



## **Canadian statements to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference 23 June 2004**

### **Ruth Archibald, Senior Coordinator for International Crime and Counter Terrorism, Department of Foreign Affairs Canada**

#### Session 1 Preventing and Combating Terrorism

Canada is working in a number of fora on challenges of preventing and combating terrorism – we are especially active in the G8, the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Organization of American States (OAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum, and, of course, the OSCE.

From this perspective, and despite the now almost daily tragic examples of the threat of terrorism and terrorist acts against innocent civilians, we believe there has been, in many regions and sub-regions, a loss of momentum and agreement in the international effort to combat terrorism. Part of this loss of momentum is due to a lack of political will in some states to move beyond agreeable rhetoric to practical implementation measures – but part is also due to the growing cost and burden of additional security and anti-terrorism measures.

There is a danger that less well-off countries which fail to meet the new security standards, agreed in such organizations as ICAO, the IMO and the WCO, will increasingly be marginalized and excluded from international trade and transportation, from the global economy and global society.

Our challenge fighting terrorism is to eliminate the gaps between jurisdictions and within them, where terrorist and other criminals can hide and prosper. These new international norms and standards must be supported with both the will and the resources to effectively implement them around the globe.

We welcome and encourage the work of the OSCE with functional and other regional organizations to more effectively implement agreed norms and standards. Together with our G8 partners and other countries, we are determined to better coordinate our obligation to assist states in implementation of Security Council resolutions and new security standards. As part of the Canadian National Security Policy announced earlier this spring, a new Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Program with dedicated funding

was created to be administered by my Bureau within the Department of Foreign Affairs. We would hope to be able to build on our modest support to OSCE programming such as the workshop on MANPADS conducted earlier this year.

We discern a very strong interdependence between security, prosperity and democracy, including good governance and rule of law in the effort against terrorism. Each element relies on the other two for its success, and all three must be reinforced in parallel - the OSCE approach is particularly relevant in this regard. All of our efforts to combat terrorism must rest upon justice, the rule of law and good governance and must promote and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms, tolerance and diversity.

Canada believes that it is also important to address factions, including economic, social, civil and political ones that create conditions in which extremism can flourish and an environment that may render individuals and groups vulnerable to terrorist attack or exploitation.

We consider human rights as a cross-cutting issue that should be programmed into all counter terrorism measures and mechanisms. We must always remember: what we are fighting for is as important as what we are fighting against.

We hope to support dialogues on human rights and counter terrorism. We were pleased with the outcomes of the OSCE Workshop on the Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, which took place in March 2004. In this regard, Canada welcomes the Food-for-Thought paper prepared by ODIHR and commend it for your consideration and look forward to further discussions, both formal and informal over the next two days.

## Session 2 Border Security and Management

Canada supports the OSCE's efforts to reinforce the commitment to open and secure borders outlined in the Strategy to Address 21<sup>st</sup> Century Threats. Border management and cross-border cooperation are key in the fight against terrorism and in countering drug, arms and human trafficking while facilitating the secure flow of legitimate people and goods.

From Canada's point of view, a border is more than a geo-political line of division, since the security of our people and country is intrinsically linked with the security of the people and countries elsewhere in the world.

A border is the interface where we must cooperate most effectively with our neighbours, and by this definition we are all neighbours whether or not we share a traditional land border, to ensure the security of all. Therefore, the effectiveness of checkpoints along the travel continuum is essential. This is part of what we in Canada call the 'multiple borders' concept.

We all share the responsibility to effectively manage our borders and points of entries in verifying travellers' identity and travel documents, screening visas, checking the boarding, the point of initial embarkation, the transit areas, the point of final embarkation and the arrival airports, seaports, and land borders. It also means that we share interests in development and management of various export control regimes including for MANPADS and SALW.

The new security challenges are global and demand a consistent and comprehensive global response built on internationally agreed norms and standards. While we recognise that every border situation is specific, we believe that the policy choices and border management measures should always be in accordance with international standards including those on human rights, humanitarian law and refugee law.

We support the proposed OSCE-UNODC Border Security and Management Technical Experts Conference that will take place in September. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss border management in line with the OSCE's value added as a facilitator of models and best practices.

One week prior, Canada will host a similar event for OAS countries in Vancouver from 30 August – 2 September titled *OAS Symposium on Border Management: A dialogue on Cross-Border Cooperation and Border Integrity*. This symposium will gather senior officials from the Americas dealing with cross border management and cooperation and will include formal presentations; interactive workshops; on-site tours and demonstrations, at the airport, the maritime port and the land border.

The Canada US Smart Border Plan, as Admiral Loy referenced this morning, is one of the models around which the dialogue can continue.

Thank you.