

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



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

**28<sup>TH</sup> (SPECIAL) JOINT MEETING OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY  
COOPERATION AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
CANADIAN STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
H.E. MR. SERGEY LAVROV  
MAY 23, 2007**

Canada joins others in warmly welcoming H.E. the Minister for Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Lavrov, to today's joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Cooperation. We thank him for his address outlining the Russian Federation's vision for the OSCE, and his perspective on current security concerns. I can assure him that we were listening with great interest and attention.

Canada and Russia share a strong relationship in many key areas, including in the OSCE context. We value the regular dialogue we have with the Russian Federation representatives here at the OSCE. Canada views this Organization as an asset that contributes significantly to regional and global security, benefiting enormously from its diverse membership.

We believe that the commitments all participating States have taken at Summits and Ministerial Councils provide clear guidelines on how stability and comprehensive security can be enhanced in the OSCE region.

Through these high-level gatherings, and in our daily work in Vienna, and through the OSCE institutions and field operations, we have on the basis of consensus established a unique entity that fosters comprehensive security in three dimensions. Canada continues to support this approach.

Mr. Chairman, the OSCE has a well-earned reputation in the Politico-Military dimension. Arms control and CSBMs play a key role in fostering peace and stability in the OSCE area. The statement read earlier by Norway to which Canada subscribed outlines our views on some arms control issues which the Foreign Minister has raised.

Another strength of the OSCE is its ability to meet new challenges to security. As Minister Lavrov mentioned, in the last few years, our Organization has furthered its relevance through the development of anti-terrorism programmes.

More recently, at the initiative of the Russian Federation, the OSCE has been contributing to the UNODC's work in combating trafficking in illicit drugs.

New threats are also being addressed through our collective work on small arms and on non-proliferation.

This adds to existing multilateral initiatives where Canada works closely with Russia, such as the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and the NATO-Russia Council pilot project on counter-narcotics.

Mr. Chairman, we also appreciate the contribution the OSCE makes in the Economic and Environmental Dimension of security. Promoting good governance and reducing tensions related to environmental factors are key activities of this Organization.

That said, the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security is integrally linked with the human dimension.

Canada strongly believes that security and stability will elude all regions and countries that do not promote pluralism, respect human rights, enforce the rule of law and practice democratic principles.

Fostering and supporting these practices, carried out in large part by the Organization's Institutions and Field Missions, are an integral component of the OSCE acquis. The programmes undertaken by our Organization, including conflict prevention and resolution, election monitoring, combating trafficking in human beings, promoting mutual respect and understanding, and gender equity, are central to the effectiveness of what we do.

The OSCE has proven capable of meeting challenges to our collective security through the flexibility provided by its Field Missions.

This network gives our Organization an on-the-ground presence, allowing programme implementation in all three dimensions that can meet the needs of host countries and assist them in fulfilling OSCE commitments which we have all undertaken.

Canada has worked cooperatively with the Russian Federation on methods of strengthening the OSCE. Resolving the long-standing issue of the OSCE legal status is an important element of these efforts. In this context, Canada will continue to contribute actively to the negotiation of a Convention on the International Legal Personality, Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE under the terms agreed to at the Brussels Ministerial Council. We hope this can be completed by the Madrid Ministerial Council.

In closing Mr. Chairman, we would again like to thank Foreign Minister Lavrov for his address and his presence here today. Canada looks forward to continue working with the Russian Federation in strengthening the OSCE.