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## KEYNOTE SPEECHES

**Lamberto ZANNIER**

Secretary General, OSCE

Excellencies, Ambassadors, distinguished participants,

I wish to thank the Jeju Forum for its gracious hospitality and for the invitation to speak. In particular I would like to thank the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. HAN Tae Kyu and his colleagues for their initiative to bring me here today.

This is my first trip to Korea. But Korea's engagement with the OSCE has an illustrious history. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon was Korea's Ambassador to the OSCE. The current Foreign Minister also held that post. So there is something about the OSCE that works well in Korea!

Today I will give you a brief outline of the OSCE as a regional model of co-operative security. Firstly what is the OSCE? Secondly, how has the OSCE developed into what it is today? Thirdly, how do we work? Finally, I want to speak about Partnership. The work the OSCE does in Central Asia embodies the notion of Partnership. It includes the elements of co-operation between OSCE participating States, especially those in Central Asia, with the Government of a Partner for Co-operation, Afghanistan. It also engages other organizations operating in the region: the UN, NATO, the EU, CICA, CSTO and others.

I am not an expert on the security issues of North-East Asia. I do not intend to offer you policy recommendations for how you may cope with the challenges you face. Instead, as with the relations between us and all our partners, your interest in the OSCE should be 'demand-driven'. Where you see a relevance to your situation, to your hopes for the future, we are ready to respond.

OSCE Heads of State and Government, at the 2010 Summit in Astana, reaffirmed their dedication to realizing a "free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals".

This vision underpins everything we do. Overall political responsibility lies with the Chairperson-in-Office, the Foreign Minister of the country holding the OSCE Chairmanship, which rotates annually. Currently it is Ireland. The Chairmanship is supported by the previous and succeeding Chairmanships, who together form the OSCE Troika. In turn, the Chairmanship and Troika are supported by me and my staff.

The OSCE offers a forum for high-level political dialogue on a wide range of security issues. It is

also a platform for practical work to improve the lives of individuals and communities. The OSCE is inclusive, all the States in its region are participating States.

The range of issues that the OSCE addresses is broad. It includes the elements of the conflict cycle: early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. It also encompasses arms control, terrorism, good governance, energy security, human trafficking, democratization, media freedom and minority rights.

The reason for this is the idea at the heart of the OSCE—a comprehensive definition of security including what we call the three dimensions of security—the politico-military, the economic and environmental, and the human dimension. Let me explain briefly each of these elements.

The OSCE seeks to enhance military security by promoting greater openness, transparency and co-operation. Under its auspices, its participating States have developed the world's most advanced regime of arms control and confidence-building measures. At the same time, we take a broad approach to the politico-military dimension of security, focusing on, among other issues, defense reform, policing and the safe storage and destruction of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition.

Economic prosperity is a cornerstone of security. The OSCE is dedicated to promoting economic co-operation and good governance in a region that includes most of the northern hemisphere. Moreover, the OSCE considers environmental issues as a key factor of security. We work with participating States to ensure that hazardous waste is soundly managed, to promote environmental awareness and to foster co-operation over shared natural resources.

Lasting security is not possible without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The OSCE helps its participating States build democratic institutions; hold free, fair and transparent elections; promote gender equality; ensure respect for human rights, media freedom, minority rights and the rule of law; and promote tolerance and non-discrimination.

As you know, all security issues do not fall neatly into such definitions. The OSCE therefore seeks to connect these three dimensions. This makes us especially effective in addressing “cross-dimensional” security challenges – transnational threats including terrorism, organized crime, cyber crime and trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings – which require joined-up, sustainable responses.

The comprehensive definition of security was born in the Helsinki Final Act, signed in 1975. Thereafter the OSCE acquis developed from the experience of the OSCE project as it evolved from the early 1970s (when it was still a Conference, rather than an Organization) until now. In many ways, this experience is *sui generis*. I do not want to suggest that the political forces at work at that time can necessarily be replicated in other eras, or other regions. That said, I would highlight the following points from the OSCE experience that have been vital for keeping momentum going.

The participating States of the OSCE agreed first on a compass—a list of principles that would guide their interaction and behavior. They remained committed to respecting these even as geopolitical circumstances evolved. Next, the participating States agreed the comprehensive

concept of security I mentioned above. Taking this concept forward over time allowed for balanced progress toward security, taking account of the interests of all. Finally, the OSCE provided a platform for permanent dialogue among the participating States—to air differences, to exchange best practices and assist each other in fulfilling commitments, and to adapt those commitments and their common support structures to new challenges. This function has proven vital in good and bad times.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I have given you an overview of the OSCE's central idea, comprehensive security and its broad application. Now let me give you a few examples of co-operative security in practice. This will only be a small sample of the work we do.

Most of the OSCE's staff and resources are deployed in the OSCE's field operations in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. These operations are established at the invitation of the respective host countries, and their mandates are agreed through a consensus decision of the participating States.

The OSCE's field operations enable the OSCE to tackle crises as they arise, and to play a critical post-conflict role, helping to restore trust among affected communities. More broadly, they foster the capacity of their host countries through concrete projects that respond to the needs of participating States and their societies. These include initiatives to support law enforcement, minority rights, legislative reform, the rule of law and media freedom.

Let me provide you with some specific examples of how OSCE makes the difference at root level through a network of activities that directly impact people's life. Just to mention a few:

- Water projects in Georgia
- Melange Projects in Ukraine
- OSCE Academy in Bishkek
- Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe
- Monitoring of elections throughout the OSCE region
- Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In Astana, our leaders acknowledged that security in neighboring regions is “inextricably linked” with security in the OSCE area. Last year, we saw developments in the Southern Mediterranean that underscore the truth of this statement.

There is a strong Asian dimension to our Partnership. Our Asian Partners for Co-operation include Korea, Japan, Afghanistan, Thailand, Australia and Mongolia. The last of these is actively pursuing becoming a participating State of the OSCE. But the area where I would like to focus your attention is on Afghanistan.

A key added value that the OSCE brings to the international efforts to assist Afghanistan is the Organization's ability to engage with Afghanistan in the broader setting of the wider Central Asian region. Many of the activities I mentioned a moment precisely build on that unique capacity.

In a few days I will join Secretary General BAN Ki-Moon at a retreat he has organized for the leaders of regional organizations. I believe strongly that the OSCE, as a Chapter VIII organization under the UN Charter, is well placed to support both the efforts of the UN. In our region, and where our region touches others, the idea of comprehensive security has many benefits. Some have said that the OSCE is itself a kind of Confidence-Building Measure. I would like to go beyond that point, and stress that the work the OSCE does on the ground is helping to assist both States and their citizens, and in doing so, contributing to their collective security.

Thank you for your attention.

Lamberto Zannier is an Italian diplomat who currently serves as Secretary General of OSCE(Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe). Before his appointment as Secretary General of OSCE, He has served as the United Nations Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), with the rank of UN Undersecretary-General. Zannier has served for the Foreign Service of Italy for more than 30 years.