



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Address by the Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, H. E. Ambassador Çinar Aldemir

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires a. i. Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 5, 2011

We warmly welcome Ambassador Aldemir to the Permanent Council and thank him for his presentation of the current priorities and activities of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.

We are pleased that CICA attaches importance to coordination and cooperation with the UN and regional organizations such as the OSCE. The United States values the OSCE's practical, results-oriented cooperation with other organizations, including CICA. We believe the best way to implement this cooperation is by coordinating our efforts in a flexible and informal way.

The United States is currently an observer of CICA. We acknowledge the important role of Kazakhstan in founding and supporting CICA. In January, U.S. representatives attended the Special Working Group and Senior Officials Committee, where we were impressed by Turkey's enthusiastic leadership. We welcome the ambitious agenda set by Turkey for its Chairmanship, particularly its initiatives to reinforce the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's non-proliferation agenda and increase cooperation with the OSCE in the human dimension.

While CICA's Confidence-Building Measures have primarily dealt with economic and cultural issues for the last eight years, we fully agree with the Turkish Chairmanship that the organization should devote more attention to the political-military and human dimensions in the future.

We believe that the emphasis on indivisible, comprehensive and cooperative security advocated by the Turkish Chairmanship is particularly important to CICA's ability to improve the security situation in its region. The OSCE has demonstrated the tremendous success of such a comprehensive, cross-dimensional approach to address threats to security and stability over the past 35 years, which provided the means for peaceful democratic transition and development in Europe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.