



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Statement on Combating Drug Trafficking**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 27, 2010

Trafficking in illicit drugs poses a serious threat to global security, both within and beyond the OSCE region. Associated violence and corruption threaten security, undermine good governance and the rule of law, and hinder the development of prosperous, democratic societies. In addition, criminal and terrorist networks frequently rely on funds generated by trafficking to finance their activities. Today, trafficking in narcotics and chemical precursors across Afghanistan's borders poses a particular threat, not only to the long-term security and stability of Afghanistan, but also the long-term security and stability of the entire OSCE region.

Clearly, drug trafficking is a shared problem. It affects all OSCE participating States. And a shared problem brings with it a common and shared responsibility. It requires a shared response and a long-term commitment to finding a solution.

The United States has made this commitment. We continue to emphasize the value of a regional approach to support the implementation of the three UN drug conventions -- the framework for international drug control. Such an approach has recently been reaffirmed by a high-level session of the United Nations' technical body on drugs, the Commission on Narcotic drugs.

Moreover, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has taken the lead in developing several programs with donor and regional support to assist counternarcotics efforts in Afghanistan. Specific programs include a multifaceted effort to target drug trafficking, chemical control, alternate development assistance as well as demand reduction in the context of the "Paris Pact."

Against this backdrop, the United States also believes that the OSCE plays a role in strengthening regional and international efforts to combat drug smuggling.

The OSCE has made important contributions to the overall framework of security. It has organized seminars and training programs; provided legislative and technical assistance to national authorities and law enforcement officials; and facilitated regional and international cooperation and information exchange. Since 2007, the OSCE has focused in particular on providing training for Afghan police in the Russian Federation and other specialized training institutions in Tajikistan and Turkey.

We hope to build on this expertise to develop further projects, particularly in cooperation with Russia and other participating States -- and especially in relation to Afghanistan. The Afghan drug trade is linked with the insurgency and with corruption undermining the government and it destabilizes and undermines the broader region. In this context, the United States is working with Afghanistan and regional and international partners to disrupt cross-

border flows of drugs, chemical precursors, and illicit funds. Our new whole-of-government approach emphasizes interdiction and agricultural development.

The U.S. is also working closely with Afghanistan's neighbors and regional and international actors, including the UNODC. A significant new initiative is our work with the Russian Federation, through the Bilateral Presidential Commission, to stem regional drug flows, promote information exchange on illicit financial flows, and reduce heroin demand.

We look forward to building on this cooperation in the months to come. We also look forward to expanded OSCE efforts -- in close cooperation with international and regional leaders such as the UNODC -- to increase border security and contribute to the counter-narcotics effort. Continued legislative and technical assistance projects, enhanced training activities, and other efforts can serve a useful purpose in coordination with ongoing efforts through UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). Accordingly, we look forward to the Chairmanship's July conference on combating the threat of illicit drugs and strengthening control of precursor chemicals. We hope the conference will be just one of many OSCE initiatives in the fight against the opiate trade and regional insecurity -- a fight that clearly requires a long-term, sustained commitment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.