

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



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Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**(AS DELIVERED)**

**Talking points for Ambassador Fredericka Gregory  
On the occasion of the Joint Forum for Security and Cooperation-Permanent  
Council (FSC-PC) on Afghanistan  
October 14th, 2009, at 10:00, Hofburg -Vienna  
Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

Madame Chairwoman, Mr. Chairman:

I would like to join others in thanking Lt. General Jim Dutton, Deputy Commander ISAF, for taking the time to come to Vienna to explain the new counter-insurgency strategy for the ISAF Mission that General MacCrystal has outlined in his recent report. His presentation was excellent and timely for our work in the OSCE, as well, notably in the regions neighboring Afghanistan.

Canada has contributed significantly to promote stability in Afghanistan. We recognize and value the important contribution made by NATO and its partners to improve security in Afghanistan. We are also very cognisant of the fact that some of the 21st Century threats and challenges facing the OSCE region, across all three dimensions, come from outside the OSCE area - including terrorism, countering proliferation, the trafficking of drugs and people - and which threaten the safety of the OSCE's 56 participating States and 11 Partners for Cooperation.

In this connection, stability in Afghanistan and the neighbouring Central Asian region is key for security in the OSCE area as a whole. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and its value added role in capacity building through its field missions in Central Asia must continue to be a priority of our work, especially in such key sectors as: police reform, border management, and good governance capacity-building. These are areas where the OSCE has recognized niche expertise and value added. We also believe that in order to be truly effective, OSCE projects should span both sides of the borders with Afghanistan. We urge the OSCE to continue to coordinate its border activities with bilateral and other multilateral border initiatives already underway to avoid duplication and to ensure consistency of approach.

We would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our congratulations to the Afghan people for their participation in the historic Presidential and Provincial council elections on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Canada, along with its international partners, continues to await the release of the final, certified results of these elections. We support the ongoing work of the Independent Election Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission to adjudicate the election results. We also look forward to the report of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team, and we were honoured to have two Canadians working on this team.

In our view, the international community needs to agree on the broad principles for engaging the new government. We are committed to working with our international partners to deliver clear and coordinated messages of our expectations to the incoming government. We expect UNAMA to play a key leadership role in this regard.

At the request of the democratically elected Afghan government and as part of a UN-mandated mission, Canada has a strong military and civilian presence in Afghanistan. Our continued objective is to help Afghans build a stable and secure country based on the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law

In conclusion, we have 2 questions for which General Dutton's views and insights would be appreciated:

- 1) What role do you see for the OSCE vis-à-vis Afghanistan's needs, and in supporting the new ISAF Strategy and Mission?
- 2) Looking to the perimeters of the Afghanistan/Pakistan situation, what about the role and significance of the Central Asian States (which all belong to the OSCE)? Will this region become a part of a broader regional strategy?

Thank you.