



Statement of H.E. Ambassador Mr. Thórdur Aegir Óskarsson, Special Envoy for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs Iceland, at the Annual Security Review Conference, Vienna, 25-27 June 2019.

Mr. Moderator, Ambassador,

We appreciate the opportunity to address this Special Session on the Structured Dialogue.

As others Iceland emphasizes the importance of this particular dialogue in current circumstances where constructive and productive measures to tackle the inertia in global and regional security situations are few and hard to find.

We staunchly support the work done within the structured dialogue in discussing the current and future challenges and risks to our common security. We are facing new challenges, accelerated by rapid technological developments, that must be dealt with and the instruments we have are either stagnant or inadequate to deal with.

In this context I do not have to reiterate all the excellent agreements the OSCE has produced during its existence to further the security in the Euro–Atlantic area. However, there is an urgent need to do more.

Iceland strongly recommends the focus on incident prevention and risk mitigation since that it is at the core of the OSCE’s comprehensive security concept. As the Chairman in Office stated, the OSCE toolbox is there, the challenge is to operationalize these assets.

The OSCE's confidence and security building measures are without doubt unparalleled in the global security context. By definition it should not be too difficult to develop those measures to meet new challenges. Regrettably the absence of political will to do so is seriously lacking.

Iceland in particular emphasizes the importance of measure to prevent military incidents on and over the High Seas.

Iceland's vulnerability to new security threats, cyber and hybrid of great concern. We would want the OSCE to take up these issues in a more urgent and focused manner.