



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**Annual Security Review Conference 1 and 2 July 2008
Working Session III
Statement by Deputy Director General
Anita Nergaard**

Mr. Chairman,

Norway fully supports the efforts carried out by the OSCE and others with respect to conflict resolution. We appreciate the summary made by the secretariat. We believe that the use of the OSCE conflict prevention- mechanisms in order to air differences is of great importance, and we welcome the fact that they were used after the flying and downing of a Georgian UAV over Abkhazia, Georgia on 20 April this year. We also note Dr. Bloed's statement on several mechanisms that have never been used. We find this interesting and worthy of further study.

Norway firmly believes that political dialogue and confidence building are two of the keys to ease tensions between the parties to the conflict. The OSCE has a special role to play with its broad participation and field missions. Norway believes that the OSCE, with its special expertise in confidence building and conflict prevention is best placed of all organisations to contribute to conflict resolution. We believe the OSCE should have a strengthened role in the support of the UN-led peace process in Abkhazia.

We do not believe lack of resolution may be blamed on the OSCE nor on formats. Nevertheless, at times there is a need to consider changes in format.

Norway is concerned with tensions in recent months, especially in Abkhazia. We call on all parties to show restraint in both words and deeds and to refrain from actions which could risk escalating the situation further.

We welcome the initiatives and particularly the proposal put forward by President Saakashvili and encourage all parties to consider these initiatives seriously and in a positive spirit. We are encouraged by Ambassador Talvitie's comments on possible progress on the conflict in Transnistria.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman