

## **Opening Statement** **Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre**

Ladies and gentlemen, Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

Welcome to Norway and Oslo. It is an honour and a pleasure to address the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE here in Oslo. In a global age, the OSCE is more relevant than ever. The organisation's broad membership and its comprehensive approach to security are two of its hallmarks and greatest strengths. New threats from terrorism, trafficking and climate change mean that a broad perspective is more needed than ever, and a strengthened political dialogue must be at its core.

Let me begin by saying that I was deeply saddened by the violence that claimed many lives in the Kyrgyz Republic earlier in June. Norway among others responded to the humanitarian appeal launched by the UN and others and I hope that the situation for the civilian population will improve rapidly. Allow me as well to congratulate the Interim Government on the peaceful conduct of the Constitutional Referendum on 27 June, which marks an important step towards the re-establishment of the constitutional order and democratic process in the country.

I will also take this opportunity to commend the Kazakh Chairmanship for playing such a constructive role during the events that have unfolded in the Kyrgyz Republic over the past few months. The way the OSCE responded shows the value of this great organisation in conflict prevention and crisis response. [PLACEHOLDER – drøftes i OSSE igjen 2 juli: I welcome the

strengthened OSCE activities in Kyrgyzstan, including the deployment of an OSCE Police Task Force to the country.]

Allow me to turn to the main topic of this year's annual session – *Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption*. This is a very timely topic, and one that is high on the Norwegian Government's agenda.

Corruption and crime are global problems – and with globalisation they are increasing. The human suffering and costs to societies due to organised crime are enormous. We sometimes tend to see lack of control capacity in developing countries as the locus of the problem. Yet it is in our part of the world that the illegal proceeds are laundered and invested, that companies fuel corruption by paying bribes, that citizens consume drugs and exploit victims of human trafficking.

The task of combating these ills is made immensely more difficult by financial secrecy. We need to do more to track, discover and confiscate the proceeds of crime. We know a lot about the methods and actors involved in illicit financial flows, but organised crime is a resourceful business and tends to stay a step or two ahead of law enforcement.

Drug smuggling is one of these ills, cutting right through the OSCE area, contributing to instability and human suffering both in bordering countries and in participating states. The numbers are staggering. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime has estimated the annual revenues from the European cocaine and heroin market, excluding Russia and Turkey, at USD 54 billion while the estimated value of the Russian heroin is USD 13 billion. A drug syndicate will typically calculate a "loss" of perhaps 30% of its smuggled merchandise, normally as a

result of drug seizures at borders, whereas the confiscation of profit is likely to amount to less than 1%. White-collar criminals are profiting from crime, but the few who are caught face relatively mild sentences.

Numerous international organisations are working hard to secure the necessary cooperation between regions, countries and agencies. Norway will fund a comprehensive study by the UNODC which should give us an updated understanding of the generation, laundering and cross-border transfer of the proceeds of crime. Confiscation of the proceeds requires detailed intelligence which we hope this study can help to provide. For the study to be as thorough as possible, the UNODC will need to draw on the vast experience of the OSCE and its participating states.

The experience of the OSCE is important precisely because it covers all the dimensions – military, political and human – needed to build and consolidate stability in our area. It brings together 56 countries in a continuous dialogue on key issues. It contributes to building democratic societies based on the rule of law. It has increased predictability and confidence across borders. The OSCE's programmes for police reform, for border security and fight against trafficking are especially relevant.

At the same time, new threats to international security and stability have emerged. The OSCE, the EU, NATO and the Council of Europe are all contributing to Euro-Atlantic security. There is no need to change the main pillars of the European security architecture – however we welcome the discussion on how to enhance European and Euro-Atlantic Security.

This discussion has dominated the agenda of the OSCE this past year. We believe the OSCE has a particular strength in providing a forum for broad-based

discussion – broad both in terms of the security concept and as regards breadth of participation. The Corfu Process has proved useful, and a number of countries have presented a broad array of ideas on how to strengthen our common security. I would like to thank the Chairman-in-Office for the extensive Interim Report recently presented. We look forward to drawing some conclusions at the OSCE Ministerial in Almaty later this month.

Allow me in this regard to point to the need for all of us to muster the necessary political will to strengthen the OSCE as a common security organisation. Full implementation of all obligations in all three dimensions is paramount. At the same time – and as we have discussed as part of the Corfu Process – we need to refine the OSCE tool box and update and adapt our tools in order to be effective in conflict prevention and appropriately equipped to meet new threats and challenges.

If we look at the protracted conflicts in our area, we note that the treatment of national minorities play a prominent role in most of them. That is why the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities is so important, not least in conflict prevention. The High Commissioner has provided excellent guidelines, what are known as the Bolzano/Bozen recommendations, on how to treat national minorities in inter-state relations. Norway fully shares the High Commissioner's view that these recommendations would be even more useful if they were endorsed by governments, thus becoming politically binding, in a way as to avoid conflicts and foster good neighbourly relations.

Norway is strongly committed to the obligations contained in the Vienna Document. The confidence- and security-building measures it sets out constitute an important pillar of Euro-Atlantic security alongside the CFE and Open Skies Treaties. There is broad agreement that the Vienna Document requires a

technical update following ten years of implementation without adjustments. A number of issues are pending as a result of a changed security environment and lessons learned during actual implementation of confidence- and security-building measures.

Norway is also ready to negotiate on the basis of the NATO agreed proposal for a new framework for conventional arms control. We believe that the framework should be negotiated as a package, it should be legally binding and as much as possible of the A-CFE must be maintained. Our hope is that all states parties will return to implementing the CFE Treaty on the basis of the framework and by the end of this year.

In our further discussions, we should also preserve the achievements made in the human dimension. Free and fair elections, freedom of the media, a vibrant civil society and protection of human rights are important for democracy and thus for security. The combined efforts of the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in election monitoring are impressive and have contributed greatly to the solid reputation of the organisation.

The OSCE's activities in the economic and environmental dimension should reflect its role as a comprehensive security organisation. There is room for strengthened cooperation with other international organisations in areas where the OSCE can add value in the security aspect.

With this, I wish you an excellent week here in Oslo with fruitful discussions on these topical issues that are so important to us all.

Thank you.

