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THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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ON INTERACTION BETWEEN
ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
IN THE OSCE AREA**

(1 November 2000 - 31 October 2001)

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The reporting period of this Annual Report, 1 November 2000 to 31 October 2001, reflects another year of vibrant activity in the OSCE, both at headquarters and in the field. Great efforts have been made by the OSCE with a view to strengthening relations with partner organizations in order to ensure an efficient use of available resources and to create an environment conducive to synergies for developing activities in the field and limiting their duplication. The mechanisms and instruments set forth in the Platform for Co-operative Security have become the "building blocks" for non-hierarchical partnerships. In this context, the strength that we share with our key partners is based on shared fundamental principles and objectives in the pursuit of comprehensive security within the OSCE area.

The OSCE has recognized that the broad spectrum and complex nature of the security issues and challenges facing Europe have made mutually reinforcing co-operation with other security organizations and institutions crucial. In this context, the relationship between the key partner organizations and the OSCE has been largely driven by events in the field, and thus is pragmatic and target-oriented. As the OSCE is a security and co-operation organization that stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok, a truly pan-European framework for 55 participating States, it is the aim of the OSCE to continue along the path of enhancing and developing partnerships.

During the reporting period, the OSCE has undergone a number of changes designed to strengthen the operational capabilities of the Organization, including the Secretariat. New developments in the OSCE region have also led to an increased OSCE presence in the field. In turn, the expansion of field operations has necessitated closer co-operation with partner organizations, and has reflected the need for the OSCE's tasks and role to acquire greater visibility and for others to gain a better understanding of them.

The Platform for Co-operative Security, the operational document of the Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999, gives a new impetus to co-operation at both the field and the headquarters levels. The Platform enunciates the specific goal of further strengthening the

interlocking and mutually reinforcing nature of co-operation between international organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of security within the OSCE area. It offers the OSCE, *inter alia*, as a flexible *ad hoc* framework for co-operation, through which various organizations can reinforce each other while drawing on their own particular strengths. This Annual Report on Interaction between Organizations and Institutions in the OSCE Area is the second one to be issued since the mandate was assigned in the Platform.

The OSCE has developed into an active field organization, with currently over 20 missions and approximately 5,000 national and international staff members. The range and scope of the OSCE's activities have grown dramatically. This is reflected, among other indicators, by a growth in expenditure of almost 1,200 per cent since 1994, with a current budget of EUR 225 million. In fact, when one includes the salaries of seconded staff in field and at headquarters paid for by the participating States, the total value of the expenditure managed by the OSCE approaches EUR 450 million in 2001. These indicators of growth signify that the OSCE is by all standards a serious partner.

Even after the end of the confrontational division of Europe into two camps, the aims of the OSCE (formerly the CSCE) set out in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act continue to be as valid today as they were 26 years ago. Its three facets of security - the politico-military, the economic and environmental and the human dimensions - are interlinked, and the OSCE's approach to security is therefore comprehensive. The OSCE is continuing to evolve internally and to re-evaluate its work in the field in order to best respond to the traditional and non-traditional conflicts that are present in today's environment, an environment which is marked by globalization and complex non-military challenges to security and stability. The OSCE places a high value on building relationships with other international organizations, academic institutions, regional and sub-regional organizations and NGOs, in the belief that co-operation, dialogue and a drawing upon each other's comparative advantages and expertise is the right approach for effectively addressing issues pertaining to conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The Organization's Institutions - the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM) - are essential instruments in ensuring respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The defence and promotion of democracy remain a constant test for the OSCE in its daily activities, in particular through its Institutions and field missions. At the same time, the human dimension constitutes a core of our activities and represents one of our main comparative advantages. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) has been active in expanding the scope of co-operation by developing interparliamentary dialogue and sending democracy teams and election observers in support of field operations. Joint monitoring of elections by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (CoE), and the European Parliament (EP) has contributed to the international observation efforts in Albania and Belarus, and for the Kosovo Assembly elections of 17 November 2001. The activities of the OSCE Institutions provide yet another strategic avenue towards combining efforts with our partner organizations.

The most recent crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has highlighted the importance of partnerships of the OSCE, politically represented by the Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, with the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Council of Europe (CoE). The efforts that countries and their organizations undertake in the pursuit of democracy call for pragmatic solutions, common approaches and a unified stand by the international community. As peaceful solutions were found through political dialogue, the international community spoke with one voice in saying no to the vicious cycle of ethnic violence and strife in the country and the region, in supporting political solutions to problems.

The OSCE has been invited by the signatories of the Framework Agreement concluded at Ohrid, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to assist notably in the implementation of the confidence-building measures contained in Annex C to the Framework Agreement. This includes involvement in the following areas: parliamentary elections, police issues, media and

inter-ethnic relations, specifically education and the use of languages. Respecting the overall European Union co-ordinating role, the OSCE is committed to continuing to support the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in its efforts to find a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict. Furthermore, it is envisaged to maintain close co-operation, both at headquarters and in field offices, with key partner organizations, for the implementation of the Framework Agreement. Regular co-ordination meetings have been instituted and provide a forum for reviewing activities and plans and sharing information. As the security of our international monitors and of those from other international organizations is of the utmost concern, I have entered into an exchange of letters with NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, stipulating the security measures to be provided by NATO.

Through the establishment of the Operations Centre and the start of the implementation of the Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) programme, a planning, co-ordinating and staffing structure has been developed in the OSCE which, *inter alia*, provides a better interface with our interlocutors. As a consequence, the flow of information between the OSCE and partner organizations through the different operational centres and crisis cells has improved considerably.

The Operations Centre in the OSCE Secretariat was established in September 2000. Apart from its function of identifying potential crisis areas, the Operations Centre plays a key role in planning and co-ordinating the deployment of new OSCE field activities. The OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), which started operating in March 2001, has been the first field mission to be successfully established under the supervision of the Operations Centre. In the spirit of the Platform for Co-operative Security, I exchanged letters with the Secretary General of the CoE on 15 February 2001 concerning modalities of co-operation, and this exchange has provided for closer co-ordination of OSCE and CoE activities in Belgrade.

Confidence-building activities in South Serbia have demonstrated the sort of co-operative relationships with other international organizations and government authorities that are now the essential precursors for stability in what remains a sensitive region. Stabilization of the situation, *inter alia*, through

the establishment of the multi-ethnic police training programme demanded that the OSCE work closely with the Serbian Interior Ministry, NATO/KFOR, the EU (EUMM), UNMIK and other implementing partners on multi-disciplinary issues. By May 2002, 400 new police officers will have been trained, of which more than half will be of Albanian ethnicity.

It is envisaged that the OSCE will continue to enhance its role in civilian police-related activities. For example, the OSCE's lead role regarding former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia police has meant increased opportunities for it to work closely with the European Commission. At the suggestion of the European Commission, the Stabilization and Association Agreement was taken into account during the planning phase. This comprehensive and inclusive planning of police activities will enhance ongoing and future long-term police development projects in relation to the Macedonian police force.

The introduction of the REACT-based system for recruitment and deployment of civilian expertise was in April 2001. The comparative advantage of the REACT programme, including the selection of staff according to uniform quality standards, their rapid deployment to the field and management of them in conditions of full transparency at every stage in the process, will become a very useful tool for the OSCE. At a later date, this system may also prove beneficial for our partner organizations in meeting human resource requirements in the field. In addition, a number of other presentations have been made to our partner organizations on the REACT concept, and this has promoted dialogue and a common understanding of current and future developments regarding rapid deployment and pre-mission training issues. Moreover, an informal meeting took place on 29 October 2001, which provided an opportunity for a review and for discussion of lessons learned and good practices over the six months since the introduction of REACT. The intention is, through this type of exchange of information with our key partners, to improve compatibility with similar programmes.

Another area in which the OSCE and its partner organizations can complement one another's expertise is that of the harmonization and standardization of training. This year, an increase in the participation and

cross-participation in seminars and joint projects has provided an excellent opportunity for exchanging information and building working relationships, for example, with the UN Staff College, UNHCR and the Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management Unit of the European Commission and the EU Council's Secretariat.

The OSCE recognizes the importance of integrating a gender aspect and promoting equal rights for women and men in all its field operations. The OSCE Code of Conduct and the OSCE Anti-Trafficking Guidelines are being discussed with other international organizations in the framework of Permanent Council Decision 426 on Trafficking in Human Beings. These Guidelines, and the measures that have been taken by the OSCE have been disseminated to all international partner organizations with the aim of combining efforts in combating trafficking in human beings, in particular with regard to the involvement of international staff members in these criminal activities.

The OSCE Gender Adviser meets regularly with organizations participating in the co-ordination group of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings. Activities with regard to trafficking in human beings are increasingly being co-ordinated among international organizations, NGO partners, governmental bodies concerned and OSCE field activities. The importance of this co-ordination among international organizations is being stressed in gender awareness training at the OSCE. The work of IOM and the OSCE/ODIHR at the field level and in the Stability Pact Task Force provides an example of active and innovative co-operation on this issue. To further facilitate concrete co-operation on the ground and, among others, to establish mechanisms for information exchange and consultations, on 30 August 2001, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Director General of IOM.

One issue of growing concern for the OSCE region is the threat posed by the spread of small arms and light weapons. The pressing need to address the problems associated with the spread of these weapons has been recognized by many international organizations. At the Vienna Ministerial Council in November 2000, the OSCE adopted what is arguably the most comprehensive document on small arms agreed by any international organization. The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons

brings together norms, principles and measures to regulate their manufacture and trade, to improve co-operation in law enforcement, to secure and reduce weapons stockpiles and to incorporate measures relating to small arms into conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation.

During the reporting period, the issue of small arms moved steadily towards the top of the international agenda, culminating with a major international conference at the United Nations in July 2001. The OSCE's landmark agreement had a major impact on this conference, and contributed to a number of other processes elsewhere, including the formulation of policies with the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the Stability Pact. Collaboration with other European security organizations on matters relating to small arms also increased, and opportunities for further co-operation seem certain to emerge. For example, following the EAPC-OSCE workshop on small arms in Baku in June 2001, the two organizations are working together on joint projects in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Another area of importance and vast potential in our relations with partner organizations is the creation of viable strategies for promoting regional solutions and co-operation. This is notable, though not exclusively, in the case of our activities in countries of South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The OSCE is well placed in Central Asia and in the Caucasus to assume a key role in assisting the countries to address the challenges posed by their reforms. However, in order to implement a comprehensive approach to fostering stability and development and countering non-traditional threats to security such as the illegal movement of arms, narcotic drugs, trafficking in human beings and international terrorism and other forms of extremism, it is imperative that the international actors co-ordinate their actions, in conjunction with the Central Asian States.

Furthermore, the Charter for European Security offers the OSCE as a forum for sub-regional co-operation. The importance of sub-regional co-operation is highlighted as an element for enhancing security across the OSCE area and serving as a catalyst for integration of countries into broader structures. In this context, the EU-sponsored Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, under the auspices of the OSCE,

remains a valuable instrument for the development of closer co-operation between sub-regional organizations and the OSCE, international organizations and institutions in that region. The OSCE also recognizes the importance of establishing closer relations with sub-regional organizations such as, *inter alia*, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC), the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), which are also involved in conflict prevention.

In response to the tragic events caused by terrorism in the United States on 11 September 2001, the OSCE Chairmanship established a Working Group on Terrorism chaired by the Danish delegation. In order to support this Working Group and to gain additional expertise, a Task Force on Terrorism was established in the Secretariat. The OSCE Institutions and the OSCE Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities were also called on to contribute. The OSCE Permanent Council, through this Working Group on Terrorism, will provide a draft OSCE statement and recommendations for an action plan to counter terrorism for adoption at the ninth meeting of the Ministerial Council. Increased bilateral discussions with partner organizations, *inter alia*, the United Nations (UN ODCCP), EU, CoE and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), have focused on reviewing existing commitments and sharing efforts aimed at preventing and countering terrorism.

To further support efforts in this cause, the Government of Kyrgyzstan offered to host a follow-up to the conference on organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, which was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 19 and 20 October 2000. The Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism will be jointly organized by the OSCE and ODCCP, and will take place on 13 and 14 December 2001.

As stated by the Chairman-in-Office during his address to the Permanent Council on 11 January, "Security will always be fragile if not accompanied by sustainable economic and social development, by measures to alleviate poverty, by steps to ensure a dignified life for our citizens. It is true that the OSCE has neither the personnel nor the financial resources for major

projects with economic elements. ... But the OSCE can act as a political catalyst to identify potential economic or environmental trouble spots, and mobilize States and other organizations into taking concrete action”.

Taking this into account the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) has developed a co-operative working relationship with a number of international organizations. This assists in strengthening programmatic efforts as well as injecting greater resources into field operations for their implementation of economic and environmental activities. These efforts, being in line with the Platform for Co-operative Security, include formal and informal consultations with financial institutions and international and non-governmental organizations.

Representatives from the European Commission participated actively in the Ninth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum, which took place in Prague on 15 May 2001. In addition, the European Commission hosted one of the preparatory seminars for the Economic Forum in Brussels, at which the Commission contributed its experience regarding good governance against the backdrop of globalization. At the seminar, it was stressed that the challenges of globalization and its impact on traditional notions of governance have reflected a growing need for international co-operation, co-ordination and common strategies to confront new problems at the global level.

Partnership is being developed between UNDP and the OCEEA, with a view to a more result-oriented co-operation. Consultations regularly take place with representatives from UNDP's Regional Centre in Bratislava in the areas of good governance, environment and early warning, with the hope of establishing programmatic co-operation in the future. The UNECE continues to participate actively in OSCE seminars and conferences and assists the OSCE in reviewing the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension.

The NGO community is an important contributor to the work of the OSCE in all dimensions, both at headquarters and in the field. For example, during the past year, and in preparation for the 2001 Economic Forum, the OCEEA has involved more than 100 NGO representatives, both as speakers and as

participants. At the field level, NGOs are a valuable source of information for field officers and are often implementing activities that reinforce OSCE objectives. As seen in this Annual Report, there is a considerable amount of co-operation through exchanges of information and expertise and joint organization of seminars and conferences.

In closing, I would like to quote from a statement delivered by the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, Mr. Javier Solana, to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on 18 January 2001. “The last decade has presented us with many threats to security and co-operation in Europe. Each has created its own challenges, and each has called for different responses. But one lesson can be drawn from them all: no single State, institution or organization is able to meet these challenges and risks on its own.”

I can only agree with this assessment. In this spirit, we will continue and further enhance our mutually reinforcing co-operation within the international community.

CO-OPERATION AT HEADQUARTERS LEVEL

The OSCE's co-operation with other relevant international organizations is based on the Platform for Co-operative Security, the Operational Document of the Charter for European Security, adopted at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, which calls for "[strengthening of] the mutually reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area." The Platform specifies a wide array of consultation mechanisms and modalities for co-operation with international organizations and institutions and serves as the framework for OSCE's co-operation with its partners. In line with the mechanisms laid out in the Platform for Co-operative Security, the OSCE continued co-operation with its partners at the headquarters level throughout the reporting period.

The OSCE's co-operation with its partner organizations is chiefly carried out through the External Co-operation Section in the OSCE Secretariat. As an integral part of the Office of the Secretary General, the Section assists him in maintaining relations with the external partners of the OSCE by serving as the first point of contact at the headquarters level. In accordance with PC.DEC/364, adopted on 29 June 2000, it is responsible, together with other sections of the Secretariat, "for the implementation of the modalities of co-operation in accordance with part II of the Operational Document of the Charter for European Security." In carrying out this task, the Section takes charge of headquarter-level meetings with organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area. The External Co-operation Section also ensures continuity, coherence and oversight of efforts with regard to co-operation with external partners. Moreover, it has a growing responsibility for making other organizations and institutions more aware of OSCE's work and for seeing to it that that work receives adequate and accurate recognition in the declarations and working documents of partner organizations and institutions.

Co-operation at the headquarters level includes a number of high-level consultations, expert-level meetings, bilateral meetings and cross-representation at relevant meetings. Exchanges of information on topical issues and

discussion of potential areas of co-operation are high on the agenda of these meetings. Meetings at the headquarters level respond to developments in the field and provide the political platform for field activities. Political consultations carried out at the headquarters level are designed to enhance and complement the activities in the field. The increase in visits of high-level representatives of our partner organizations to the OSCE Permanent Council meetings in Vienna and to other similar political forums is of particular importance.

One of the highlights of OSCE's co-operation with its partners at headquarters level is the annual Tripartite High-Level Meeting. Since 1993, the Tripartite High-Level Meeting has taken place annually between the Chairmen and Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe (CoE), as well as the Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), in order to better co-ordinate action in areas of common concern. Its expanded participation now includes various UN specialized agencies as well as the European Commission (EC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

This year, the partners in the tripartite process, namely, the OSCE, the CoE and the United Nations and its specialized agencies, met in Vienna on 16 February. The Meeting was hosted by the OSCE, which was represented by the Secretary General and a Representative of the Chairmanship. As in the past, the EC, ICRC and IOM were also invited. The Meeting focused on progress toward peace and stability in South Eastern Europe, especially the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), and the Caucasus. The partners also discussed human dimension issues, including intolerance, racism and trafficking in human beings. They agreed to pursue closer co-operation and exchanges of information in a number of areas in South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

Among the items discussed was the report of the Target-Oriented Meeting at expert-level on good governance. This meeting was held on 15 February 2001 in Vienna and co-chaired by the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the OSCE Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities. The case studies on Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

served as background against which the tripartite Target-Oriented Meeting reached agreement that the main components of good governance are transparency and access to information, rule of law and human rights, public participation, accountability and predictability. Recognizing good governance as the key to a successful transition process, the participants agreed to promote and build good governance following the examples of Georgia and BiH.

In this Meeting, it was pointed out that international organizations need to co-ordinate their activities better, not only by sharing information, but more importantly by sharing complementary agendas, and also by maintaining sufficient contact between headquarters and field offices. The discussions focused on the need to improve the flow of information and the process of consultation among partners in order to foster synergy at both the field and the headquarters levels, thus making it possible to convey a clearer and stronger message to countries in transition. The participants in the Meeting also discussed conflict prevention and the economic and environmental aspects of conflict prevention, in which the OSCE plays a significant role.

In addition to the Tripartite High-Level and Target-Oriented Meetings, the OSCE met with its partners in working-level meetings. With a view to strengthening co-operation at the headquarters level with partner organizations and institutions, preparation is under way for working-level consultations, not previously held, with the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The staff-level meetings that already take place with the CoE, NATO and the EU afford opportunities for discussions on operational matters at the expert and working levels, while at the same time enhancing headquarters relations.

In response to the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, there has been an increase in the number of high-level and staff-level meetings with the EU, NATO and the CoE to co-ordinate implementation of the Framework Agreement. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the organizations' planned activities, to explore areas where co-operation could take place, and to review the Task Force Essential Harvest in the period during and after the security situation. While the EU has the overall co-ordinating role, it is envisaged that sub-groups would be chaired by other international organizations taking the lead

in a given area, based on their comparative advantages.

The Operations Centre of the OSCE Secretariat held several working-level meetings with representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the EC and the European Council Secretariat in Brussels from 14 to 16 May. The international partners discussed the status of the politico-military and crisis management structures being set up by the EU and ways of improving co-operation mechanisms between the OSCE and partner organizations, in particular in the field of information sharing and crisis-management exercises.

Furthermore, working-level meetings were held between staff members of the OSCE Secretariat, the EC and the European Council Secretariat, and NATO on 9 and 10 July 2001 in Brussels. The principal aim of these meetings was to discuss, at the operational level, specific areas for co-operation and ways to enhance and intensify it. Discussions focused also on co-operation in the field, in particular in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), the Caucasus and Central Asia and on police-related activities. Additionally, briefings were provided regarding institutional reorganization. As a follow-up visit and in regard to the issue of civilian crisis management and civilian police, a delegation of staff members of the Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management Unit of the EC visited the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna from 3 to 6 September 2001.

The OSCE Secretariat organized an informal meeting with heads of delegation on 29 October 2001 to evaluate the progress made in implementing the REACT and Operations Centre concepts. Experts from partner organizations also attended in order to contribute to a pragmatic and ongoing exchange of information and reflect on OSCE's experience. The participants identified and discussed, at a strategic level, good practice and lessons learned during the implementation period.

On 3 and 4 July 2001, the first co-ordination meeting, convened by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) took place in Vienna with the participation of high-level representatives of the field offices and headquarters of UNHCR, IOM, the CoE and the OSCE. The representatives discussed co-operation and co-ordination modalities in the region of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), with respective roles

and country programmes in mind, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and improve interaction among the partner organizations.

A first follow-up Joint Regional Meeting took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 4 October 2001. Representatives from UNHCR, IOM, the CoE and the OSCE participated, with UNDP as an observer. The participants discussed issues regarding problems of refugees, displaced persons, migration and asylum. Furthermore, an OSCE/UNHCR/IOM Joint Regional Meeting for Central Asia took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 23 October 2001. In addition to reviewing modalities of co-operation on the ground and matters of common concern such as trafficking in human beings and cross-border issues, the developments in Afghanistan and the risk of an increased influx of refugees were focused on.

A co-operative relationship with the United Nations (UN) and its specialized agencies has been very fruitful during the past year. On 6 and 7 February 2001, the OSCE Secretary General attended the Fourth High-Level Meeting between the UN and Regional Organizations on Co-operation for Peace-Building. Eighteen delegations from regional and sub-regional international organizations participated in the Meeting. It addressed the issues of peace-building in all its aspects, including the conflict prevention and post-conflict phases, taking specifically into account the interaction and co-operation of international organizations, and the principles and modalities guiding this co-operation. The OSCE, represented by the Secretary General and the Ambassador of Romania in New York, Mr. Sorin Ducaru, took an active part in the deliberations and distributed background documents on OSCE tools, experiences and activities.

During the visit, the OSCE Secretary General met separately with Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other UN officials, including Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette, and Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs Kieren Prendergast. The meetings focused in particular on areas in which the two Organizations co-operate directly, including the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The participants discussed the situation of southern Serbia, activities of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the situation in Georgia and the political processes there, including a follow-up to the joint OSCE/UN

assessment mission to Gali, and joint assessments of the situations in various regions.

The OSCE Secretary General also had meetings with the Secretaries General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), H.E. Abdulah Belkeziz, and of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), H.E. Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, and with the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), H.E. Yuri Yarov, in order to discuss matters of common interest.

In co-ordination with the UN the OSCE offered to take the lead in holding the first regional follow-up meeting to the Fourth High-Level Meeting between the UN and Regional Organizations in Vienna in 2002. The agenda will focus on specific regional dimensions of co-operation in peace-building with participation of representatives from regional organizations in Europe. Preparations, which have included consultations with the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva and representatives of the UN Department of Political Affairs, are under way.

The OSCE Secretary General and staff of the OSCE Secretariat attended the Balkans Operational Agencies Co-ordination (BOAC) Meeting that took place on 27 February 2001 in Brussels. The meeting, chaired by UN Special Envoy for the Balkans, Mr. Carl Bildt, and hosted by the NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson, was also attended by Foreign Minister Anna Lindh of Sweden representing the EU Presidency, Secretary General of the Council of the European Union and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Mr. Javier Solana, and EC Commissioner for External Relations Mr. Christopher Patten. Issues related to southern Serbia were addressed, including adjustments of the Ground Safety Zone and other measures to defuse tensions and promote confidence and stability in the region. On 22 March 2001, another BOAC meeting was convened, chaired by Ms. Frechette, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, in Brussels. This meeting was attended by representatives of the OSCE, the EU, the CoE, the EC, NATO, UNHCR and other UN specialized agencies.

On 18 April 2001, the OSCE Secretary General met with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, in Geneva to discuss issues related to the situation in Afghanistan and Central Asia, and in Chechnya. He also met with the Assistant High

Commissioner, Mr. Jessen-Petersen, and with the staff of the Emergency Response Unit to discuss the new approaches to staffing, security and rapid response capability developed by the OSCE and UNHCR.

As part of the on-going effort to promote co-operation between the two organizations, the High Commissioner visited the OSCE in Vienna and addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 18 October 2001. In his speech, Mr. Lubbers spoke of the far-reaching scope of the co-operation between the OSCE and UNHCR that has been developed over the past years. In addition, he highlighted some of the areas in which the two organizations are facing common challenges such as issues related to refugees and xenophobia, and he emphasized the need for refining the co-operative relationship in order to successfully address these challenges. In his concluding remarks, the High Commissioner urged that the OSCE and UNHCR should avoid duplication of responsibilities and efforts by clearly defining roles and responsibilities. In particular, he stressed how important it was for the two organizations to complement each other in their respective areas of expertise.

The co-operative relationship between the OSCE and the Council of Europe (CoE) has been facilitated by the "2+2" high-level meeting, held annually since 1993 between the Chairmen and Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

This year, the meeting was convened for the first time in a "2+2/3+3" format, which included the Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the two organizations. This "trilateral approach" makes a valuable contribution to identifying solutions to common challenges. The meeting was held in Bucharest on 11 April 2001, chaired by the Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Geoana. The focus of the discussion was on co-ordination of policies and potential areas for co-operation in the field between the two organizations. The participants stressed that the work of the two organizations in areas of common interest should continue to be guided by the principles of complementary and mutual reinforcement, as set forth in the Common Catalogue of Co-operation Modalities signed by the Secretaries General of the CoE and the OSCE on 12 April 2000, following last year's "2+2" meeting. The "2+2"/"3+3" process continued at the high-level follow-up meeting on 30 October 2001 in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, where

the primary focus of discussions was on the co-ordination of activities in the fight against terrorism. Participants agreed to undertake joint efforts in addressing the root causes of terrorism, including through multicultural and inter-religious dialogue. They underlined their solidarity with the international coalition to fight terrorism and its supporters.

At the invitation of the Council of Europe, a "2+2" meeting took place at the level of senior officials in Strasbourg on 20 July 2001. The agenda of the meeting focused on an exchange of views on developments since the Bucharest high-level "2+2"/"3+3" meeting. Among the items discussed were the developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, the Caucasus, Ukraine, Belarus and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as human dimension issues, REACT and election observation matters.

A working-level follow-up at the senior level took place at the OSCE Secretariat on 30 August 2001. The aim of the meeting was to hold informal consultations on the implementation of the Framework Agreement (FA). This meeting was of great importance in determining the steps required and identifying the areas of co-operation for fulfilling the requirements of the Agreement in the most efficient way. Participants included representatives of the OSCE institutions, the OSCE Chairmanship, the CoE, the EC and the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje.

At the invitation of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Walter Schwimmer, the OSCE Secretary General addressed the 108th Session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg on 11 May 2001. In his speech, the Secretary General touched on issues of democratic stability in the Balkans and the situation in the Caucasus. In addition, the Secretary General took advantage of his stay in Strasbourg to meet and discuss with a number of participating Ministers of Foreign Affairs. On 9 November 2000, the Secretary General had also attended the 107th Session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. In his statement he, *inter alia*, reconfirmed the need and willingness of the OSCE to co-ordinate closely with the CoE activities of the two organizations concerning counter-terrorism.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe visited Vienna on 12 July 2001 to address the OSCE Permanent Council and to

meet bilaterally with the OSCE Secretary General. In his address to the Permanent Council, Secretary General Schwimmer spoke about the core areas of CoE activity, including promotion and defence of pluralistic democracy, human rights, minority rights and the rule of law, and the CoE's increased co-operation with the OSCE in areas of conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation. For instance, the Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe exchanged letters on 15 February 2001, endorsing mutual co-operation between the two organizations with regard to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). The agreement identifies areas of close co-operation and co-ordination between the heads of the respective operations in Belgrade, including their work programmes. To facilitate this co-operation at the outset, the CoE shared the OSCE's office space from March to July 2001.

In the bilateral meeting between the Secretaries General on 12 July 2001, the focus of discussion included Chechnya and Belarus, as well as the issue of co-locating in the OSCE Offices in Baku and Yerevan. Based on this discussion, an agreement was signed between the OSCE and the CoE on 26 September 2001, establishing the presence of CoE human-rights and rule-of-law officers respectively in the OSCE Offices in Baku and Yerevan. Moreover, the CoE continued the positive and valuable practice of seconding experts to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, specifically to the Judicial Institute and in support of civil administration. This practice supports the effort to share limited resources and enhance pragmatic co-operation in the field.

Co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE continued to develop through OSCE's participation in the Council of Europe Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on Relations Between the CoE and the OSCE (GR-OSCE). The GR-OSCE meetings provide an important instrument for reviewing and exchanging ideas on co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE. Additionally, two reports were published with an overview of co-operation by the CoE with the High Commissioner on National Minorities and with the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Similarly, co-operation with the European Union (EU) continued to expand throughout the reporting period. At the political level, the

national delegation of the EU member State holding the Presidency of the EU speaks at OSCE meetings on behalf of the European Union. This enables the consultations between the EU, the OSCE Chairmanship and the Secretariat to proceed on a regular basis. In parallel to the working-level meetings that take place regularly, high-level meetings and presentations by representatives of the EU and the OSCE have supported a more open dialogue and a better understanding of each other's activities. The importance has also been emphasized of the practice of meeting at least once with each EU-Presidency to discuss matters of mutual concern and to enhance the co-operation between the EU and the OSCE.

On 7 November 2000, at the invitation of the French EU-Presidency, the Secretary General addressed the EU working group on the OSCE in Brussels. He also met with Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU General Affairs Council, as well as with Lord Robertson, Secretary General of NATO. In addition, he held talks with the Director and staff members of the Policy Unit of the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, and with the Director and the staff members of the General Affairs and Multilateral Relations Directorate of the European Commission, reconfirming the working relationship between the EU and the OSCE staff, at both the headquarters and the field levels.

The EC Commissioner for External Relations, Mr. Christopher Patten, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 20 November 2000. In his address, the Commissioner gave a comprehensive overview of the close co-operation between the EU and the OSCE in many regions and activities. Recognizing the security threats emanating from South Eastern Europe as the primary challenge to the organizations over the last few years, Mr. Patten emphasized the importance of building sustainable democratic institutions and establishing the rule of law. In his speech, the Commissioner also acknowledged the positive role of the OSCE in preparing candidate countries for accession to the European Union, in particular through the work of the ODIHR, the HCNM and the RFM.

The OSCE Secretary General also held a bilateral meeting with Commissioner Patten and several senior staff members of the European

Commission in Brussels on 7 May 2001. They discussed areas for further co-operation between the EU/EC and the OSCE and ways to achieve it. As a result, there was some basic agreement on how the EC and the OSCE would operate in a crisis.

Furthermore, on 18 January 2001, The EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, H.E. Javier Solana addressed the OSCE Permanent Council. He outlined the evolving role of the EU in crisis management and underlined the need to develop a solid partnership between the OSCE and the EU in that field. He stressed that the security challenges experienced over the past decade demonstrated clearly that no single organization or institution was in a position to meet those challenges alone.

On 29 January 2001, during the Swedish EU Presidency, the OSCE Secretary General visited Stockholm and had consultations with the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Anna Lindh, and other EU staff members. The meetings covered a wide range of topics related to conflict prevention and civilian crisis management mechanisms, including REACT, ways and means of enhancing OSCE/EU co-operation in these fields, OSCE police-related activities and OSCE activities in the economic and environmental area.

At the invitation of the Swedish EU Presidency and Ambassador Bjurner, Chairman of the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC), the OSCE Secretary General visited Brussels, where he met with the Committee at a working lunch on 27 February 2001. During his stay, the Secretary General also had meetings at the European Commission, External Relations Directorate General and Security Committee, and discussed co-operation between the EU and the OSCE relating to civilian crisis management.

On 17 May, the Secretary General met again with Ambassador Bjurner and discussed the work of the EU on conflict prevention and possible areas for OSCE-EU co-operation. In addition to the contacts of the OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat with future EU Presidencies, Ambassador Bjurner encouraged Secretariat-to-Secretariat contacts between the two organizations. He also spoke in favour of visits by OSCE heads of missions to the EU Political and Security Committee, which would give the EU member States a better

understanding of the various situations in the field.

The Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Anne Lindh, visited Vienna and addressed the Special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on 27 June 2001. Referring to positive developments in joint efforts of the two organizations in Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Minister also discussed further principles and modalities of OSCE-EU interaction for increased co-operation in a number of substantive and geographical areas. She identified several key areas for co-operation such as development and co-ordination of crisis management tools, ensuring of interoperability through compatible methods and standards and EU support for OSCE activities in geographic areas where the OSCE has an extensive field presence. Regarding crisis management, Minister Lindh mentioned the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, which had been endorsed by the European Council in Göteborg earlier in the month. The Programme, she pointed out, will for example strengthen the EU's conflict-prevention mechanism by setting clear political priorities for preventive actions, developing preventive strategies for regions and countries and making better use of the political dialogue.

In the context of increasing co-operation in a number of substantive and geographical areas with the Presidency, the EU Council Secretariat and the Commission, the OSCE Secretary General also met on 27 June 2001 with Mr. Brian Crowe, Director General and Head of the Directorate General for External Relationships of the Council's Secretariat. Accompanied by his colleagues representing, inter alia, the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit and the Situation Centre and Military Staff, Mr. Crowe came to Vienna for extensive consultations at the Secretariat. Discussions included co-operation on institution building and good governance and possibilities for future regular staff talks, shared training programmes for staff and short-term exchanges of staff.

On 28 September 2001, upon invitation by the Belgian EU Presidency and Chairman of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) the OSCE Secretary General addressed a working lunch of the Political and Security Committee of the European Union. On this date, the Police Adviser from the OSCE Operations Centre attended an expert-level meeting in which

technical aspects of co-operation with the EU on the implementation of the Framework Agreement were discussed. In addition, a meeting was held with the Director General, Mr. Brian Crowe, who is responsible within the Council Secretariat for developing policies regarding terrorism. He briefly outlined the first steps that the Council Secretariat, in co-operation with the European Commission, is taking to develop new policy instruments.

Co-operation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been very active during the reporting period. The partnership between NATO and the OSCE is largely influenced by practical co-operation in the field and supported by high-level and senior staff meetings at the headquarters level. The co-operative relationship was further strengthened by the signing of an exchange of letters between the two organizations on the contribution of NATO to the security of international monitors in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 11 October 2001.

On 2 November 2000, for the first time the NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council. He discussed various ways in which the two organizations had increased their co-operation, their comparative advantages and ways to further improve that co-operation. Citing the cases of Bosnia and Kosovo as valuable examples of co-operation on the ground, Lord Robertson encouraged further co-operation between the two organizations at the institutional level. The Secretary General emphasized the need to enhance the co-operation through informal personal contacts, an increase in the number of mutual visits by senior officials, regular briefings on NATO activities at the OSCE Permanent Council and the holding of joint NATO/OSCE staff seminars on key issues such as civil-military relations, public security in peacekeeping operations and early crisis management. In conclusion, the Secretary General said that he considered closer NATO-OSCE relations to be a strategic imperative in the European security framework.

At the invitation of NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson, the OSCE Secretary General travelled to Brussels on 17 May 2001 to address the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) meeting. Speaking of the importance of cross-representation at the field level, the Secretary General mentioned as

an example OSCE's active representation at the crisis management exercise CMX 2001, where it participated alongside the Political Response Cell staff. Previously, the OSCE presence at the CMX exercises had been confined to observing. He also made reference to OSCE's support in the implementation of confidence-building measures in southern Serbia and KFOR-OMIK co-operation in the Kosovo-wide elections, and underlined the importance of co-operation between the two organizations, as well as the EU, in finding common approaches and positions.

During his visit, the OSCE Secretary General also had a meeting with NATO Deputy Secretary General Balazino, in which he discussed the situation in South Eastern Europe, in particular southern Serbia. He briefed Ambassador Balazino on OSCE activities there, including preparations for police training and the elections in Kosovo.

The OSCE and NATO continued to enhance contacts at the headquarters working level through regular staff meetings. During the reporting period, the two organizations held joint staff meetings on 6 November 2000 and 28 March 2001. The participants briefed each other on their areas of activities and also discussed the situations in conflict regions, such as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Kosovo, and ideas for improved co-operation between the two organizations. In addition to regular staff meetings, a number of co-ordination meetings took place regarding the implementation of the Framework Agreement. These meetings often included representatives from the OSCE, the EU, NATO, UNHCR and the CoE.

A concrete example of this co-operation is the joint EAPC-OSCE Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 21 and 22 June 2001. The Governments of Switzerland and Azerbaijan jointly hosted this Workshop. The OSCE Secretary General delivered the opening address at the event, and urged the two organizations to continue their co-operation in this field and to establish pilot projects on small arms issues.

Co-operation between the OSCE and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has developed considerably over the past few years in the field activities where the two Organizations' mandates intersect. On 30 August 2001, the Director General of IOM,

Mr. Brunson McKinley addressed the OSCE Permanent Council. In his statement, he acknowledged that the OSCE's focus on security in its broadest sense made it an excellent forum for discussion on the migration issues that impinge on many aspects of stability and security. He pointed out that the area of the greatest co-operation between IOM and the OSCE was measures to counter trafficking in human beings, especially in view of IOM's active role in the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings chaired by OSCE/ODIHR in the context of Working Table III of the Stability Pact. In conclusion, the Director General spoke of further areas of co-operation such as capacity building in migration management and stabilization through local governance, and pointed out that there is "little that IOM does that is not applicable to the OSCE area." The Memorandum of Understanding signed on the same day was just one more formal acknowledgement of the growing relationship between IOM and the OSCE.

On 25 October 2001, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Jakob Kellenberger, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council. He underlined the strong partnership of the ICRC with the OSCE, in particular with regard to field operations. In his speech, he gave a detailed account of the interaction between the two organizations where both have established field presences. In addition, he stated: "If some of our challenges can be met more easily in the OSCE area than in other parts of the world, it has quite something to do with the existence of the OSCE and its activities". Following the address to the Permanent Council, a bilateral meeting took place between the OSCE Secretary General and Dr. Kellenberger. The discussion further highlighted areas of co-operation regarding security matters and training in the field. A special focus was on the current situation in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries which are members of the OSCE.

The importance of regional and sub-regional co-operation is highlighted as a factor in enhancing security across the OSCE area, which serves as a catalyst for integration of countries into broader structures. Links between the OSCE Secretariat and regional and sub-regional organizations continued to develop along the lines set out in the Platform for Co-operative Security.

On 22 June 2001, at the invitation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the OSCE Secretary General attended the Ministerial Session of the Central European Initiative (CEI) held in Milan. He delivered a statement and concluded by inviting counterparts on the CEI side to discuss areas of possible co-operation.

The OSCE Secretary General met with Ms. Helle Degn, Commissioner on Democratic Development of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), on 29 March 2001. They discussed ways and means of promoting co-operation and exchanges of information between the OSCE and CBSS.

The Secretary General of the Council of Collective Security (CCS), Mr. Nikolajenko, visited Vienna on 13 June 2001 to meet with the OSCE Secretary General. He briefed the Secretary General on the recently held summit of the Council in Yerevan, in which the participants agreed to enhance co-operation in addressing new threats and challenges, such as terrorism, trafficking in narcotic drugs and organized crime, as well as in the political area. They also expressed willingness to enter into a more systematic dialogue with the OSCE in order to reach common positions on different aspects of security.

At the invitation of the Organization of American States (OAS), the OSCE Secretary General participated in and delivered a statement at the Conference on the Role of Regional and Multilateral Organizations in the Defense and Promotion of Democracy. This Conference took place in Washington, D.C, from 19 to 21 February 2001.

The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security means that it must concern itself with economic and environmental issues. Co-operation with other international organizations thus includes addressing economic and environmental challenges to security by intensifying contacts on this matter. The main instrument in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension is the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA). During the reporting period, the OCEEA developed co-operative working relationships with a number of other international organizations in order to strengthen joint efforts and to inject greater resources into field operations for use in their economic and environmental activities. These efforts have included several rounds of

formal and informal consultations with the UNECE, UNDP, UNEP and other UN specialized agencies, both at the headquarters level and in the field, as well as the EC, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the CoE, the World Bank and NATO.

As part of the OSCE's co-operation with other financial institutions, the OSCE Secretary General met with Mr. Mats Karlsson, the Vice President for External Affairs and UN Affairs of the World Bank, on 21 February 2001. They discussed matters of common interest for the two partner organizations.

On 10 May 2001, the Secretary General of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, visited the OSCE Chairmanship and the Secretariat/CPC. The OSCE Secretary General held a meeting with Mr. Costa during which they discussed, among other things, modalities of co-operation between the OSCE and EBRD based on shared values and objectives and specific situations.

As part of its ongoing activities, the OCEEA organizes the annual OSCE Economic Forum. The Forum offers a framework for dialogue between senior representatives of OSCE participating States, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the business community, academics and the media. From 15 to 18 May 2001, the Ninth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum was held in Prague on the theme, Transparency and Good Governance in Economic Matters. Recognizing transparency and good governance as key to security and stability in the OSCE area, the participants in the meeting agreed that stability and economic development should be enhanced by creating suitable institutions and putting into practice the right policies at the national and global levels.

During the reporting period, the OSCE's co-operative relationship with the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe grew significantly. The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, since its adoption at the EU Ministerial Conference in Cologne in June 1999, has been operational under the auspices of the OSCE. It serves the international community by providing a forum for close co-operation among the EU, the CoE, the UN, NATO, the OECD, the international financial institutions, the regional initiatives and

the countries of South Eastern Europe to achieve the objectives set out in the Stability Pact.

The relationship between the OSCE and the Stability Pact plays a major role in the long-term stabilization of countries and the region, which is the purpose for which the Pact was instituted. The OSCE's experience in activities in all the OSCE dimensions enables it to react efficiently in conflict prevention and post-conflict situations. Moreover, the OSCE's focus on field activities places the Organization in a unique position to resolve crises and problems in South Eastern Europe.

The growing importance of the co-operation between the OSCE and the Stability Pact was demonstrated by the appointment of a Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Alexander Rondos, on 6 February 2001. Speaking at the OSCE Permanent Council on 31 May 2001, Ambassador Rondos conveyed his initial views to the participating States. as the Chairman of Working Table I, on Democratization and Human Rights, he recognized the importance of emphasizing minority questions, ethnic relations and cross border co-operation in the Working Table.

The OSCE successfully leads the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings under Working Table III, and assists the Gender Task Force under Working Table I. In this regard, the OSCE Secretary General had a meeting in Vienna on 16 July 2001 with the Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, Dr. Helga Konrad. Among the issues discussed was PC decision No. 426 of 12 July 2001, on Trafficking in Human Beings, and possible co-operation with the Task Force in its implementation, as well as administrative support for Dr. Konrad's office. The Gender Adviser of the Secretariat works in close co-operation with the Co-ordinator of the Task Force and her office on issues such as training and frequent exchanges of information. In particular, with regard to actions to be taken by international staff members when encountering victims of trafficking.

On 11 October 2001, the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Mr. Bodo Hombach, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council. The Co-ordinator spoke of his efforts in preparation for the Regional Conference to be held in Bucharest on 25 and 26 October 2001 and for its role in

encouraging the Stability Pact Partner Countries to commit themselves to a reform agenda and to measures for regional co-operation. In addition, Mr. Hombach briefed the PC on major developments regarding the Stability Pact during the past year and on its successful co-operation with the OSCE in various areas of common concern.

The Romanian Chairmanship hosted the second Stability Pact Regional Conference on 25 and 26 October 2001. The meeting focused on the status of the various programmes supported by donors, on progress made in developing new strategies within the Working Tables of the Stability Pact and on the process put into place by key actors in order to channel donor resources to the Stability Pact priority areas. The Regional Conference was co-chaired by the World Bank and the European Commission and was organized by both Institutions, with the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact and the Romanian Government.

Following the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001, the OSCE Chairmanship established a Working Group on Terrorism, chaired by the Danish delegation to the OSCE. To support this Working Group, the OSCE Secretary General created a Task Force on Terrorism in the Secretariat. Through this framework, the OSCE Permanent Council plans to submit a draft text of a declaration on combating terrorism for adoption at the Ministerial Meeting in December 2001, as well as recommendations for an OSCE plan of action. In this process, existing international commitments adopted within the OSCE, the UN and European regional organizations were considered in order that the OSCE contribution would constitute "value added" to the existing international efforts against terrorism. On 17 October 2001, the Working Group on Terrorism convened with experts from UN ODCCP, the CoE, the EU and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI). The experts presented an overview of existing commitments and activities regarding combating terrorism.

The Government of Kyrgyzstan will host the Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism. This Conference is a follow-up to the UN ODCCP/OSCE Chairmanship conference on countering drugs, organized crime and terrorism,

which took place on 19 and 20 October 2000. The Bishkek Conference will be jointly organized by the OSCE and UN ODCCP and will take place on 13 and 14 December 2001.

In this regard, the OSCE Secretary General met with the Executive Director of UN ODCCP, Mr. Pino Arlacchi, on 10 October 2001, to discuss preparations for the Bishkek Conference as well as the two organizations' activities and plans for countering terrorism. Furthermore, in preparation for the Conference, many working-level meetings were held with ODCCP. A Reinforced Preparatory Meeting took place on 5 November 2001 in Vienna with a view to ensuring a thorough preparation of the forthcoming Conference in Bishkek. Participants also included experts from international organizations.

The OSCE Secretariat organizes regular seminars and conferences on OSCE-related issues, which are open to delegates from OSCE participating States, the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and Partners for Co-operation, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations and OSCE institutions and field activities. These seminars afford an opportunity for dialogue and a cross-fertilization of ideas and recommendations for future activities.

In this context, four seminars took place during the reporting period. The OSCE-Japan Conference 2000 on Comprehensive Security in Central Asia – Sharing OSCE and Asian Experiences was held in Tokyo on 11 and 12 December 2000. This conference was the first joint OSCE meeting with Japan and at the same time the first with one of its Asian Partners for Co-operation.

On 20 and 21 March 2001, the OSCE-Korea Conference 2001 took place in Seoul. This seminar focused on tools successfully brought to bear by the OSCE to reduce armed conflict in Europe, notably in the spheres of CBMs and CSBMs, and their possible applicability in northeast Asia.

An OSCE Seminar on Preventive Functions of the OSCE: Experience, Possibilities, Tasks took place on 8 and 9 October 2001 in Kiev. Co-operation among international, sub-regional and non-governmental organizations as well as with academic institutions was a core theme of the Seminar. The OSCE Secretary General stated that "the code-word is partnership, especially

among main actors working together in specific situations in the 'Euro-Atlantic-Asiatic' area."

The annual Mediterranean Seminar was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 30 and 31 October 2001, on the topic Implementation of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Commitments: the OSCE Experience and its Relevance for the Mediterranean Region. This Seminar provided the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation as well as other participants in it an opportunity to exchange views and ideas on applicability of the OSCE's economic and environmental activities in the Mediterranean region.

OSCE INSTITUTIONS

OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Council of Europe

Within the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) co-operated with the Council of Europe within the established mechanisms of the Working Tables and Task Forces. The ODIHR was involved in the OSCE-Council of Europe Prison Reform Project in South Eastern Europe, a joint initiative aimed at improving detention conditions and prison management in the countries of the region.

A Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe was assigned to the ODIHR Office in Montenegro for most of the 2000-2001 period, following an earlier suggestion by the Office that institutional co-operation on the ground between the OSCE and the Council of Europe should be developed.

In Ukraine, the ODIHR is continuing to co-ordinate efforts with the Council of Europe on a comprehensive review of the country's human rights legislation. Several joint workshops on specific legislation have been conducted.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan the ODIHR and the Council of Europe are continuing to co-operate on prison service training projects. Joint meetings with experts from both organizations and the two countries concerned have been conducted in the region.

In the field of support for ombudsman institutions, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe co-ordinated their activities in an on-going non-formalized manner.

The initiatives undertaken by the ODIHR to support the work of the Special Representative of the Russian Federation for Human Rights in Chechnya, Mr. Kalamonov, were closely co-ordinated with the Council of Europe.

The co-operation with the Council of Europe and especially with its Parliamentary Assembly has been enhanced in 2001. ODIHR officials visited the Council of Europe in March 2001 and conducted a series of meetings with the Venice

Commission, the Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) in order to enhance co-ordination of activities and to discuss ways and means of further improving the existing good interinstitutional co-operation.

With regard to the observation of elections, joint preliminary statements were issued with PACE for all the elections monitored by the ODIHR, such as the parliamentary elections in Serbia/FRY, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Montenegro/FRY, Bulgaria and Albania. Following the November 2000 parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, the ODIHR, together with PACE, organized a follow-up visit in view of the repeat elections that were called in some constituencies.

The statement of preliminary findings and conclusions regarding the local government elections held in Croatia in May 2001 was issued jointly with the CLRAE.

The ODIHR holds observer status on the Venice Commission and participates in many of its meetings. In particular, the ODIHR and the Venice Commission co-operated in conducting election assistance activities. In Armenia, the Venice Commission and the ODIHR liaised closely in the preparation of comments recommending specific areas of improvement. In addition, a round table, organized jointly by the OSCE (the ODIHR and the Office in Yerevan) and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, was held in Yerevan in February 2001 to discuss amendments to the 1999 electoral code with representatives of the authorities, political parties and civil society.

The Council of Europe Secretariat as well as PACE participated in the ODIHR Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes held in May 2001.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The ODIHR co-sponsored the Young Voices opinion poll, a survey of the views of children and adolescents in 35 countries in Europe and Central Asia about basic issues of politics, human rights and society. This poll was developed and co-ordinated by UNICEF in

preparation for the first United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children. The results of the poll were presented in Berlin on 16 May 2001 at a Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia.

On 27 September 2001, at a side meeting of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, UNICEF presented the poll in order to raise awareness of the views of children and young people among participating States, OSCE officials and other actors in the field. The importance of taking these views into account in OSCE programmes and advocacy efforts was also discussed, as was the OSCE's willingness to be a partner in the Global Movement for Children initiative.

United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD)

The ODIHR Election Section participated in a meeting organized by the UN Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD) to discuss how to ensure the integrity of international election observation. UNEAD attended the ODIHR Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes held in May 2001.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

Co-operation between the ODIHR and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has been formalized since the signing of a co-operation agreement in 1998. The offices consult regularly at various levels and seek to support and reinforce each other's activities to promote human rights.

In the second half of 2001, in the context of the Stability Pact Task Force, the ODIHR initiated a new project in co-operation with UNHCHR and UNICEF. The project will result in a concise and analytical report which will include a survey of the situation and responses to trafficking in human beings in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Yugoslavia. The report will also include an analysis of available research on the background of victims of trafficking, as well as an outline of major issues and recommendations for programmatic interventions. Furthermore, it will give a practical and programmatic overview of the current status regarding actors, initiatives and projects, and will include a contact list of individuals and organizations working to combat trafficking in the region.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The co-operation between the ODIHR and UNHCR is based on a formal exchange of letters in 1998.

UNHCR contributed to the ODIHR project on registration of permanent residents in Armenia. Within this project, UNHCR's experts made a substantive contribution in regard to the issue of refugee registration.

With UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration, the ODIHR continued to co-sponsor the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States held in Geneva in 1996.

The ODIHR and UNHCR also co-sponsored three Workshops on International Law Standards for judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers in Uzbekistan.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

In 2001, the ODIHR launched two joint programmes with the European Commission. One is a follow-up programme for advancing human rights and democratization in Central Asia; the other concerns Roma under the Stability Pact. The joint activities between the ODIHR and the European Commission have represented pioneering endeavours in the context of relations between the two organizations related to work in the fields of human rights and democratization. The Central Asia Joint Programme seeks to advance the rule of law, civil society and respect for human rights in Central Asia through a number of projects in the fields of legislative review, fostering of NGO-Government dialogue, strengthening of the role of women in public life and provision of assistance to national human rights institutions and prison reform.

Following the model of the Central Asia Programme, the ODIHR and the European Commission, together with the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus, started in 2000 to implement a joint programme, aimed at creating improved conditions for democratization and the establishment of a pluralistic political

system in Belarus. Implementation of the programme continued through 2001

As a follow-up to its efforts to formalize co-operation among international organizations on Roma and Sinti issues through the establishment of an Informal Contact Group on Roma including representatives from the ODIHR, the Council of Europe, and the European Commission, the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues also entered into a joint programme of activities with the co-operation of the European Commission.

In the field of election observation and technical assistance, the ODIHR maintained regular contacts with the newly created election unit within the External Relations Directorate-General of the European Commission. The Commission actively participated in the ODIHR Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes in May 2001 and was closely associated with the discussions on the establishment of an International Limited Election Observation Mission for the Belarus presidential elections. The ODIHR Election Section participated in a Conference on the Role of Human Rights and Democratization in Conflict Prevention and Resolution, organized by the European Commission in May 2001.

European Parliament (EP)

The European Parliament was involved in the political consultations in the run up to the establishment of the Limited Election Observation Mission for the presidential elections in Belarus. The ODIHR issued the preliminary statement on the first round of the parliamentary elections in Albania jointly with the European Parliament.

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

Within the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the ODIHR chairs the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings under Working Table III (Security Issues), which was created in December 2000. The Task Force co-ordinates the activities of international organizations working to combat trafficking in human beings. It provides political leadership and visibility for these activities, and helps to set international priorities. In addition, it acts as a clearing house, gathering the expertise of different institutions and experts dealing with trafficking in human beings.

In co-ordination with the Council of Europe, the ODIHR developed the Stability Pact Legislationline, a web site designed to serve as a tool for legislative work in the areas of law covered by the OSCE human dimension commitments. Its core objective is to broaden the legal space in which lawmakers operate by providing direct access to OSCE participating States' legislation relevant to these areas of law.

The ODIHR has also been involved in a regional prison reform project under the Stability Pact. In addition, the ODIHR has undertaken a substantial number of activities to advance Roma rights as part of a project implemented in co-operation with the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The ODIHR supported projects to combat trafficking in human beings in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration, including research projects in Tajikistan and on trafficking to, through and from the Balkan region. The ODIHR closely co-ordinates initiatives with IOM throughout the OSCE region particularly in the Stability Pact region and in significant countries of origin of flows of trafficking to that region, such as Ukraine. The ODIHR and IOM also exchanged information on specific cases of trafficking and combined efforts to facilitate the repatriation of victims of trafficking.

The ODIHR carried out its human rights training programme for Kyrgyz border officials in co-operation with IOM, and supported the implementation of the IOM programme on the voluntary return of refused asylum seekers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania.

The ODIHR has worked with IOM on training of border officials in Azerbaijan in the context of assistance to the new border guards training centre. IOM and the ODIHR also organized a major workshop on migration legislation and trans-border co-operation in Almaty in late October 2001. The workshop was held as a follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States held in Geneva in 1996.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ODIHR regularly co-ordinates activities and exchanges information with the ICRC on an informal basis. At the headquarters level, the Director of ODIHR and the President of ICRC were in regular contact on key issues. The Head of the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division of the ICRC is a member of the ODIHR Advisory Panel on Preventing Torture. ICRC representatives regularly participate in OSCE human dimension meetings organized by the ODIHR. Co-operation in the field included the contribution of an ICRC expert to a prison/pre-trial detention and TB management project in Belarus, which was carried out jointly by ODIHR and the AMG. The ODIHR also co-ordinated its prison service training programmes in Central Asia with the ICRC's Head of Regional Delegation for Central Asia.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The ODIHR consults with and provides information to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

World Bank (WB)

The ODIHR has agreed to supplement the World Bank project for the development of a Judicial Training Facility in Kazakhstan by providing training for those judges who will teach at the facility and working on the development of the criminal justice curriculum.

HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

Council of Europe (CoE)

Both the former HCNM, Mr. Max van der Stoel of the Netherlands, and the present HCNM, Mr. Rolf Ekeus of Sweden, who assumed office on 1 July 2001, have maintained mutually supportive and fruitful co-operation with the Council of Europe on issues that fall within the High Commissioner's terms of reference. This included regular consultations at expert level with various directorates and departments of the Council of Europe as well as the Venice Commission.

Almost immediately upon taking up his office, Mr. Ekeus received the European Commissioner for Human Rights,

Mr. Alvaro Gil-Robles, in the Hague on 3 July. Moreover, the Commissioner met with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Walter Schwimmer, together with senior officials, in Strasbourg on 20 July, for discussions on a broad range of issues of common interest.

United Nations (UN)

The HCNM, in co-operation with the ODIHR, continued to support UNDP and UNHCR in their efforts to establish or reinforce ombudsman institutions in various countries. In addition, the HCNM continued to act together with UNHCR and UNDP to organize and launch appeals to donors in support of complex humanitarian situations with implications for inter-ethnic relations in certain States.

The HCNM maintained contacts with the Office of the UNHCHR, in particular with the aim of supporting the work of the Working Group on Minorities.

The new HCNM met with the UNHCR, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, in Geneva on 19 July 2001 to discuss issues of common interest, as well as ways and means of further enhancing and developing the ongoing co-operation. This co-operation is based on a formal arrangement established by means of an exchange of letters between the former HCNM and the UNHCR.

European Commission (EC)

Contacts, including periodic consultations, were maintained between the HCNM and relevant units of the EC with regard to both general and specific issues of common interest. Contacts were maintained with EC representatives both in Brussels and in the capitals concerned. In particular, the HCNM encouraged EC funding in support of various in-country projects to help alleviate inter-ethnic tensions, including national strategies for the Roma and Sinti. Their co-operation also resulted in a substantial contribution by the EC in support of the South East European University in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM) works in close co-operation with other relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The

Representative's Office receives and evaluates information from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dealing with media issues. In this regard, the main partners are *Reporters sans frontières*, the International Press Institute, ANEM (Association of Independent Electronic Media in Serbia), The Centre for Extreme Journalism in Russia, The Freedom Forum and others. Co-operation with international organizations involves issues related to the mandate of the OSCE Representative. The RFM most often co-operates with the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Representative works closely with the Council of Europe on a number of country-related and structural issues, for example, by means of exchanges of information and arrangements of joint meetings.

The Representative, together with the Council of Europe, organized a regional Conference on Free Media in South-Eastern Europe: Protection of Journalists and their Role in Reconciliation, Promoting Interethnic Peace and Preventing Conflicts, which took place in Zagreb from 28 February to 2 March 2001. It focused on the current state of the media in South Eastern Europe with the aim of encouraging the development of regional strategies to promote freedom of the media.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, with the Council of Europe, is developing a number of initiatives in the Ukraine, concerned in particular with analysing draft legislation on the media.

United Nations and Organization of American States (OAS)

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression met for the second time at a seminar in London on 29 and 30 November 2000. The second seminar had three main objectives, namely, to propose standards in relation to key constraints on freedom of expression, to continue to encourage closer co-operation and information sharing between their mandates, and to exchange views with NGOs and independent experts.

They also discussed regional developments in Africa and the ASEAN region. As a result of this discussion, the final declaration adopted by

the three representatives included statements encouraging the establishment of regional mechanisms for promoting freedom of expression and human rights in general.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media provided the UN with relevant material on the media situation in some OSCE participating States.

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media worked on several matters in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The Office participates regularly as a member in the activities of the Media Task Force.

In the framework of the Stability Pact, the OSCE Representative initiated a project entitled "In Defence of Our Future: mobile.culture.container". This travelling library - *cum* - community house was officially launched in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, with many international and local dignitaries present. It is already bringing young people from different ethnic groups together to discuss their common future. The mobile.culture.container has also visited Osijek, in Croatia, Čačak, in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Gorāzde in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Non-governmental organizations

The OSCE Representative, because of the nature of his work, is in close contact with NGOs concerned with the media. They provide his office with information regarding specific cases of the harassment of the media by OSCE participating Governments. Among the Representative's closest collaborators are *Reporters sans frontières*, the International Press Institute, ANEM (the Association of Independent Electronic Media in Serbia), the Centre for Extreme Journalism in Russia, The Freedom Forum and others. In the annually published yearbook, *Freedom and Responsibility*, the OSCE Representative provides a comprehensive overview of NGOs concerned with the media.

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Co-operation with other International Institutions

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has called for increased co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations, as well as between OSCE Institutions. The Assembly has also worked for closer co-ordination and co-operation between the international parliamentary institutions.

The Parliamentary Assembly regards the Platform for Co-operative Security, adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999, as an important basis for developing inter-organizational relations in the OSCE area. In this regard, the OSCE parliamentarians have recommended that co-operation and co-ordination be enhanced between the OSCE and other regional institutions, especially the Council of Europe, NATO, the EU and the CIS, in order to avoid overlapping and to enable them all to benefit from each other's organizational capabilities, experience and infrastructure, thereby reinforcing and enhancing their mutual efforts.

In the Paris Declaration, adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly in July 2001, it stressed that all the OSCE Institutions need to consult regularly as to how to promote and enhance co-operation and exchange of information concerning their activities. The Parliamentary Assembly also recommended that the OSCE expand, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, its activities in the area of democratization and, in particular, in assisting in judicial reform in participating States. In addition, the need was noted to foster a co-operative approach to solving specific problems in the economic and environmental field and further dialogue and co-operation among various international and/or non-governmental organizations active in a specific field or region.

Co-operation within the OSCE

Since its creation in 1991, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its International Secretariat have developed regular and formalized high-level interaction with the other OSCE Institutions. It has become a tradition that the Chairman-in-Office and the leaders of the OSCE Institutions attend the Annual Session and

the Standing Committee meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly in order to report on their activities and also to take questions from the floor.

In addition, declarations and resolutions adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Sessions are forwarded to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and to the Council of Ministers of the Organization. Annually, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly addresses the OSCE Summit or Ministerial Council. In November 2000, President Severin highlighted the need for enhanced transparency and accountability within the OSCE's decision-making processes. He also stressed that flaws such as the secret veto within the consensus-driven OSCE must be corrected, and the precise competencies of OSCE Institutions defined, particularly those of the underutilized Parliamentary Assembly.

The Assembly is represented at every level of official OSCE meetings and continues to try to maintain a good working relationship with the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. At the same time, this relationship and co-ordination should be further strengthened in order to avoid undue overlapping of major events on both sides, which has sometimes prevented members of the OSCE PA from participating in certain OSCE activities.

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has been critical of the fact that the flow of information from the OSCE Headquarters in Vienna to the OSCE PA Secretariat in Copenhagen has not always been smooth and timely. During the Annual Session in Paris in July 2001, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution creating an Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability. The OSCE will make every effort to co-operate with this Committee.

The Secretary General, the two Deputy Secretaries General and other members of the OSCE PA staff regularly attend OSCE meetings and sometimes serve as rapporteurs at various conferences and seminars.

In February 2001, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly amended its Rules of Procedure to establish winter meetings. The main purpose of these meetings is to provide an additional forum for the OSCE PA members and to improve communication and dialogue between the Assembly and the other OSCE Institutions. The

first winter meeting will take place on 21 and 22 February 2002.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly co-operates very closely with the OSCE field activities, in particular with regard to the work of the ad hoc committees and working groups as well as during presidential visits and election observation missions. The OSCE PA ad hoc committees on Belarus, Moldova and Abkhazia (Georgia) have been working in close co-operation with the OSCE field activities in these countries. The President of the OSCE PA took the initiative to enhance the contact between the Assembly and the field activities and has invited members to visit missions from time to time to learn about the OSCE activities as well as to provide the missions with political support. By enhancing this field visit scheme, the OSCE PA can develop cadres of well informed parliamentarians who should be willing to support financial requests for OSCE field activities in their national parliaments.

The Parliamentary Assembly has also co-operated closely with field activities with regard to specific projects such as the Round Table on the elections in Kazakhstan, at which the OSCE PA, the OSCE Centre in Almaty and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights worked with the Central Election Commission in a series of meetings. In addition, in May 2001, Ambassador Roy Reeve, Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, paid a visit to the International Secretariat in Copenhagen to discuss possible future projects and co-operation between that Office and the OSCE PA.

In addition, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly co-operates with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in its election observation programme. In 1997, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the President of the OSCE PA signed a Co-operation Agreement between the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen. This Agreement was designed to enhance co-operation between the two Institutions when observing elections. In all the cases where the OSCE PA has been sending an election observation delegation, the Chairman-in-Office has appointed a senior member of the Parliamentary Assembly to lead the OSCE observation mission. This has added visibility and credibility to the overall efforts of the organization in the field. Representatives of the ODIHR often attend OSCE PA seminars and

meetings, serving as experts on specific issues, and the Parliamentary Assembly is often represented either at the political or at the executive level at ODIHR meetings, staff members of the OSCE PA having on occasion assisted as rapporteurs.

The co-operation with the Offices of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities has been very good, and mutual participation in seminars and meetings is a well established tradition. In the autumn of 2001, the OSCE PA, together with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, has sponsored an internship project for young journalists from Kosovo. Two journalists from Kosovo are working as interns partly at the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and partly at the OSCE PA. Two additional Kosovo interns are working in the Kosovo region. The project is sponsored through the OSCE PA Journalism Prize, and the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media was in charge of the overall programme for the two interns, who joined the OSCE PA in Paris for the Annual Session.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also co-operates closely with the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities, and the OSCE PA participates actively in the annual meetings of the Economic Forum as well as in the preparatory seminars. The Officers of the Second General Committee of the OSCE PA serve as lead speakers, and staff members of the International Secretariat of the PA have assisted as rapporteurs.

Co-operation with other international institutions

Throughout the past year, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has continued to develop its co-operation with other international parliamentary bodies. At the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session in July 2000 in Bucharest, representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Nordic Council were present.

In April 2001, the traditional "2+2" meeting between the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General of the OSCE, the Chairman of the Ministerial Council of the Council of Europe

and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe was expanded into a “3+3” meeting including also the two Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the OSCE as well as the Secretaries General of the CoE and the OSCE. In addition, the two Parliamentary Assemblies hold regular co-ordination meetings between the two Presidents and the two Secretaries General or their deputies.

In election observation missions, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also co-operates with parliamentary institutions, particularly the European Parliament, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. There is also co-operation with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, whose members often join OSCE PA observer missions. The OSCE PA, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament often work together as a tri-parliamentary troika in order to avoid duplication of work and to ensure that the international community speaks with one voice.

In addition, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's ad hoc committees, working in critical regions facing particular problems, have in several cases participated in parliamentary troikas together with the European Parliament and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in order to increase co-ordination and to strengthen international parliamentary projects. In Albania, a parliamentary troika consisting of representatives of the three parliamentary bodies has worked with the OSCE Presence in Albania to help the Albanian Parliament to develop democratic parliamentary practices as well as to draft of a new Constitution. It is foreseen that this form of co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania will continue. In Belarus, a parliamentary troika consisting of representatives of the same three parliamentary institutions is currently engaged in an effort to promote dialogue and democratic development. A parliamentary troika project has been initiated with regard to the Stability Pact with a view to including a representative of each of the parliamentary institutions in the various Stability Pact working groups. It is hoped that a parliamentary troika can monitor the extent to which governments and international organizations adhere to the commitments they have made and at the same time help push through the necessary structural reforms.

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly addressed the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the European Parliament on 29 May 2001, and in his statement he stressed the need for co-operation between international parliamentary bodies in order to enhance parliamentary oversight, especially with regard to the European Security and Defence Identity. President Severin stated that more dialogue is needed between the main European security organizations in this respect - in particular among the OSCE, NATO and the EU.

Further, the OSCE PA ad hoc committees co-operate with the field offices of all other international bodies, especially the UN, NATO and the EU. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also has regular contact with NGOs, both during its meetings and when parliamentarians undertake field missions.

OSCE MISSIONS

OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

General assessment

The Presence was established in Albania four years ago and continues to be one of the most senior and respected international organizations in the country. The Presence is perhaps unique among OSCE missions in that its mandate specifically requires it to provide a flexible framework offering a co-ordination role to other agencies. This wide mandate means that the Presence is involved in a diverse range of activities, working closely with a large number of international organizations. The work of the Presence headquarters in Tirana is supported by ten field stations throughout the country and one liaison office in Tirana.

Much of the Presence's work with its international partners takes place through the 39-member Friends of Albania Group (FOA). The FOA, which brings together Albania's major bilateral and multilateral partners, has been the main forum for co-operation among the members of the international community in the country since the crisis of September 1998. Co-chaired at the international level by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the EU Presidency, the FOA is chaired at the local level in Tirana by the Head of the OSCE Presence. As for the group's secretariat, the Presence aims to share information on donor-funded programmes and to build political consensus on a wide range of issues. In this way, the Group serves as a regular forum for discussion of political issues and reform strategies in the fields of democratization, the rule of law, good governance, economic development, security and public order. At regular intervals, the Group convenes international plenary sessions in either Vienna or Brussels to assess Albania's general progress along its path of reform and towards stability.

Future co-operation

The Presence will continue to remain a first "port-of-call" for virtually all international organizations and many international NGOs entering Albania. Its wide mandate and extensive field station network give it an unparalleled depth of knowledge regarding most major issues affecting the country. The Presence provides

briefings to visiting representatives of international agencies. It can also offer analyses of specific issues, particularly to political and security matters.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Council of Europe and the Presence co-operate very closely on most major political issues. The Special Representative of the CoE joins the Presence's daily morning meetings and the Head of Presence travels to Strasbourg once a year to discuss matters of common concern. At the technical level, the Presence and the CoE work together on the following issues:

- Elections. A close working relationship between the Special Representative and the Head of Presence on election-related issues has ensured an agreed common line both publicly and with political parties and others. The International Election Observation Mission for the Albanian parliamentary elections on 22 July 2001 was a joint undertaking by the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE. The Presence provided assistance and support to the relevant Albanian electoral institutions.
- Legal and judicial reform. The Council of Europe and the Office of the Legal Counsellor of the Presence have been working together on examination of the Law on the High Council of Justice, local government and police issues and reform of the judiciary. There is also some co-operation in the development and administration of the School of Magistrates, with one of the lawyers in the Legal Counsellor's Office providing teaching support.
- Ombudsman development. Both organizations are represented and actively participate in the donor co-ordination group supporting the Ombudsman.
- Human rights. The two organizations share information and provide advice to consultants tasked with analysing various human rights and law reform issues. The Human Rights Office of the Presence facilitated the inclusion of the CoE in the interministerial working group on combating trafficking.

- Decentralization. The Presence and the Council of Europe co-operate in monitoring decentralization issues. They work together in providing support to the Albanian Government in its work to achieve effective local government in accordance with the Albanian Constitution and the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which has been ratified by Albania.
- Action to combat corruption. The Presence and the CoE have supported the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Monitoring Group, which is to assess and analyse the progress of key institutional reforms necessary for combating corruption.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Since 1998, UNDP has been implementing its Weapons in Exchange for Development Programme in selected areas in Albania. In response to repeated encouragement from the Friends of Albania, the Government launched a nationwide weapons collection programme in the spring of 2000. Information collected by the Presence's field stations suggested unevenness in the Government's implementation rate and lack of equipment and resources. This assessment, when shared with UNDP, led to an announcement that, from September 2001, UNDP would support the nationwide programme through public awareness, technical assistance and inventory control activities. The Presence is also looking for ways to promote the UNDP Programme in the north-eastern part of the country, where the collection rate has been the least successful.

Co-operation between the OSCE and UNDP in electoral assistance has been less extensive than in the previous year, reflecting a lower level of UNDP involvement. Both organizations were, however, members of the Management Board of the Y2001 Voter Registration Project.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The UNHCHR Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights supported the Presence in the preparation of the training materials for the course entitled Policing the Rights of Women: Domestic Violence, Prostitution and Trafficking. Elements of the course were included in the training programmes

of both of the police training missions in Albania, namely, the WEU Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) and the US-funded International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme (ICITAP).

The Presence also worked closely with UNHCHR's representative in helping Albania to fulfil its human rights treaty-reporting obligations vis-à-vis the UN.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

There were very close ties between the Presence and the UNHCR office in Tirana during the 1998-1999 Kosovo crisis. As UNHCR changed the focus of its work in Albania following the departure of the Kosovo refugees, a new relationship formed around the issue of asylum and migration. UNHCR acts as the rapporteur for the technical-level FOA Group on Asylum and Migration, which discusses key concerns related to border control policies, detention of illegal migrants, processing of detainees, and the EU's Action Plan for Albania and the Neighbouring Region. The Presence and UNHCR drafted a quadripartite agreement together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) on establishing a preliminary screening system to identify illegal migrants.

UNHCR and the Presence are in close contact at the senior level to discuss possible refugee flows across the border into Albania should the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia deteriorate.

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

The Presence's field station in Kukës often chairs the regular monthly meetings of the Albania-Kosovo Joint Border Commission, which brings together Albanian police and customs officials with UNMIK CIVPOL (Civil Police) and KFOR officers from both sides of the Albanian-Kosovo border. The Presence and UNMIK have also been discussing a proposal by the Government of Albania for opening two additional border crossing points between Albania and Kosovo as a means of stimulating economic growth in north-eastern Albania through trade, and at the same time controlling illegal border crossings and smuggling. Regarding this discussion, one of the proposed new border crossings at Morina (Tropoja

District) was officially opened at the beginning of July 2001.

European Union (EU)

EU Member States/Council of Ministers

The Presence co-operates with the Member States of the EU through the Friends of Albania Group. From time to time, the Head of the Presence addresses the Council's Committee on the Western Balkans (COWEB) in Brussels. Officials of the Presence maintain extensive contacts with the bilateral embassies of the EU Member States across a broad spectrum of levels and activities.

European Commission (EC)

Stabilization and Association Agreements (SAAs) designed to stimulate wide-ranging political, institutional and economic reforms are a cornerstone of EU policy for the Western Balkans.

With regard to Albania, the EU decided that further work was needed before it could open negotiations on an SAA. The EU therefore established the High Level Steering Group (HLSG), led by the Commission in early 2001. The Commission consulted the Presence extensively during the preparations for the three HLSG meetings and solicited its viewpoints on issues ranging from weapons collection to trafficking in human beings. Many of the Presence's concerns were reflected in the Commission's final report on the HLSG, which proposes that negotiations be opened. In a follow-up to the report, the Presence and the Commission have discussed ways in which they can continue their close co-operation before and during the negotiation process regarding the issues of democratization, human rights and justice and home affairs.

European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)

The Presence and the EUMM in Albania have signed a Memorandum of Understanding defining their relationship. They exchange information at the headquarters level and liaise in the field. The EUMM shares its reports on security matters and the political and social environment with the OSCE. EUMM teams are currently operating in the north and south of the country and visit OSCE field stations to receive updated regional briefings.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

With the support and encouragement of the Presence, NATO has taken the lead in the Friends of Albania Demilitarization Group. As rapporteur for the group, NATO has refined an earlier British plan for a facility to destroy unstable munitions as well as ammunition collected as part of the Government's national weapons collection programme. The NATO plan envisages making use of the facility currently used for the dismantling of landmines in Elbasan, south-east of Tirana. The Presence's field station in that town follows these developments closely.

The Presence's Field Station Co-ordination Cell (FSCC) maintains close co-operation with the Kosovo Stabilization Force (KFOR) Communication Zone West (CommZ (W)) based in Durrës. CommZ (W) will assist OSCE with helicopter facilities, including medical/casualty evacuations as necessary, and occasional visits to remote parts of the country.

A temporary Albanian-based NATO border observation team, comprised of four military officers, receives briefings from FSCC and field stations to assist them in the compilation of reports regarding the situation at the borders with neighbouring countries, particularly with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Presence works with IOM on a daily basis on trafficking in human beings and illegal migration in Albania. The Human Rights Office (HRO) of the Presence, in co-ordination with the field stations, reports cases of trafficking so that IOM/ICMC programmes can be activated to help those concerned.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Human Rights Office works with the ICRC on monitoring the pre-trial detention facilities located in police stations around the country and provides information and assistance as required.

West European Union (WEU)

The Presence maintained close relations with the Multinational Advisory Police Element of the Western European Union (WEU/MAPE) until its closure at the end of May 2001.

World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Co-operation with the World Bank and the IMF comes mostly through the Friends of Albania Group. In particular, the Presence works with World Bank project managers in Washington on the issues of action to combat corruption, legal and judicial reform and civil service reform. The Presence and the World Bank recently agreed to explore a closer working relationship on decentralization and property rights. In its capacity as chair of the FOA Group, the Presence also participates in World Bank donor co-ordination meetings on sectors such as health, education and water and sanitation.

The Economics and Environmental Office (EEO) of the Presence is a member of the World Bank Working Group for the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS). Since the OSCE is the only member of the Working Group with a network of field stations, the EEO is able to contribute extensive information and advice obtained from these outposts.

Through the EEO, the Presence is working closely with the IMF and the Albanian Government to create an Investment Promotion Agency for Albania.

OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

General assessment

In carrying out its mandate, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) co-operates closely with a number of international organizations and institutions in BiH. These working relationships have been established at all levels of the Mission. The

OSCE Head of Mission and Deputy Head of Mission meet weekly with the Principals of the Office of the High Representative (OHR), UNHCR, the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMiBH), the Stabilization Force (SFOR) and the International Police Task Force (IPTF) for the purpose of information exchange and comprehensive policy co-ordination. Senior staff members of the Mission regularly attend meetings of the Inter-Agency Planning Group (IAPG, comprised of representatives of the same organizations), which is, *inter alia*, tasked with preparing issues for consideration by the principals. At the field level, all the organizations work together closely on a daily basis through regular meetings.

Future co-operation

In the second half of 2001, it has been agreed that the principal international organizations operating in BiH would engage in a collective and strategic review of the overall effort by the international community, with a view to achieving greater effectiveness and efficiency. This streamlining process will be focused on planning in the functional areas, the core competencies of the various organizations, their relative strengths and weaknesses and the resources currently deployed.

In the regional context, the Mission is also committed to strengthening the exchange of information and expertise with other OSCE Missions in the region and other international organizations, particularly on issues related to refugee return.

Office of the High Representative (OHR)

The Office of the High Representative (OHR) is the chief civilian peace implementation agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement designated the High Representative to oversee the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina on behalf of the international community. The Mission works in close co-operation with the OHR's various departments, and participates in thematic co-ordinating groups attended by other international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The OHR's Reconstruction and Return Task Force (RRTF) provides a forum for perhaps the most successful of the interagency efforts, namely, the Property Law Implementation Plan,

or PLIP. The significant progress in minority return witnessed in the past two years coincides with the passage of acceptable property laws and the formation of the PLIP. At the headquarters level, representatives of OHR-RRTF, the OSCE, UNHCR, UNMIBH-IPTF, and the Commission on Real Property Claims (CRPC) come together at the PLIP cell meetings. The meetings provide the mechanism for designing implementation policies. For uniform interventions and systematic collection of information, the PLIP relies on a field network of focal points, the majority of which are OSCE field offices. Over 90 per cent of the OSCE human rights cases relate to PLIP issues.

The OSCE, the RRTF, UNHCR and OHCHR also co-ordinate efforts to ensure sustainability of minority return and access to utilities. Chaired by the OSCE Mission, the Working Group on Utilities has been reviewing and monitoring cases of disconnection of water, gas and electricity supply which have been reported by OSCE Human Rights Officers throughout the country. Further, the OSCE, the OHR, and UNHCR jointly articulate human rights policy in the Human Rights Co-ordination Centre (HRCC).

The Co-ordination and Policy Group on Education, in which the OSCE provides human rights input and field support, is an essentially pedagogical group led by the OHR and includes the World Bank, the Council of Europe, the European Union, UNESCO and others.

The Mission also attends meetings of the Group on Economic and Social Rights (GESR), which was chaired by the OSCE in 2000. This Group provides the primary forum for debate, policy-making and collective action on economic and social rights. Based on the Group's work, the OHR, UNHCR, OHCHR and the OSCE have developed an international community strategy for non-discrimination in employment that provides a basis for collective action.

In May 2000, the Roma Co-ordination Group (RCG) was created by the OSCE, the OHR and UNHCR as a Sub-Group of the GESR. The RCG serves as a forum for exchanging information among the NGOs and international organizations active in the field and for identifying gaps and needs with regard to the protection of the human rights of the Roma.

The Mission works closely with the OHR, the CoE and other partners in supporting the

Human Rights Commission (BiH Ombudsman and Human Rights Chamber), the Commission on Real Property Claims (CRPC) and the Entity Ombudspersons. The OSCE and the OHR attend monthly Agents and Institutions Meetings, in which the agents of the two Entities and the State, representatives of the Ombudsman and of the Human Rights Chamber for BiH, discuss issues regarding co-operation between national human rights institutions and compliance with their decisions. The Mission supports implementation of the decisions of the institutions.

The Mission's Democratization department and its Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) established a co-ordination group with the OHR in 2001 to attract international assistance to the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. The co-ordination group acts as a clearing house for assistance under the umbrella of the OHR, the OSCE and the European Commission technical assistance project.

The Civil Society Co-ordination Group attended by the OHR, the OSCE, USAID, the EU, the World Bank, the CoE, UNHCR, OHCHR, and recently the Soros Foundation and the International Council of Volunteer Agencies (ICVA) NGO Council, aims at ensuring that an effective legal framework of NGOs exists throughout the country. Thanks to the Group's efforts, the House of Representatives of the State Parliament has adopted the Law on Associations and Foundations. Furthermore, the Democratization Department participates in the Gender Co-ordination Group (OHR UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP and IOM), which co-ordinates numerous initiatives and activities on gender issues.

The Mission's Media Affairs Department has, in co-operation with the OHR, continued its work with media legislation, the Freedom of Access to Information Law and the Defamation Law, and their implementation. In the first half of 2001, the Department completed the successful conversion of Radio FERN into the BiH Public Broadcasting Service (BH Radio 1). This conversion was made possible through OSCE's co-operation with the OHR, and support and funding from the European Commission, the Swiss Government and other FERN donors. The OSCE Mission to BiH is also responsible for the Free Media Help Line, which provides journalists with a mechanism to report incidents of harassment, threats and interference occurring

as a result of their work. The Free Media Help Line co-ordinates with the Communication Regulatory Agency (previously known as the Independent Media Commission), the UN/IPTF, the Ombudsman's Office and the OHR in ensuring responses to incidents of threats, intimidation or interference.

The OSCE Elections and Implementation Department liaises regularly with the OHR's Legal Department on electoral matters, in particular on activities relating to the permanent Election Law. The Elections and Implementation Department has also been working closely with the OHR on the strategy for the establishment of the Election Commission, its secretariat and its budget allocation. Furthermore, the Department co-operates regularly with the OHR's Political Department on municipal and cantonal issues, including matters of assessment and sanctions against officials.

The Regional Stabilization Department works closely with the OHR's military cell. The OSCE, the OHR, SFOR and UNMiBH jointly participate in the Common Security Policy Working Group (CSPWG), in which military issues are discussed and co-ordinated.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission Human Rights Department has briefed the Council of Europe Rapporteurs several times on accession issues. The OHR and the CoE defer to the Mission for property repossession overviews to counter the claims of local Ministers and officials that the situation in BiH has been resolved. The Mission also works with the CoE/Venice Commission when drafting legislation, for example, the new Laws on the Judicial Service, the Republika Srpska Ombudsman Law and the merger of the Constitutional Court and the Human Rights Chamber. Furthermore, the Mission has briefed the CoE Rapporteurs several times on accession issues.

In March 2001, the Mission co-operated with the CoE to organize a round table on Roma and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which was part of the joint Council of Europe-OSCE/ODIHR project entitled Roma Under the Stability Pact.

Following the requirements published by the CoE with regard to conscientious objection and alternative service, the Mission's Human Rights Department, in conjunction with the OHR, UNHCR and the CoE, has been engaged in

monitoring human rights violations and working on a strategy to introduce the necessary legal reforms. As a result of their public campaigning, the Government of the Federation of BiH has proposed a new draft Law on Defence.

In connection with Human Rights Day on 10 December 2000, the OSCE and the CoE liaised to ensure the supply and distribution of human rights teaching materials to secondary schools around the country. Furthermore, the Mission's Democratization Department works with the CoE on governance initiatives such as public administration training, the promotion of women in politics and the development of civil society.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

UNHCHR has assumed the lead on issues involving trafficking in women and relies on the presence of the IPTF officers throughout the country to implement its policy on this matter. It was agreed that the OSCE Human Rights Officers are to pass cases of trafficking in women to IPTF officers in order to limit the number of people involved in each case.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

As established in Annex 7 of the Dayton Peace Agreement, UNHCR is the lead agency for return issues. The OSCE Mission works with UNHCR, intervening with authorities in cases of return-related violence and on issues related to the sustainability of return, such as employment, education, registration, access to documents, and access to utilities. The Mission further co-operates on cross-border issues, including private property return cases and detention cases involving minority returnees.

United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF)

The IPTF has the lead on police issues. The Mission's Human Rights Department provides support when human rights issues need to be addressed and IPTF does not have human rights expertise in a given geographic location. The Human Rights Department has also developed expertise in the procedures for police during evictions. Human Rights Officers, together with IPTF officers, attend evictions in order to verify that the local police meet these standards.

The Mission's Joint Operations Centre (JOC) liaises with the IPTF through a daily exchange of operational and intelligence information to assist it in the role of supervising local police response to civil unrest and disturbances in connection with evictions and returns issues. During the general election on 11 November 2000, the IPTF worked with police at the local level to provide a written security plan for each polling station.

The Mission's Democratization Department consults with the IPTF on initiatives to combat corruption as part of its Municipal Infrastructure Finance and Implementation Programme.

United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMiBH)

Prior to the closing of the UNMiBH Judicial System Assessment Project (JSAP) in December 2000, the OSCE and the OHR, in conjunction with the JSAP, drafted legislation for the reform of the legal system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing for the vetting of all judges and prosecutors. The Mission's Human Rights Department shared the monitoring of trials and the results of other field activities with the JSAP.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The Mission's Democratization department co-operated with the EC on the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Micro-Projects Programme for 2001, providing support in the selection of local NGOs.

European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)

An EUMM liaison officer works in the Mission's Joint Operations Centre (JOC) for several hours each day. During the municipal and general elections, the EUMM (known as the ECMM until December 2000) provided the OSCE with enhanced communications support and additional VHF repeaters. A number of ECMM observers participated in the elections as polling station observers.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Stabilization Force (SFOR)

The Mission co-operates closely with SFOR, NATO Headquarters in Brussels and the OHR to assist the Entities in reducing and restructuring their forces and in developing a common defence and security policy. It also co-chairs with SFOR the Steering Board for the Restructuring of the

Entity Armed Forces. In co-operation with NATO Headquarters and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the OSCE Mission has been strengthening parliamentary defence committees in BiH. The Mission also collaborates with SFOR, the NATO Air Operational Co-ordination Centre (NAOCC), the Czech Air Force and the Office of the Personal Representative to conduct aerial observation flights in BiH in order to enhance confidence- and security-building measures between the Entities of BiH.

The Mission's Joint Operations Centre (JOC) works closely with SFOR on security matters. Each organization has a liaison officer assigned full- or part-time to the other, for co-ordination and information exchange. The OSCE emergency action plan is closely co-ordinated with the SFOR plan.

SFOR also provided the OSCE with security for the general election on 11 November 2000, by ensuring the protection of persons assigned special status (election supervisors, international observers and core election staff). SFOR personnel participated in the training of OSCE supervisors through situation-awareness briefings and mine-awareness training. When required, SFOR liaison teams were deployed to the JOC, as well as to all the OSCE regional centres and field offices in order to provide on-the-spot advice and a smooth link with SFOR formations in the field and at headquarters.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The OSCE Mission to BiH has availed itself of IOM's expertise and network of offices in organizing and conducting out-of-country voting operations for all the BiH elections that have taken place. This co-operation has been key in allowing hundreds of thousands of BiH refugees to exercise their right to vote. Furthermore, IOM played an important advisory role in the nationalisation of the out-of-country programme and in the relocation of the entire operation to Sarajevo.

World Bank (WB)

The Mission's Regional Stabilization Department co-ordinated with the World Bank and other partners in their activities concerning the preparation of a defence budget audit for the year 2000, aimed at improving budget transparency in BiH. A Steering Board has been created which includes the World Bank, the

International Monetary Fund, the OSCE and other organizations for the purpose of sharing expertise in this area.

The Mission has also worked with the World Bank on sustainability of the situation of returnees. In chairing the Group on Economic and Social Rights, the Human Rights Department has provided support on labour law reform and corruption. Furthermore, the World Bank, in co-ordination with the OSCE and other international organizations, provides training to banks and utilities companies. These training programmes complement the OSCE training of municipal governments in developing sustainable infrastructure projects.

OSCE Institutions

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Mission's Human Rights Department functions as a link between the ODIHR Roma/Sinti Adviser and the Romani NGOs in BiH, and supports the work of the ODIHR Adviser through the Department's involvement in its projects and events.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly nominated one of its members to serve on the Consultative Board of the Parliamentary Support Project (PSP). The Board assesses the functioning of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly and monitors the on-going progress of PSP exchanges and training. With the OSCE PA assuming a key role in the Stability Pact's Parliamentary Table since June 2001, it is anticipated that co-operation between the PA and PSP will increase.

Other

Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA) (previously known as the Independent Media Commission - IMC)

In co-operation with the CRA/IMC, the Mission's Department of Media Affairs has been working on the establishment of a Press Council, which is conceived of as a mechanism for self-regulation of the press. The OSCE is continuing to support, and is providing assistance in developing, the Press Council Secretariat and its case referral procedure. This work has all been undertaken through co-operation with the IMC/CRA, the European Commission, and USAID's International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) ProMedia.

OSCE MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

General assessment

In fulfilling the terms of its mandate, the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Croatia co-operates primarily with the Council of Europe, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Mission, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) office, and the European Union Monitor Mission (EUMM). The Mission also interacts regularly with other OSCE Institutions.

The Mission co-operates routinely or on a case-by-case basis with many other international organizations represented in Croatia: the International Committee on Missing Persons (ICMP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on missing persons issues; the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Liaison Office, regarding Croatia's co-operation with the Hague Tribunal; the International Organization for Migration (IOM), on return-related projects and trafficking in human beings; IPTF in BiH on policing issues; SFOR regarding cross-border security; the UN Liaison Office (UNLO), on political agreements concluded between the Government and the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) for the Danube Region; and the UN Mine Action Assistance Programme (UNMAAP), the assistance group of the West European Union (WEU), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), on demining and mine awareness.

Future co-operation

The Mission plans to intensify its contacts with the OSCE/ODHIR on the Roma issue regarding drafting joint projects together with the European Union.

In the area of democratization, it is planned to increase the capacity-building and sustainability of local NGOs, thus continuing the development and strengthening of civil society in Croatia. Moreover, the Mission plans to draft common cross-border activities and projects with partners in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Yugoslavia within the field of democratization. Regarding the Mission's longstanding goal to support and promote private media, the intention is to arrange training in particular skills for

private electronic broadcasters, by inviting specialists on particular topics.

Council of Europe (CoE)

Co-operation between the Mission and the Council of Europe has continued with regard to legislative reform and the implementation of treaty obligations. The co-operation has been particularly strong regarding issues of media freedom, on which the Council is the standard setting body in Europe. An active interchange has taken place on legislation regulating minority rights, particularly on the Constitutional Law on Minority Rights, which is still in the phase of preparation by the Croatian authorities, with consultation and expert advice being provided by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. The Mission works closely with and provides briefings for the representatives of the Council's political organs, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers, and members of the committees of independent experts monitoring Croatia's compliance with human rights treaty obligations.

The Mission, together with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media and the Council of Europe, organized a conference on freedom of the media, in Zagreb, from 28 February to 2 March 2001. Approximately 100 media professionals from 17 countries, NGOs and international organizations concerned with the media discussed the protection of journalists, their role in the reconciliation process and the promotion of inter-ethnic peace.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Mission has ad hoc and demand-driven contacts at the central and Field Office levels for purposes of exchanges of information.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The Mission hosts regular joint meetings with the UNHCHR Office for the purpose of tracking war-crime-related arrests and pending trials in Croatia in the context of return of refugees and internally displaced persons. Several other relevant international organizations, e.g., UNLO, ICRC and UNHCR, as well as representatives of the US Embassy, the European Union and the ICTY Liaison Office, also take part in the meetings. At the request of the UNHCHR office in Zagreb, the Mission

provides briefings and other information on human rights issues and standards relevant to both organizations' mandates.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The OSCE and UNHCR Missions to Croatia have in part very distinct yet complementary mandates, and co-operate at the central and field levels on return-related issues. The OSCE Mission co-operates with UNHCR on providing advice and assistance based on a joint matrix on casework to individuals approaching offices of both missions in the field, and also on advising the Government on legislative reforms affecting return, particularly regarding repossession of property. This matrix had to be completely updated at the beginning of 2001. The Mission co-operates with UNHCR as well as the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and the OSCE in BiH in efforts to provide public information to potential cross-border returnees between Croatia and BiH. The Mission to Croatia has recently intensified its co-operation with UNHCR in Yugoslavia, and has initiated co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Belgrade.

UNHCR, in line with its mandate, and in accordance with the Dayton Agreement (Annex 7), is the lead agency in repatriating individuals displaced by the 1991-1995 conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Both Missions, recognizing that their mandates overlap in crucial areas, agreed in 1998 to develop a regional vehicle that would support and co-ordinate joint operational and policy activities. This initiative resulted in the creation of the Return Facilitation Group (RFG) at the central level, as well as the Area Return Facilitation Groups (ARFG, co-chaired by the two Missions) in the areas of responsibility of the OSCE Co-ordination Centres and the UNHCR Field Offices for the Knin, Sisak and Vukovar areas, respectively. The ARFGs in particular serve the purpose of information sharing and develop regional operational strategies, activities and assistance to encourage sustainable returns. This has enabled the two Missions to improve the utilization of resources and reduce duplication of work to more efficiently support the regional return process and to establish a unified international position when working with the Government and regional partners. These structures also serve as a parallel to the Return and Reconstruction Task Force (RRTF) structure in BiH to facilitate cross-border repatriation.

In addition, weekly co-ordination meetings at the level of Deputy Heads of Missions and Chiefs of Offices, which also include UNHCHR, UNLO and EUMM, help to ensure a regular exchange of information.

United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

The Mission is in constant contact with the ICTY office in Zagreb. Through regular meetings, the Mission and the ICTY collaborate on the issues of prosecution of war crimes and missing persons. At the field level, the Mission provides technical assistance within the framework of its mandate, for instance, by occasionally monitoring the exhumation of victims of war crimes.

United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF)

The Mission has occasional contacts at the Field Office level on policing issues.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The Mission co-operates with the European Commission delegation in Zagreb through information sharing, as well as with the European Commission's implementing agency, the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), on return and reconstruction issues in the field.

European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)

In the area of political affairs, EUMM (known as ECMM until December 2000) and the Mission regularly share reports and relevant information both in the field and at the Headquarters level. EUMM representatives also attend the weekly co-ordination meetings at the level of deputy heads of missions and chiefs of offices.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Mission has occasional contacts with IOM, primarily at the field level, relating to return issues. Apart from that, the Mission collaborates with IOM in the areas of asylum, migration and trafficking in human beings.

The Mission and IOM jointly hosted a round-table meeting on trafficking in human beings on 28 November 2000. As a result, a working body on trafficking in Croatia was established, composed of four working groups in the areas of legislation, law enforcement, prevention and assistance and protection. This

was the first time that the international community, the Croatian Government and parliament and NGOs met to discuss trafficking in human beings. Following this event, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare hosted a conference on trafficking in May 2001. The conference was organized and supported by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), IOM and the British Embassy. The Mission attended the conference and chaired a workshop on law enforcement mechanisms to counter trafficking.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Mission occasionally exchanges information about missing persons with the ICRC.

Western European Union Demining Assistance Mission (WEUDAM)

There are intensive contacts at the field level, in a return-related context, regarding demining and informing the public about the problem of mines. Together with the WEU and UNMAAP, the Mission's mine-awareness focal point is trying to establish County Mine Co-ordination Groups including local authorities and NGOs, as well as to implement the Programme for International Standards for Mine Action. The Demining Assistance Mission to Croatia (WEUDAM) will be continued, under the responsibility of Sweden and in the WEU framework, until its present mandate expires.

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

The Mission has continued to contribute to the work of the Stability Pact's Steering Committee on Refugee Matters. Since February 2001, the Mission has been involved in drafting the Agenda for Regional Action, which is to establish a clear link between the international commitments of the Governments of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the concrete need for international assistance to be granted in the framework of the Stability Pact. The Mission will continue to assist the Steering Committee in its efforts to implement this important document, which was officially launched by the Special Co-ordinator, Bodo Hombach, on the eve of the Regional Table, which took place on 27 and 28 June 2001 in Zagreb.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The Mission, in particular through its field presence, has continued to collaborate with several international NGOs that work in the spheres of reconstruction, democratization, economic development, legal aid and the media; for example: the International Rescue Committee, CARE (democratization), the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), and the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) ProMedia.

Other

Office of the High Representative

The Mission stays in permanent contact with the OHR regarding cross-border return issues, the question of property repossession, occupancy/tenancy rights, pension payments and the implementation of the Croatian amnesty law as well as prosecution of war crimes.

OSCE MISSION TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

In fulfilling the terms of its mandate, the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) co-operates primarily with the Council of Europe (CoE), the United Nations, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Special emphasis has been placed on close interaction with NATO (KFOR) and the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in launching the OSCE southern Serbia Multi-Ethnic Police Initiative and other confidence-building measures in the area.

The Mission co-operates on a case-by-case basis with a number of other international organizations represented in the FRY: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Committee on Missing Persons (ICMP); the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Liaison Office; the office of the World Bank, on good governance; UNDP, on the establishment of a bridge fund to support a judicial-reform programme and training of

judges; the International Organization for Migration (IOM), on trafficking and out-of-Kosovo registration issues; the European Agency for Reconstruction and UNDP, on co-funding of the Mission's activities with Radio Television Serbia (RTS) and media projects in the municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac (southern Serbia).

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission and the CoE co-operate closely on many of their activities within the FRY. Both Missions shared the OSCE's office space from March to July 2001, until the CoE moved into its own premises in Belgrade on 20 July. The Secretary General of the OSCE and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe exchanged letters on 15 February endorsing mutual co-operation of the two organizations with regard to the FRY. The agreement identifies areas of close co-operation and co-ordination between the heads of the respective operations in Belgrade, including their work programmes. The pattern of "close engagement" of the two Missions is maintained through regular participation of the CoE representatives in the Mission's senior staff meetings, through regular exchanges of relevant information and briefings, joint assessment visits and participation in seminars and conferences.

On the basis of the priority programme to support the FRY in strengthening human rights and the rule of law, with a view to its accession to the Council of Europe, the two offices have developed co-operation in the specific areas listed below.

Ensuring the promotion of and respect for human rights; strengthening the independence and functioning of the judiciary; reforming the judicial system:

- In the context of the Stability Pact Project on Human Rights Institutions, a programme of the Mission's activities and projects on human rights institutions (Ombudsman) was provided to the CoE, Directorate General II.
- The Mission and the CoE held a joint co-ordination meeting for international agencies involved in public administration training in order to share information and avoid duplication and programming gaps.
- On 9 April 2001, the Mission organized jointly with the CoE a Workshop on Judicial Reform, aimed at developing a coherent action plan.

- On the basis of an assessment of the prison system in Serbia by experts from the OSCE and the CoE, the OSCE Mission prepared a comprehensive prison-reform package.

Protection of minority rights:

- The Mission regularly shares information with the CoE on issues related to civil society in the FRY.
- The Mission has regular exchanges of views with the CoE regarding review of legislation affecting minorities in the FRY.

Freedom of speech and association:

- There are periodic consultations and regular exchanges of documents on the process of drafting media legislation in the FRY, covering the Law on Broadcasting, the Law on Telecommunications and the Law on Freedom of Information.

Support for parliamentary reform in the FRY and Serbia:

- The Mission and the CoE-based International Institute for Democracy (IID) co-operate to support parliamentary institutions in the FRY and Serbia. As the lead agency in the Stability Pact Task Force on Parliamentary Co-operation, the IID provides assistance to the Federal Parliament, while the OSCE provides support to the Serbian Parliament.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

Regular joint meetings are held to define issues of mutual interest and joint actions, particularly on southern Serbia. This includes efforts co-ordinated between the OSCE Mission and the Office of UNHCHR to improve mechanisms for dealing with human rights complaints, detention cases, reports of missing persons and discrimination issues. The Office of UNHCHR convened the first Human Rights Co-ordination Meeting on 28 June, which was designed to expand co-operation among the international organizations in the FRY (this meeting was proposed by the Mission).

In addition, co-operation has also developed in the framework of the Human Right Sub-Group of the Co-ordinating Body for southern Serbia. Further, representatives of UNHCHR and the CoE participated in a workshop organized by the OSCE Mission on the Model Ombudsman

Institution for the FRY, which took place in Belgrade on 9 and 10 July 2001.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The OSCE Mission and the UNHCR Mission to the FRY have complementary mandates for providing assistance and support to the FRY authorities in facilitating the return of refugees to and from neighbouring countries, as well as that of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their homes in the territory of the FRY.

The Mission holds regular co-ordination meetings with UNHCR on the return of refugees to Croatia and BiH and the return of IDPs to Kosovo. In this work, special attention is given to internal settlement options and durable solutions for all caseloads.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Mission has developed broad co-operation with UNDP in the area of good governance, where the respective mandates are very similar. The OSCE Mission and UNDP co-ordinate their activities and share relevant information on issues related to the development of civil society in southern Serbia. Joint assessment visits were organized by the Mission to identify the capacity-building needs of local civic organizations. Possibilities for this co-operation should be further enhanced by a UNDP plan to financially support the development of civil society in the region through a small grants programme.

Another area of increased co-operation with UNDP is on establishing a bridge fund, which will address the pressing need to increase the salaries of judges and prosecutors in Serbia and provide them with additional professional training. The objective of the Mission is to raise USD 10 million for this fund. The fund is then to be administered by UNDP.

UNDP has also agreed to assist the Mission by providing experts to formulate a comprehensive donor-support programme for judicial reform in Serbia. This would include the proposed Serbian Judicial Training Institute.

United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

The Mission co-operates with ICTY concerning on-site monitoring of the exhumations of mass graves in Serbia, including the presence of their experts at the graves. Both

Missions share information about the findings of exhumations and missing persons.

United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF)

The Mission's Senior Police Consultant met periodically with representatives of the IPTF in carrying out his study on the reorganization of the Yugoslav police, and particularly the police in Serbia. In preparation for the launch, on 4 June 2001, of the Multi-Ethnic Police Force Project in southern Serbia, the IPTF provided information concerning best practices relating to the establishment of police force in BiH.

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

The Mission shares information with the Belgrade UNMIK Liaison Office on political issues in the FRY connected with out-of-Kosovo registration and the Assembly elections scheduled for 17 November 2001 in Kosovo. The Mission's experts have also provided assistance to UNMIK courts in Kosovo.

European Union (EU)

The Mission established co-operation with the European Presidency and the European Commission in view of the need to co-ordinate activities concerning the FRY Stabilization and Association Process with the EU.

European Commission (EC)

The Mission developed relations with the Commission on matters relating to the combating of corruption. Representatives from the Mission attended a round table on combating corruption, which was organized for the OSCE participating States. One of the conclusions of this meeting was the need for the OSCE participating States (some of whom are members of the EU) to cultivate close contacts and to assist the Mission by sponsoring training and offering expertise on matters relating to combating corruption in the FRY.

European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)

Co-operation between the two Missions concentrates mainly on exchanges of information concerning the security and political situation in southern Serbia, in relationship to the implementation of the Mission's Multi-Ethnic Police Project. The EUMM (known as ECMM until December 2000) assists OSCE's police training by providing personnel to monitor the safe transportation of Albanian students to and from training sites in southern Serbia. The

Mission also conducts an information exchange with the EUMM regarding the situation regarding human rights and minority rights in southern Serbia.

European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)

The Mission has working relations with the Belgrade office of EAR. The Agency has agreed to fully finance the international independent audit of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), which is a fundamental component of the OSCE/RTS plan to restructure the system and transform it into a professional public service broadcaster. The terms of reference for the agreement between EAR and RTS were drafted by the OSCE News Adviser assigned to RTS. In this agreement, the OSCE Mission to FRY is mentioned as monitor of the implementation of the agreement and of the audit's completion.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)/Kosovo Force (KFOR)

The Mission co-operated with representatives of KFOR in southern Serbia on security- and confidence-building measures, connected with the launch on 4 June 2001 of the OSCE's Multi-Ethnic Police Force for southern Serbia. The Mission participated in the co-ordination meeting of NATO/EU/UN/OSCE in Brussels on 27 February 2001, regarding the situation in southern Serbia. Security and political assessments of the situation in this region are discussed regularly during meetings between representatives of the OSCE, UN, KFOR and other international organizations operating in southern Serbia. KFOR provided security and organized transportation of Albanian representatives to meetings and negotiations with the OSCE Mission.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Items that are high on the agenda of co-operation between the two Missions are the movement of victims of trafficking, law on policing in the FRY, police reform, the movement of resettled refugees and assessment of the IDP population in the FRY. Close co-ordination is also being maintained with IOM on out-of-Kosovo registration for the elections scheduled to take place on 17 November 2001 in Kosovo. Consultations were held with IOM in preparation for the Round Table on Trafficking in Human Beings, organized by the Mission on 19 and 20 April 2001.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Mission maintains regular contacts with the ICRC on co-operation of the FRY with the ICTY, trafficking, missing persons, movement of resettled refugees and an assessment of the IDP population in the FRY. The Mission's media experts held consultations with the ICRC's media officers regarding a possible financial contribution, taking the form of a paid advertisement, by the ICRC to the OSCE Mission's radio station project in southern Serbia, which was launched on 1 October 2001.

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

The Mission has established a wide-ranging co-operation with the Stability Pact, covering mainly activities on gender and combating of trafficking.

- Action to combat trafficking. The Mission organized, in co-operation with the Stability Pact Co-ordinator on Trafficking, a Round Table on Trafficking in Human Beings in Belgrade, from 19 to 20 April 2001. Further, the Mission held regular consultations and meetings with the Stability Pact Co-ordinator on Trafficking on the strategy and programme activities of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking focussing on FRY.
- Gender issues. The Mission, together with the Chair of the Stability Pact Task Force on Gender Issues, helped to prepare a Regional Co-ordination Meeting on Women's Participation in Politics, which took place in Budapest on 16 June 2001. Consultations are held regularly with the Chair on introducing gender mainstreaming in the public and political life of the FRY and on the advancement of mutual strategies concerning official gender equality mechanisms in the FRY.

World Bank (WB)

The OSCE Mission participates in the World Bank's monthly meetings. The focus of joint efforts during the reporting period was on the preparation for the FRY Donors Conference, on 29 June 2001, which placed special emphasis on governance and the environment. Participation by the Head of the OSCE Mission in the Donors Conference facilitated further co-operation between the World Bank and the Mission. The potential to develop concrete projects related to

the OSCE Mission's mandate was discussed, e.g., establishment of a bridge fund for judges and prosecutors in Serbia, the rule of law, training in public administration and reform of the police.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The Mission co-operates with the leading international NGOs and some national NGOs. This co-operation is focused on the following sectors of the Mission's activities:

- Good governance. The Mission and the national NGO Centre for Free Elections and Democracy (CeSID) jointly organized a round table, on 13 September 2001, in order to discuss the draft of the new election law.
- Trafficking issues. The Mission co-operated with national NGOs such as ASTRA (Anti-Sex-Trafficking-Action); the Yugoslav Children's Rights Centre, Belgrade; and Femina Creativa to establish a shelter for female victims of trafficking in Padinska Skela near Belgrade.
- Human rights. The Mission, together with the Yugoslav Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights, the Humanitarian Law Centre and the Centre for Anti-War Action, organized a Workshop on the Model of an Ombudsman Institution for the FRY, which took place in Belgrade on 9 and 10 July 2001.
- Prison reform. The Mission is in regular contact with the Humanitarian Law Centre on issues relating to prison reform.
- Strengthening parliamentary institutions. The Mission regularly exchanges information with the EastWest Institute (EWI) and the International Institute for Democracy (IID) on the preparation of a Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians at the Federal and Republic Levels. It also co-operates with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), focusing mainly on development issues affecting political parties and on parliamentary support programmes.
- Gender issues. The Mission co-operated with the STAR Network of World Learning in jointly organizing the Conference Women's Perspectives in the New Political Context, which took place in Belgrade on 22 June 2001. In addition, the Mission also co-operates with Norwegian People's Aid in

leading co-ordinated activities under the programme "Women Can Do It". This comprises the establishment of a programme of training for trainers and compilation of the handout for trainers and future course participants.

- Confidence- and security-building measures. The Mission participated in a seminar in April 2001 sponsored by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), on the democratization of the Yugoslav Army. The Mission's CSBM Adviser consulted regularly with DCAF on the project for the reform of the defence/security sector of the FRY.

Furthermore, the Mission co-operates closely with the above-mentioned international NGOs, with a view to finding legal and political solutions for the repossession of the property of Serbian refugees in Croatia and to improving the legal skills of lawyers from Serbia and Croatia so as to enable them to guide property repossession cases through the courts of Croatia, and where necessary, on to the European Court of Human Rights.

In addition, regular contacts are maintained regarding the preparation and implementation of a joint project for training 20 judges and prosecutors for the FRY and Serbia.

OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO

General assessment

Co-operation with international organizations is at the core of the activities of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK), both at headquarters and in the field. OMIK is an integral part of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), as provided for in United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Following the adoption by the Permanent Council of its Decision No. 305 and a subsequent exchange of letters between the OSCE and the United Nations on 19 July 1999, the division of labour was agreed upon, and the authority and competencies of UNMIK were outlined in greater detail.

The structure of the Mission and the relationship between UNMIK and the international organizations, namely the United Nations, the European Union and OMIK, were also set forth. It was agreed that OMIK would

take a lead role for UNMIK in all institution-building issues, including police education and development, media development, protection of human rights and the rule of law, democratization and elections. However, co-operation within UNMIK also extends to policy matters related to returns, missing persons, property rights, the rule of law and the judiciary, civil society issues and ethnic community protection. As an integral part of the UNMIK structure, OMIK has developed a structured relationship with all the international organizations involved in the pillar structure. In addition, OMIK also participates in the joint institutions created by UNMIK to administer the province and fulfil the mandate for self-governance under the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS) Agreement, signed on 15 December 1999.

OMIK's overall evaluation of co-operation with the international organizations in Kosovo has been positive; the working relations between the UNMIK pillars are satisfactory. The international organizations have made an important contribution to the work of the Mission and their expertise has proven crucial to the success of many of OMIK's projects. The numerous international organizations and NGOs present in Kosovo provide OMIK with the opportunity to take a very flexible approach to co-operation by enabling it to match its responsibilities with the comparative advantages of each organization. Co-operation has, however, resulted in reduced visibility for OMIK. The need for visibility and at the same time close co-operation therefore presents a challenge. Occasionally, the need for improved co-operation in the preparation, substance, organization and conduct of programmes has been evident.

Council of Europe (CoE)

OMIK and the CoE have developed a relationship of co-operation at many levels, particularly in the realm of judicial and legal training. Particularly noteworthy is the collaboration between the CoE and the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI), which takes the form of the joint organization of training seminars for judges and prosecutors, as well as workshops for defence counsel. For example, a symposium and various round tables regarding domestic violence, which were intended to assess the level of assistance to victims, were jointly organized. In addition, representatives of the Kosovo Law

Centre (KLC) met with human rights experts from the CoE and agreed to introduce human rights law courses into the Law Faculty curriculum at the University of Prishtinë/Priština. Furthermore, CoE experts assisted OMIK in the formulation of legal documents, particularly for the draft Broadcasting Regulations.

In the field of human rights and awareness training, the CoE conducted education and capacity-building programmes among all the ethnic communities. The CoE is an implementing partner for a joint programme entitled Roma under the Stability Pact. Further, the CoE was also instrumental in the preparation and conduct of a public awareness campaign on the Ombudsperson Institution (OI).

In the area of elections, co-operation between OMIK and the CoE has been extensive. In accordance with the terms of reference, the Council of Europe Election Observation Mission (CEEOM) conducted a three-stage mission to observe the municipal elections in October 2000. A framework has been drawn up for co-operation regarding the Assembly elections scheduled to take place on 17 November 2001, in which the CoE will play a similar role.

Through a Steering Committee, the CoE plays an advisory role in the management of the OMIK-led Institute of Civil Administration (ICA). This included the CoE seconding an expert for the position Director of the ICA. In the context of the Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS), the CoE seconded a police officer for a project on multimedia training developed jointly by the CoE and the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute in Bucharest.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

There is active co-operation at all organizational levels between representatives from OMIK and the UN component of the UNMIK Pillar for Civil Administration. At the highest level, the OMIK Head of Mission, as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Institution Building, attends the daily Executive Committee meetings and is a member of the Interim Administrative Council (IAC) and the Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC). OMIK is part of the UNMIK Joint Planning Group, which prioritizes all UNMIK objectives and harmonizes work by means of inter-pillar working groups. In terms of

reporting, OMIK reports, as do the other Pillars, to the Office of the Special Representative on a weekly and quarterly basis, and contributes to the regular reports of the UN Secretary-General to the UN Security Council.

At the central administrative level, OMIK continues to have responsibility for one of the administrative departments in JIAS, namely the Department for Democratic Governance and Civil Society (DDGCS). The aim of the Department is to participate in the decision-making processes in the Kosovo administration in order to heighten awareness of the need for transparency, for respect for human rights and for independence of the media and of NGOs. This presence also ensures that OMIK's mandate is incorporated into general UNMIK policy-making. Amongst other tasks, DDGCS is the focal point for all applications for registration of political parties and for drafting UNMIK Regulations.

After the 2000 elections, and well into 2001, the JIAS Department for Local Administration set up a Transition Task Force, made up of representatives from the UNMIK Civil Administration and OMIK. The Task Force was designed to oversee and support the consolidation of local institutions for self-government in the aftermath of the municipal elections. The UNMIK Civil Administration and OMIK, together with KFOR, set up a help desk at the local level to provide assistance and advise municipalities on transitional issues pertaining to the implementation of the electoral results. Co-operation between the UN and OMIK has also extended, for example, to the area of training of municipal officials and political party development.

OMIK and UNMIK representatives co-operated closely with seven Kosovo experts and seven international members during nine weeks of intensive consultations to draft the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosovo. Its promulgation on 15 May 2001 ensured that the basic electoral provisions for the future Kosovo Assembly were agreed upon, allowing preparations to begin for the elections scheduled for 17 November 2001. High level co-ordination on election-related matters is carried out through the Working Group on Elections known as Working Group 5. This includes senior representatives of UNMIK and the EU among others, and is one of five

working groups created under the Steering Group on Issues of Implementation of the Constitutional Framework, which is chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. While OMIK co-operates with various international organizations in all the working groups, it is Working Group 5, on elections in which OMIK's role is most prominent, with the OMIK Head of Mission chairing the meetings.

Interaction in the judicial field has been particularly strong. The JIAS Department of Justice and OMIK collaborate to monitor judicial proceedings, particularly in sensitive inter-ethnic cases. There continues to be close interaction between the two pillars in the drafting of many of UNMIK's regulations. OMIK also worked closely with the JIAS Department of Education and Science to modernize the Law Faculty of the University of Prishtinë/Priština. OMIK has co-chaired a working group set up to implement its report, "Kosovo: Six-Month Review of the Judicial System", together with the JIAS Department of Justice. The OMIK-led Kosovo Judicial Institute co-operates and includes the United Nations Civil Administration in relevant training activities, including those on issues pertaining to domestic violence and trafficking as well as training for international magistrates working in Kosovo and legal officers from different international organizations. Finally, OMIK has worked with the Task Force on Juvenile Justice to advocate strategies to increase capacity for the Social Welfare Centres.

Since spring 2000, OMIK has co-ordinated the efforts in the management of the frequency spectrum with the JIAS Department of Post and Telecommunications and KFOR. This involved rebuilding the transmission network and establishing the frequency plan and its implementation. The frequency change was carried out in November 2000, in close co-operation with KFOR, to comply with the recommendations of the International Telecommunications Unit (ITU). Thereafter, OMIK also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with both KFOR and UNMIK in which the management of the broadcast band was officially handed over to OMIK. OMIK is currently negotiating with donors, including UNDP, which represents the Japanese Government, to ensure that the integrated plan is acceptable to all parties.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

Following the establishment of the Housing and Property Directorate (HPD) and the promulgation of regulations related to it, as well as that of the Housing and Property Claims Commission (HPCC), OMIK has provided a valuable input to help improve the functioning of both bodies. To clarify the HPD jurisdiction, OMIK organized a workshop on property issues in February 2001 in Prishtinë/Priština, at which 25 judges identified problematic cases relating to the overlapping competencies of all their respective institutions. OMIK continues to closely monitor property rights violations, both at the local and at the inter-pillar levels, and focuses on the issue of property in the context of returns and, in particular, the need to establish an effective system to address property rights disputes and access to reconstruction assistance. To this end, OMIK follows the Directorate's work closely, especially in respect of its verification of ownership and occupancy rights in apartment blocks in the Prishtinë/Priština region, which began in March 2001.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

OMIK and UNICEF co-operate on matters pertaining to juvenile justice and have jointly organized various seminars on preventing and dealing with juvenile crime. Following regular discussions on the role of the school within the ethnic community, and the place of civic education in the curriculum at both the primary and the secondary levels, OMIK and UNICEF are working together on the issue of civic education in schools.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Co-operation between OMIK and UNIFEM primarily takes place in the area of family issues. On 9 February 2001, the OMIK-led Kosovo Law Centre (KLC), in co-operation with UNIFEM, organized a Seminar on Alternative Dispute Resolution in Family Issues. In the field of registration and election campaigning, UNIFEM is actively participating in OMIK's attempt to develop a strategy for the dissemination of public information materials to a large female public. OMIK is currently exploring possibilities for increased co-operation with regard to future public information activities, which could reach out to female candidates and the female electorate. A joint training and awareness project for women politicians was conducted in May 2001, supplemented with skill development workshops on gender and leadership in

municipalities across Kosovo.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP has played a major role in supporting the Mission's efforts to develop a self-sustainable media landscape. Following a joint assessment on the training needs of journalists, UNDP funded several capacity-building programmes that included elections training. Additionally, OMIK worked with UNDP and the International Rescue Committee to organize the 2001 Youth Congress, which brought together youth NGOs representing Kosovo's different ethnic communities as part of the Youth Post-Conflict Participation Programme, which UNDP is implementing. The event took place from 26 to 29 June 2001, at the Kosovo Police Service School, which provided the only venue in Kosovo large enough to host such a large gathering.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

In the area of human rights, OMIK works particularly closely with UNHCHR to report comprehensively on the situation of ethnic communities and to assess, monitor and propose solutions through the co-chaired Task Force on Minorities, which OMIK has been co-chairing.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Co-operation between OMIK and UNHCR has been particularly close on ethnic community/human rights issues. The mandates of the two organizations in Kosovo, namely, human rights protection and promotion for OMIK and protection of ethnic minorities for UNHCR, are complementary. One of the principal outputs of the co-operation is the comprehensive reporting on the situation of ethnic communities, which has so far yielded seven joint reports, entitled "Assessment of the Situation of Ethnic Minorities in Kosovo". In addition, OMIK and UNHCR assess, monitor and propose solutions to the problems of ethnic communities through the Task Force on Minorities, which OMIK has been co-chairing.

OMIK and UNHCR have worked together closely on the assessment of proposals for the return of ethnic communities, particularly the Kosovo Serbs. The fundamental right of internally displaced persons to return to their homes voluntarily guides both organizations,

which are exploring ways and means to ensure the safe and sustainable return of Kosovo Serbs and other ethnic communities. Furthermore, OMIK and UNHCR established a working group to co-ordinate the return of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians. OMIK is also working with UNHCR to draft legal remedies to control the sale of property belonging to ethnic communities.

United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

A book launched by the OSCE and ICRC in February 2001 provided photographs of personal effects and clothing found with 200 bodies recovered during 2000 by the ICTY. This book was part of a project, which was set up to help identify recovered remains and provide support and assistance to the families of the missing.

United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF)

Collaboration with the UN was paramount in the establishment of the Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS). Often referred to as the best example of a multi-ethnic capacity-building project in the Balkans, the KPSS has already trained approximately 4,000 cadets; an additional 2,000 will be trained by the end of 2002. Co-operation takes place in the processing of applications for KPSS. Once KPSS officers graduate, they go on to complete 19 weeks of structured field training, in which each KPSS officer is deployed with an international UNMIK police officer.

Another noteworthy area of co-operation is the exhumation of bodies and the work of the Victims Recovery and Identification Commission. In this field, OMIK has worked with the UNMIK Police Missing Person's Unit to increase staffing of forensics and pathology experts. Likewise, with regard to co-operation on trafficking issues, OMIK continuously reviews the standard operating procedures that guide the work of the UNMIK Police, IOM and OMIK in providing direct assistance to trafficking victims, as well as monitoring implementation of UNMIK Regulation 2001/4 on the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in Kosovo.

World Health Organization (WHO)

OMIK co-operates with the World Health Organization on women's issues, including domestic violence. OMIK has also been working closely with the World Health Organization to advocate strategies for increased capacity for the legal system to deal with juvenile violence and

juvenile justice, including promoting a greater role for the Centres for Social Welfare. Another area of co-operation pertains to the protection of people within the mental health system and to the issue of persons illegally detained in the Sthime institution.

European Union (EU)

As the fourth pillar of the UNMIK structure, the EU assumes responsibility for four administrative departments in the JIAS. The EU is also represented in the Interim Administrative Council, as Head of the Pillar for Reconstruction, which provides a good forum for exchange of information at the highest level. OMIK and the EU also co-operate through the Inter-Organizational Steering Committee of the Institute for Civil Administration and OMIK's Civil Administration Support Division on training activities for Kosovo civil servants. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from UNDP, the EU, the CoE and several JIAS departments.

European Commission (EC)/European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)

The EC plays an active role outside the UNMIK pillar structure, since the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) is the main donor for reconstruction projects. In this area, the Mission receives funding for projects dealing with institution building, in particular for its media development activities. During the run-up to the 2000 elections, EAR funded training on campaign management, media and public relations activities, as well as the voter education programme. It is hoped that EAR will play a similar role for the elections on 17 November 2001.

EAR is supporting a pilot project related to the development of the legal aid sector in Kosovo, which aims to enhance the capacity of the local NGOs. OMIK has chaired the drafting group that designs and co-ordinates the civil legal aid programme. This one-year pilot project on civil legal aid began on 15 April 2001.

European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)

The European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and OMIK regularly exchange information on the overall political situation.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

OSCE and IOM have been co-operating closely on all matters pertaining to the

out-of-Kosovo voting (OKV) operations for the Kosovo Assembly elections scheduled for 17 November 2001. Following a request for tenders, IOM was awarded a contract to conduct the OKV project, which includes registration, claims and polling, on behalf of OMIK. All OKV operations will be conducted within the rules, regulations and guidelines established by OMIK. The OKV Director reports directly to the OMIK Director of Elections. IOM will also collaborate in the publication of public information material, which identify community concerns, perspectives and priorities as expressed by the people.

OMIK and IOM also co-operate on issues pertaining to trafficking in human beings, which is a pressing and complex issue in the region. Regulation 2001/4 on the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in Kosovo, signed in January 2001, made trafficking a criminal offence and provided for better protection of and assistance to the victims of it. Following promulgation of the Regulation, co-operation increased with other international organizations, so that the KJI assumed responsibility for the training of the judiciary and OMIK worked with IOM and the UNMIK Police to conduct interviews with persons who had been victims of trafficking. The KJI has conducted various seminars on trafficking. For example, in June 2001, OMIK, in collaboration with IOM and the US Office in Prishtinë/Priština, organized a seminar on how to combat trafficking, which was designed to familiarize judges and prosecutors with the current legal framework. In addition, OMIK procured USD 60,000 from the US Government to transmit to IOM, in order to assist them with the victim assistance and repatriation programme.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

OMIK co-operates closely with the ICRC and the UNMIK Police on issues related to missing persons, persons imprisoned in Serbia proper, suspected detainees in Kosovo, and the exhumation and identification of remains. This co-operation has included the establishment of the Victims Recovery and Identification Commission (VRIC). OMIK human rights officers liaise on the issue of missing persons and alleged imprisonment with the ICRC field officers. The ICRC also worked on the KPSS curriculum and has subsequently provided instruction and materials at the School in human

rights and international policing.

In February 2001, OMIK and the ICRC launched a new joint initiative to help identify some of the victims of ethnically motivated killings whose bodies were exhumed last year. As part of the public information campaign, OMIK published a book containing 750 photographs of clothing and personal effects recovered during 2000 by the ICTY. This book was available for viewing at all ICRC field offices throughout Kosovo and the Missing Persons Bureau.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)/Kosovo Force (KFOR)

OMIK maintains close links with the Kosovo Force (KFOR), which ensures a secure environment for OMIK activities. At the highest level, co-operation materializes through the participation of both the Commander of KFOR and the OMIK Head of Mission in the meetings of the inter-pillar Executive Committee, the Interim Administration Council and the Kosovo Transitional Council. KFOR has established a Liaison Office at OMIK Headquarters and there is regular interaction with KFOR at the brigade and the battalion levels through exchanges of information and recommendations for action.

During the 2000 pre-electoral period, OMIK and KFOR worked closely on special security requirements. In May 2001, in light of the Assembly elections scheduled for November 2001, the Joint Elections Security Team (JEST) and the Joint Elections Operations Cell (JEOC) were reactivated at both the central and regional levels to deal with all security issues pertaining to the election process. Chaired by OMIK, all regional and central-level JEOC structures have representatives from KFOR and the UNMIK Police. Preparations have been under way since April 2001 to ensure that security force escorts are provided daily for ethnic community registration. Together with the Municipal Election Commissions (MEC), OMIK, KFOR and UNMIK Police have continued to review the polling sites used for the municipal elections on 28 October 2000 and have identified alternative sites to avoid long queues. KFOR will play a major role in ensuring the peaceful conduct of the polls on 17 November 2001.

With regard to the issue of returnees, KFOR is specially tasked to ensure the protection and security of the returnees. Until February 2001,

OMIK interacted with KFOR on a regular basis in the weekly meetings of the Task Force on Minorities and in the Joint Committee for Returns (JCR). KFOR further collaborated with OMIK on the establishment of a broadcast frequency plan and the re-establishment of the Kosovo Terrestrial Transmission Network (KTTN).

World Bank (WB)

As a follow-up to a round table organized by the Kosovo Judicial Institute, OMIK and the World Bank are discussing matters falling under the jurisdiction of the commercial court.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

American Bar Association/Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI)

Since the end of 2000, ABA/CEELI and OMIK have pursued joint efforts in implementing the Law Faculty reform. In January 2001, OMIK met with ABA/CEELI to discuss the one-year internship programme designed to enable 20 intern-lawyers to take the bar examination. ABA/CEELI was a primary partner and facilitator in ensuring that seven law students from the University of Prishtinë/Priština were prepared for the April 2001 international law competition, which took place in both the USA and Austria. OMIK, the UN and ABA/CEELI co-ordinate a weekly working group for systematizing legal aid in Kosovo.

European Broadcasting Union (EBU)

It is noteworthy that OMIK co-operates with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) on all matters relating to broadcasting.

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

In order to maintain the training efforts for local politicians, OMIK continued co-operating with the FES in political party development and capacity building. A training seminar on municipal policy, municipal self-governance, urban planning and budgeting of a municipality took place from 1 to 8 April 2001 in Freiburg, Germany. The FES financed this seminar, which included a visit to the CoE and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. On 25 and 26 May, a joint OMIK-FES Seminar on Social Policy was held at the municipal level at the Gjakovë/Đakovica Democratization Centre.

International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)

For both the 2000 and the 2001 elections, OMIK and IFES have organized a series of training courses targeting Municipal Election Commission members (MEC). Various capacity-building programmes jointly led by OMIK and IFES were held during the first quarter of 2001. These included a three-day seminar for 80 MEC members, domestic political observers and political party representatives dealing with the electoral process in Kosovo, and a seminar on electoral system design on 8 March 2001 for opinion leaders in Kosovo.

Lawyers Without Borders

Lawyers Without Borders, a US-based NGO, formed a formal partnership with the OMIK-led Criminal Defence Resource Centre (CDRC) to compile a database of defence lawyers who will conduct legal research and draft documents requested by the ICTY.

Media Action International (MAI)

In January 2001, with a view to the up-coming registration and elections, OMIK renewed co-operation with the NGO MAI on radio and outreach activity. OMIK and MAI have jointly produced a weekly radio programme for dissemination of public information materials. Additionally, OMIK and MAI have recently discussed the production of a new series of road shows for the November election, which would begin at the time of registration.

National Democratic Institute (NDI)

In March 2001, OMIK co-operated with the NDI and the Office of USAID Kosovo Transitional Initiatives (USAID/KTI) to conduct a meeting with all the organizations involved in the development of civil participation programming. Strategies were developed to increase citizen involvement in Kosovo's decision-making.

SPILLOVER MONITOR MISSION TO SKOPJE

General assessment

During the reporting period, the working relationship with the international organizations and non-governmental organizations in the country has on the whole been excellent. The mandates of some organizations are relatively

more complementary to the Mission's mandate, so activities have dovetailed, whilst others have either been supporters or sponsors of Mission activities or have implemented projects originating within the Mission. Current crises have focused and, to some extent, honed co-operative relationships. The Framework Agreement, concluded in Ohrid and signed at Skopje, on 13 August 2001, by the leading parliamentary parties, changed the political landscape in the country. Annex C of the Agreement, which sets out a number of confidence-building measures, has given OSCE a position of prominence in various areas of confidence building, including police development; confidence-building monitoring and assistance to redeployment of police in sensitive areas; and technical assistance in the areas of police reform, media development and interethnic relations. The Framework Agreement identifies the European Union as the co-ordinator of Annex C initiatives, and the Mission has strengthened its co-operation with the EU while continuing to work very closely with other partners.

The Mission continues to host a weekly inter-agency co-ordination meeting for partner agencies and local embassies, and also hosts daily briefings with NATO, the European Union Monitoring Mission, UNHCR, the European Union/European Commission and others to assess the overall security and political situation.

Future co-operation

In 2002, the Mission will strengthen its technical assistance programming in areas such as minority affairs/building of inter-ethnic relations (mainly at the level of local government), media programming (including for the non-majority populations) and human-dimension programming. The Mission also plans to resume previous activities that were suspended as a result of the 2001 conflict. These include programmes involving work carried out by the Human Dimension Officer in human trafficking and technical assistance to the office of the Ombudsman.

In addition, the Mission, in close co-operation with the EU and US Government's International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Program, will initiate a programme to provide training for 1,000 new police officers from non-majority backgrounds, as well as other specialized training events, including on concepts related to community policing.

Co-operation, under the co-ordination umbrella of the EU and within the Framework Agreement, will continue for the conduct of the census, parliamentary elections and decentralization process through the law on local self-government.

In all of these activities, the Mission will continue to emphasize the need for synchronization of OSCE activities with those of other international organizations, and continued involvement of other OSCE Institutions (ODIHR, HCNM, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media). The Mission will also use local human resources and skills to the greatest extent possible.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission, together with the Council of Europe, is co-operating on the organization of seminars and meetings to facilitate cross-border co-operation in the Prespa Lake area of the country. There have been limited co-operative relations in providing mutual support for a seminar for the country's police force, which was conducted under the auspices of the CoE. The Mission has provided information on police methods, standards and limitations so that such seminars can better respond to the need. Given the current situation in the country, it is envisaged that the co-operative relationship will develop significantly during the coming months. As envisaged in the Framework Agreement, the CoE and the EU will take the lead in implementing reforms concerning local self-government. During the year, the Mission has given several political briefings to delegations of the CoE and has established a closer co-operation in the field.

During the remainder of 2001 and in 2002, the Mission will co-operate closely with the CoE, particularly with regard to the Ombudsman programme. The CoE will assume the lead role in reviewing the draft law on the Ombudsman. The Mission will review the legislation and take part in training and public awareness activities with regard to decentralization of the Ombudsman office, as required.

United Nations (UN)

The mission works on a daily basis with members of the UN family of organizations, generally through an informal exchange of information. It works particularly closely with UNHCR on issues related to the return and reintegration of displaced persons.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

A senior representative of the organization attends the Mission's weekly meeting, and takes a proactive part in it. The Mission provides information on current affairs and political and sociological indicators in support of UNICEF's work in the country and assists in identifying appropriate NGO and donor support for specific projects or assessed needs. The relationship is mutually beneficial.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

There is an informal exchange of information and the mutual promotion of local government reform.

The OSCE and UNDP are both participants in a donor group on decentralization and strengthening of local government. Various policy objectives are defined in co-operation with the Ministry of Local Government and participants discuss how to best to co-ordinate activities in order to help the Government achieve those objectives.

In view of the increased number of tasks that will be assigned to municipalities when the new Law on Local Government is passed by the parliament (a central feature of the Framework Agreement), many smaller local government units may face financial problems and disadvantages of scale. In 2002, The OSCE Mission will implement a programme focusing on service co-operation among municipalities, which by the same token would promote co-operation across ethnic and party lines. It has been discussed whether UNDP projects could complement OSCE activities in the same geographic area in order to make it manifest that co-operation is beneficial.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

There is a regular informal exchange of information between the Mission and UNHCHR, in which the involvement of UNHCHR in police training and development has been discussed.

The UNHCHR office in Belgrade has stated that it may provide civil affairs training related to the redeployment of the police in former crisis areas, and familiarize police with various community policing concepts. It has also been discussed whether UNHCHR would encourage the Ministry of the Interior to establish an

internal complaints department to deal with civilian complaints.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Mission contributes regularly to the UNHCR international organizations meetings, and UNHCR is represented at the Mission's weekly briefing and exchange of information with bilateral embassies and key international organizations. Information regarding the movements of refugees during the current crisis is passed on and compared on a daily basis, and the Mission maintains round-the-clock personal links to ensure proactive assessments of the developing situation. UNHCR is a member of the daily assessment meetings on the crisis which take place at the Mission. UNHCR acted as sponsor for a Mission project to enhance journalists' awareness of the functions of international organizations. The relationship is mutually highly valued.

OSCE Monitors, who have been deployed in the field in significant numbers for some months, are engaged with UNHCR in creating conditions to allow the return of persons displaced by the conflict to their homes. OSCE teams are working to improve freedom of movement, to monitor the reconnection of power grids, and to provide a confidence-building presence for recent returnees.

Although UNHCR and the OSCE work separately at the field level, rather than in mixed teams, the two organizations co-operate very closely and exchange information on conditions for return. The Skopje model of weekly inter-agency meetings has been decentralized and replicated in other areas, such as Tetovo, where UNHCR, the OSCE, other international organizations and NGOs co-ordinate their activities in that specific region.

World Food Programme (WFP)

There is an informal exchange of information on the share of household expenditure spent on food (an indicator of the poverty level). This information was essential to predict the impact on social harmony when aid programmes drastically scaled down their assistance in late 2000.

European Union (EU)

The Framework Agreement identifies the European Union as the co-ordinator of Annex C initiatives. The Mission is therefore closely

co-ordinating the development of its programming for 2002 with the EU, particularly in the areas of police development, media initiatives, local-self government and inter-ethnic relations.

Politically, the Mission co-ordinates closely regarding all important matters with the EU Envoy, who was one of the facilitators of the Framework Agreement, along with the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the United States Special Envoy.

The OSCE Mission has been kept informed about the negotiations of the EU Stabilization and Association Agreement, implementation of which is regarded as essential for the prosperous and stable future of the country.

European Commission (EC)

The Mission liaises daily with representatives of the EC to exchange information informally. The EC is represented at the Mission's weekly meetings in which there is an informal exchange of information on good governance and transparency programmes. In the field of local self-government, there was close co-operation, with frequent exchanges of ideas in support of this important reform. In addition, the OSCE co-operates closely with the EC on issues relating to media reform and training of media workers.

European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)

During the current crisis, the limited number of qualified monitors has necessitated even closer co-operation between the two organizations. There has been mutual support, with monitor teams escorting each other to enhance safety, division of territory to optimize effectiveness and, naturally, a full exchange of direct monitoring information. The EUMM receives the Mission's spot reports on developments in the crisis and makes valuable contributions to the Mission's weekly meeting. During a combined patrol of the border area earlier this year, members of both the Mission and the EUMM found themselves at the site of a mine incident, co-operating in an attempt to save the life of an injured Macedonian soldier. In the area of monitoring there exists mutual respect based on very positive co-operation. The Framework Agreement calls for continued and expanded co-operation between the organizations in order to provide transparency to activities in the former conflict areas.

The Mission has established a joint operations centre, where the EUMM (with NATO and UNHCR) has a permanent seat, to help ensure maximum co-ordination and efficiency in the overall monitoring operations.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

With the advent of an increased NATO presence in the country, initially called the Task Force Essential Harvest, the Mission hosts daily meetings with key organizations, at which there is an exchange of vital information and assessment of the situation. The relationship with NATO is mutually supportive and information is freely exchanged. This level of co-operation is an extension of that which existed hitherto with the logistic support organization of the KFOR, based in the country. A NATO representative is an important contributor at the weekly high-level meeting for bilateral embassies and key institutions at the Mission, where information is informally exchanged.

In the field, monitors work very closely with the NATO liaison teams from Task Force Amber Fox, which have been mandated since 27 September 2001 to provide a secure environment for OSCE and EUMM monitors. This has also been materialized in an exchange of letters between the NATO Secretary General and the OSCE Secretary General on the security of OSCE international monitors. The organizations are working together to facilitate a return to normality, including by improving freedom of movement, assisting with returns of displaced people and aiding the process of re-establishment of full policing authority throughout the country.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

In the area of trafficking in human beings, particularly in women, the co-operation has been very extensive. IOM and the Mission complement each other to cover the spectrum of access required to address the problem in the country. The Mission has been the focal point for co-ordinating the work of the international organizations and NGOs present (in the country) and IOM has been the principal partner with the expertise in implementation. Despite something of a pause during the crisis period, exchanges of information take place on a regular basis. The development of what is arguably the most advanced approach to combating the problem of

trafficking in the Southeast European region has been based on the co-operation between these two key organizations.

The Mission and IOM have encouraged the Government to set up a shelter for trafficked women, to provide training of police on measures to combat trafficking and to advocate a regional approach. It is recognized that the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is now playing a leading role in combating trafficking in the Balkan region.

During the autumn of 2001, many discussions on joint programming for measures to combat trafficking have taken place. It is anticipated that close co-operation with IOM on this issue will continue next year.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The role of the ICRC by necessity places it in some degree of isolation. However, the senior representative in the country is an important contributor to the Mission's weekly meetings, and contacts, particularly important during the crisis period. Information regarding population movements, safe areas, activities of military and armed groups, etc., is jointly assessed several times a day. The level of co-operation is very high, and the Mission often relies on ICRC's unique understanding of events in order to take maximum advantage of ceasefire conditions. There have been occasions during the crisis when the organizations have been requested together to provide a level of independent transparency and surety during sensitive activities in areas held by armed group.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

There is a regular informal exchange of information.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

There is a regular exchange of information, primarily on decentralization. This reform will have fiscal implications when some revenue-generating abilities are devolved to the local level. The cost implications of decentralization were also discussed together with the World Bank (see below).

World Bank (WB)

Information is exchanged, mainly on local government reform. The World Bank sectoral reforms in the areas of health, education and

public administration will be heavily affected by the decentralization, and the Bank has therefore used the Mission as a source of information on the legislation, the political process and potential timeframes for adoption and implementation of the decentralization reform package.

The OSCE and other international organizations have discussed the possible cost implications of the decentralization reform in preparation for the donors conference, originally scheduled to take place on 15 October 2001, but which has been postponed until further notice.

OSCE Institutions

The level of co-operation continues to be high.

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The ODIHR provided a representative to the Mission in support of the series of seminars on the police, the army and municipal awareness, which took place in the Mission area and was organized in co-operation with the British Embassy and the United Kingdom Royal Ulster Constabulary. The Mission continues to maintain a close relationship with the ODIHR regarding the development of the Police Academy in the country, together with the police experts of the European Commission and of the United States Embassy.

High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

The Mission's relationship with the High Commissioner is well documented. He has been supported by one member of the Mission throughout the lengthy process leading toward founding of the Southeast European University at Tetovo, construction of which is now commencing. The Mission acts as a clearing house for distribution of and accounting for contract funding for building works provided by the European Union and bilateral donors.

Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM)

The Mission's Press and Media Adviser maintains good co-operation with the RFM. The Mission recently hosted a visit from the Representative in which shortcomings perceived in media behaviour during the crisis were addressed. Discussions on political and legislative issues have taken place with the Stability Pact Media Task Force, the Soros Foundation and the Council of Europe.

Non-governmental organizations

The Mission has relationships with local and international NGOs, such as the EastWest Institute and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

EastWest Institute (EWI)

The Mission has jointly organized with EWI a seminar on trans-frontier co-operation in the Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa region in order to discuss with local actors and the Council of Europe the possibility of institutionalizing co-operation by establishing a Euro-region.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

The IFRC keeps the Mission informed at the weekly high-level meetings at the Mission about movements and housing of internally displaced persons and refugees, as well as about social case assistance.

<h2>ADVISORY AND MONITORING GROUP IN BELARUS</h2>
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General assessment

Effective co-operation is maintained through regular consultations on matters within the mandates of the respective organizations and in line with their status in the host country. This includes contacts with the European Union, the Minsk office of the EU programme of Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS), the European Commission in Brussels, the Council of Europe, UNHCR, IOM, IMF, the World Bank and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Secretariat.

Future co-operation

Continuation of substantive co-operation is envisaged in such areas as:

- Implementation of the Belarus Democracy Projects supported by the EU/ODIHR/AMG, which began in March 2000. Since August 2001, preparations have taken place for follow-up projects in 2002-2003.
- Consultations with UNHCR and IOM on issues related to migration movements across borders as a cause for international tension, domestic instability and humanitarian concerns.

- Consultations with the IMF on economic and monetary developments in Belarus.
- Consultations with the World Bank on co-operation in prison rehabilitation projects.
- Consultations with the CIS on international election observation.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The CoE and the Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus (AMG), in co-operation with the Belarusian authorities and the independent non-governmental organization Sapieha, co-sponsored a Seminar on Local Government in Belarus, which took place on 2 April 2001. Representatives of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe took part in the Seminar as lecturers. The Seminar was also attended by a number of official representatives from the regional structures and from the central Government. However, the Seminar was not fully supported by the Government, since it involved a non-governmental organization that is looked upon as one of the opposition groups in the country.

The AMG plans to continue its close co-operation with the Council of Europe with regard to local self-government in Belarus. A new project is under consideration.

The parliamentary troika, which is composed of representatives from the European Parliament and the OSCE and CoE Parliamentary Assemblies, met with the AMG on various occasions in preparation for the presidential elections of 9 September 2001. From 5 to 7 May 2001, a visiting delegation included the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, A. Severin; the Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Terry Davis; and the Chairman of the Belarus Subgroup of the Political Committee of the European Parliament, Jan Marinus Wiersma.

A further visit to Minsk took place from 31 July to 3 August 2001. The delegation included the following representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE): Terry Davis, the Chairman of PACE; Wolfgang Behrendt, its rapporteur; and the rapporteur of the Legal and Human Rights Committee of PACE, Cyril Svoboda.

In connection with the International Limited Election Observation Mission, which was organized by the ODIHR from 16 August to

10 September 2001, the parliamentary institutions of the European Union, the Council of Europe and the OSCE sent parliamentary delegations as short-term observers. The preliminary results of the Observation Mission were published as a "Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions" on 10 September 2001.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Regular meetings are held regarding the projects implemented by UNDP and the AMG. In the spring of 2001, special consultations took place concerning the significance of temporary Presidential Decree No. 8, dated 12 March 2001, which requires the registration of foreign grants for NGOs in Belarus in the humanitarian field. The AMG organized these meetings with diplomatic missions and Belarusian non-governmental organizations regarding the consequences of Decree No. 8 for future international co-operation involving non-governmental organizations in Belarus.

In addition, project-related consultations take place with the participation of all the diplomatic missions and international organizations present in Minsk which are in some way engaged in technical co-operation with governmental and non-governmental institutions and associations.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The AMG continues to support prisoners and detained people who consider themselves victims of political prosecution and are in contact with the Office of the UNHCHR. The AMG ensures the safe transmission of petitions of Belarusian citizens to UNHCHR Headquarters, in addition to following the legal cases.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Consultations are held on individual cases and on the common concern for international support to Belarus on the growing problems of illegal refugee transit through Belarus. The AMG organized conferences in May and June 2001 to discuss and settle the issue of young Afghans who were brought to the Soviet Union during the war in Afghanistan and are living without legal permits in Belarus. Participants included representatives from UNHCR, IOM, the Belarusian authorities from Minsk and organizations such as the Belarusian National

Red Cross. It is possible that the issue will be solved, thanks among other things, to financial support by UNHCR.

In June 2001, UNHCR consulted with the AMG to review the priorities for its work. The successor States to the Soviet Union bordering the European Union and its future members (Poland and Lithuania) are increasingly facing problems arising from a growing pressure of east-to-west migration. These issues among others were discussed intensively on the occasion of the Co-ordination Meeting between the OSCE, UNHCR, CoE and IOM in Vienna on 4 July 2001.

European Union (EU)

The AMG regularly co-operates with the embassies of EU member States in Belarus. These consultations focus on the democratization process in Belarus, in particular, regarding the need for free and democratic elections in accordance with EU standards, and the support of the EU member States for the work of the AMG in Belarus.

European Commission (EC)

The AMG continues to plan and implement seven projects which are jointly funded by the European Commission and the ODIHR and were commenced in March 2000. These projects aim at strengthening democratic institutions. At present, a follow-up programme is being discussed, which envisages a budget of more than EUR 800,000 for the period 2002-2003. Final agreement on these projects is expected to be reached by the end of the year 2001. The Programme includes the following projects:

- Establishment of a Centre for European and Transatlantic Studies at the Independent European Humanistic University in Minsk;
- Establishment of electronic data links with international institutions of higher education and research at the European Humanistic University;
- Lecture series on civil society and pluralistic democracy;
- Improvement of sanitary and health conditions in prisons;
- Support for and training of public defenders and support for persons under criminal or administrative prosecution with political implications;

- Logistical support for non-governmental organizations and support for media-oriented activities in connection with the parliamentary elections;
- Conferences on conflict and dispute resolution.

European Parliament (EP)

The parliamentarians of the parliamentary troika for Belarus, which includes representations of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, are closely following developments in Belarus. The parliamentary troika for Belarus supports the efforts of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus aimed at developing democratic institutions and monitoring the country's compliance with its European commitments. A parliamentary troika delegation visited Belarus from 5 to 7 March and observed the presidential elections there under the chairmanship of Jan Marinus Wiersma, Chairman of the Belarus subgroup of the Political Committee of the European Parliament, on 9 September 2001.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The AMG was consulted on the occasion of the visit by a delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO in April 2001. Furthermore, the AMG was invited to provide a briefing on the democratization process in Belarus and on the international status of the thirteenth Supreme Soviet and the National Assembly – the parliamentary body under the 1996 constitution.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

On the occasion of the Co-ordination Meeting between the OSCE, the CoE, IOM and UNHCR in Vienna on 4 July 2001, the AMG's proposal to engage the European Union in analysing and finding a solution to problems of migration across borders in all the successor States to the Soviet Union bordering on current and future member States of the European Union was welcomed by the participants. The issues related to this growing problem of migration movements across borders are affecting the relations between the European Union and bordering countries in East Europe, notably Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

During the reporting period, ICRC continued to support the AMG prison project, which is financed by the European Commission and the ODIHR. A medical specialist from the International Committee of the Red Cross, together with a member of the AMG and a medical specialist from the Belarusian Prison Administration, visited prisons and pre-trial detention camps. The details of the AMG rehabilitation project for prisons and detention camps are being developed on the basis of their reporting.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Occasional consultations are held with IMF representatives responsible for Belarus regarding assessment of the country's monetary and economic development.

World Bank (WB)

The AMG co-operates with the World Bank on projects related to health problems, specifically the health and sanitary conditions in prisons and the eradication of tuberculosis. The World Bank is envisaging such a programme on a countrywide scale; the AMG is engaged in the implementation of such a programme in the country's prisons.

OSCE Institutions

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

During the reporting period, close co-operation continued regarding the parliamentary and presidential elections in Belarus, and also concerning the legislative process, international observation, and domestic observation, as well as in the context of expert visits and participation in the ODIHR Review Conference on Elections in May 2001. Furthermore, in December 2000 and June 2001 AMG-financed Belarusian officials and non-officials participation in the ODIHR Election Observation Missions in Serbia and in Bulgaria.

Co-operation and regular reporting continues in the context of the European Commission and ODIHR-financed projects for Belarus, proposed and being implemented by the AMG from 2000 to 2002 (as listed under the European Commission subheading) and of the preparation of a follow-up programme for the years 2002-2003.

Close co-operation took place in connection with the participation of the ODIHR in an International Limited Election Observation Mission on the occasion of the presidential elections in Belarus on 9 September 2001.

Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM)

A Workshop for Journalists and Media Representatives from Belarus, organized by the Representative on Freedom of the Media and supported by the AMG, took place in Vienna in May 2001.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

The AMG enjoys close co-operation with the President of the OSCE PA and with the *ad hoc* Working Group on Belarus of the OSCE PA, in connection with the handling of the Belarus issue. Efforts were made to enable a Belarusian parliamentary body to be represented in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which met in February and June 2001. On both occasions, the AMG's position regarding the status of the 13th Supreme Soviet and the Chamber of Representatives of the National Assembly was presented to the Credentials Committee of the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The *ad hoc* Working Group on Belarus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was established in 1998 with the task of reporting regularly to the Parliamentary Assembly on Belarus and of supporting the endeavours of the AMG in the furtherance of democratic institutions in the country.

In addition, as part of the parliamentary troika, representatives from the OSCE PA visited Belarus in the spring of 2001 and on the occasion of the presidential elections on 9 September 2001.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The AMG co-operates with a great number of NGOs dealing with human rights, such as the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, Viasnya 96 and Charter 97, and with NGOs engaged in the furtherance of local self-government, such as Sapieha, and with various research institutes. The AMG also has close ties with the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ).

OSCE MISSION TO ESTONIA

General assessment

The Mission to Estonia is successfully co-operating with a number of international organizations and local NGOs. It has been active in assisting in capacity building among NGOs and other organizations, and in identifying financial sources for their projects, which are supporting integration of Estonian society. The Mission to Estonia has initiated and is carrying out a number of different projects in order to support the dialogue and discussion on issues related to integration, media development, knowledge of international human rights norms and other topics covered by the Mission's mandate.

Future co-operation

The Mission will continue its current co-operation with its international and national partners. There are several seminars and conferences planned that will be carried out in co-operation with our partners. For example, the Mission will organize a legal training seminar for language inspectors in November 2001, jointly with the Estonian Language Inspectorate and the Estonian Ministry of Education, and it will support the Presidential Round Table in organizing a conference on integration issues, to take place on 15 November 2001.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission has contacts with the CoE staff in Strasbourg on issues pertaining to language certification, language education, language requirements and the provision of information on, and processes relating to, citizenship and residency. The CoE does not have diplomatic representation in Tallinn. However, there is an information office at the National Library.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is one of the most important international organizations with which the Mission co-operates. Although the UNDP office was closed at the end of 2000, it continues to implement projects that are still running, such as the EU PHARE Estonian Language Training Programme. The Mission is a member of the Steering Committee for this Programme and

takes part in bimonthly meetings to discuss its progress.

Additionally, the Mission confers regularly with the UNDP staff and others who are implementing the Nordic/British Council/ UNDP project, which aims to promote the integration of non-Estonian residents into an open, democratic, cohesive and multi-cultural Estonian society. This project will run until the end of 2001. A new multi-donor programme will continue the activities in 2002 – 2004.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Mission provides information and discusses issues of mutual interest with UNHCR representatives, both locally and regionally. The Mission shares information with the UNHCR on citizenship, statelessness and residency processes and statistics. The Mission occasionally refers people to the UNHCR offices for assistance.

European Union (EU)

The Mission maintains close co-operation with the EU. The European Union PHARE Estonian Language Training Programme began operations in September 1998. The Programme is primarily aimed at teaching Estonian as a second language and provides support to adult language training and language training in the educational system. Furthermore, the Programme attempts to raise public awareness about the integration process and the Programme's activities. The Mission is a member of the Steering Committee for this Programme and takes part in the bimonthly meetings.

European Commission (EC)

Contacts with the delegation of the European Commission in Tallinn are very close. The Mission and the European Commission regularly discuss the latest developments regarding matters of mutual interest.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Co-operation primarily consists of exchanges of information regarding IOM projects being implemented in Estonia.

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

The Mission co-operates regularly with the Council of Baltic Sea States Commissioner on Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities. The Mission participated in a Seminar of National Ombudsmen of CBSS

Member States in Copenhagen on 1 March 2001. In May 2001, Commissioner Helle Degn visited Estonia and had consultations with the Mission during her visit.

Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)

The Mission has contacts and, in some cases, has had joint activities with the Nordic Council of Ministers. These activities have included NGO development seminars and training sessions. The working relations and information exchange with the Nordic Council of Ministers are very fruitful. During the reporting period, the Mission forwarded a number of NGO projects in the sphere of education to the Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Tallinn for funding.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The Mission co-operates, in particular, with the following national NGOs:

The Centre for Trans-boundary Co-operation (Lake Peipsi Project)

The Centre is active in organizing cross-border civil sector development projects as well as supporting local initiatives in the Lake Peipsi region. The Mission closely co-operates with the Centre itself and the voluntary Work Centre located beside it. The Mission co-financed a voluntary work camp for volunteers from Tartu and Narva in the Lake Peipsi region. It has also supported the Centre in finding funding for other projects. For example, the project entitled Strengthening the Development of Civil Society and Co-operation between NGOs, Local Communities and Local Government, in Narva, received funding from the ODIHR through the Mission.

Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre (ENUT)

ENUT is one of the few NGOs in Estonia dealing with gender issues, specifically using a scientific approach. The Mission, in conjunction with the Centre, jointly organized a seminar on the impact of the integration policy on women and men in the spring of 2001, and has supported the Centre in finding sources of funding for other projects.

Jaan-Tõnisson-Institute (JTI)

JTI is an active NGO working for democratization. It has organized seminars

dealing with multicultural questions, citizenship and human rights issues. The Civic Education Centre of JTI has had long experience in offering training in civic education to teachers, school headmasters, local government officials and members of other NGOs. The Mission's co-operation with the JTI is intensive. The Mission also co-operates with the Civic Education Centre in a project that provides educational materials on multiculturalism, minorities and human rights for schools.

The Legal Information Centre for Human Rights (LICHR)

LICHR is one of the important Estonian institutions working for human rights. The Mission has implemented projects in co-operation with the Centre, and regularly participates in seminars and training courses organized by LICHR. Currently, LICHR is running a project, entitled Promoting Integration through Legal Counselling, in the Ida-Virumaa region, which offers free legal aid to local people. The Mission has supported this project, for which it received financing from the ODIHR for the year 2000. The co-operation with this NGO is very close, as its activities are complementary to the Mission's mandate.

The Round Table of National Organizations in Ida-Virumaa

The Round Table works in close co-operation with the regional authorities, especially with the office of the Governor of Ida-Virumaa. The Mission has had a fruitful exchange of views with the Round Table and has helped its members to write project proposals and identify funding for their projects. For example, the project entitled Supporting Multiculturalism - Dissemination of Information about National Minorities and Integration, in Ida-Virumaa, received financing from the ODIHR through the Mission.

The Social Initiative Support Centre for Integration

The Centre, especially its offices in Tallinn and Narva, has been active in implementing local integration initiatives, organizing language courses and giving legal aid to individuals. The Mission has supported the Centre in identifying funding sources for its projects and also regularly participates in the events it organizes.

Other

Presidential Round Table on National Minorities

The Mission regularly attends meetings of the Presidential Round Table on National Minorities. The Round Table was founded by President Meri in 1993, and plays a key role in supporting dialogue among the communities. Participants include prominent researchers, politicians and minority representatives. A conference will take place on 15 November 2001 where past achievements and future plans of the Round Table will be discussed as well as the Tallinn Integration Programme. President Ryytel and his predecessor President Meri will participate.

In addition, the Mission jointly organized various projects with the Presidential Round Table, such as the Media Seminar on Integration Discourse in Estonian- and Russian-Language Media, on 18 and 19 December 2000, and the Conference on the Estonian Educational System and National Minorities, on 30 March 2001.

OSCE MISSION TO LATVIA

General assessment

The majority of the Mission's work is done in co-operation with other international organizations and NGOs, as well as national institutions. Within the Mission's main area of activity, the role of such contacts can be characterized as follows:

- Advice on legislation. The Mission continues to provide advice to the Latvian Government and Parliament on various aspects of citizenship and language legislation, as well as in a few other areas. This work is being done in close co-operation with OSCE institutions, notably the HCNM, and with other international organizations, such as the Council of Europe, UNHCHR, UNHCR and IOM. Input from minority and human rights NGOs is important in formulating this advice.
- Projects to support the implementation of legislation and to ensure sustainability. This type of activity increased dramatically in importance once the legislative agenda had been largely fulfilled. Much of the project work is being undertaken in co-operation with UNDP, and some further efforts will also involve the Council of Europe. Some projects have also involved co-operation with regional organizations, such as the Council

of Baltic Sea States and the Nordic Council of Ministers, and national institutions.

- Case work. This work involves contacts with several NGOs representing the minority communities, in particular those that provide legal advice. The intensity of these contacts has, however, diminished, since the great majority of individual cases related to citizenship and status of residence have been solved.

In addition to the above, the Mission maintains regular contacts with NGOs, academic institutions and think tanks, such as the European Centre for Minority Issues, and other international organizations, for exchange of information and assessments.

Future co-operation

The Mission will continue to focus its activities on four separate areas: citizenship and non-citizens' issues, language and education, the integration programme of the Latvian Government and an ombudsman institution. In this respect, involvement with longer-term projects will increase in order to ensure sustainable development in these fields of activity after the Mission's mandate has been fulfilled. This will involve intensified contacts with relevant international partners, notably UNDP, the Council of Europe and the European Union (EU). The Mission will also continue to co-operate and share ideas with its partners in the Expert Review Mission which recommended ways of strengthening the Latvian National Human Rights Office. These partners include the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Finnish Parliamentary Ombudsman. The role of the HCNM and the ODIHR in Mission projects is likely to increase as the Mission progressively hands over responsibility for projects to other partner organizations. The importance of contacts with the EU, the Presidency and the Commission is growing because of Latvia's approaching EU membership and the likelihood that the EU will eventually assume part of the Mission's role.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission regularly provides information to the Council of Europe on the latest developments relevant to the work of the Council, for example, on language legislation, education and the State Integration Programme. In the past year, the Mission has taken part in several Council of Europe seminars in Latvia

where topics of mutual concern, such as language legislation and policy were discussed. In the coming months, it is foreseen that the Mission and the Council of Europe will be involved in a joint project together with the Latvian State Language Centre, with the aim of developing a practice manual (standard operational procedure manual) for the State language inspectors.

The Mission and the Council of Europe have reviewed potential areas for joint activities relating to protection of rights and ombudsman functions. The Mission provided substantial input for the latest report of the Rapporteurs on Latvia of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, whose report was adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 23 January 2001 (Doc. 8924, report of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, rapporteurs: Messrs. Davis and Jansson).

Inter-institutional contacts will be strengthened through visits to the Council by the Mission in the coming months.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Co-operation with UNDP has increased considerably as the Mission's project activities, primarily directed towards supporting efforts in legislation implementation, have grown in scope. Co-operation has proven to be particularly complementary and useful, in that UNDP is able to provide management and financial services for which the Mission does not have the required resources.

UNDP and the Mission are participating in two joint projects with the Latvian Naturalization Board designed to promote an increase in naturalization among stateless persons. These are a public awareness programme on citizenship and naturalization, and a free language training programme for naturalization candidates. Both projects will be launched in the autumn of 2001.

As UNDP and the Mission have a common interest in human rights and in the development of democratic institutions, they commissioned a joint international expert report on protection of rights and ombudsman functions in Latvia, which was submitted to President Vike-Freiberga in May 2001.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The Mission consults with UNHCHR on issues of mutual interest, in particular in preparing and giving advice to the Latvian authorities on protection of rights and ombudsman functions.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Mission exchanges information on issues of common concern, such as statelessness and migration trends, with and the UNHCR office in Riga and its headquarters in Geneva.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The Mission regularly briefs and exchanges information with the EC Delegation on matters concerning Latvia's legal infrastructure. This common interest has led to joint activities in monitoring and providing advice on specific legal texts. Preliminary discussions take place on joint information efforts, in the form of the production of regular articles on integration and citizenship in local newspapers with the support of the Mission and the EC Delegation.

The Council of the European Union

The interaction with the EU Presidency has increased because Latvia's negotiations on membership in the EU are reaching their conclusion and the EU's interest in all aspects of Latvian society is growing. On 9 April 2001, the Head of the Mission made a presentation in the Council Working Group on the OSCE. In that presentation, the Head of Mission described the Mission's activities in Latvia.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The OSCE Mission maintains good working relations with IOM. This includes regular exchanges of information and referrals for persons who wish to emigrate from Latvia.

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

The Mission maintains a dialogue with the CBSS Commissioner on Democratic Development. In particular, this dialogue focuses on the issue of protection of rights and the development of an ombudsman institution in Latvia.

Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)

The Mission has co-operated with the Nordic Council of Ministers on protection of rights and development of an ombudsman institution in Latvia. In particular, this co-operation took the form of preparation, with the President's Chancery, of a conference held in Riga on 2 June 2001, in which a joint OSCE/UNDP report on this topic was presented.

OSCE Institutions

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The OSCE Mission enjoys close working relations with the ODIHR. This applies both to exchanges of information on relevant developments in Latvia and to joint project-related activities. In particular, the ODIHR has made financial contributions to enable the Mission to give advice on protection of rights and ombudsman functions in its co-operation project with UNDP. The Mission has also received support from the ODIHR for small but high-profile publication efforts which have been made in conjunction with Latvian human rights NGOs.

High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

The OSCE Mission is in almost daily contact with the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on issues of common concern, in particular, citizenship, education, language and integration. It is foreseen that the HCNM will be involved in the implementation of language-related projects along with the Mission, Latvian State authorities and local NGOs.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

The Mission maintains a regular dialogue with the Latvian members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The Mission maintains and is continuously developing close contacts with the main NGOs in Latvia that have an interest in the topics covered by the Mission's mandate. In particular, the Mission enjoys close contacts with the NGOs working on human rights issues. These NGOs have a broad range of contact points in Latvian

society, giving the Mission valuable access to a wide variety of information.

Association for Support of the Russian Language Schools in Latvia (LASHOR) and the Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature

The Mission maintains a regular exchange of information concerning education issues with these associations, led by the Director of the Department of Slavic studies of the Latvian University in Riga, Mrs. Tatyana Liguta.

Baltic Insight

The Mission maintains contacts with and receives regular information from this information service, which deals with minority issues.

Friedrich Naumann Foundation

In co-operation with the Mission, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNS) of Germany will organize a conference on Russian- and Latvian-language media in Latvia, planned to take place on 9 November 2001. Latvian NGOs will also be active in the execution of this project.

Latvian NGO Centre

In many of the Mission's projects, critical roles are foreseen for Latvian human rights NGOs. This is particularly true for those projects that are related to citizenship and naturalization. In this regard, the NGO Centre and its regional branches are directly involved in the dissemination of information on the public awareness campaign being implemented by the Latvian Naturalization Board in co-operation with the Mission.

Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies (LCHRES)

The Director of LCHRES took part in the work of the expert group on the protection of rights and ombudsman functions, which involved a dialogue with a wide range of other NGOs. This project therefore contributed to the development of the Mission's contact network with NGOs. The Mission is planning a conference at the end of the year on the role of the OSCE in Latvia, to be held jointly with LCHRES.

Latvian Human Rights Institute of the University of Latvia

In co-operation with the Institute, the OSCE Mission and the ODIHR are publishing a book

entitled “Aspects of Minority Integration in Latvia”. The publication is intended to serve as a teaching material for law students, and also as a source of information for academics and others interested in minority issues in Latvia.

Latvian Human Rights Committee

It is an important priority of the Mission to maintain and develop contacts with NGOs representing ethnic minorities, predominantly Russians. In particular, the Mission continues to exchange information with the Committee, which is an NGO that mainly devotes its efforts to providing legal advice and promoting the rights of ethnic Russians and native Russian speakers in Latvia. One of the Mission members regularly participates in negotiations between the Latvian Human Rights Committee and the Latvian Department of Citizenship and Migration Affairs on individual cases concerning citizenship issues.

Soros Foundation

The Mission maintains close contacts with the Soros Foundation, which conducts parallel activities in many of the fields in which the Mission is active. In some cases, the Mission and the Soros Foundation have joined efforts in financing projects, such as the survey, “On the Way to a Civil Society”. The Mission maintains a very close working relationship with the Soros-financed Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies.

Other

Canadian Human Rights Commission and Finnish Parliamentary Ombudsman

In the Mission’s joint project with UNDP on the development and enhancement of institutions to protect human rights and good governance in Latvia, the members of the international expert mission included the Secretary General of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Finnish Parliamentary Ombudsman. In implementation of the expert mission’s report, these institutions will continue to co-operate with the OSCE Mission.

OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA

General Assessment

The OSCE Mission to Moldova co-operates actively with several international organizations and OSCE Institutions which are active in the

country, especially in efforts to combine forces in pursuit of goals which are common to our mandates. The political contacts of the OSCE Mission to Moldova with the separatist authorities on the left bank of the Dniestr River are especially useful in making contacts, facilitating operations or assisting programmes in Trans-Dniestria.

Future co-operation

The OSCE Mission to Moldova plans in the near future to co-operate with international organizations, institutions and NGOs in the following priority efforts:

- Support for Romanian/Moldovan (Latin alphabet) language instruction on the left bank, with UNHCR.
- Anti-trafficking initiatives, with IOM, the CoE, the ODIHR and several NGOs.
- Instruction in the State language for national minorities, with the HCNM.

These are only some of the most visible of the Mission’s planned co-operation activities.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission maintains regular contact with the Council of Europe’s Information Office in Chisinau, and in particular with the Directorate of Political Affairs. The Mission has enlisted the services of experts from the Venice Commission and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe in its mediation activities in Trans-Dniestria and Gagauzia. The Mission also briefs and facilitates contacts with Trans-Dniestrian authorities for a wide range of visitors from the CoE.

The International Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary elections in Moldova issued a joint statement finding the parliamentary elections in Moldova on 25 February in conformity with international standards. This Mission was a joint effort of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In particular, the OSCE Mission and the ODIHR Election Observation Mission co-ordinated coverage of attempts by Moldovan citizens from Trans-Dniestria to vote in these elections.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The OSCE Mission maintains regular contact with the UNICEF Resident Representative and the UNICEF Office. On several occasions, the OSCE Mission has intervened with or made representations to the separatist Trans-Dniestrian authorities to obtain their agreement and their co-operation with UNICEF in the implementation of data collection, distribution of medicines and similar public health and humanitarian programmes in the Trans-Dniestrian region of Moldova.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The OSCE Mission maintains regular contacts with the UNDP Representative and the UNDP Office in Chisinau and, as required, facilitates contacts with Trans-Dniestrian authorities.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Mission works actively with the UNHCR Branch Office in Chisinau to facilitate contacts and support UNHCR's work in the separatist areas on the left bank. The UNHCR and the Mission are co-operating, in particular, in the proposed establishment and construction of a joint Russian/Moldovan language school in the town of Rybnita in Trans-Dniestria. The Mission and UNHCR are also involved in a number of initiatives to combat trafficking in human beings. The Mission frequently joins the UNHCR Branch Office in sponsoring public events, such as concerts, to increase public awareness of refugee and human rights issues.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The OSCE Mission maintains regular contacts with appropriate officials of the European Commission, both through Resident Representatives working out of the Branch Office of the Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) programme, and in the appropriate Directorate in Brussels. The Mission has provided input and consultations on desirable programmes and areas for political and material support in Moldova, such as reconstruction of the Gura-Biculi Bridge over the Dniestr River or provision of equipment and facilities to support parliamentary contacts between Chisinau, Tiraspol, and Comrat. The

Mission has also facilitated contacts and visits to the Trans-Dniestrian region of Moldova.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The OSCE Mission is currently working with NATO regarding the provision of assistance to the Moldovan Ministry of Defence for the destruction of 360 tons of toxic oxidizer rocket fuel stored on the outskirts of Chisinau. The OSCE Mission also briefs visitors from NATO on the political and security situation in Moldova, and Mission members take part in NATO-sponsored conferences which occur from time to time.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The OSCE Mission is currently working with the IOM Representative in Kiev and the local Chisinau office on several programmes to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular regarding revision and adoption of legislation and national co-ordination efforts. The OSCE Mission is also supporting an IOM-funded project to increase control along Moldova's border with Ukraine. The Head of the Mission recently joined the IOM representative for Ukraine and Moldova in a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss adoption and implementation of the programme.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The OSCE Mission is in regular contact with ICRC representatives from the regional office in Kiev to gain access to members of the so-called "Ilascu group" imprisoned in Tiraspol. The OSCE Mission is also seeking ICRC expertise and assistance in meeting a request of the parties to the conflict for assistance in forensics and other specialized areas relevant to the identification of persons who disappeared during the fighting in 1992.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The OSCE Mission is in contact from time to time with EBRD representatives in London who are responsible for Moldova. As requested, the Mission provides briefings on the political and security situation in Moldova.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The OSCE Mission maintains regular contacts and conducts regular consultations with

the Resident Representative of the International Monetary Fund in Chisinau, both in general bimonthly donors meetings and in bilateral contacts with the Resident Representative and visiting delegations.

World Bank (WB)

The OSCE Mission maintains regular contacts and conducts regular consultations with the Resident Representative of the World Bank, both in general bimonthly meetings of donors and in bilateral contacts. For example, the World Bank Representative briefed visiting heads and members of OSCE Delegations on the Moldovan economic situation in April 2001.

OSCE Institutions

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The OSCE Mission and the ODIHR are actively involved as key organizers and sponsors of a number of activities to combat trafficking in human beings in Moldova, including a national co-ordinating group composed of representatives of the Government, international organizations and NGOs. The ODIHR has also provided support for a number of small projects, in particular conferences, seminars, meetings and other activities of independent journalists and NGOs in the Trans-Dniestrian region of Moldova.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The OSCE Mission maintains contacts and attempts to support the activities of a wide range of NGOs, especially in Moldova's Trans-Dniestrian region. These NGOs deal, among other subjects, with freedom of the press, overall human rights in general, women's rights, action to combat trafficking, ecology and youth contacts. The OSCE Mission has particularly long-standing contact with the Joint Committee on Democracy and Conciliation, a Moldovan-Trans-Dniestrian NGO, and two NGOs based in the UK, the Foundation for International Security and the Moldova International Committee on Management. These NGOs have offered assistance and facilitation in non-official contacts and exchanges in support of the negotiation process for a political settlement. One of the Mission's chief goals is to encourage the development of a flourishing NGO community throughout Moldova, as a key step in

the development of democratic institutions and the promotion of human rights.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UKRAINE

Co-operation with international organizations and institutions

The post of OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine was established for the purpose of ensuring that tasks related to co-operation of the OSCE and its Institutions with the Ukrainian authorities are carried out. This co-operation focuses on the planning, implementation and monitoring of concrete projects. In the reporting period, four projects (out of a total of 12) were carried out in co-operation with other international organizations. One was implemented jointly with a United Nations agency, two with International Organization for Migration, and one in co-ordination with the Council of Europe. According to the Co-ordinator's mandate, non-governmental bodies can also be involved in projects. Joint activities with NGOs take place in about half the projects.

International Organizations And Institutions Active In Ukraine

The following table provides an overview of international organizations and institutions active in Ukraine. It contains the names of all the organizations and institutions that are recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine or which are relevant to the mandate of the OSCE in Ukraine.

Organization/institution		Field of activity
Commission of the European Union (EC/EU)		Political, economic, technical assistance
International Monetary Fund (IMF)		Financial assistance
World Bank (WB)		Financial assistance
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)		Financial assistance
United Nations (UN)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	(1)	Technical assistance
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)		Refugees
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Migration
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	(2)	Security and defence
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		International humanitarian law

Cross (ICRC)		humanitarian law
Council of Europe (CoE)	(3)	Human rights, rule of law

1. The Head of this UN office performs a double function as a United Nations Resident Co-ordinator and a UNDP Resident Representative.

2. Two NATO offices are recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: the NATO Liaison Office in Ukraine and the NATO Information and Documentation Centre.

3. The CoE has no office in Ukraine recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Co-operation with the Council of Europe: Comprehensive review of human rights legislation

The objective of the legislation review project, which is being implemented in co-operation with the ODIHR, is to assist Ukraine in bringing its legislation into line with European standards. The main partners in the project on the Ukrainian side are the Ministry of Justice and the Verkhovna Rada (parliament). In order to avoid duplication, the project is carried out in regular contact with the Council of Europe.

This close co-operation has led to further joint activities, as for instance in the case of the review of the draft Law on the Judiciary, which was arranged in the framework of the co-operation with the Legal Policy Committee of the Verkhovna Rada. Two international experts, who had been recruited through the Council of Europe, carried out an analysis of two competing drafts of this particular law. On 6 March 2001, the experts discussed their findings during a seminar with members of the Committee and other interested participants.

Co-operation with UN agencies: Donors' Conference for Crimea

The Government of Ukraine, the OSCE and UN agencies jointly organized an international donors' meeting on the humanitarian and development dimensions of population integration in the Crimea. This meeting took place on 6 December 2000, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. It was the third such donors' conference, and the previous one had taken place in Kiev in 1998. The then OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Max van der Stoel, co-chaired the meeting. UN organizations and the Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the relevant Ukrainian authorities, prepared the relevant documents. The representatives of the donors' community made pledges totalling approximately USD 3.5 million.

Co-operation with IOM: Combating trafficking in human beings

In 2001, the IOM office in Ukraine implemented a European Union project under the Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States Programme (TACIS) entitled Combating Trafficking in Women in Ukraine. Following the earlier successful co-operation between the Project Co-ordinator and the IOM office in Ukraine in this field, it was agreed that the Project Co-ordinator would carry out parts of the TACIS project concerning legislation and prosecution.

One of the partners in this TACIS project is the NGO La Strada-Ukraine. This NGO is also a main partner in activities to combat trafficking that the Project Co-ordinator is carrying out on behalf of the ODIHR, in particular, the establishment and support of five regional counselling and information hotlines, which are run by La Strada.

From 22 to 26 January 2001, a visit of Ukrainian officials to Greece was organized in order to discuss with Greek counterparts the repatriation of victims of human trafficking, as well as co-operation in the fight against organized crime. This visit was implemented jointly by the IOM office in Kiev and the ODIHR as a final activity of a project. In the framework of this former joint trafficking-prevention project, designed to support the National Council against Trafficking under the Ombudsman of Ukraine, similar visits were organized to Belgium, Turkey and Italy.

Co-operation with IOM: Reform of the Border Service

From 14 to 18 November 2000, the ODIHR in co-operation with the Border Guard Service of Poland arranged a study visit by Ukrainian Border Guard officials to the training centre of the Polish Border Guard Service in Ketrzyn. This study visit was in the framework of a joint project with the IOM office in Kiev, designed to promote the reform of the Ukrainian Border Service. Neither the ODIHR nor the IOM office in Kiev currently foresees a continuation of activities in this field.

Co-operation with international and national NGOs and foreign governmental bodies

In the framework of the CoE/ODIHR human rights legislation review project, several activities are being implemented that aim at supporting the work of the Ukrainian Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights. These activities are carried out jointly with the German Foundation for International Legal Co-operation (*IRZ-Stiftung*). This Foundation is also a main partner in the implementation of a project with the Supreme Court which foresees assistance in the establishment of an administrative judiciary in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Section of the NGO International Society for Human Rights plays a major role in the project, Support of the Rule of Law in the Military Sphere, which is being implemented jointly with the Ministry of Defence. Following earlier successful co-operation with the Ministry of Defence and the NGO, it was agreed to jointly organize a series of 25 seminars between September 2001 and May 2002, in various garrisons throughout Ukraine, on the theme of the development of the democratic institutions in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Other examples of involvement of NGOs are seminars that were jointly organized with the American Bar Association (ABA/CEELI), Irex ProMedia and Ekopravo in the context of projects regarding the fight against corruption, freedom of the media and environmental law, respectively.

Evaluation

Joining forces with other international organizations and institutions which have more focused technical expertise and knowledge regarding the solution of particular problems continues to be a main goal of the Project Co-ordinator. In practice, however, it proves to be difficult to design joint projects or to combine projects with other international organizations active in the field. It is often easier to involve NGOs or to co-operate with foreign governmental bodies for the following reasons:

- Assisting a country in the transformation process is a very broad undertaking and can often involve a wide variety of aspects and activities. Thus, there is far less overlapping

between activities of different international actors than might be assumed at first glance.

- The objectives and targets of various international organizations and institutions may differ greatly. For example, in terms of the focus of activities, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator places greater emphasis on co-operation with State bodies, whereas some others emphasize joint projects with NGOs.
- The mechanisms of project design, implementation and financing vary among different international organizations and institutions. For example, while a project is designed and funded by the headquarters of an organization, the actual implementing body of the organization might not have the flexibility to work with other international organizations at the field level, thus making the co-operation process complicated and often impossible.
- One of the main comparative advantages of the OSCE is the flexibility of its *modus operandi*. The Project Co-ordinator, on the basis of daily working contacts with the relevant Ukrainian State bodies and the insights gained through the co-operation in concrete projects, constantly strives to develop projects further or to adapt them in order to maximize their impact with a view to achieving the overall objective of a given project. More often than not, this comparative advantage could not be preserved in co-operation with another international organization.

The above-mentioned reasons, among others, often limit co-operation with other international organizations to a regular exchange of information and co-ordination of activities.

OSCE OFFICE IN BAKU

General assessment

The scope for co-operation with international organizations is wide, and co-operative practices exist with most of the international institutions that are locally represented, particularly with the Council of Europe and UNHCR. The Office is in the process of expanding its co-operation with a wide range of local and international NGOs which are recognized as instrumental in helping

to further address its concern of the Office with the promotion of regional co-operation.

Future co-operation

There are various proposals for intensifying institutional co-operation with the Council of Europe. It is planned to expand the Office's co-operation with UNHCR on matters within its mandate related to internally displaced persons and to minority issues in Azerbaijan. Jointly implemented activities are envisaged with IOM in co-operation with the ODIHR. An expanding programme of co-operation with NGOs will focus on the articulation of policy concerns relevant to the strengthening of the institutions of civil society. In particular, the Office aims at enhancing its co-operation with Internews-Azerbaijan on promotion and implementation of the new Law on Mass Media.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The terms of reference of the OSCE Office in Baku and the 28 commitments entered into by Azerbaijan in connection with its membership in the CoE form the legislative and substantive context of a concerted approach by both organizations. Co-operation and exchange of information have been established on a regular basis in connection with the following issues: monitoring of the CoE commitments undertaken by Azerbaijan (i.e. the administration of justice), the establishment of an Ombudsman, prevention of torture, national minorities and alleged political prisoners.

The Office participated in a two-day Seminar on the European Charter for Regional Minority Languages, organized by the CoE, on 1 and 2 March 2001. At the Council's request, the Office helped identify and contact the participants and was invited to present the OSCE's approach on issues relating to ethnic minorities.

To facilitate co-operation with the Council and strengthen the Office's activities in the Human Dimension, an agreement was signed between the OSCE and the CoE on 26 September 2001 which provides for the co-location of a CoE human rights and rule of law expert at the OSCE Office in Baku. This will enhance the planning of joint activities and the timely exchange of information between the Organizations.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Good working relations have been established with the UNDP Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), who is in charge of the NGO Resource and Training Centre. The Office participated in a wide range of activities and sessions related to the development of civil society, supervised by the CTA, and it has disseminated information about OSCE events through this Centre.

UNDP and UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women)

UNDP and UNIFEM are the Office's major international counterparts with regard to its gender-awareness activities in Azerbaijan. Both organizations are working closely with the Office in areas of common concern. On 6 June 2001, the Office organized a Round Table of International Donors Dealing with Gender Issues. Representatives of both UN programmes presented the gender-specific activities of their respective offices for 2001-2002 to the participants.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

During the past year, three or four meetings have taken place with UNHCHR representatives from Geneva. UNHCHR's programme of co-operation with Azerbaijan, primarily with the Ministry of Justice, has been identified as an area for further co-operation with the Office. In particular, the issue of training in human rights for law enforcement staff has been under review for possible joint activity.

It would be desirable to increase the co-operation between the two Offices. However, the absence of UNHCHR staff in Baku and the extent of the Offices' institutional and financial capacities makes this somewhat difficult realize.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Co-operation between the two organizations has been good from the outset and, in the view of both offices, carries a significant potential for expansion. The Office consults regularly with UNHCR on a broad range of issues, including matters bearing on the situation of Azerbaijani internally displaced persons, Meskhetian and Chechen refugees, as well as legal reform and

the strengthening of institutions of the civil society.

The Office has frequently met with the senior protection officer of UNHCR in connection with the review of legislation governing the State registration of legal entities (including NGOs), which is a CoE commitment. UNHCR worked together with the CoE when the NGO Law was promulgated and continues to represent CoE locally on this issue, although it is not within UNHCR's core mandate. The Office provided expertise for an expert session regarding this issue, organized by the CoE and UNHCR in Baku on 28 August 2001.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Office proposed a joint project with IOM on the Situation of Trafficked Women and Children in Azerbaijan. The proposal has been submitted to several donor organizations. This project is a follow-up to the recommendations of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings, which took place in Vienna in June 2000.

Jointly with IOM, the Office implemented a Counter-Trafficking Project, which involved close co-operation with the ODIHR, specifically the counter-trafficking specialist.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Contacts with ICRC on issues connected with prison conditions are planned but have not yet materialized. The Office's objective is to learn more about ICRC procedures in order to prepare for its own planned prison visits.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The Office initiated contact with the International Monetary Fund in connection with OSCE's focus on good governance. The IMF requirements for the Government of Azerbaijan include reducing corruption and improving governance. The Office aims to work more closely with the IMF on its good governance programme. In this regard, the Office plans to hold two or more round table discussions on good governance with the Eurasia Foundation and Transparency International.

World Bank

The World Bank has initiated a major poverty reduction campaign in Azerbaijan. Implementing this project involves improving

the agricultural sector and developing the rural economy. The Bank conducted an assessment of needs and of the location of acute poverty in the country. Support of microfinance in the rural sector is a major part of its poverty-reduction programme, as is restructuring of the agricultural sector. The Office has initiated contacts with the Bank on issues of microfinance in the rural sector. On this subject, the Office supported and organized a major microcredit seminar with Mercy Corps International in October 2001.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

American Bar Association (ABA)

The ABA has been helpful in providing the Office with English translations of legal documents.

ACDI/VOCA

This international NGO working on agricultural development in Azerbaijan assists the Office in studying problems in rural economic development and employment in the non-energy sector.

Eurasia Foundation

The Office has had several meetings with the Eurasia Foundation concerning projects on good governance, which included round table discussions on issues relating to corruption.

Helsinki Citizens Assembly (HCA)

The Baku branch of HCA is one of around ten established human rights NGOs that the Office is in regular contact with. The HCA offered concrete help in connection with the referral of some individual complaints.

Human Rights NGOs

The Office has worked directly with several NGOs in connection with round table sessions. The Office will continue to work with NGOs in supervising their efforts in the ODIHR Human Rights Monitoring Training Project. NGOs provide the Office with reports on developments regarding human rights and are regularly consulted on specific issues.

Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia (ISAR)

The Office has participated in several activities (also in the region) organized by ISAR, which is engaged in work with local NGOs. The Office has disseminated information about OSCE events and activities. The interchange

with ISAR also related to the review of legislation on the State registration of legal entities (including NGOs).

International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)

The Office regularly consults with IFES on issues of common concern. This US-based organization has been helpful in providing the Office with translations of Azerbaijani laws and regulations on election issues.

International League for Human Rights (ILHR)

After a meeting in autumn 2000, an exchange of information was initiated. ILHR has provided the Office with information on training sessions and seminars related to human rights, and reports on promoting independent advocates and lawyers.

Kosia-Smeda

This local NGO is concerned with the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Representatives also participated in the OSCE Economic Forum in May 2001, and are active throughout the country. Kosia-Smeda will be working further with the Office on a round table on the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The NGO Forum of Azerbaijan

The NGO Forum is an umbrella organization for some 250 Azerbaijani NGOs. The Forum was created in 1999 and is supported by UNDP and the World Bank. The Office has regular contacts with the Forum and has been co-operating with it on the review of legislation governing the State registration of legal entities (including NGOs).

Umid (Azeri for "hope")

Umid is a local NGO mainly involved with microfinance for internally displaced persons. Representatives from Umid participated in the OSCE Economic Forum in May 2001, and have been helpful in explaining the social situation throughout the country.

the Assistance Group (AG) and other international organizations has increased during the past one and a half years in response to the growing international concern over the human rights and humanitarian situation in the war-torn Republic. The large number of displaced persons in the region remains a matter of special concern. One of the mandatory tasks of the AG is to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the victims of the crisis, wherever they may be. The Assistance Group continues to provide rehabilitation, reintegration, reconstruction and other humanitarian aid and assistance in Chechnya, especially to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Znamenskoye, Nadterechny district. The AG is implementing its projects in co-operation with partner organizations. Furthermore, the AG serves as a source of information, analysis and assessment of the situation in the Republic.

Future co-operation

The Assistance Group will continue to intensify its co-operation in the field with other international and non-governmental organizations. A biweekly co-ordination meeting organized by the UNHCR and OCHA will continue to provide the AG with an important forum exchanging views and information with the UN, the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international and non-governmental organizations.

Council of Europe (CoE)

During the reporting period, the OSCE and the CoE were the only international organizations with international staff working on a permanent basis in Chechnya. The Assistance Group (AG) and CoE experts share a close working relationship and meet regularly to exchange information on areas of common interest.

**ASSISTANCE GROUP TO
CHECHNYA**

General assessment

On 15 June 2001, international staff were deployed to the Assistance Group's office in Znamenskoye. The level of interaction between

United Nations (UN)

Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

OCHA jointly organizes the biweekly co-ordination meetings held in Moscow and Nazran (Ingushetia). These meetings provide the AG a forum for discussing issues of common concern. In August 2001, OCHA organized a Workshop on the UN Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), in which the AG also participated. In various consultations, the AG serves as a source of analysis of the humanitarian situation, especially in northwest Chechnya.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The AG has supported a UNICEF project which assessed the school infrastructure in Chechnya. The AG contributed an analysis of the school infrastructure in northwest Chechnya.

In addition, UNICEF uses the AG infrastructure in Znamenskoye in order to distribute humanitarian goods. For the 2001 New Year's celebration, the AG supported UNICEF in providing 785 parcels with gifts to IDP children in the tent camps in Znamenskoye. Additionally, 2,500 winter jackets, school books, items of sports equipment and toys were distributed to schools and kindergartens throughout the Nadterechny district and to the Extended Day Classes and the nursery schools for IDP children, which are among the AG's projects in the tent camps in Znamenskoye.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

In June 2001, the AG took part in an informal Round Table on Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Chechnya, held in Lovik, Sweden, organized by the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER). Representatives of local authorities, international organizations (UNDP, OCHA), European Union Governments, Chechen and international NGOs and Western and Russian experts participated in their personal capacity to discuss security and economic issues relating to Chechnya. A document that constitutes the group's perspective, which emerged from the discussions, has been disseminated to a targeted group of policy makers. A follow-up round table will take place in the northern Caucasus at the end of 2001.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The AG participates in the regular biweekly co-ordination meetings organized by UNHCR and the Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Moscow and Nazran (Ingushetia). The meetings focus on security issues, as well as on the humanitarian aid efforts for the internally displaced persons in the Northern Caucasus. Representatives from the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD), WFP, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, ICRC, the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and various NGOs participate in these meetings.

In addition, the Head of the AG and the UNHCR Regional Representative in the Russian Federation and Humanitarian Co-ordinator for the Northern Caucasus have met on a number of occasions to co-ordinate actions in certain areas of common concern and to exchange information on the plight of Chechen IDPs.

UNHCR supported two of the AG's humanitarian aid projects, Psychomedical Therapy for IDP Children in Znamenskoye and Extended Day Classes, by providing tents, beds, blankets and mattresses. The AG co-ordinates and monitors these projects, which are implemented in co-operation with local authorities and NGOs.

World Food Programme (WFP)

The AG plans to implement a common project with WFP on the reconstruction of a village school under the Food-for-Work Programme.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

In addition to the frequent opportunities to exchange information provided by the biweekly co-ordination meetings, the Head of the AG met occasionally with representatives of the ICRC and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to examine security and communications issues.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Memorial

A mandatory task of the AG is to co-operate with other organizations observing the human rights situation in Chechnya. The AG developed close relations with the HRW and the Russian

human rights centre Memorial. In the framework of regular meetings, the AG exchanges views and information on the human rights situation in Chechnya.

People in Need Foundation (PINF) and Médecins du Monde (MDM)

From March to September 2001, the AG, together with the PINF and MDM, distributed 5,000 water filters to inhabitants and hospitals in Grozny. The filters were purchased under the humanitarian aid programme, Water filters for Grozny, generously sponsored by the German Federal Government and the Government of the Czech Republic.

Serlo

Since mid-2000, the AG, together with the Chechen NGO Serlo, have been implementing the humanitarian aid project, Psychomedical Rehabilitation of IDP Children in Znamenskoye, initially sponsored by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and currently being financed by the German company Wintershall AG.

The AG liaises with the following NGOs, which provide humanitarian aid in the northern Caucasus and participate in the co-ordination meetings of OCHA and UNHCR: the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Médecins sans frontières (MSF France, Holland, Belgium), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Hilfswerk Austria, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), the International Medical Corps (IMC), the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development (CPCD), Islamic Relief (IR), the Benevolence International Foundation (BIF), and the Polish Humanitarian Organization (PHO).

OSCE MISSION TO GEORGIA

General assessment

While the Mission on the whole enjoys fruitful co-operation with other international organizations and NGOs, ideas have recently been explored, a rising out of a sense of under-utilization of the potential resource of inter-agency co-operation.

The range of issues covered by the Mission, within its mandate, has expanded. For this reason it is increasingly apparent that inter-agency co-operation along thematically and geographically overlapping or converging lines is needed to enable the Mission to address the complexity of the challenges facing it.

A Joint Regional Meeting of the OSCE, UNHCR, IOM and the CoE took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 4 October 2001. This was a follow up to the 4 July 2001 meeting in Vienna. Representatives of UNDP were also participating for the first time in an observer capacity. The meeting focused on problems of migration and asylum in the Caucasus region, and in particular to ways of improving inter-agency co-operation on this matter. Security of their operations in the Caucasus was underlined as a priority.

Future Co-operation

The Mission has proposed for discussion that a series of joint working tables be set up in Georgia, beginning with the establishment of a Joint Working table on Migration, Displacement and Resettlement. Participants in this Table would include IOM, UNHCR, the CoE and the OSCE. If other countries of the Caucasus also adopted this approach, a regional table might eventually be established.

Based on its mandate, the Mission has also suggested two further working tables: a Joint Working Table on Security, Conflict Settlement, Peacekeeping and Law-enforcement; and a Joint Working table on Human Rights, Democratization and Freedom of the Media.

If established, such tables would become the catalyst in ensuring institutional memory between the international organizations and within the respective organizations.

Council of Europe (CoE)

Since the establishment of the CoE Information Centre in Tbilisi in the spring of 2001, the Mission has been holding regular meetings with the CoE representative on matters of mutual interest.

With Georgia's entry into the Council of Europe in April 1999, the commitments undertaken by it in connection with its membership have served as a yardstick for the monitoring activities of the OSCE Human Rights Office in Georgia, with a focus, *inter alia*, on the following areas:

- Reform of the judicial system, especially within the penitentiary system;
- Repatriation and integration of the Meskhetian population deported in the 1940s.

The Council of Europe participated with two representatives in the Joint Assessment Mission

(JAM) to Gali district, Abkhazia, in November 2000. In addition to the OSCE participants, several UN agencies, the EU and ICRC were also represented. The OSCE Mission provided logistical support for the CoE participants outside Abkhazia. While in the Gali district, a fruitful synergy emerged between the representatives of the CoE and the OSCE and ideas and observations were jointly developed. After returning to Tbilisi, a CoE representative participated in an informal debriefing with the OSCE representatives at the OSCE Mission. Notes from the concluding sessions in Gali were put together by the CoE and OSCE teams, and then presented to the UN drafting team as a joint contribution. The CoE and OSCE representatives shared a coherent perspective, highlighting their concerns about the human rights situation for returnees to the Gali district.

United Nations (UN)

Office of the Co-ordinator of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The Mission actively participates in the monthly co-ordination meetings on humanitarian aid and economic rehabilitation which OCHA organizes in Tskhinvali.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

UNIFEM intends to establish a cross-sector network for women in the south Caucasus in coming years. The Mission's gender focal point is in close contact with UNIFEM in order to benefit from synergy effects.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR has been present in Georgia since 1993. Its activities are aimed at creating conditions conducive to the return of refugees from North Ossetia to Georgia and the return of internally displaced persons to their areas of origin in South Ossetia in Government-controlled areas of Georgia. The co-operation between OSCE and UNHCR takes place in the following areas:

- Joint Control Commission (JCC). This is the non-political framework of the Georgian – Ossetian conflict settlement mechanism. The JCC deals with military and security issues, economic rehabilitation, refugees and internally displaced persons. Besides meeting in the plenary sessions of the JCC, the UNHCR also participates in the working

group and the *ad hoc* committee on refugees and internally displaced persons.

- A working group on restoration of urban housing and property rights. This working group was formed as the result of a concerted effort by the Mission, the OSCE/ODIHR, UNHCR and the Council of Europe, bringing this issue to the attention of the international community. Both the Mission and the UNHCR office in Tbilisi have therefore on several occasions urged the Georgian authorities to speed up the group's work. A draft law has been forwarded to the OSCE/ODIHR, UNHCR and the Council of Europe, which will elaborate and co-ordinate their comments on it.
- Presence in Tskhinvali. The OSCE Tskhinvali Field Office and the UNHCR Mobile Team co-operate closely in the zone of conflict in the South Ossetia/Tskhinvali region. While the OSCE Mission regularly conducts military and social monitoring in South Ossetia, UNHCR oversees rehabilitation and community projects and conducts monitoring of repatriation and (legal) protection. After the UNHCR office moved to Gori, outside the zone of conflict, at the end of 2000, contacts became less frequent.
- Security. The Mission is the security focal point for the international organizations and NGOs in South Ossetia. Meetings are held regularly both in Tbilisi and Tskhinvali. Emergency and evacuation exercises are regularly held in co-operation with the Joint Peacekeeping Forces (JPKFs).
- Training. UNHCR has kindly offered to include staff of other agencies in its training programme on such subjects as refugee law. Other topics from other agencies could be included to achieve mutual benefit, and ensure that the training has a multiplier effect.

United Nations Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG)

In April 1997, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the OSCE Mission and UNHCR concerning deployment of an OSCE Mission member to HROAG. Since then, one Mission member has been seconded (at times, two) to work at HROAG. The secondment system has established a close link between the UN and the OSCE in respect of this Office,

enabling a flow of first-hand information to and from the Mission from and to Sukhumi, and also making possible an OSCE presence in Abkhazia. For its day-to-day operations, HROAG is under the authority of the Head of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

Following the 1998 Oslo Ministerial Council decision, the Mission closely consulted with the UN on opening an OSCE Office in Gali. While this option has for various reasons been unfeasible, consultations with the United Nations on opening a branch of HROAG in Gali have recently been stepped up. In the proposal to be presented to the Headquarters of the United Nations and the OSCE, it is envisaged that the OSCE would second to the branch office a member of its Mission to Georgia.

United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)

The mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia covers the whole territory of Georgia, including Abkhazia, insofar as it concerns promoting respect for human rights and freedom of the media and building democratic institutions. With the establishment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in 1993, the United Nations became the lead agency in the Abkhazia conflict settlement process, and the OSCE Mission's mandate made particular provision for supporting the United Nations in its negotiation efforts.

- The regular consultations and information-sharing between the United Nations were formalized, when the so-called Geneva process was launched in 1997, and the OSCE became a member of the United Nations-led Coordinating Council. Since then, the Mission has been present at all Coordinating Council meetings, including its working groups. While the OSCE has a mainly supportive function at the meetings, its presence and the consultations associated with them foster more uniform positions by the international community on the political issues at hand. In several cases, the Mission, pursuant to decisions on confidence-building measures taken by the Coordinating Council, is implementing projects reaching across the conflict lines, such as exchange of newspapers and training of Abkhaz and Georgian journalists.

- The Mission has raised the profile of its activities in Abkhazia through more frequent visits there and the development of a series of human dimension projects. In many cases, projects were facilitated by the United Nations, while being funded and implemented by the OSCE, or *vice versa*. A fruitful co-operation is developing, based on the relative advantages of the OSCE Mission and the United Nations in their respective locations.

- Whenever a Mission team visits Abkhazia, the Mission relies on UNOMIG for assistance concerning logistical, security and communication support through the Security Zone, as well as accommodation at the UN or Russian compound in Sukhumi.

- Regular meetings and other means of communication take place at the level of heads of missions, political officers and military observers. Often there is daily contact between representatives of the two organizations, and there is a regular weekly meeting on security issues at the OSCE Mission to Georgia. With its wider mandate and presence in other regions of Georgia, the Mission can provide UNOMIG with information on the general situation in Georgia, while UNOMIG provides detailed information on its area of operation. Thus, thanks to this exchange, both organizations are more fully aware of the general picture, and benefit from each other's different perspectives and competencies.

The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) to Gali district is a prime example of close co-operation and close consultations taking place through the instrument of joint fact-finding.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The Mission regularly attends the donor co-ordination meetings that involve the EC. It gives advice on the political and security situation to the agencies implementing EC projects in South Ossetia. The Mission likewise serves as observer for discussions between the Georgian and South Ossetian sides on EC-funded projects in the conflict-stricken areas.

The Mission has facilitated the inclusion of the EU as an observer in the Joint Control Commission, which has given added impetus to the Georgian-Ossetian peace process.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Co-operation with IOM is gradually expanding and contacts are developing.

The Mission has had a series of meetings and exchanges of information on trafficking in human beings. After a first phase of research on the issue of trafficking, IOM, in close co-operation with the American Bar Association (ABA) and the OSCE Mission, is currently facilitating a round table of State officials dealing with trafficking. The aim is to create a focal point among Government and State authorities to assist in the co-ordination of the Government's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

In addition, again in close co-operation with IOM and the ABA, the OSCE intends to facilitate the establishment of a shelter for victims of trafficking in the city of Rustavi. IOM is planning an awareness campaign and a preliminary exchange of ideas on the possibilities of making use of the International Association of Journalists, South Caucasus, which has been established under the aegis of the OSCE. The OSCE is also involved in support of networks of women's NGOs, which may be activated in connection with the IOM awareness campaign.

IOM is included in consultations on the Samtskhe-Javakheti/Meskhetian issue. It is looking into possible projects of capacity-building among local NGOs in the region, as well as poverty-reduction programmes. Expanded co-operation may be foreseen. IOM took part in a round table organized jointly by the OSCE and the US Embassy on problems in the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti in December 2000.

IOM is involved in building capacity for Georgian border management. As the Mission is involved in border-related issues along the Ossetian and Chechen sections of the border, informal exchanges of information take place, and in the future this co-operation might be expanded.

IOM is the lead agency in the cluster project to reintegrate failed asylum seekers. There may be cases related to South Ossetia where Mission expertise might be sought by IOM.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE ON THE CONFLICT DEALT WITH BY THE OSCE MINSK CONFERENCE

General assessment

The Personal Representative and his Office maintain regular contacts with ICRC, UNHCR and other international organizations and NGOs. The specific nature of the mandate and tasks of the Personal Representative require him to focus his activities on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, under the close supervision of the Chairman-in-Office and in close co-ordination with the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group. This characteristic sets the Office of the Personal Representative apart from most other OSCE Missions. Co-operation with international organizations is reduced to the scope of the mandate and, consequently, is based on sustained contacts, exchanges of views and mutual assistance between the Personal Representative and international organizations dealing with the effects of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office remains the only organ able to visit all the territories controlled by Nagorno-Karabakh forces, in order to assess the overall situation, and it is ideally placed to offer advice on the reconstruction that will be needed following a peace agreement.

Future co-operation

The cornerstone of the Personal Representative's activities are the efforts to secure a lasting settlement of the conflict, to develop confidence-building measures, to maintain and improve contacts between the parties, and to extend support to humanitarian activities related to the easing of tensions.

In connection with the unresolved conflict, many acute problems remain, in particular those concerning IDPs and refugees, reconstruction and resettlement, missing persons and detainees and demining. On these matters, the Personal Representative will continue to liaise and co-operate, within the scope of his mandate, with international institutions and organizations.

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office will continue to participate in international conferences, seminars, symposia and similar events under the auspices of international organizations. Such meetings provide a means of assessing developments in the peace process and of highlighting the current situation, including that on the line of contact.

United Nations (UN)

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office maintains contacts with the UN Resident Representatives in Baku and Yerevan.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office maintains contacts with UNDP representatives in the region in order to keep abreast of their activities, and to provide information on the conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh and territories controlled by Nagorno-Karabakh forces, to which, as mentioned above, the UN agencies do not have access.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Through frequent contacts with the UNHCR offices in Baku, Yerevan and Tbilisi, the Personal Representative and his team are able to keep abreast of the work being carried out by UNHCR in Armenia and Azerbaijan. This co-operation also allows the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to inform those UNHCR offices about developments in the Minsk Process and to provide data for the needs assessment relating to the post-conflict rehabilitation that would constitute part of an overall peace agreement. One of the leading roles in the rehabilitation process is foreseen for UNHCR. This information is particularly important in regard to the conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh and territories controlled by Nagorno-Karabakh forces, to which UN agencies do not at present have access.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The Personal Representative and members of the Office meet occasionally with the regional representative of the European Commission in order to gather information on economic assistance in the region, in so far as it relates to

the settlement of the conflict. At the invitation of the European Commission, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office visited Brussels on 12 June 2001. During this visit, the European Commission was briefed on the latest developments in the region.

European Parliament (EP)

During the reporting period, a number of European Parliament delegations visited the region and requested a meeting with the Office of the Personal Representative. Such meetings serve as a means of exchange of information on the activities of the Personal Representative, the situation in the region and involvement by the European Parliament in the support of the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Office of the Personal Representative maintains regular contact with IOM. Through informal meetings, IOM representatives are informed about the Minsk Process and are briefed on the current situation in the region.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Personal Representative and field assistants maintain regular contacts with ICRC. From 24 to 27 May 2001 the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office held consultations at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva with the ICRC Directorate regarding humanitarian aspects of the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. In particular, joint efforts and co-operation in ascertaining the fate of missing persons were discussed. In the media of the region, reports regularly appear about missing persons and presumed prisoners of war. The Personal Representative and ICRC investigate these reports through their respective channels, enabling the Personal Representative to report the results to the Chairman-in-Office.

The Personal Representative's high-level access to all the parties enables him to provide ICRC with valuable political support in the region by urging all the parties to fully co-operate with ICRC representatives in the region.

World Bank (WB)

Contact is maintained with the World Bank regarding the Bank's involvement in the

post-conflict rehabilitation, a factor which might affect the settlement of the conflict.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The Personal Representative and members of his team maintain frequent contacts with a number of NGOs active in the humanitarian field, such as the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières and the Halo Trust.

Halo Trust

In particular, the Halo Trust provides valuable information related to minefields on Nagorno-Karabakh territory, as demining would be a significant element in post-conflict rehabilitation. Additionally, as part of confidence-building measures, this Office warns the Azerbaijani side of any explosions caused by the demolition of unexploded ordnance by the Halo Trust in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Other

Working Group for the Tracing of Missing Persons

The Personal Representative supports the activity of the Working Group for the Tracing of Missing Persons and Hostages and the Release of Prisoners of War in the Zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict. Several meetings of this group have taken place in Baku, Yerevan and Nagorno-Karabakh, under the political umbrella of the OSCE Office. The fate of missing persons is one of the main topics of discussion during meetings of the Personal Representative with the highest authorities in the mandate area.

OSCE OFFICE IN YEREVAN

General assessment

Overall, co-operation between the Office and other resident and non-resident international partners is close and effective. Monthly co-ordination meetings between heads of all the local offices of international organizations and diplomatic missions ensure that all partners are aware of each other's activities. The establishment of a UNDP-sponsored web site, which lists all the humanitarian and development projects, has reinforced this awareness.

Work with Armenian NGOs is a central feature of the Office's mandate. Jointly with the ODIHR, the Office is implementing a major project on capacity-building and monitoring. However, the situation is complicated by the fact that there are more than 2,000 NGOs operating in competition with each other. A major task for the Office has been, and will continue to be, to urge the creation of "umbrella" organizations to assist civil society in making an input into policy and legislative discussions.

Future co-operation

Future co-operation with international organizations will follow the pattern established in the past 18 months of the Office's operation, and as described below. Many of the areas or projects are in the initial phase of development.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The Council is not represented in Yerevan. Since Armenia's accession to the CoE in January 2001, the Office has been deeply involved in assisting both the CoE Headquarters and the American Government in drafting and commenting on new legislative texts. The Office is also co-operating in the areas of freedom of the media and action to combat corruption through joint work on legislation and institutional changes.

Together with the ODIHR, the CoE has participated in and sponsored a number of seminars by the Office organized on issues related to media law, police and democratization. For example, a two-day Seminar on European Standards for Regulation of the Media was held in Yerevan on 11 and 12 January 2001. This Seminar was organized by the OSCE Office in co-operation with the CoE, which also provided two experts on regulation of the media.

On 26 September 2001 an agreement was signed with the Council of Europe on the modalities for co-location of a CoE human rights and rule of law expert to be assigned to the OSCE Office in Yerevan. This was viewed as being beneficial for both organizations in order to enhance joint activities and better co-ordination.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The Office, UNICEF and IOM have jointly participated in a research project on the combating of trafficking in human beings. The results of the research project were published in

September 2001. This has a potential to develop into a national, and possibly a regional, project, in the latter part of 2001. Initially, discussions will be held with the Government to urge the introduction of national legislation.

In addition, the Office is working with UNICEF on their Early Learning Project (human rights training for primary school pupils). It is assisting to elaborate the curriculum and provides lecturers at workshops for teachers.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Close and wide-ranging co-operation and co-ordination of work and projects take place across the full range of the OSCE Office's mandate. UNDP is one of the members of the international task force working on strategies to combat corruption in Armenia. The task force is chaired by the Office and includes diplomatic missions as well as those international organizations mentioned below. Where the Office has expertise and access, it works with UNDP on such issues as elaboration of a National Human Rights Programme, establishment of the Ombudsman Institution and electoral reform. Co-operation began in 2000 and will continue for at least a further 12 months as legislation is passed and institutions launched.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) and United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

The Office, UN/ECE and UNEP are planning the joint organization of the 2nd Regional Workshop on the UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) to take place from 14 to 17 November 2001, in Yerevan. Participants will include representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations from all three countries of the Caucasus. This workshop will be followed by a national workshop on coalition-building among environmental NGOs.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

There is extensive co-operation on the full range of refugee issues where the political strength of the OSCE Office can be an asset to UNHCR in its activities. UNHCR is jointly funding an ODIHR project on permanent registration. In addition, in the autumn of 2001, the Office will participate in a survey of refugees

in Armenia, with UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council, to establish how many refugees intend, in the longer term, to return to their original homes. The Office is also working with UNHCR on the introduction of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into the work of Armenian Government bodies.

World Food Programme (WFP)

Regular contact is maintained with the World Food Programme, particularly in the context of follow-up action arising out of the drought in Armenia in 2000.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The European Commission participates in the international task force on strategies to combat corruption in Armenia, which is chaired by the Office. In addition, there is regular contact and exchange of information on economic and regional environmental topics and projects.

The Office briefed the members of the EU troika during their visit to the region on 20 February 2001, together with the OSCE Heads of Mission from Tbilisi and Baku. In addition, the Office provides briefings on its activities to visiting EU/EC officials and delegations.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The Office briefed the NATO Secretary General on its programmes during his visit to Yerevan in March 2001. As Armenia joins more Partnership for Peace programmes, the Office will have additional opportunity to participate in future workshops and seminars.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Discussions are under way regarding a project on border controls and on improving the training of border guard officers, in which the ODIHR is also involved. Implementation is projected to begin in 2002.

As mentioned previously, the Office, IOM and UNICEF have jointly participated in a research project on action to combat trafficking in human beings, which may provide input for the development of a national, and possibly a regional, project, at the end of 2001. In September 2001, conclusions from the research project were presented to the Government, with a

view to urging the introduction of national legislation.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC and the Office exchange information on conditions and problems in the penal system, which is very useful for the Office/ODIHR prison projects.

Western European Union (WEU)

Police advisers from the WEU in Bosnia attended a high-level two-day conference held in Yerevan, which discussed the democratization of law enforcement bodies in Armenia. The OSCE Office, the CoE, the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee organized this conference, which took place on 17 and 18 May 2001. Further seminars of this type, involving direct professional-to-professional discussions, are being planned for the latter part of 2001 or early 2002, depending on the availability of funding.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

In addition to discussions on possible co-operation on economic development issues, EBRD is kept informed about any progress relating to activities to combat corruption.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The IMF is part of the Office's work against corruption and participates in the international working group on strategies to combat corruption led by the OSCE Office.

World Bank

The World Bank is a critical player in the OSCE-led international working group on strategies to combat corruption. The Bank has, for the first time, provided grant funding to a national Government to assist in the elaboration of a national strategy document.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Co-operation with NGOs is conducted on virtually a daily basis. Involvement of civil society in all the programmes/projects conducted by or through the Office is an essential, central part of our mandate.

OSCE CENTRE IN ALMATY

General assessment

The OSCE Centre in Almaty works in close co-operation with all the locally-based international organizations in the human and economic/environmental dimensions. In particular, the Centre holds regular consultations with representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the European Union. These consultations play a useful role in ensuring a steady exchange of information on each organization's activities and projects and in mutually reinforcing co-operation. The Centre actively co-operates with international non-governmental organizations such as ISAR (Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia) and Milieu Kontakt that promote environmental awareness in Kazakhstan through technical and financial assistance.

Future co-operation

The Centre intends to maintain and enhance its current co-operation with international organizations, OSCE Institutions and NGOs. In the human dimension, the Centre will continue to co-ordinate activities in the field of trafficking with IOM and other international organizations involved in related issues, and in the gender field with UNIFEM and UNDP. In the economic and environmental dimensions, the Centre intends to co-ordinate with international and non-governmental organizations, such as UNDP, the World Bank, ISAR and Milieu Kontakt, in order to promote the elaboration of an Ecological Code. The Centre also hopes to work together with other international organizations that implement activities aimed at poverty reduction at the regional level.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

In addition to frequent exchanges of information, the Centre and UNICEF have co-ordinated efforts related to juvenile justice. For example, UNICEF attended an OSCE Centre/ODIHR event on human rights education in November 2000, which was followed by a concluding joint press conference.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

UNIFEM utilized the OSCE Centre/ODIHR Report on the Compliance of Kazakh Law with International Standards on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in connection with the preparation of and follow-up to the report submitted by Kazakhstan to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in January 2001. UNIFEM also provided the Centre with materials concerning the participation of women in politics for a training of trainers session in July 2001.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

In the spring of 2001, the Centre took part in meetings that focused on the Human Development Report for 2000. Several co-ordination meetings were held during the reporting period for the purpose of informing each other about activities in all spheres. With regard to gender matters the OSCE and UNDP are in regular contact through exchanges of information and co-ordination of activities. The UNDP Gender-in-Development Bureau has provided materials on women's political involvement at the local level for a training of trainers' session under the OSCE Centre/ODIHR Women's Rights Awareness Project. The Centre is also in close contact with the UNDP social unit which implements poverty eradication and ecological projects.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

In the course of the past two years, the Centre has participated actively in the working group meetings under the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) held in Almaty. These meetings focus on transport and border-crossing issues, and address regional economic co-operation in order to strengthen the process of integration in Central Asia.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

Co-operation primarily involves exchanges of information on human rights legislation, particularly on issues of prevention of torture.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Centre regularly exchanges information with UNHCR on their respective activities and developments. The two offices support each other's lobbying efforts for the adoption of new legislation on refugees and migration.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The Centre enjoys close co-operation with the European Commission. This relationship is enhanced by regular exchanges of information. In the spring of 2001, the OSCE and the EC held consultations on the best course of action in response to amendments proposed by the Government to the Law on Freedom of Religion and Religious Associations.

It is important to note that, as in past years, the EC is jointly funding some of the OSCE Centre/ODIHR projects being implemented by the Centre in the areas of assistance to civil society and monitoring of human rights. The Centre invites EC representatives to participate in all activities related to these projects. For example, a representative of the EC Delegation in Almaty attended training sessions on monitoring of human rights, and participated in explaining the EC's funding policy. Consultations are also held on economic and ecological issues to support the work on environmental legislation.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Centre regularly exchanges information with the IOM Office in Kazakhstan on relevant activities and developments and attends IOM seminars. In November 2000, IOM organized a Conference on Women, Migration and Law, to which the Centre together with ODIHR provided assistance by covering the expenses for an expert from Ukraine. The expert presented the work of La Strada, an NGO in Ukraine specializing in lobbying for legislation against trafficking and assisting victims of trafficking.

The Centre and the ODIHR, together with IOM and UNHCR, held a joint training course for public prosecutors on international human

rights standards, the role of international law and related matters. This training course took place from 15 to 18 October 2001. Additionally, a joint workshop hosted by IOM, the Centre and the ODIHR on border management took place from 29 to 31 October 2001 in Almaty. This workshop focused primarily on legislation related to migration (entry, stay and exit) in the CIS countries.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The Centre has spoken with representatives of the EBRD about possible co-operation on the elaboration of the Ecological Code. The Centre's main objective is to involve NGOs in any work regarding ecological legislation. The Centre consults with the Bank on identifying EBRD funding opportunities for NGOs working in this area and passes this information on.

World Bank (WB)

The creation of a training centre for judges, which is one element of a World Bank project on legal reform, affords the Centre an opportunity to co-operate with the World Bank. This project, which began in August 2001, consists essentially of three elements: materials, a study visit and assistance in elaborating curricula. Materials about and from various European judicial training centres were translated and presented to the Kazakh Supreme Court by the ODIHR and the Centre.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

In the human and political dimensions, the Centre conducted a wide variety of projects with local partners, as it is the Centre's aim to involve local partners in all its efforts. In the economic and environmental dimensions, the Centre conducted a series of seminars and conferences addressing the topic of NGO participation in the resolution of environmental problems.

Adil Soz

The Centre, together with the media monitoring NGO Adil Soz, jointly organized a seminar entitled Strengthening Professional Relations and Co-operation between the Mass Media, Law Enforcement Bodies and the Court System in the Republic of Kazakhstan, which took place on 26 and 27 January 2001.

Crisis Centre for Women and Children

The NGO Crisis Centre for Women and Children, in co-operation with the OSCE Centre, is currently implementing an educational project on combating trafficking in women.

Ecology and Public Opinion

A Workshop on the Role of NGOs in the Implementation of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in the Pavlodar Region was organized by the Centre and the local NGO Ecology and Public Opinion, on 11 and 12 June 2001. A memorandum of co-operation on implementation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention was signed between the local Environmental Protection Unit, the *Maslikhat* (local legislative body) and the NGO Ecology and Public Opinion.

Internews Kazakhstan

A seven-day training course for TV journalists was jointly organized by the Centre and Internews Kazakhstan, with the financial support of the German Government. The course focused on recent economic developments in Kazakhstan and took place from 25 to 31 May 2001.

Kazakhstan Centre for Conflict Management

As part of the ODIHR Civil Society Assistance Project, the NGO, Kazakhstan Centre for Conflict Management, together with the OSCE Centre, organized an international Conference on Human Rights Education, which took place from 31 October to 1 November 2000.

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

The Centre also co-operates with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) on issues related to elections, development of NGOs and political parties by the NDI and support for civil society. The Centre, with financial assistance from the ODIHR, supported a campaign by the NDI during the adoption of amendments to the media law in the first quarter of 2001.

Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan

The Centre co-ordinates its activities in the fields of migration, gender, assistance to civil society and minorities with representatives of the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan. A representative of the OSCE Centre participates in a Soros "migration think tank" that aims at improving legislation relating to Kazakh returnees.

Transparency Kazakhstan

The Centre, thanks to Irish funding, jointly organized with the NGO Transparency Kazakhstan, a Conference on the Impact of International Law on National Legislation: Reinforcing the Rule of Law, on 13 and 14 November 2000.

OSCE CENTRE IN ASHGABAD

General assessment

The OSCE Centre in Ashgabad has engaged in regular informal consultations and information sharing with representatives of international organizations and institutions working in Turkmenistan. The Centre often takes a lead role in speaking out on matters relating to domestic developments and human rights, which is supported and viewed as important by many international organizations.

The Centre regularly attends donor information sharing and donor co-ordination meetings, which are organized by various international donor agencies working in Turkmenistan, such as the UN agencies, USAID and the World Bank. These meetings facilitate the exchange of information on current activities and issues of importance within Turkmenistan.

The Centre actively co-operates with national NGOs by sharing information and assessments and by involving them in OSCE activities.

Future co-operation

Opportunities for co-operation with international organizations and institutions are becoming increasingly limited because fewer and fewer such organizations, other than UN agencies are present in Turkmenistan. The Centre continues to be viewed by others as a source of information on the situation in the country.

The Centre is exploring possibilities for co-operation with domestic NGOs in the fields of environmental education and information. In addition, it is continuing to pursue activities relating to the implementation of international environmental law, with a particular focus on access to information and public participation.

The Centre and the office of ABA/CEELI (American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative) in Turkmenistan are envisaging future co-operation in the legal field, as well as continuing their current joint activities.

The possibility is being considered for the Centre to be involved with the TACIS (Technical Assistance to the CIS) programme regarding environmental legislation and with the World Bank in the area of good governance and transparency.

A meeting will be co-ordinated by the Centre with representatives of NGOs, government institutions and international organizations to evaluate the results of the previous informal consultations on future activities that can be jointly implemented.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The Centre regularly takes part in donor information-sharing meetings organized by UNICEF focusing on the effects of the region-wide drought in Turkmenistan and what donor agencies are doing or can do to provide assistance. In view of the increasingly visible effects of the drought, these meetings on water issues are being held every month.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Centre participates in the Local Programme/Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) meetings, a procedure established to assist in appraising the quality of UNDP-supported programmes and projects. These meetings provide an opportunity for parties, inside and outside the UN system, to comment on and make suggestions about programmes or projects proposed by UNDP.

The LPAC procedure has made it possible for the Centre to promote OSCE commitments on economic and environmental security in UNDP activities, and to avoid duplication. In addition, it allows the Centre to become actively involved in UNDP activities when appropriate, and encourages discussion between international and national organizations and institutions that have an interest in similar issues. LPAC meetings take place as need arises.

The UNDP office in Ashgabad has developed a multi-year capacity-building programme, Agenda 21, in which the Centre's project on the Aarhus Convention and its follow-up are interconnected. This has led to a greater opportunity for co-operation in order to maintain the flow of information on the developments and implementation of these respective activities.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

The Centre and UN/ECE regularly exchange information and ideas on activities related to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. The UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) promotes the principles of participatory democracy.

The UNEP Global Resource Information Database (GRID), based in Arendal, Norway, and the Polish Centre for Environmental Law are also actively involved in this dialogue. They are working together with the OSCE Centre through co-operation on an activity to follow up a regional seminar on the Convention. The follow-up consists of the translation and dissemination of a publication on the basic elements of the Aarhus Convention.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

In January and February 2001, the Centre and the UNHCR office in Ashgabad jointly organized a two-week course on international human rights law for mid-level officials. Participants represented a wide range of government agencies and included a significant number of officials from the administrative centres of Turkmenistan's regions. The first jointly sponsored course of this type, held in 1999, was very well received. In response to last year's request, courses were offered at the introductory and advanced levels. Given the level of interest in these courses, the Centre and UNHCR hope that they will become an annual joint event.

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UN ODCCP)

The Centre plans to hold a joint seminar in mid-November 2001 with the ODCCP office in Ashgabad on drug avoidance education for young people.

European Union (EU)

European Commission (EC)

The Centre co-operates with the European Union regarding the TACIS (Technical Assistance to the CIS) programme. This co-operation mainly takes the form of frequent exchanges of information and assessments of the political, economic, environmental and social situation in Turkmenistan.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Informal discussions have taken place on possibilities for joint projects between the Centre and IOM. Joint efforts have been suggested in the field of freedom of movement (abolition of exit visas) and conditions of detention for foreigners who are alleged to have violated the visa regime. In this context, a joint project on training of border guards is being developed for implementation in 2002.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Centre meets and exchanges information with representatives of the ICRC regional office when they visit Ashgabad.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The Centre provided assessments and advice on projects that could be carried out in Turkmenistan to delegations of the Asian Development Bank who visited Ashgabad in the process of preparing an investment strategy for the Bank.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Co-operation with the EBRD primarily involves exchanges of information. The Centre regularly provides EBRD representatives and delegations with assessments of the political, economic, environmental and human rights situation in Turkmenistan. The Centre was especially active prior to the meeting of the EBRD Board of Directors in June 2001, at which the Strategy Update for Turkmenistan was approved.

World Bank (WB)

Consultations are held with the World Bank liaison office on economic issues, and particularly on good governance and transparency.

The Centre is participating in a working group in preparation for the National Economic Forum, a World Bank initiative, which is scheduled to take place at the end of November 2001. The working group includes representatives from USAID, EBRD, UNDP and UNICEF, as well as the Centre and the World Bank.

The Centre is also examining the possibility of becoming involved in a World Bank project

on legislation and practices relating to State procurement.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Catena Ecological Club and Dashoguz Ecological Club

The Ashgabad-based Catena Ecological Club and the Dashoguz Ecological Club are active with the Centre in connection with the Aarhus Convention. Both NGOs participated in the development and implementation of the Aarhus Convention round tables project by assisting in the format of the round tables, providing keynote speakers and creating a database on CD-ROM.

Counterpart Consortium and the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI)

The Centre consults regularly with Counterpart Consortium, the ABA/CEELI and UNDP regarding its current activities, and jointly organizes round tables on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the welayats (regions) of Turkmenistan.

Under the Head of Mission Fund, the Centre financed a seminar on environmental education organized by the NGO University Green Guards on 21 and 22 April 2001. This was the result of discussions and exchanges of views between the Centre and the NGO on the subject of environmental education that started in the summer of 2000.

Discussions on the Centre's involvement in environmental education were held with the Ministry of Nature Protection and during a Donor Information-Sharing Meeting with the participation of UNICEF, Counterpart Consortium, the Red Crescent Society and the NGO Dashoguz Ecological Club.

The Centre has expanded its co-operation with other registered and unregistered NGOs in the field of human rights and the development of civil society. The Centre has intervened on occasion with the authorities on behalf of registered NGOs in order to ensure that they can continue to operate.

Other

USAID

The Centre frequently exchanges information and assessments with the USAID office in

Ashgabad and with representatives of the USAID regional office in Almaty.

OSCE CENTRE IN BISHKEK

General assessment

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek maintains close working relations with international organizations, institutions and NGOs. The principal collaborators include UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, the OSCE Institutions and a few international NGOs. Activities are also being implemented with bilateral financial support from selected donor countries. The Centre continues to increase its contacts at the local level with prospective donors and collaborators, with the aim of enhancing programme activities.

Future co-operation

Future co-operation will be concentrated largely on the existing areas with the present partners. It is, however, expected that joint efforts will be applied to the implementation of new initiatives in the economic and environmental areas with UN/ECE and the EU, including financial support from a range of bilateral donor countries.

Special emphasis will be placed on co-operation with international NGOs, particularly at the field level, in developing and implementing programme-related activities. There are well advanced initiatives by NGOs identified by the Centre as possible future areas of co-operation, such as: the establishment of a regional human rights network, in co-operation with the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; action to address the problems of water management and good governance from a regional point of view, jointly with German Agro Action (DWHA); and organization of advocacy and training events on human rights, ethnic relations, national minorities and judicial reform, together with the American Bar Association, to mention only a few. Also, at the national level, ideas continue to be developed for future co-operation with NGOs, within the limitations imposed by scarce human resources and often unsecured financial support.

United Nations (UN)

The Centre participates in informal monthly meetings for exchange of information among representatives of the international community, convened by the UN Resident Co-ordinator. The

Centre also participates in the UN-led security meetings, and collaborates with the UN system in various administrative and personnel management processes by actively taking part in UN common system surveys and in the security management arrangements of the UN system of organizations.

The Centre also collaborated with UN agencies in organizing and implementing a few workshops and other training events, such as the Conference on Women in the 21st Century, together with UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA and others, on 13 and 14 April 2001. In addition, the sixth Regional Summer Course on International Law and Human Rights, in co-operation with UNHCR, was held from 10 to 14 August 2001.

In the south of the country, the OSCE Field Office in Osh is an active participant in the information - sharing consultations on the situation in the Batken province and related early - warning arrangements.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Centre participates with UNDP in co-ordinating the project, Assistance for the Establishment of the Ombudsman Institution, initiated by the OSCE/ODIHR and UNDP earlier in 2000. A series of informal meetings were conducted among the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, national NGOs, UNDP and the Centre in December 2000 and January 2001. A related round table was organized on 12 February 2001 with participation by all concerned, including the NGOs and political parties. Following these meetings, the latest drafts by the President's Office and the Parliamentary Committee were translated into English, and are still under discussion by the parties concerned.

The Centre jointly organized, inter alia, with UNDP, the multilaterally sponsored Conference on Women on the Eve of the New Century, in April 2001. The Conference concluded by formulating a set of recommendations for enhancement of the status of women in Kyrgyzstan, in the form of a draft action plan, which was further elaborated at a round table organized by UNDP in September 2001, and was subsequently submitted to the President's Office for approval and implementation.

Together with other participating international donors and organizations, including the UNDP Gender-in-Development Bureau, the

Centre is a member of the Gender Co-ordination Group, which is regularly convened for the purpose of exchange of information among donors on gender issues.

The Centre is currently involved in the development of an information exchange system on regional water issues in Central Asia, in close co-operation with UNDP, UN/ECE and others. At the field level, the Centre participates, through the Field Office in Osh, in the regular work of another donors' working group, the Information Sharing and Consultation South Group (ISC South). This informal co-ordination mechanism deals with information and early warning signs on the security situation in the southern regions of Batken and Osh.

Since June 2001, the Centre has maintained close contact with UNDP at the local level concerning the preparations for the follow-up conference to the October 2000 conference held in Tashkent. The Government of Kyrgyzstan will host the Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism. The Conference will be jointly organized by the OSCE and the UN ODCCP and will take place on 13 and 14 December 2001. The Centre has contacts with UN ODCCP directly and through UNDP.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

Based on the joint mandate of UN/ECE and the OSCE on regional water management issues, agreed upon at the end of the Eighth OSCE Economic Forum in Prague in April 2000, the Centre participated in 2001 in the preparatory phase of the establishment of a regional information facility and a related web site, on water use and management issues, together with UN/ECE, UNDP and a few other organizations. The Centre also participated in preparatory consultations for two regional workshops organized by UN/ECE on water management and energy use, in November 2000 and April 2001, respectively.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

For the third consecutive year, the Centre and the UNHCR jointly organized the Regional Summer Course on International Law and Human Rights. The Course's objective is to impart an in-depth knowledge of human rights issues and related legal methodology to 30

selected outstanding students and young professionals from the Central Asian republics and other CIS countries. The Course took place from 10 to 24 August 2001.

This year, the Centre was able to cover a substantial share of the overall budget for the Course, having received significant contributions from the British and German Governments and the ODIHR.

World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The Centre and the World Bank, IMF and EBRD offices regularly exchange information and situation assessments both locally and during meetings in Bishkek with visiting representatives of the World Bank, IMF, EBRD and the OSCE.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Centre has been implementing, together with IOM and the OSCE/ODIHR, a three-phase project to train border guards on human rights and proper treatment of refugees and migrants, as well as on procedures relating to trafficking in human beings and illegal trade in small arms, light weapons, tobacco products, narcotic drugs, alcohol and motor vehicle fuel. This training programme, included in the OSCE Action Plan 2000, is currently being reviewed by the ODIHR for possible further phases, under the general category of training of border guards.

Following a series of preparatory meetings and a round-table workshop, the report, "Trafficking in Women in Kyrgyzstan", was prepared and launched at a joint press conference in Bishkek in mid-December 2000, and subsequently distributed all over the country. In this report, there were specific recommendations for measures to be taken. It is planned to continue the collaboration with IOM in order to implement these recommended actions. The OSCE and the IOM have developed three projects to be commenced in 2001 and 2002. One will impart further training on existing relevant legislation and systems and mechanisms of preventive measures to State officials, NGOs and journalists, during a study tour to either Ukraine or the Netherlands. The second initiative concerns joint research on migration patterns and trafficking indicators in the southern part of the country, and the third is designed to raise public

awareness of trafficking through so called "public service announcements" on national TV.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The Centre is in contact with several international NGOs, and in several cases close co-operation has resulted in very successful joint activities.

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation

The Foundation and the OSCE Field Office in Osh jointly organized a round table on religious radicalism in Southern Kyrgyzstan on 27 February 2001. The participants included representatives of the State structure, religious organizations and NGOs and journalists. A few international organizations such as the International Institute for Strategic Studies also participated. Further areas of co-operation are being discussed, specifically the joint organization of a regional conference on religion and religious freedom in Central Asia.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation

This Foundation was involved in the implementation of the Training Series on Women in Leadership organized by the ODIHR, and also had the leading role in organizing the Seminar, Central Asia: United or Divided?. The focus of the conference was to provide an in-depth analysis of challenges to the security and co-operation in the Central Asian region. The funding and/or organizing of the conference was shared by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Swiss Foundation for Civic Development, Media Support, Research and Analysis (CIMERA), UNESCO, UNDP and the Centre.

Internews

The Centre, jointly with the international NGO Internews, organized a sub-regional Seminar on Media Law and Professional Ethics for Journalists, which took place in Bishkek on 1 and 2 March 2001. Sixty journalists from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated, along with 30 representatives of academia, the parliament, the governmental structure, the judiciary, the President's office and journalists' unions. A draft code of professional ethics was discussed, and is being amended and revised to take into account the outcome of the discussions. A joint training seminar for judges and journalists on media law issues was held in Issyk Kul from 26 to 28 September 2001.

OSCE MISSION TO TAJIKISTAN

General assessment

The OSCE Mission to Tajikistan consists of its headquarters in Dushanbe and five field offices. The field offices are located in the towns of Kurghon-Teppa, Dusti, Shahrituz, Garm and Khujand. Since its establishment, the OSCE Mission has sought to strengthen its co-operation with international organizations in Tajikistan. The focus is on co-operation with the United Nations Mission and UN agencies and with bilateral development agencies, such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation.

Future co-operation

To further strengthen co-operation with various organizations, the Mission reviewed with UNICEF, IFES and the Open Society Institute (OSI) the possibility of future joint activities. UNICEF has proposed and submitted outlines for various projects in the area of juvenile justice. IFES has suggested further co-operation in the area of civic education, taking the form, for example, of providing IFES with trainers and also participating in the drafting of the civic education programme for the secondary schools in Tajikistan. Furthermore, the OSI proposed to the Mission that the Regional Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty should be jointly organized.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF and the Mission jointly organized a National Conference on Child Protection, which was held in Dushanbe from 10 to 12 July 2001. The Conference focused on reviewing the content of a draft National Plan of Action for Children, embodying recommendations. This forum, the first of its kind to be held in Central Asia, was attended by more than 150 participants from the Tajik Government, local authorities, NGOs, youth and children's organizations, and international institutions. Furthermore, it was the first real action targeting children's issues in the country. As an outcome of the Conference, the participants adopted basic parts of the draft National Plan of Action for Children.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

In January 2001, UNIFEM offered seminars on gender issues for the 20 Women's Support Groups which constitute a project implemented by the Mission since June 2000 and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC). Furthermore, the Mission, UNIFEM and IOM jointly conducted a Round Table on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children from Tajikistan, which took place in Dushanbe on 21 June 2001. It is foreseen that UNIFEM will continue to support and advise the Mission regarding activities related to the national CEDAW report.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Mission and UNDP have conducted a series of common activities related to civic education, gender issues and the protection of human rights.

The Mission implemented a large-scale Civic Education Programme with financial support from UNDP. This Programme focused on legal training for political party representatives and local authorities, information campaigns in the mass media on political and civil rights, seminars on gender issues and summer camps for youth. The gender component was completed in December 2000, and the component for political parties and local administration continued until July 2001.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Co-operation between the Mission and UNHCR is based on exchanges of information and joint efforts to improve the laws and regulations regarding refugees in Tajikistan. The Mission, in close co-operation with UNHCR, monitors the situation of Afghan refugees in Tajikistan, and the two offices jointly voiced their concern regarding the implementation of Government measures in this regard. The Tajik Government wrote a new draft law on refugees, which UNHCR commented on. The Mission and the ODIHR with its legal expertise may provide further input.

The responsibilities of the Mission and UNHCR are separate but mutually reinforcing, as seen in the issue of deportees at the Uzbek-Tajik border. In general, UNHCR provides humanitarian aid and works with the Government to remedy situations, and the OSCE supports UNHCR in its role.

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UN ODCCP)

Through exchanges of information and discussions, the Mission and UN ODCCP are working towards a common approach to tackling the problem of drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism.

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Because the mandates and structures of the Mission and the UNOPS office differ, co-operation between the two has been confined to provision by the OSCE of seminars on political, civil and economic rights for participants in UNOPS programmes.

United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-Building (UNTOP)

The Mission continues to strengthen its close co-operation with UNTOP in all areas of the Mission's mandate. Apart from frequent informal meetings between the heads of the two offices, the Mission and UNTOP also co-operate in the organization of discussion clubs for political parties and movements in Khatlon province. The discussion clubs organized in Shahrituz and in Kolchosabad were considered a great success. The conclusions drawn in these discussions will be further reviewed in political round table discussions organized by the OSCE in Dusti. Further, the Mission's Gender Unit and UNTOP are jointly supporting the Government and civil society in the preparation of the national report under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

World Food Programme (WFP)

The OSCE Mission to Tajikistan has been implementing a series of projects under the title, Women's Support Group, funded by SDC-Tajikistan. In the framework of this project, the Mission has conducted seminars and training for women in Tajikistan designed to make them aware of their rights and of ways to sustain their families, on topics such as economic empowerment, life without violence, access to land and access to education. In the process, the Mission facilitated the participation of WFP in its countrywide women's network. WFP agreed to support a food-for-training programme established by the Mission. The participants in the OSCE training receive an agreed amount of wheat flour in compensation for attending the training sessions.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Mission and IOM jointly financed a Research Project on Trafficking in Women and Children in Tajikistan, which was conducted by the local NGO, Modar, between October 2000 and June 2001. In addition, IOM co-ordinated and finalized the report with expertise provided by the ODIHR Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues. Based on this report, on 21 June 2001 the Mission, IOM and UNIFEM jointly organized a Round Table on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Representatives of the Tajik authorities, the judiciary and non-governmental organizations and the media participated in the meeting. Subsequently, a joint project proposal was submitted, focusing on combating trafficking in women from Tajikistan. This proposal was submitted to the ODIHR Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, as well as to several donors in Tajikistan.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Agency for Technical Co-operation and Development (ACTED)

The Mission is implementing a project which maintains a countrywide network of women's support groups, and is facilitating the participation of other international actors in this network. ACTED included three of these Women Support Groups, from Sughd province, into their six-month microcredit programme. The Agency also provided training for the field workers on how to monitor the credit scheme and assisted in developing modules for training seminars on topics such as access to land.

American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI)

The Mission, in co-operation with ABA/CEELI, conducted 13 legal seminars for women entrepreneurs, between October 2000 and July 2001. These seminars were held in three different provinces, namely, Khatlon, Sughd and Rasht Valley, and also in Dushanbe. Furthermore, ABA/CEELI and the Mission are establishing a legal clinic at the Tajik-Russian Slavonic University in Dushanbe, a project that is funded by the ODIHR.

Amnesty International

During the visit of a representative of Amnesty International to Dushanbe from 20 to

25 June 2001, discussions took place, focusing on areas of potential future co-operation, and regarding the issue of the death penalty. The Mission is considering organizing round table discussions concerning this issue and incorporating the subject more specifically into the civic education programme.

Counterpart Consortium

The Mission is closely co-operating with Counterpart Consortium in the selection of trainers for its wide range of seminars. Counterpart Consortium organized a training of trainers programme for the field workers of the Women's Support Groups on the topic NGOs and Society, which took place on 26 and 27 July 2001. Furthermore, the Mission and Counterpart Consortium conducted a training of trainers Seminar on the Civic Education Annual Programme in August 2001.

International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)

The Mission and IFES carried out joint activities relating to election monitoring and representation of political parties. For example, IFES and the Mission co-operated in monitoring the by-elections in December 2000 and May 2001. Moreover, they conducted a round table for political parties in Khujand on 15 March 2001.

The Mission and IFES jointly organized a Conference on Party Leadership Skills and Strengthening of Parties Long-Term Planning, for representatives of political parties from Dushanbe and the regions, which took place from 18 to 20 July 2001. This Conference was of particular importance in that it started a practical discussion on the preparations for the 2005 nationwide parliamentary elections.

Internews

On 23 August 2001, the Mission, in co-operation with Internews, began a series of monthly round tables on media law in Tajikistan. The 15 participants represent media outlets, journalists, political parties and the Government. These discussions will take place for six months, during which a draft law on media legislation will be prepared. The draft will be presented to the President's office and the parliament in early 2002.

Open Society Institute (OSI)

The Open Society Institute and the Mission interact primarily in the areas of gender issues,

ecology and the media. The two organizations jointly conducted a two-day Regional Conference on the Legal and Social Problems of Women in Central Asia, in Khujand on 8 and 9 June 2001.

On 23 August 2001, a round table discussion was organized in collaboration with the OSI and women lawyers of Tajikistan. The round table was attended by 40 participants from the President's Office, the courts, the Public Prosecutors Office and the mass media and produced a recommendation for limiting the imposition of the death penalty in Tajikistan.

Other

Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC)

The Mission and the SDC are co-operating in the fields of gender and media activities. The SDC is financially supporting the Women's Support Group Project, which the OSCE has been implementing since June 2000, and which will continue until June 2002. In addition, the Mission and the SDC are continuing to co-operate on the project of rehabilitating the *Navdi Dusti* newspaper in Kumsangir and the *Bishkenty* newspaper in the Bishkent district.

In July 2001, the Mission and the SDC jointly organized a Round Table on Access to Information, for representatives of the mass media and the regional government in Khujand. This Round Table may serve as a pilot project for further joint activities in the other provinces.

USAID

USAID provides financial support to a wide range of the Mission's media projects, from rehabilitation of printing equipment to the establishment and support of the independent weekly newspaper *Sughd*.

OSCE CENTRE IN TASHKENT

On 14 December 2000, the OSCE Permanent Council renamed the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia to the OSCE Centre in Tashkent. This decision was taken in recognition of the change in focus of the office's activities. The original focus of the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia, established in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 1995, was to link the five Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan more closely to the OSCE. In 1998, the OSCE

Permanent Council also established Centres in Almaty, Ashgabad and Bishkek. A Mission to Tajikistan had already been established in 1993. As a result of this expanded OSCE presence in the region, the Liaison Office shifted its activities to focus on Uzbekistan, and the Permanent Council formalized this shift in its decision.

General assessment

The co-operation with international organizations, institutions and NGOs represents a valuable contribution towards increasing the effectiveness of the Centre's work. Joint efforts have guaranteed that activities are not duplicated and are seen to complement the capacities and resources of all the partners involved.

The Centre organizes Human Rights Co-ordination Group meetings, bringing together members of embassies of OSCE participating States and representatives of international organizations dealing with human rights issues, such as UNDP, ICRC, EC/TACIS, UNHCR and Human Rights Watch, which take place every three weeks. These meetings afford an opportunity for the Head of the OSCE Centre and its staff to inform others regarding OSCE high-level visits, relevant activities of OSCE Institutions, events arranged by the Centre and concerns relating to human rights, and, as appropriate, Permanent Council discussions. These meetings have been useful in establishing a consensus among the international organizations on approaches to domestic human rights challenges.

A Joint Regional meeting took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 23 October 2001 for the first time. This was a follow up to the 4 July 2001 meeting in Vienna. Representatives from OSCE, UNHCR and IOM participated. The developments in Afghanistan and the risk of an increased influx of refugees were focused on. Additionally, modalities of co-operation and matters of common concern such as trafficking in human beings and cross-border issues were also discussed.

Future co-operation

Despite the Centre's intention to increase co-operation with international partners, owing to the discouraging political and economic climate in the country, there has only been a marginal engagement by international organizations, especially in the economic area.

Therefore, the number of potential partners for co-operation is rather small.

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Centre participates in the quarterly Development Partners Co-operation Group Meetings organized by UNDP in Tashkent. These meetings serve as a forum for embassies and international organizations in Tashkent to discuss their work in the human rights, economic and environmental areas.

From May 2001 onwards, the Centre, along with embassies and international organizations in Tashkent, has participated in several meetings hosted by UNDP related to the drought in western Uzbekistan. As a result of these meetings, a general call for humanitarian assistance was issued, and participants in these meetings plan to continue to monitor the drought situation.

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UN ODCCP)

The Centre organized jointly, with UN ODCCP, a seminar on raising public awareness through the mass media regarding the harmful effects of drug use, which took place in September 2001. Media representatives were informed about drug-related problems, measures regarding drug problems encountered in Uzbekistan and best practices in other countries in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and rehabilitation of addicts.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

ICRC has reached an agreement with the Government of Uzbekistan under which it has access to arrested persons and preliminary detention and prison facilities. The Centre and ICRC primarily exchange information regarding issues in these areas.

OSCE Institutions

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Centre implemented several ODIHR projects in Uzbekistan in partnership with other international organizations and NGOs. The Centre most often co-operates with UNDP, the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation, the American Bar Association/ Central and East

European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) and the Polish Helsinki Foundation.

For example, the Centre, together with ABA/CEELI and the Uzbek Association of Judges, organized a Conference on Supervision of the Judiciary System, which took place on 1 and 2 August 2001. The Conference brought together legal professionals to discuss international legal standards with regard to the time of arrest and detention, the right to be seen promptly by a judge and the right to appeal a decision.

In addition, the Centre and the ODIHR work closely with the Polish Helsinki Foundation, which has developed a training methodology for human rights monitoring and reporting. In co-operation with the ODIHR, the Centre organizes training sessions which focus on strengthening the capabilities of local human rights defenders working in the non-governmental and governmental sectors. The Polish Helsinki Foundation provides trainers for these sessions.

International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), and Winrock International

The Centre is planning a project with the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation, ABA/CEELI and Winrock International. The aim of this project is to establish a legal aid clinic to provide free consultations for women.

Discussions have taken place, in co-operation with ABA/CEELI, regarding the establishment of an Uzbek environmental NGO network. Furthermore, workshops related to the accession and implementation process of the Aarhus Convention in the context of Uzbekistan will take place in the autumn of 2001, the cost of which the organizations will share equally.

Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation

Since 1999, the Centre and the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation have been jointly organizing quarterly meetings of NGOs which are active regarding women's issues. Participants represent NGOs from all the regions of Uzbekistan. Each meeting is devoted to a special topic related to the situation of woman in society. In addition, these meetings provide opportunities

to discuss specific actions and strategies aimed at establishing a broader women's movement.

The Centre, with a financial contribution by the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation, has started to organize a series of talk shows which are broadcast on the Second State Channel. The discussion focuses on how culture and tradition affect human rights and the equality of women. Participants in the Centre's Training Sessions on Monitoring and Reporting on Women's Human Rights were invited as guests and keynote speakers.

ANNEX I

OPERATIONAL DOCUMENT - THE PLATFORM FOR CO-OPERATIVE SECURITY

I. The platform

1. The goal of the Platform for Co-operative Security is to strengthen the mutually reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area.
2. The OSCE will work co-operatively with those organizations and institutions whose members individually and collectively, in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to each organization or institution, now and in the future:
 - Adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the OSCE principles and commitments as set out in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Helsinki Document 1992, the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security and the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century;
 - Subscribe to the principles of transparency and predictability in their actions in the spirit of the Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures;
 - Implement fully the arms control obligations, including disarmament and CSBMs, to which they have committed themselves;
 - Proceed on the basis that those organizations and institutions of which they are members will adhere to transparency about their evolution;
 - Ensure that their membership in those organizations and institutions is based on openness and free will;
 - Actively support the OSCE's concept of common, comprehensive and indivisible security and a common security space free of dividing lines;
 - Play a full and appropriate part in the development of the relationships between mutually reinforcing security-related institutions in the OSCE area;
 - Are ready in principle to deploy the institutional resources of international organizations and institutions of which they are members in support of the OSCE's work, subject to the necessary policy decisions as cases arise. In this regard, participating States note the particular relevance of co-operation in the areas of conflict prevention and crisis management.
3. Together these principles and commitments form the Platform for Co-operative Security.

II. Modalities for co-operation

1. Within the relevant organizations and institutions of which they are members, participating States will work to ensure the organizations' and institutions' adherence to the Platform for Co-operative Security. Adherence, on the basis of decisions taken by each member State within relevant

organizations and institutions, will take place in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to each organization or institution. Contacts and co-operation of the OSCE with other organizations and institutions will be transparent to participating States and will take place in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to the OSCE and those organizations and institutions.

2. At the 1997 Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen, a decision was taken on the Common Concept for the Development of Co-operation between Mutually Reinforcing Institutions. We acknowledge the extensive network of contacts elaborated since then, in particular the growing co-operation with organizations and institutions active both in the politico-military field and in the human and economic dimensions of security, and the strengthening of co-operation between the OSCE and the various United Nations bodies and agencies, recalling the OSCE's role as a regional arrangement under the Charter of the United Nations. We are determined to develop this further.

3. The growing importance of subregional groupings in the work of the OSCE is another important area, and we support the growth in co-operation with these groups based on this Platform.

4. Development of co-operation can be further enhanced through extensive use of the following instruments and mechanisms:

- Regular contacts, including meetings; a continuous framework for dialogue; increased transparency and practical co-operation, including the identification of liaison officers or points of contact; cross-representation at appropriate meetings; and other contacts intended to increase understanding of each organization's conflict prevention tools.

5. In addition, the OSCE may engage in special meetings with other organizations, institutions and structures operating in the OSCE area. These meetings may be held at a political and/or executive level (to co-ordinate policies or determine areas of co-operation) and at a working level (to address the modalities of co-operation).

6. The development of the OSCE field operations in recent years has represented a major transformation of the Organization. In view of the adoption of the Platform for Co-operative Security, existing co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant international bodies, organizations and institutions in field operations should be developed and built upon in accordance with their individual mandates. Modalities for this form of co-operation could include: regular information exchanges and meetings, joint needs assessment missions, secondment of experts by other organizations to the OSCE, appointment of liaison officers, development of common projects and field operations, and joint training efforts.

7. Co-operation in responding to specific crises:

- The OSCE, through its Chairperson-in-Office and supported by the Secretary General, and the relevant organizations and institutions are encouraged to keep each other informed of what actions they are undertaking or plan to undertake to deal with a particular situation;
- To this end, participating States encourage the Chairperson-in-Office, supported by the Secretary General, to work with other organizations and institutions to foster co-ordinated approaches that avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of available resources. As appropriate, the OSCE can offer to serve as a flexible framework for co-operation of the various mutually reinforcing efforts. The Chairperson-in-Office will consult with participating States on the process and will act in accordance with the results of these consultations.

8. The Secretary General shall prepare an annual report for the Permanent Council on interaction between organizations and institutions in the OSCE area.

ANNEX II

ABBREVIATIONS

ABA	American Bar Association
ARFG	Area Return Facilitation Group
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BOAC	Balkans Operational Agencies Co-ordination
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Co-operation
CBSS	Council of the Baltic Sea States
CCS	Council of Collective Security
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEELI	Central and East European Law Initiative
CEI	Central European Initiative
CiO	Chairman-in-Office
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CLRAE	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe
CoE	Council of Europe
CSBMs	Confidence- and Security-Building Measures
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe
EAPC	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council
EAR	European Agency for Reconstruction
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
EUMM	European Union Monitoring Mission
FA	Framework Agreement
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FoA	Friends of Albania
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
fYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
HCNM	OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
HROAG	United Nations Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia
ICITAP	International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme
ICMP	International Commission on Missing Persons
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross

ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
IDPs	internally displaced persons
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPTF	International Police Task Force
IRC	International Rescue Committee
ISAR	Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia
JIAS	Joint Interim Administrative Structure
KFOR	Kosovo Force
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCM	Nordic Council of Ministers
NGO	non-governmental organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHR	Office of the High Representative
OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
OMIK	OSCE Mission in Kosovo
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSI/SF	Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation
PA	OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
PSC	European Union Political and Security Committee
REACT	Rapid Expert Assistance Co-operation Teams
RFG	Return Facilitation Group
RFM	OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
RRTF	Reconstruction and Return Task Force
SAAs	Stabilisation and Association Agreements
SECI	Southeastern European Co-operative Initiative
SFOR	Stabilisation Force
TACIS	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNLO	United Nations Liaison Office
UNMAAP	United Nations Mine Action Assistance Programme
UNMiBH	United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNODCCP	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
UNOG	United Nations Office in Geneva
UNOMIG	United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSECOORD	United Nations Security Coordinator
UNTAES	United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WEU	Western European Union
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization