



Delegation of Sweden

## **Statement by Sweden at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Skies Review Conference**

First, Sweden would like to express its gratitude to the United States preparing and chairing the second Open Skies Review Conference and commends the excellent agenda that contains both interesting and challenging items.

The Treaty on Open Skies has been a success story and is an important confidence and security building instrument that complements other arms control and confidence and security building measures in the OSCE area.

Sweden was not one of the original State Parties but acceded to the Treaty on Open Skies in 2002. Until our accession we prepared ourselves and built a competence through intensive cooperation with other countries.

Today, Sweden is one of the State Parties to the Treaty that possesses a totally autonomous Open Skies capability, including a certified observation aircraft, trained and competent personnel as well as laboratory and imagery management capacity.

The Swedish approach to the Open Skies is based on cooperation and today our ambition is to share as many Open Skies missions as possible and to make our observation aircraft available for other State Parties in order to keep the Treaty viable. Our observation aircraft carries out approximately 12-20 different kinds of missions per year, for us or for other State Parties. For 2010 missions with the Swedish observation aircraft OS-100 will accomplish 22 of the active quotas of the Treaty which represent approximately 15%.

Sweden assesses that there are three urgent areas for the Open Skies community to keep the Treaty viable and fully operational and relevant for the following 5-year period;

1. Continue missions within the Treaty with current intensity and cooperation and extend the number of State Parties;
2. Implement the transition to digitalization in full, including certification of aircraft;
3. Ensuring a sufficient number of observation platforms within the Treaty.

Following its success, the Treaty on Open Skies must be assessed in an appropriate context and not only been looked upon as an imagery provider, but also as the politico-military CSBM tool it is. We are all responsible to keep the Treaty functioning well also in the future.

It is our conviction that this Review Conference will give impetus to new relevant discussions in the Open Skies Consultative Commission and in the Open Skies community as a whole and Sweden is looking forward to these three days and the outcome of the conference.