



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

International Conference on National and International Coordination in Counter-terrorism

Session III - Coordinating counter-terrorism efforts at international fora: Achievements, challenges and prospects for reinforced cooperation

24-25 October 2013, Istanbul

Remarks by Mr. Laszlo Szücs, Programme Officer, Transnational Threats Department, Action against Terrorism Unit

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

First of all let me express our sincere gratitude to the organizers for giving the OSCE an opportunity to participate in this international conference.

In the next couple of minutes I will present on the work of the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department in countering terrorism and tell you how we look at the need to strengthen international co-operation and co-ordination.

The OSCE was among the very first multilateral organizations to articulate the need for sustained, multi-faceted efforts to combat terrorism, with a strong emphasis on prevention. The impetus was given in December 2001 with the adoption of the OSCE's Bucharest Plan for Combating Terrorism. Building on this, as well as on a series of decisions, commitments and mandates adopted over the past ten years, the OSCE participating States adopted in December 2012 in Dublin the OSCE '*Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism.*'

This Framework underlines that "terrorism remains one of the most significant threats to peace, security and stability, as well as to the enjoyment of human rights and social and economic development, in the OSCE area and beyond".

This document is an important milestone for the Organization. It identifies the strategic focus of the OSCE's counter-terrorism role to guide future activities. It aims at enhancing the profile and added value of the OSCE's contribution to the global efforts to eradicate terrorism and at facilitating communication and strengthening co-operation with key partners and organizations. It highlights the need to further co-ordinate our efforts internally and to co-operate externally with relevant stakeholders in counter terrorism. That means that we want to help implement existing international instruments to counter terrorism, instead of inventing our own, while being innovative and creative on specific issues.

Regional and sub-regional organizations enjoy the support of their members with whom they may have closer ties than to global institutions. They are also aware of problems of the States in their region and specificity of the political and economic situation.

As you may know, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Not long ago, the OSCE Secretary General H.E. Lamberto Zannier informed the UN Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki Moon of his plans to hold a Security Day event in 2014 to look at how the potential of Chapter VIII regional organizations could be better utilized to enhance the effectiveness of the overall action of the international community to prevent conflicts and promote peace and stability.

We believe that the way regional organizations could better contribute to the global efforts is when they make early project co-ordination the standard. That would make regional organizations an "extension" of the UN while both the UN and these organizations retain their own comparative advantage in line with their respective mandates. Thus countries in the region would receive tailored assistance at the most local level.

The OSCE's multi-dimensional approach underlines that alongside politico-military aspects of security, the protection and promotion of human rights as well as economic development and environmental sustainability are integral parts of security and stability.

The 'Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism' identifies strategic areas of our work, underlines the need to collaborate and confirms the

leading role of the United Nations. The document highlights a number of strategic focus areas for the OSCE's action against terrorism.

- Promoting the implementation of the international legal framework and co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism;
- Countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
- Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;
- Promoting dialogue and co-operation in countering terrorism in particular public-private partnerships – or PPPs – i.e., Civil Society;
- Strengthening travel document security;
- Suppressing the financing of terrorism;
- Supporting national efforts to implement UN Security Council resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Promoting the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms is mainstreamed throughout all these efforts as an overarching imperative.

The OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) acts as the focal point of co-ordination in this area. Its three units which are the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Strategic Police Matters Unit and the Borders Unit all contribute to preventing and countering terrorism. Collaboration is important and taking place with the United Nations, in particular with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED), the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Naturally we also work closely with other specialized organizations, regional and sub-regional organizations, including the Council of Europe. I would like to now illustrate more concretely our work with a number of on-going or planned projects and activities.

- In the field of strengthening a rule-of-law based criminal justice response to terrorism, we are pursuing our successful collaboration with UNODC to ensure effective national implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments. We are organizing this year for instance a series of national expert workshops on effective implementation of the international terrorist

bombings convention – a best practice. We have organized a Regional Expert Workshop on ‘Enhancing Counter-Terrorism Co-operation in the Mediterranean Basin While Implementing the Universal Legal Instruments against Terrorism’.

- In the field of strengthening travel document security, one of our long-standing and most developed programmes which have inspired similar efforts by other organizations, we offer a range of services with regard to handling and issuance of travel documents, rolling out electronic passports and biometric features, connecting with INTERPOL’s databases, detecting forged travel documents. Our activities include expert workshops, trainings, country visits, and technical assistance projects with the provision of equipment. We are now placing an increasing focus on comprehensive identity management assistance and its broader benefits in terms of good governance and more reliable voter registration.
- In the field of countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes we recently concluded a series of online fora to allow national and international experts to share information and human rights compliant policies and initiatives to address such issues as the use of the Internet as tactical facilitator by terrorists; terrorist use of social networking tools, including by right wing extremists; and institutionalizing public-private partnerships to combat terrorist use of the Internet. We have also supported UNODC in developing its *Technical Assistance Tool on the Use of the Internet for Terrorist purposes*, and we exploring with them how to co-operate to deliver tailored capacity-building based on this new tool.
- In the field of countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), our current efforts are three-fold. First, we organize targeted expert roundtables jointly with ODIHR, bringing together state authorities, academia and civil society organizations to discuss human rights compliant issues such as preventing women terrorist radicalization, and the role of women and youth in countering VERLT. Second, we are developing a guidebook for senior police professionals and community based organizations and leaders on community policing approaches to prevent terrorism and counter VERLT. This guidebook will serve as basis for trainings we are planning. Third, we seek to develop a more systematic engagement with interested OSCE participating States. As a first step we started last year a

series of national seminars to promote a multi-dimensional understanding of VERLT, dialogue between the state and civil society organization.

- In the field of suppressing terrorist financing, the OSCE advises on improving legal frameworks, establishing and strengthening financial intelligence units, developing partnerships with reporting entities from the private sector. We work closely with a range of international partners, in particular UNODC, the IMF, the World Bank, the Council of Europe and the Eurasian Group. Most recently, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities developed a “Handbook on data collection in support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing: National Risk Assessments”.

We are also launching with them a project to raise awareness of non-profit organizations on how they can protect themselves from abuse by terrorists.

- In the field of non-proliferation, the OSCE Secretariat together with the UN 1540 Committee and other partners has been since 2010 assisting ten of its participating States with the development of national action plans and strategies to implement UN Security Council resolution 1540.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I would like to say that our efforts are driven by the conviction that regional and sub-regional organizations are instrumental as force multipliers and delivery mechanisms for counter-terrorism assistance.

The OSCE strives to make a tangible contribution to the security of people by drawing on our comparative advantages, namely a comprehensive and co-operative approach to security, a unique geographical reach and multi-dimensional expertise, to offer innovative, reliable and collaborative result-oriented assistance.

The OSCE’s well-developed network of field operations in the Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia can play an important, supportive role in the implementation of our strategic goals in countering terrorism.

Finding the way and means of reinforcing each other's efforts, adding capacities and expertise will make security stronger, cheaper and more sustainable.