Mamadame/ Mister Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset let me commend the Government of Qatar and UNODC for the excellent organization of the XIII-th Congress. It is my honour and privilege to address all of you here today.

In the next few minutes, I would like to:
- focus on the OSCE’s perspective vis-à-vis transnational threats;
- give a brief overview of major OSCE activities aimed at countering various criminal threats;
- and share some views regarding strengthening international cooperation.

The OSCE is the World’s largest regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. It unites 57 participating States from Vancouver to Vladivostok and 11 Partners for Co-operation. Evolving transnational challenges to security, such as terrorism, transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and drugs, in firearms/small arms and light weapons, money laundering, cybercrime and other forms of criminal activities originate both within and outside the OSCE region. OSCE deals with these challenges on the basis of its inherent strengths and comparative advantages. Our inherent strengths are consensus-based decision taking, inclusive membership and multidimensional concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security. OSCE P&S are unanimous that politico-military, economic and environmental dimensions, as well as human dimension of security are all interlinked. Our comparative advantages consist of the network of 3 Institutions (High Commissioner on National Minorities, Freedom
of the Media and Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) and 16 Field Operations. All of them provide specific, tailor made support to the interested pS on the ground.

**OSCE’s perspective vis-à-vis transnational threats**

Since the late 1990’s OSCE has strived to equip itself with knowledge, skills, competencies and a diverse range of tools to support its participating States in the increasingly complex and challenging area of crime prevention and criminal justice. This has been done in numerous ways but most importantly by:

- developing distinct and future oriented strategies and formal decisions;
- designing and offering training and capacity-building;
- facilitating a close and flexible co-operation among police and border management authorities;
- offering analysis, research and assessments of national and regional police-related and border management activities;
- developing co-operation with international organizations, ngo’s, academia and other public and private actors.

**A brief overview of major OSCE activities aimed at countering various transnational threats**

**Cyber world** has become a venue of diverse criminal activities and effective response to this challenge might be only through innovative approaches, using international co-operation.

On 3 December 2013, OSCE participating States adopted an *Initial set of OSCE Confidence-Building Measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies* (PC.DEC/1106). These CBMs are designed to enhance transparency among participating States on the one hand, and to promote effective mechanisms and processes that allow national authorities to effectively deal with cyber/ICT security threats on the other. CBMs strengthen confidence among participating States and support international co-operation and coordination in this important area.

“**OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism**” (PC Decision No. 1063) sets the basis of pertinent OSCE activities around eight strategic areas:

1. **Promoting the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism** and enhancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism;
2. **Countering violent extremism and radicalization** that lead to terrorism;
3. Preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism;
4. Countering use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;
5. Promoting dialogue and co-operation on counter-terrorism issues, in particular, through public-private partnerships between State authorities and the private sector (business community, industry), as well as civil society and the media;
7. Strengthening travel document security;

Last December OSCE adopted two Declarations on the Organization’s role in countering:

- **kidnapping and hostage-taking** committed by terrorist groups, in the context of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2133 (2014);
- **the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters** in the context of UNSCR 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014).

Following these decisions in June an OSCE-wide conference will discuss: “Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters”.

“OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC Decision No. 1049)” promotes police strategies, tactics and mechanisms to address transnational organized crime. OSCE conducts numerous projects and programs on Police Development and Reform. Police-Public-Partnerships and Community Policing, Police Co-operation with the Media, Policing in a Modern, Fast-Changing Society are the areas of needs assessments and support provided to interesting countries.

Based on these programs, pertinent guideline documents have been issued covering inter alia:

- Police Reform within the Framework of Criminal Justice System;
- Trafficking in Human Beings: Identification of Potential and Presumed Victims
- Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Law Enforcement Officials;
- Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: a Community Policing Approach.
- Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism Investigations (A Practical Manual for Law Enforcement Officers);
- Guidebook on Democratic Policing;
- Good Practices in Building Police-Public Partnerships.
These analytical documents provide a solid first hand analysis on effective ways to strengthen criminal justice response to organized crime and are available at the OSCE website.

**OSCE Concept for Combatting the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors** (PC Decision No. 1048) provides a solid platform for closer co-operation of all interested stakeholders: participating States, Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, civil society and media.

Starting from 2007 OSCE-wide counter-narcotics conferences take place almost on an annual basis. Preventing Drug Supply to Youth (October 2012), Preventing Illicit Drug Trade on the Internet (July 2013), Partnering with non-law enforcement actors in combating the threat of illicit drugs (October 2014) have been discussed at these Conferences. This year, under the Serbian Chairmanship in the OSCE, we will address increasing spread of illicit drugs amongst young people. Outcomes of the OSCE-wide Conferences will lay the ground for the OSCE contribution to the UNGA special session on narcotics, to take place next year.

**Border Security and Management Concept** sets the framework to prevent, detect and interdict any criminal activity across our borders, hence strengthening barriers for illicit trafficking. OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe since its establishment in 2009 has trained more than 2,000 border, customs and drug control officers from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

Under the Patrol Programming and Leadership Program in Tajikistan more than 450 Afghan and Tajik police and border officers have received training. The Programme is being expanded to include Kyrgyz border guard. Sub-regional co-operation is crucial to effectively counter cross-border threats.

**Madame Chairperson,**
**Excellencies,**
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

International co-operation is essential in these difficult times, when terrorists and criminals are feeding off each other. OSCE works very closely with the United Nations. Our joint activities with the UNODC are the most graphic example. Over the last 5 years, under Joint Action Plan, we set a practical framework for coordinated interaction against:

- illicit drugs,
- illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,
• terrorism,
• transnational organized crime,
• corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing,
• trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

In conclusion, let me highlight that OSCE efforts are driven by the conviction that regional organizations are instrumental as force multipliers and delivery mechanisms for assistance aimed at countering transnational threats. Sharing lessons-learned, promoting skills and competencies, facilitating capacity building - are powerful tools to "keep a step ahead" of criminals. Systematic sharing of experiences and best practices in tackling transnational crime at global, regional, sub-regional and national level plays a key role. Welcoming the opportunity to provide participants to the XIII-th Congress with our views on the problem, we also look forward to the upcoming operationalization of the Doha Declaration. OSCE stands open to co-operate with all interested partners to strengthen consolidated response to the challenges transnational organized crime poses to security and sustainable development.

Let me wish the Congress every success and thank you for your attention.