



Vienna

Statement by Ambassador Krister Bringéus, Chair of the IGF on Combating Terrorism, Permanent Council 21 October, in response to the Executive Director of the UN CTED, Ambassador Javier Rupérez

In my capacity as Chairman of the Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Counter-terrorism I also extend the warmest welcome to Ambassador Rupérez in the Permanent Council today. Ambassador Rupérez is not only a distinguished representative of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee, but also an old OSCE-hand; very much a member of our family.

It's clear that this family of 55 participating States - several of which have suffered immensely from the effects of international terrorism - has committed itself strongly to fight it. And it's very clear that it has an important contribution to make in "braking the progression", as Ambassador Rupérez rightly put it. And it's clear that it does so under the auspices of the United Nations. The UN system has the global lead. The international technical agencies have the specific competence.

This is to say that one of the most important roles of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism is to see to that the universally binding decisions are implemented in our region; to encourage, stimulate and assist in deliverance. We do so through political means and we do so through concrete projects. We do this by cascading out international standards. In a sense, the OSCE is bringing counter terrorism efforts home.

But Mr. Chairman, experience has shown that there is scope for the OSCE to take its own initiatives as well – which we have done; may this be by establishing an information network, politically focusing on the victims of terrorism or on the issue of internet or container security.

Although the horrific events of September 11 gave terrorism a fundamentally new dimension in our organization, it's worth recalling that terrorism and issues related to it has been part of our agenda for a long time; may this be when we push for human rights, train police, collect small arms, do border monitoring, or promote good governance ... And this is of course due to our cross dimensional mandate.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me, congratulate Ambassador Rupérez to his forceful statement here today, as well as thank him for his appreciative words on the OSCE. We have all listened extremely carefully and we will follow up on his suggestions for future cooperation between the UN and the OSCE. I think we can all assure him that the UN has a strong regional partner in the OSCE.

I thank you.