



II Lisbon Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (1-2 September 2003)

Conclusions

1. The last two years have been marked by a series of major terrorist attacks against the international community, which do not respect borders, religions or cultures. Following the tragic 11 September 2001 events in the USA, we have witnessed atrocious terrorist acts in other parts of the world: in Indonesia, in Morocco, in the Russian Federation, in Kenya, in Spain, in India, in Iraq and in several countries of the Middle East. Less than a month ago, in Baghdad, the United Nations Organization itself was the target of terrorists. However, we have also seen substantial progress in the fight against this security problem, of which the recent detention in Thailand of three members of a terrorist group is just one example among many. Initiatives at the international level, such as this Meeting, seek to contribute to the consolidation of this progress, namely by promoting a global and deep understanding of the issues at stake.

2. The complex and transnational nature of terrorism demands a coordinated response by the international community. Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations in this coordinated approach, as well as the need to develop actions and initiatives within an over-arching framework, the OSCE seeks to enhance cooperation with other international and regional organizations in the field of preventing and combating terrorism. The importance of inter-regional cooperation is widely recognized.

3. Terrorism constitutes a gross violation of human rights and must be combated as such. For this very reason, it is imperative that counter-terrorism is carried out in a manner that safeguards and reinforces human rights. The international human rights standards, which are embodied in the United Nations instruments, and the norms of international humanitarian law, when applicable, must be scrupulously observed in all counter-terrorism activities.

4. Notwithstanding the role of the different international and regional organizations in implementing their respective strategies and action plans, States are responsible for implementing their individual and collective commitments. International coordination is a requisite, but States are obliged to take the appropriate measures in the field of preventing and in combating terrorism. Cooperation at the regional level should be pursued with a view to promote the implementation of such measures by neighboring countries. Comprehensive and dynamic regional security approaches, including the economic and social dimensions, are deemed most appropriate for the Mediterranean, Southeastern Europe, Central and Southeast Asian regions; sub-regional mechanisms are considered beneficial for the African continent.

5. The relevant UN Security Council resolutions constitute a solid framework for the leading role of the United Nations. Breaking new ground, Resolution 1373, along with the twelve UN conventions and protocols related to the prevention and combating of terrorism, provides the legal and political basis for international action. The mandate given to the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), namely that of monitoring the implementation of Resolution 1373 by all States, is particularly important. The CTC is working to strengthen and upgrade the legislative and administrative capacities of States to comprehensively and effectively participate in the global fight against terrorism.

6. Seeking to respond to the challenge posed by terrorists acts, the OSCE adopted, in December 2001, the Bucharest Plan of Action and the Bishkek Program of Action. A Senior Police Advisor and the Head of the Action Against Terrorism Unit have been appointed in the OSCE Secretariat. Four strategic areas have been identified for OSCE activities: policing, border control, anti-trafficking and countering financing of terrorism. The content of the Porto Charter, which was adopted last December, provides the political basis for the OSCE's initiatives and activities in the anti-terrorism field. Concretely, the OSCE can expand its role on the terrorist financing front, on the implementation of UN Conventions, on legislative reform, on facilitating information exchange through a contact network, on the trafficking issues, on border security, etc.

7. The European Union's actions in the political, diplomatic, legislative and law enforcement cooperation fields have reinforced its ability to make an effective contribution to the international coalition against terrorism. Their basis is the European Policy to Combat Terrorism, endorsed by the European Council on 21 September 2001 and implemented according to an Action Plan. The strengthening of the instruments inherent to the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice is an essential element of the EU policy. Two important instruments have been adopted in this context: the "Framework Decision on combating terrorism"

and the “European arrest warrant”. These instruments enhance the effectiveness of the EU’s actions, namely in the policing, judiciary and border management fields – through Europol and Eurojust. The Common Foreign and Security Policy is another important part of the comprehensive EU strategy; counter-terrorism has been included in the EU’s dialogues with third countries and international organizations, as well as in the EU’s new cooperation and technical assistance agreements.

8. Less than 24 hours after the events of 11 September 2001, for the first time in the history of NATO, Allies invoked Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. At NATO’s Summit Meeting in Prague last November, a substantial package of measures to bolster NATO’s response to terrorism was approved. Development of the necessary capabilities is a central element; other significant elements of this package are: a new military concept for defense against terrorism, new military tasks for NATO commanders, a civil emergency action plan and new initiatives to enhance allied defense against attacks by weapons of mass destruction. In Afghanistan, most of the 19 Allies have been directly involved in operation “Enduring Freedom” and NATO has assumed last month the command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The functioning of the new NATO-Russia Council and of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, as well as NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue, will contribute to the global fight against terrorism.

9. In November 2001, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided that the Organization’s contribution to counter-terrorism would develop along three major lines of action: strengthening legal and law enforcement action, safeguarding fundamental values and addressing some of the deeper causes, in particular through greater social cohesion and intercultural dialogue. Regarding international legal cooperation, a Multidisciplinary Group on International Action Against Terrorism was set up and was entrusted with the preparation of a Protocol to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, as well as with indicating priority activities. After being formally adopted by Ministers, this protocol (introducing several significant improvements to the Convention) was open to signature on 15 May 2003. Concerning the safeguarding of fundamental values, Guidelines on Human Rights and the Fight Against Terrorism, considered a major reference for legislators and courts, were approved in July 2002 by the Committee of Ministers. The initiative aiming at drafting a comprehensive convention on terrorism within the Council of Europe should be seen as a contribution to the work of the United Nations.

10. It is necessary to promote further cooperative security measures: support by all the participating organizations and institutions, namely through their field presence, to the United Nations in monitoring compliance with the twelve UN anti-terrorist conventions and protocols; direct working relationships between the UN Counter-

Terrorism Committee and participating organizations and institutions on the practical aspects of the implementation of UNSCR 1373 by individual States; a network of designated contact points of each participating organization and institution, with a view to ensuring a speedy and efficient exchange of information; a network of organizations and institutions involved in areas related to combating illicit trafficking of weapons of all sorts, with a view to elaborating specific projects and activities.

11. Police training, intelligence, information and experience sharing are of particular significance in the fight against illicit trafficking (of drugs, weapons and human beings), organized crime and corruption. Projects aimed at assisting national police authorities to formulate crime prevention strategies should be further supported, in close cooperation with the UN Office for Drugs and Crime. Specific efforts should be also placed in developing measures to suppress the financing of terrorism, in compliance with the relevant Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the sanctions regime decreed by the United Nations. Operational coordination needs to be enhanced, in particular at the intelligence level, and efforts should be made to increase deterrence and influence capabilities in the counter-terrorism field. Special attention should be paid to the protection of crucial national infrastructures and financial centers of each State, as well as to emergency services and the role of the private sector.

12. The global fight against terrorism should be built upon a comprehensive and long-term approach, including measures directed at suppressing the various circumstances and factors that provide fertile breeding ground for terrorist acts. This fight should, therefore, encompass poverty reduction, promotion of the rule of law, effective law enforcement, institution building, human rights, as well as international humanitarian law where applicable, tolerance, minority protection, democratization, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, addressing the issues of refugees, arms control, conflict prevention, crisis management, post-conflict rehabilitation and the peaceful settlement of conflicts.