

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



ENGLISH only
Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE 2008
BUDGET PROPOSAL BY THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL,
MR. MARC PERRIN DE BRICHAMBAUT
681ST SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
16 OCTOBER 2007**

Canada warmly welcomes the Secretary General and thanks him for his presentation on the 2008 Budget Proposal. We welcome the improvements in formatting and presentation.

Canada notes with satisfaction that a number of the issues we raised during the Programme Outline discussion are reflected in this document. We welcome the continued implementation of Performance Based Programme Budgeting across the OSCE funds.

We are pleased to see that a redistribution of resources from South Eastern Europe towards Central Asia and the Caucasus has been included in this proposal. This is a good basis to begin discussions and our delegation will continue to work to further this trend.

Canada also underscores the importance of continuing the discussion on local staff salaries. We are pleased that the Secretary General has placed this as the first key policy issue in his overview, and highlighted it again today. It is our hope that participating States can bring this issue towards a conclusion that fairly and consistently compensates our local staff.

The OSCE's Field Missions are the face of the Organisation in many participating States and implement the vast majority of programming. The capacity of these entities should continually be renewed. Shifting funding where it will be best utilised and paying our people properly will ensure organisational strength.

Canada notes that there is a significant increase in the Secretariat's budget. Much of this increase is due to new positions, upgrades and a large increase in standard staff

costs. We will consider each of these requests in the context of specific funds and units.

Our delegation would like to reiterate a well-known Canadian position in which we have consistently called for a consolidation of OSCE activities to be conducted within existing resources.

It is our view that participating States put the Secretary General and other Fund Managers in a difficult position when we task them to implement new initiatives while at the same time denying them new resources.

If the OSCE is to remain effective, Canada believes that the Organisation should undertake new programmes only after prioritising existing work. This may necessitate cutting back on some activities and consolidating funds.

The OSCE has definite strengths and should work to enhance these.

In the First Dimension, the OSCE has proven itself to be a leader in assisting convention implementation, border programming, addressing the problem of small arms and light weapons and enhancing existing confidence and security building measures such as those outlined in the Vienna Document.

It is Canada's view that moving beyond these already ambitious programmes waters down effectiveness. Continually giving the Secretariat new projects when they are best placed to provide support to field missions is an example of this.

In addition, other organisations, such as the UNODC, have vast capacity to deal with organised crime and drugs. The OSCE should consider carefully what role, if any, it has in these areas.

Confidence and security building measures are the cornerstone of this Organisation. However, we should not seek to add new documents in this area; rather we should look to implement existing commitments to the fullest extent.

The needs of the Second Dimension are as unlimited as the OSCE's resources are finite. We are not primarily a development and assistance organisation and our programmes need to reflect this.

Canada has consistently highlighted two areas of priority in the Economic and Environmental Dimension: good governance and environmental security.

Good governance activity should seek to provide institutional capacity and legal frameworks that make economic growth and cooperation possible and limit negative externalities that impede progress in this area.

Environmental Security initiatives should provide an impetus for confidence building in areas of conflict through cooperation on non-political and technical issues.

For the most part, Canada is pleased with the work undertaken in the Third Dimension.

The work of ODIHR, the High Commissioner for National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, all supported by Field Missions, exhibits the strength of the OSCE.

It is our view that efforts undertaken in democratisation, human rights, elections, tolerance and discrimination and minority rights and integration are most effective.

In spite of this, Canada believes that some consolidation is possible. Deeper coordination with other OSCE entities, particularly in the area of human trafficking, is possible.

Also, the OSCE has a unique set of participating States. While we urge coordination with other organisations to avoid duplication of activities, integration in the activities of other international entities should be limited.

We look forward to the upcoming budget discussions during which we will go into further details. We also positively anticipate working closely with the new Finnish chair of the ACMF, and all other delegations to conclude this process in a timely fashion, before the deadline we adopted by consensus.