critical infrastructures in the OSCE region and at lowering the costs of existing critical infrastructure protection-related capabilities through technological research and development.
- Participants further stated that Public Private Partnerships provide a means to take prevention, protection, or preparedness measures against potential terrorist acts, while also helping increase a nation's resilience in response to natural disasters.
- They also noted that PPPs can help provide a means to mitigate and respond to trade disruptions caused by terrorist attacks or natural disasters, including trade recovery efforts.
- It was highlighted that one essential characteristic of a successful Public Private Partnership is that it should provide clear benefits to all parties, including a shared and

valued outcome. These benefits constitute the “value proposition” of the Partnership and define the motivations and contributions that members bring to it.

- Participants added that the main risks that can cause premature termination of Public Private Partnerships include (inter alia) the mishandling of shared information between public and private participants, and the shifting of government or private sector partners’ goals.

Session 4 – PPPs to counter the financing of terrorism and address business-related risks (e.g. insurance, reputation) linked to terrorism.

- Participants underlined that commitments by financial institutions are of critical importance to fight the financing of terrorism effectively. In order to strengthen the multilateral framework against terrorist financing, such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, the efforts of the FATF-style regional bodies (FSRSBs), initiatives conducted by UNODC, the IMF and the World Bank, participants saw a strong need for state authorities to adopt and implement adequate legislation and regulations to better identify and disrupt financial flows supporting terrorism.
- The issue of illegal trafficking in stolen precious metals worldwide was raised as posing a highly dangerous potential threat of funding the terrorist and organise crime activities, as well as the need for effective international mechanisms to counter this criminal business practices.
- Furthermore, participants stressed that measures to ensure the transparency of the financial system, especially with regard to the activities of certain charitable organizations and other independent entities, can strengthen its integrity and reduce its vulnerability to terrorist abuse.