



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**Annual Security Review Conference 19 and 20 June 2007.
Statement at the Opening Session
by Deputy Director General Anita Nergaard**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Norway greatly appreciates this opportunity to address this 5th Annual Security Review Conference.

In the Euro-Atlantic area, we are faced with many common security challenges. At the same time each participating state has its own particular set of security concerns. Our task is to find common ground through dialogue on an equal footing, and to make good use of the tools at our disposal to the benefit of all countries and citizens of the OSCE area.

Norway believes that the OSCE with its comprehensive approach to security is extremely useful in this regard.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to make a few points.

Firstly, Norway believes in effective multilateralism where we use each and every organisation wisely, while at the same time strengthening the co-operation between them. The obvious synergies between the OSCE and other multilateral organizations such as NATO, the Council of Europe and the European Union should be exploited even further. One very positive example is the Co-ordination Group between the OSCE and Council of Europe, established in 2004 during the Norwegian chairmanship of the Council of Europe and the Bulgarian chairmanship of the OSCE.

Secondly, last week 30 of the OSCE participating States were gathered in this room for the CFE Extraordinary Conference. We regret that it was not possible to reach agreement on a Final Document. Norway expects that all States Parties will continue to implement all their CFE-obligations and looks forward to renewed dialogue to ensure the continued viability of the Treaty, including its flank regime.

Thirdly, Norway welcomes the initiative of the Special FSC Meeting this autumn on prospects for arms control and confidence and security building measures. We attach particular importance to the work in the FSC on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and would like to see the OSCE step up its work on these issues even further. The initiative to improve implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as well as the different initiatives to ensure regional implementation of UN Security Council resolutions are equally important.

Fourthly, Norway strongly supports the efforts by the OSCE to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in Moldova and Georgia based on the principle of territorial integrity of these countries. We particularly appreciate the OSCE's rehabilitation programme for the South Ossetia region – we strongly believe in this approach of working constructively with all parties in order to create an environment of trust and hope for the future.

Furthermore, we highly value the work of the OSCE Minsk Group and its three Co-chairs towards a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We call upon all concerned to engage in an open dialogue and refrain from any action that could heighten tensions. Norway stands ready to support all steps which may contribute to the peaceful resolution of these conflicts.

And lastly, Mr. Chairman, the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security gives the organisation a strong comparative advantage in the fight against terrorism, extremism and intolerance, trafficking and organized crime. Injustice and lack of political freedom create conditions in which extremism and terrorism breed. Our fight against terrorism must therefore be a fight for human rights, tolerance and human dignity.

We should continue to expand our reach to civil society and the private sector - in general and in fighting terrorism. The recently held conference on Public-Private Partnership to combat terrorism is a very good example on how we can elaborate concepts for such cooperation.

The trafficking of drugs and weapons through Central Asia also deserves particular attention, and Norway favours a stronger engagement from the OSCE in this area. Increased border security will be of vital importance in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman