



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Secretary General Lamberto Zannier
Opening Remarks
2016 Annual Security Review Conference
Vienna, 28 June 2016**

*Dr. Ramos-Horta,
Director-General Møller,
Special Representative Erler,
Ambassadors Pohl and Bugajski,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Welcome to the 2016 Annual Security Review Conference. The complex state of affairs in European security will give us plenty of opportunity for lively discussion with our high-level expert speakers. Today we feel particularly honoured to have former President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ramos-Horta address us with a much anticipated keynote speech.

A few days ago, we debated ways to revive co-operative security at an OSCE Security Days event in Berlin. We discussed options for fostering stability and predictability in the politico-military sphere, ways to bridge economic integration processes and joint responses to global and transnational threats. The event was preceded by a night-owl session on protecting fundamental freedoms in times of crisis.

As expected, different perceptions and divergent interpretations of the origins of the current impasse continue to shape our interaction. But there is also a realisation that we cannot simply give up on seeking a convergence of interests where this appears possible. There are many ideas on how to reduce tensions and to prevent crises from turning into conflict. Agreement on a significant second set of OSCE confidence-building measures on cyber-security earlier this year point to the possibilities for consensus if we apply ourselves to finding common ground.

In Berlin, a number of participants spoke out in favour of revitalising and broadening the discussion on strengthening arms control and CSBMs. At first sight prospects are discouraging but the case for rekindling dialogue to dispel misperceptions and misunderstandings is compelling. Establishing a neutral mechanism for military fact-finding, challenge inspections under an OSCE flag rather than by sending national inspectors or even a centralised and institutionalised OSCE verification/inspection mechanism are some of the suggestions that we may want to consider. The OSCE as the most inclusive platform for

dialogue in our region should play a significant role. Rebuilding trust and confidence is a long-term process but we have no option but to keep trying.

The crisis in and around Ukraine, the topic of our first session this afternoon, continues to be the most challenging issue on our agenda. While a resolution of the crisis continues to elude us, we remain committed to reducing tensions and supporting full adherence to the ceasefire and the implementation of the Minsk agreements. Returning the heavy weapons to verifiable storage sites and disengaging from the line of contact remain of paramount importance in this regard.

The SMM continues to fulfil its mandate in very difficult circumstances. There has been an upsurge in violence over recent months. Our monitors are all too often restricted in their freedom of movement or put under pressure in other ways. Patrols come under small arms fire, vehicles are stopped at gun-point, cameras disabled, and UAVs jammed or simply shot down. Such behaviour is unacceptable and undermines the SMM's ability to carry out its important tasks. The unmotivated temporary detention of an SMM local staff member earlier this month was another incident that should never have happened.

There are limits to what a purely civilian monitoring mission can do in such adverse conditions. Calls for an armed OSCE presence in connection with the need to provide a secure environment for elections in non-government-controlled areas of Donbas have met with resistance on the ground. Confusion on this issue has negatively impacted on the security of the SMM and may have provoked some of the incidents we have witnessed over the past weeks. While we stand ready to support discussions on possible scenarios involving armed personnel, we must clearly articulate that the SMM is an unarmed civilian mission and will remain so unless a formal decision is taken with the consent of all 57 participating States.

In response to the crisis in and around Ukraine, the OSCE has demonstrated flexibility in a complex crisis management environment. The lessons that we continue to identify as we adapt to new challenges on the ground, has sparked a renewed debate on OSCE capabilities and capacities across the conflict cycle. The roundtable discussions convened by the Chairmanship over the past few months have been very useful in this regard, adding external views to the discussion between participating States. One idea, among many that have been brought up in the course of these roundtables, is that of broadening our approach to early warning. By including a stronger focus on transnational security challenges, which by their very nature are not confined to specific participating States, we can broaden our perspective in line with the more challenging and complex security environment that we are all confronted with. In this context, I very much look forward to tomorrow's conflict cycle discussion.

Beyond the crisis in and around Ukraine, and perhaps even more so than in past years, we need to keep focused on other conflict situations in the OSCE area, some of which have deteriorated over recent months. In particular, the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh and the serious uptick in violence along the line of contact is of grave concern. Here, there is an

urgent need to make full use of the existing negotiation format, recommit to a peaceful settlement and step up efforts to introduce confidence-and-security building measures. A stronger OSCE monitoring presence on the ground could play a stabilising role.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, Europe is exposed to multiple security challenges that range from instability and armed conflict to violent extremism and terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in arms, drugs and human beings. Other global challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, demographic disparities and the impact of economic differences are adding to the complexity of our security environment.

Against this backdrop, the massive influx of refugees and illegal migrants is a formidable test for our adherence to humanitarian principles and fundamental values, solidarity and effective burden-sharing. The OSCE is already engaged in highly relevant areas such as border management, labour migration and countering human trafficking but also human rights monitoring, tolerance and non-discrimination.

At the Rome *OSCE Security Days on Migration* in March, participants stressed the need for an integrated strategy, looking both at the fight against organised crime, people smuggling and terrorism as well as at inclusion and sustainable development. We will have a dedicated session on migration, inter alia with Ambassador Wild, who on behalf of the Chairmanship is conducting a series of informal meetings ahead of a special Permanent Council meeting on 20 July. I am confident that this process will help us to strengthen the coherence and effectiveness of our action. We are also called upon to contribute to the UN Summit on Migration in September. It is therefore fortunate that we could convince the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration, Peter Sutherland, to come and deliver a keynote presentation to the OSCE.

We must also rise to the challenge of responding to the corrosive appeal of violent extremism that may lead to terrorism. To be successful we need to strengthen cooperation at all levels. In this context, the OSCE could do more to engage with cities and local authorities, many of which are doing frontline work in their communities. In autumn, I plan to convene an OSCE Security Days for mayors to better include their perspectives into our discussion. Cities are crucial security actors in a quickly urbanising world. They need to foster tolerance and inclusion in increasingly multicultural neighbourhoods, protect people and critical infrastructure from terrorism and other security risks, make smart use of new digital technologies, promote sustainable economic development and respond to environmental challenges. They are at the forefront of global trends and often incubators of solutions to global problems. Tapping into their experience and exchanging best practices could be highly rewarding.

In our multipolar and multifaceted security environment, we need to build strong partnerships and coalitions at all levels, with international and regional organizations, our Mediterranean and Asian partners, civil society, young people, the media and academia. As the

Chairmanship's connectivity conference demonstrated, it is essential to link up with business actors that share similar security concerns.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Security Review Conference is a format that has given impetus to many of our discussions in the past. I therefore look forward to constructive and forward-looking debate that can help to rejuvenate the culture of cooperation and joint action that is the OSCE's true source of strength.

Thank you.