

**Opening statement by
Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairperson of the Permanent Council
at 2008 Follow-up OSCE Public-Private Partnership Conference
Vienna, 15 September 2008**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chairman in Office I am honored to extend to all of you a warm welcome to this conference, which is the landmark of OSCE counter-terrorism activities this year. I am confident that it will build further momentum within the OSCE for the important work on the issue of Public-Private Partnerships in Combating Terrorism.

Several participating States were the initiators of the last year's high level political OSCE PPP Conference, among which the Russian Federation, the United States of America as well as the former Spanish Chairmanship. We are meeting today again thanks to their continuous support and I am pleased to welcome their representatives here at the head table next to me.

As many of you know, the 2007 PPP resulted in the adoption by all participating States of a Ministerial Council Decision in Madrid in November last year, tasking the Secretariat to organize the follow-up event, which we are opening today. Such continuity is fully in line with the identification of counter-terrorism as a priority area for multi-year planning over 2007-2011 by the Quintet of OSCE Chairmanships.

Let me briefly recall what we agreed on in Madrid with regard to Public-Private Partnerships in Combating Terrorism. States are primarily responsible for preventing and countering terrorism as well as for managing the consequences of terrorist acts, but they should draw on the support of the business community and civil society to successfully counter those threats. Joint counter-terrorist efforts by government bodies and the private sector should be in the form of voluntary co-operation and based upon the principles of partnership and mutual trust. It goes without saying that the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and compliance with applicable obligations under international law is of utmost importance in this regard.

Public-private partnerships can play an essential role in the fight against terrorism, and the OSCE is committed to promoting co-operation between states, the business community and civil

society to suppress terrorist financing, protect against terrorist attack and curb radicalization and violent extremism that lead to terrorism.

Today and tomorrow we will further explore the concrete potential for public-private partnerships in these specific fields. In the course of three sessions we will discuss possible cooperation with civil society and the media in countering terrorism and violent extremism, partnerships in protecting critical infrastructures and major events against terrorist attacks, as well as PPPs in countering the financing of terrorism. All of these areas are of course equally important.

Participating States might have different perceptions of the threats and how these partnerships should be established and used. This is why the platform offered by the OSCE is so valuable, providing a forum to exchange views and determine in which direction to move. In the spirit of PPPs, I am particularly pleased to welcome in our discussions today and tomorrow numerous representatives of civil society and the business community, bringing their expertise, experience and recommendations.

I would like to highlight again that the Quintet of OSCE Chairmanships considers multi-year planning as a key elements in strengthening the OSCE. With this in mind, we would encourage you to consider where the OSCE can move from here. We believe that with two major international conferences, momentum for PPPs has been built and allows us to start looking into some areas in depths. The Finnish Chairmanship is convinced that focused activities could be developed with OSCE's facilitation. I encourage you to express your thoughts on how the OSCE as a political organization with a multidimensional approach to security can further contribute to fostering PPPs in different counter-terrorism areas.

Let me conclude by wishing us a very productive meeting. I look forward to your contributions and our discussions, which will certainly give impetus and substance to further carry on concretely the promotion of public-private partnerships in countering terrorism.

Thank you.