



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION  
BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE 2008 PROGRAMME  
OUTLINE

Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 30, 2007

Norway joins other delegations in thanking the Secretary General for his presentation of the 2008 Programme Outline.

One year ago Norway welcomed the testing of a performance based approach in the Programme budgeting through a selected number of pilot Funds and Programmes introduced in the 2007 Programme Outline. We are pleased to note that the Performance Based Programme Budgeting (PBPB) approach has been fully introduced and applied across all Funds in the 2008 Programme Outline. We commend the Secretariat for its efforts and look forward to the further development of this important tool, including the development of performance indicators.

The many important political challenges facing the OSCE, as exemplified in the Overview of Thematic Activities, underscore the importance of the Programme Outline discussions based on the strategic objectives and outcomes presented, in order to establish future programme priorities and make best use of the Organization's total resources.

The seven themes chosen in the Thematic Overview also contribute to focus our attention on some of the core areas where the work of the OSCE has proven to have an added value and where we should further strengthen our efforts in the coming years. Other areas where the OSCE has extensive experience, not least in the field of human rights and with regard to elections, should also continue to be in the core focus of our work. Let me also mention that Norway fully

supports the Field Operations in their work on enhancing regional co-operation in a number of security-related issues.

As stated on earlier occasions, Norway's starting point is that we need to secure the resources that are necessary to follow-up on the political decisions which have been taken by the Organization. The resource requirements should be determined as a result of our political discussions related to the priorities within and between Funds. At this stage we should avoid setting a precise level for next year's total budget requirements. This being said, we have noted that the Programme Outline operates with an estimate of the total resource requirements for next year which in real terms more or less equals this year's Unified Budget.

We have also noted a number of pending policy and planning issues which may have additional financial implications. The salary scales of locally recruited mission members is one of these issues where further discussions are needed. In our opinion, the OSCE should take the step to fully align itself with the UN salary scales for locally recruited mission members.

Norway has duly noted the proposed distribution of resources for the Secretariat and Institutions, as well as with regard to the Field Operations. The need for additional resources as well as the scaling down of activities in some areas is well documented. We are looking forward to the further discussions of the 2008 Programme Outline based on the many well founded individual Programmes proposed throughout the Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman