



**Talking points by the Delegation of Azerbaijan at the Opening Session  
of the Annual Security Review Conference  
June 23, 2009**

- OSCE has everything to be successful and effective, except for implementation of decisions and observance of commitments.
- ASRC is a useful effort in evaluating the security environment in a way creating a balance in approaching three baskets of OSCE equally, but needs further to be developed.
- OSCE, despite difficulties and shortcomings, still represents the most appropriate framework for discussions on Pan-European/Euro-Atlantic security, and for taking consensus based decisions.
- End of bipolar system has been officially announced, nevertheless, nowadays we observe confronting positions, competing building-ups, opposing memberships.
- Systemic shortcomings should be scrutinized and addressed.
- Priority issue – Indivisibility of security, indivisibility of the OSCE area, inadmissibility of providing security to the detriment of the others, you are free doing anything not harming the others.
- Reshuffling the existing system? Do we have any?
- Treaties, commitments, decisions on arms control are seriously challenged and undermined by illegal acts of occupation and deployments.
- Indivisibility of security for NATO members (legally binding) is different from the one for OSCE (political).
- How many indivisibilities?

- Those who are or shall be set in one of political military groupings, existing or emerging in the OSCE area shall be in comfort under a collective defence umbrella.
- But this groupings-based competition will affect seriously those others who because of different kind of limitations cannot or will not join this or another collective defence institution.
- Security of those non-aligned in the OSCE area should be a major issue. Confirming principles and extending statements of support shall not be enough.
- Guarantees for security of non-aligned states of Euro-Atlantic area, recognized, committed to and observed by all collective defence institutions existing in the area of OSCE should be elaborated as a possible way to address security concerns.
- The so-called “superiority of one principle of Helsinki Decalogue over another” is an artificial statement. All principles in the Helsinki Final Act are equal and interconnected. Helsinki Final Act states the following with regard to the principles of territorial integrity of States and equal rights and self-determination of peoples:

“...The participating States will respect the territorial integrity of each of the participating States. Accordingly, they will refrain from any action inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations against the territorial integrity, political independence or the unity of any participating State, and in particular from any such action constituting a threat or use of force...”

“...The participating States will respect the equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination, acting at all times in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant norms of international law, including those relating to territorial integrity of States....”

The principle of territorial integrity was specifically enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act by the founding fathers of the OSCE, since it is the cornerstone of states’ very existence. The principle of refraining from the threat or use of force is also focused on the principle of territorial integrity of states, once more proving its role and place within the system of interstate relations.