

Concept Notes for CABS Meeting, Goran Stojkovski 28 April 2016:

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to use the opportunity to congratulate to the organizers – Federal Ministry of Interior of Austria, EU Representatives and BOMCA Project staff for re-launching of 12 CABS Conference, as well as to express the gratitude to the presenters and participants from Central Asian national agencies and international organizations for their contribution and fruitful discussions.

Addressing the challenges that the region of Central Asia and separate countries are experiencing in cooperation and promotion of trade facilitation, one should not forget the long way and all the challenges that each single country in this part of the world faced in the last quarter of the century. Although geographically belonging to the same region, different countries were following different pathways in developing of their political systems, economic and social structures and institutions and entire societies, exposed or surrounded by serious security challenges most of the time, continuing to this date.

Membership or refraining of membership in regional political, economic and security initiatives based on different countries' own national interests and positions are resulting with situation where countries of the region needed to look for different options for development of bilateral and regional cooperation based on above mentioned specifics.

Support provided by international community and different initiatives of national agencies and organizations present here these two days was and is continuing to be of critical importance in this regards.

Coming to OSCE, with all Central Asian countries being participating states with well and longtime established field presence, and Afghanistan as our partner for cooperation, OSCE was tailoring its' activities in different countries based on the specific Comprehensive approach to security, where politico – military aspects, economic and environmental aspect and human and humanitarian aspect are seen as equally important and where only the balance and equal promotion of these aspects can lead to sustainable and long lasting results.

OSCE Border Security and management concept, as well as other relevant OSCE documents, are stressing the importance of promotion and development of cooperation between different participating states and international organizations and sharing of best practices from other OSCE areas as modality for capacity building and achieving of the goal in establishing of open but secure borders that will lead to economic development and prosperity of local communities and countries themselves.

During the past years, OSCE engagement and field presence in the region and cooperation with national institutions and international organizations, resulted with long list of project and activities tailored specificity for this region and some of them unique within entire OSCE region. Here I need to mention OSCE Academy and Customs TC established at CiB, BMSC and PPL in OiT among them, as well as assistance given to establishing of National Border Management Strategies of countries in the region and support of their implementation for number of years now.

Throughout annual Unified Budgets of field missions and OSCE Secretariat, as well as using mentioned projects we are organizing capacity building activities related to promoting of standards

of WCO and WTO aimed to simplification of procedures and trade facilitation, support of Customs Single Window system and information exchange that may be used as a tool in Risk Analysis and Management and efficient usage of available limited technical resources of wide array of national services in separate countries. Support of local cross – border markets between Tajikistan and Afghanistan and activities aimed at support of local entrepreneurship is another format supported by OSCE for number of years now.

Special emphasis for number of years OSCE is giving to the sharing of best practices from other OSCE regions in the process of Demarcation and Delimitation of national borders of the countries of the region. Aware of all the sensitivity and specifics of this issue and different approaches between different countries, OSCE is engaging in providing platform for discussions in the form of regional workshops and when appropriate study visits and case studies that are exploring similar successful examples from other OSCE areas and how this models can be tailored to the specifics of the countries of the region.

Our understanding is that there is no universal solution for specific problems, especially in the area of demarcation and delimitation, but in the situation where usage or sharing of very limited resources and infrastructure are interlinked with diverse national structure of local communities and tend to easily escalate to serious incidents as we witnessed in number of cases in the past, promotion of systematic cooperation and establishing of appropriate legal framework that will lead to successful resolution of the issue of demarcation and delimitation of national borders is maybe the most important element that will lay ground for prosperous future and further economic development.

Following the joint workshop organized by OSCE OiT, CiB and BMSC, devoted on Border Delegates Model organized at the beginning of April and study visit on best practices on demarcation and delimitation and trade facilitation that is planned for this summer on Belarusian / Lithuanian Border, in the third quarter of the year OSCE Secretariat will organize Central Asian workshop od demarcation and delimitation, where countries and their agencies represented here are invited to participate and to jointly explore progress done and modalities for further support, and international organizations are welcomed to contribute with sharing of their capacities and expertise .

We believe that this diversified approach and support of different agencies from different angles will contribute towards further promotion of trade facilitation and economic development and resolution of open questions between countries for the benefit of all.

Of course, this is not possible to achieve without commitment and cooperation of host countries and international community and we are using the opportunity to express our gratitude to all of you present here today.

Thank you.

between promoting activities that are used as a platform for capacity building activities of national agencies and institutions.

OSCE supported development of National Border Management

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1. POINT: Local VS Global perception. Regional, EU, OSCE or Global level
2. **Constructive/Liberal VS Traditional (Nation States Sovereignty and militarized border security) approach.**
3. Usage/sharing of limited resources, infrastructure, Interests of minorities, local communities, support to regional initiatives...
4. No universal solutions. Balance is critical for the concept of open but secure borders.
5. Long lasting focus on D/D. No one side resolution.
6. ***OSCE offers expertise and sharing of best practices from regions with similar problems; alongside with providing platform for discussions that includes national and international experts. Resolution is crucial for trade facilitation and prospects for economic development***
7. Current security challenges (VERLT, Migrations...) are temptation for re-enforcing of classical border security, but we should not forget that at least to some extent poor economy, lack of opportunities and constantly suppressed problems and tensions contributed to their escalation.
8. WCO, WTO, UN, regional initiatives, all offer proven legal frames for closer cooperation and boosting opportunities for economic development. Less restriction doesn't necessary means chaos, but more opportunities for individuals and communities.
9. Coordination leads to Synergy / shrinking budgets and changing focus to other geographical areas.