



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Uzbekistan, Ambassador Miroslav Jenca

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 24, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador Jenca, the United States supports fully the work done by the Project Coordinator in all three dimensions. We are pleased to learn that there are few bumps in the road, and we hope cooperation between the Government of Uzbekistan and the Project Coordinator will continue, and improve. .

The United States is eager to support the Project Coordinator and the Government of Uzbekistan in building democracy, improving respect for human rights, developing civil society, and creating the conditions in which democracy, as well as entrepreneurial activity can take root and flourish. We encourage the Government of Uzbekistan to draw upon the OSCE's expertise and assistance in meeting these challenges. To do so requires streamlining the currently lengthy process of consultations on new projects that has hindered our ability to help in this regard.

Taking steps against terrorism, while demonstrating commitment to OSCE principles on democratic practice, is also a high priority. As a step in promoting additional cooperation, we would like to encourage the Government of Uzbekistan to participate in the upcoming OSCE Conference on Public Private Partnerships by sending a high-level delegation; this will promote useful dialogue and exchange of ideas. The Project Coordinator could play a useful role in helping the Uzbekistan delegation prepare, so that it can explore fully the potential for public and private partnerships to address issues terrorists seek to exploit. Public-private partnerships can be an effective mechanism for supporting the rule of law and good governance, protecting human rights, and opposing terrorism. These are elements that should be an essential part of any nation's counterterrorism strategy.

Another important area for cooperation between the Government of Uzbekistan and the OSCE lies in the crucial area of border management and security. As in Kyrgyzstan, we hope that we will be able to draw on a successful border assessment in Uzbekistan to set the stage for improved border management and security throughout the region.

In closing, we would like to thank you, Ambassador Jenca, and your excellent team for all your efforts to promote OSCE Principles, which we are all committed to uphold. We wish success in this important work in Uzbekistan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.