



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Response to the Secretary General on the 2012 Program Outline**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a. i. Carol Fuller  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 26, 2011

We warmly welcome the release of the 2012 Program Outline, and we wish to thank all of the fund managers and their staffs for their hard work. The Program Outline exercise is extremely important for focusing our attention on the operation of the Organization. As participating States, we have an obligation to make sure OSCE operations are effective and efficient. We thank the Secretary General for his particularly rich presentation today. This rich material deserves very detailed discussion in the coming months, and we will fully engage, we welcome your comments and we will be responding in detail. To keep to the five-minute limit, however, our comments today are limited to just a few general remarks.

The Program Outline serves as the first step in the 2011 budget process. We anticipate the forthcoming work by Ireland, as the 2012 Chairman in Office, to produce a perception paper based on our deliberations. We pledge Ireland our full cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, as we consider the follow-up to the Astana Commemorative Declaration, it is important to remember that the Program Outline is an opportunity to provide our fund managers with a roadmap of where we, the participating States, want this Organization to go, and how we, the participating States, believe it should get there. As the Secretary General has correctly pointed out, the participating States are responsible to provide this guidance to the Organization – and I add in a very comprehensive and organized manner.

For the past three years, the United States questioned the advisability of removing from the Program Outline all financial information, including indicative overall totals, per fund. The Program Outline is not a budget document, but it has clear budgetary implications. The removal of all budgetary information from this document makes it difficult to determine what programs are -- or are not -- worth pursuing, as we do not know anything about the cost implications of those programs. Participating States need to know the cost implications of programs in order to help guide this important decision making process.

In these tight budgetary times, the United States firmly believes that the OSCE should focus its energies and resources to areas and activities where it is needed most and where it can be most effective. This includes the ability to help out in unexpected areas such as extra needs in the Bishkek office or in response to the needs of our Partners. While there is still important work to be accomplished in the Balkans, many of the states where we have field operations in this region have made substantial progress on many fronts. We should therefore, during the Program Outline discussion, take a serious look at what parts of mandates have already been fulfilled, allowing for the reduction or elimination of activities and freeing up resources to be used elsewhere, particularly where significant challenges remain with respect to implementing our common OSCE commitments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.