



Second day of the Seventeenth Meeting
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DECISION No. 2/09
**FURTHER OSCE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL
THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO SECURITY AND STABILITY**

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that the evolving security environment in the 21st century, along with the process of globalization, create new threats and challenges to security and stability of transnational and multidimensional nature, which require comprehensive, multidimensional and collective responses,

Reaffirming that strict compliance with the international law and principles of the Charter of the United Nations remains the focus of efforts to prevent and combat threats to stability and security and that the UN Security Council bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and continues to play a crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the world,

Confident that the OSCE can make a real contribution to the development of co-operative responses to these challenges, drawing upon its broad membership, its thematic expertise and its signature concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Mindful that threats to security and stability in the OSCE region are more likely to arise as destabilizing consequences of developments that cut across the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions,

Bearing in mind that transnational threats to participating States can also stem from areas adjacent to the OSCE region, and as such require responses that are closely co-ordinated with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and relevant international and regional organizations,

Reaffirming the continued relevance of the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st century, which provides a multidimensional, comprehensive and co-operative basis for OSCE activities in this regard,

Commending the ongoing work of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation to address transnational threats, within their respective mandates,

Commending the active role played by the OSCE across its region in the field of transnational threats through its Secretariat, institutions and field operations as important instruments in assisting all participating States to implement their commitments in all three dimensions, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly on all relevant issues,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, and recognizing that strong democratic institutions and the rule of law play an important role in preventing transnational threats from arising,

Considering that inter-State and intra-State conflicts throughout the OSCE area may give rise to instability and other types of risks and threats, such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALWs, human rights violations, mass expulsion, deterioration of the socio-economic situation and illegal migration,

Recognizing that non-compliance with international law and with OSCE norms and principles, as well as a range of factors within the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions lie behind the immediate causes of violent conflicts,

Commending the OSCE's contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts, in particular in support of the UN efforts and through close co-operation with other international and regional organizations, as well as the OSCE's pioneering programmes in such areas as countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; promoting public-private partnerships to counter terrorism; enhancing travel document security and legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism; countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism; protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks,

Taking note of the OSCE's contribution to international efforts to fight organized crime, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, smuggling of migrants, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, as well as other transnational threats through the provision of relevant law enforcement expertise and assistance to the participating States,

Recalling our commitment to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; and taking note of the OSCE's police-related activities, including providing capacity building, democratic police training and training in key policing skills,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the OSCE border security and management activities on the basis of the 2005 OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening OSCE capacities to promote open and secure borders and enhancing mutually beneficial inter-State co-operation, where appropriate, as a means to address the threats of terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, and the illicit trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings,

Commending the progress achieved in the implementation of MC.DEC/4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and calling for intensified implementation of this decision,

Recognizing the willingness of participating States to promote a comprehensive OSCE approach to enhancing cyber security, as evidenced by the results of the March 2009 OSCE workshop on this issue,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat in assisting the participating States to address transnational threats and challenges in the economic and environmental dimension, including on such issues as illegal migration, good governance, transport, energy security, and security implications of environmental challenges,

Reaffirming that practices related to discrimination and intolerance, that can have their root in issues such as ethnic and religious tensions, aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia, and may also stem from racism, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, as well as lack of respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, both threaten the security of individuals and may give rise to wider-scale conflict and violence,

Recognizing that the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the OSCE area, including resulting from conflicts, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters, requires enhanced co-operation of all participating States and concerted action,

Recognizing the importance of the OSCE's comprehensive efforts to eradicate trafficking in human beings, and paying due tribute to the activities of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as other relevant OSCE executive structures, for their dedication in providing assistance to the participating States in addressing THB,

Recognizing that many threats of a politico-military nature, including those such as destabilizing accumulations of conventional weaponry, illicit transfers of arms and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, remain of great concern to the OSCE participating States,

Recognizing that the effort needed to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, is not confined to military means and welcoming the adoption of a Best Practice Guide on UNSCR 1540 by the Forum for Security Co-operation on 30 September 2009,

Fully recognizing that transnational threats and challenges, including inter-State and inter-organizational co-operation, remain an important topic of deliberations in the framework of the Corfu Process,

Decides to step up individual and collective efforts to address transnational threats to security in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, in accordance with the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century, making full use of the OSCE's expertise and comparative advantages;

Decides to explore further ways to strengthen synergies in OSCE activities against these threats, including by improving internal co-ordination, co-operation with OSCE Partners for Co-operation and by focusing on those areas where the OSCE can add value to

the work of the UN and complement activities of other international organizations, including on the basis of 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security;

Tasks all OSCE executive structures to intensify their efforts, within their current mandates and existing resources, to further consolidate the OSCE's cross-institutional responses to multidimensional threats to security, in particular in those areas which cut across the mandates of several executive structures;

Requests the Secretary General to explore ways to further strengthen programmatic co-ordination between the OSCE executive structures, as set out in MC.DEC/18/06, with particular focus on the OSCE's multidimensional activities to address transnational threats to security, building on the Secretariat's current mandates and within available resources, and to give a first overview on progress by 1 April and to make proposals to the Permanent Council on planning in this regard no later than 1 June 2010.