



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PRESENTATION OF THE 2015 UNIFIED BUDGET PROPOSAL

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 9 October 2014

Madam Chair,

Let me start by reiterating a point I have made before: More than one third of the OSCE budget has disappeared since the peak in 2003, due to constant negative real budget growth. This is not sustainable. Especially not at a time when European security is facing new and difficult challenges. If we want the OSCE to be a strong and capable organization, investments – not persistent cutbacks – are needed.

Madam Chair,

The SMM in Ukraine has demonstrated the value of the OSCE. It has also demonstrated our ability to pull together. In addition, the SMM's ongoing expansion shows that a well-functioning organization depends on a capable and sufficiently staffed administration. That is highly relevant for the organization as a whole.

We must not forget that it is the Secretariat, the field presences, and the institutions – combined - that make up the core of the OSCE. And we must give them adequate resources to do the job we are expecting of them.

We cannot continue to squeeze the Secretariat and at the same time entrust it with ever-new tasks. The Secretariat has invested an enormous workload in supporting the SMM, while having to fulfil all its other duties, and without any additional support. We support their request for additional staff. We also support the proposed establishment of a Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management fund.

Madam Chair,

Let me also state that Norway welcomes the Swiss Chairmanship's proposal for a decision on an addendum to the 2004 Gender Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. We believe issues addressed in this proposal are important. The need for institutional reform that this will

require, namely restructuring the current Gender Adviser position to a Gender representative, will only have minimal budgetary implications.

Madam Chair,

Norway places a special emphasis on the autonomous institutions. We strongly support the modest and necessary increases suggested in the Unified Budget Proposal. There is no doubt that their continuous and unbiased work within their respective fields has made the OSCE region stable and more secure.

Madam Chair,

An OSCE presence in Ulaan Batar has been requested by the government of Mongolia. We should definitely make room for this in the budget.

Madam Chair,

Finally I would like to wish the incoming chair of the ACMF, Ms. Marina Milanovic-Ilic, and her team every success in their efforts. This year's late budget approval crippled our organization for almost half the year. That cannot happen again. Let us all demonstrate the importance we attach to the OSCE by adopting an adequate budget – on time.

Thank you, Madam Chair.