

1 July 2010

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to OSCE Secretary General on Addressing Transnational Threats

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 1, 2010

We welcome the Secretary General's report, in particular because it is the fulfillment of a Ministerial tasking we cosponsored last year with the Russian Federation. We see this report as the leading edge and an excellent illustration of how OSCE concepts and practice need to adapt to a world of shifting and evolving threats. These threats, including terrorism, trafficking of humans and drugs, cyber threats, WMD proliferation and organized crime, require an increasingly sophisticated, complex and integrated response by national authorities and international partners. This report is a good first step in defining how we can ensure that our response at the regional level is as effective as it can be.

As the report makes clear, our response to these threats does not involve just a coordinated response within the first dimension, but an integrated and coherent response across all the dimensions. In the case of cyber security, for example, we need to better integrate the capabilities of security dimension tools such as the Anti-Terrorism Unit and Strategic Police Matters Unit, but we also need to work with key business and NGO actors to ensure an effective response that upholds OSCE commitments across all the dimensions. In this respect, we welcome the report's suggestion of the creation of a Cyber Security Unit within the Secretariat, which would be a positive step to streamlining the way that participating States identify and analyze new developments, threats, and challenges in cyberspace. We recognize that such an effort would not be complete without a review of the OSCE's mandate in this area to take into account new ideas about how best to confront such a threat.

We welcome the report's attention to the multifaceted threats of international organized crime, particularly the report's recommendation to facilitate the implementation of existing international legal instruments such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Through cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and other international institutions, the OSCE will be well placed to make a positive contribution on this issue.

We also welcome the other two case studies in the report: Afghanistan and efforts to combat the proliferation of WMD materials. As the report points out, many of the most challenging transnational threats we face originate outside of the OSCE region – including the insurgency and instability in Afghanistan, which borders three OSCE participating States. Efforts to address these threats need to span the three OSCE dimensions and involve working closely with a wide range of international partners and with the Government of Afghanistan itself. Likewise, the multi-vector responses required to effectively face the challenges from the possible proliferation of WMD materials, as identified by UNSCR 1540, must be flexible and adaptable and thoroughly integrated.

Addressing transnational threats is a vital aspect of security in the OSCE area; one that clearly has an important place in the Corfu Process. When we consider the longer-term outlook for the work and direction of this organization, we see as an essential component a robust profile on transnational threats. The Secretary General's report gives us a helpful first look at how we can start to construct that important profile, and we look forward to discussing its proposals in more detail.

Thank you, Mister Chairman.