



Statement by Amb. González Román, Chairperson of the Security Committee
1174 Session of the OSCE Permanent Council
Vienna, 2 February 2018

Mr Chair,

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to be chairing the Security Committee this year and to address the Permanent Council in this capacity. I am very grateful to you, Mr Chairman, for entrusting the responsibility of this important committee to me and my team. We look forward to cooperating closely with you on your priorities for the Security Dimension.

I want to start by paying tribute to my predecessor, Ambassador Steffen Kongstan, the outgoing chair of the Security Committee and his team in the Norwegian delegation. Steffen and his able team have led this important committee with great commitment and energy over the past year and I am glad to be able to draw on their valuable work and experience.

Mr Chairman, the Draft Program of the Security Committee for 2018 has been distributed yesterday under reference PC.DEL/91/18 of 1st February.

The starting point for drafting the agenda of the Security Committee is the priorities and objectives of the Chair in Office for this year and my main objective is to support the Italian Chairmanship to strengthen the OSCE Security Dimension. To prepare the Work Programme of the Security Committee I have also relied on the substantial work done by the Austrian Chairmanship last year, and I have held extensive consultations with the Secretariat, previous chairs of the Security Committee, and with many delegations. I want to thank them all for their valuable insights and views. I will continue this practise of holding consultations with all interested delegations and I look forward to receiving more feedbacks in the coming weeks to incorporate them to the Work Programme. I look forward to discussions in the committee as inclusive and constructive as possible. The motto of the Italian OSCE Chairmanship in 2018 is "Dialogue, Ownership and Responsibility" and I intend to make it also the guide of our work in the Security Committee this year.

Mr. Chairman,

There seems to be a general agreement that illicit trafficking is among the most serious threats to security and stability in our region. Weapons, drugs, cultural heritage or even human beings and their organs, are all subject to the risk of illicit trafficking (as well as more specific goods such as hazardous waste or wildlife). These are cross-border phenomena with close linkages with transnational organised crime and terrorism.

For this reason, the overarching topic in the agenda of the Security Committee this year will be the combat of illicit trafficking and its links with terrorism and organised crime, thus contributing to further develop our ongoing cooperation in this field.

Within this framework, our three main areas of work will be: Illicit trafficking, notably of human beings, cultural heritage, weapons and drugs, as cross border phenomena that link with transnational organized crime groups, international money laundering and corruption networks, and terrorist organisations; secondly terrorism, especially to address the risk of weapons of mass destruction, namely CBRN agents and double use material, falling in the hands of terrorists and criminal groups; and also the threats posed by the return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), by strengthening our cooperation in areas such as border security, information sharing, and countering the financing of terrorist activities; and thirdly Cybersecurity, with a view to avoid the risk of conflicts stemming from the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), and to increase awareness by decision-makers on how ICTs may impact on international peace and security. We plan to have a meeting devoted to *Confidence-building in the cyber arena: the role of private-public partnerships to counter cyber security threats*, to explore ways to better involve the private sector when addressing these challenges. We will also have the usual reporting by the Chair of the IWG on Cybersecurity, to update us on the work of the group.

The Opening session will take place on February 12th and it will feature a high level presentation on Police Reform. We will link the discussion to the broader topic of Security Sector Governance and Reform.

After this, eight working sessions will follow. We will have seven thematic sessions, each of them focused on a specific topic in line with the main priorities identified by the CiO in its Programme. Transnational threats cannot be addressed by compartments or in an isolated manner. They are all interlinked and are part of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security. For this reason, we will also continue with the practise of previous chairs to hold joint meetings with the other two committees, to address security issues through a comprehensive approach. We plan to have two joint meetings with the other two committees, one with the Economic and

Environmental Committee and another one with the Human Dimension Committee. Lastly, the meeting in November will focus on the preparations and the deliverables for the Ministerial Council in December.

As per the methodology, we will aim at having well prepared, focused and substantive discussions. To maximise the benefit of the meetings, we look forward to an active participation from delegations, the Secretariat and the OSCE executive structures, as well as the autonomous institutions. To the extent possible, we will incorporate to the discussions representatives from Field Missions with relevant programs or experience in that particular topic, to get the more practical and operational perspective from the field. We also want to incorporate more the Partners for Cooperation to the discussions of the Security Committee, both with experts and voluntary reporting, when relevant to the topic. We feel that the Security Committee can benefit more from their views on regional security perspectives and national best practices.

We will follow a policy of gender balance in the composition of the panels. “Women in the security sector” is also one of our priorities. How the participation of women contributes to enhance the comprehensive concept of security will be a cross-cutting issue and we will introduce it in our discussions in the different sessions.

Our work will be oriented towards forging a common understanding on the topics and identifying common interests that can serve us for the results that we would like to achieve at the end of the year.

Finally, we will continue with the practise initiated by the Romanian chair of the Committee of voluntary reports on counter-terrorism related commitments, and we will also have the presentation of quarterly reports by the Trans National Threats Department (TNTD). Together with the TNTD we will ensure that all relevant parts of the organisation are invited to participate.

On top of the committee meetings, I will support the Italian chairmanship whenever relevant for the Security dimension. I am looking forward to the winter session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), the chairmanship’s Counter-Terrorism Conference or the Cybersecurity Conference. Other important hallmarks will be the Annual Police Experts Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Points Network. All these events will be also discussed in the Security Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Dear colleagues,

The work of a Committee is not the work of the chair of the committee but the work of all of us together. We have a collective challenge but also a collective opportunity. I hope that I can count on the support of all of you to help make our work a constructive and substantive one in order to strengthen our cooperation in such an important field for the safety and security of all citizens in the OSCE region.

Thank you