

Chair's summary of the Fourth ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism Copenhagen, 26 – 27 June 2006

1. The 4th ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 26-27 June 2006. The conference, co-sponsored by China, Germany, Indonesia and the United Kingdom, was the continuation of the previous ASEM Conferences on Counter-Terrorism held in Beijing (2003), in Berlin (2004), and in Semarang (2005) as a follow up activity to implement the 2002 ASEM Cooperation Programme. Participants were representatives from ASEM partners including counter-terrorism officials as well as relevant institutions: Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC), South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Interpol, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), United Nations Committee on Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), Aseanapol, Europol, and Interpol. The conference was opened by Permanent Secretary of State Ulrik Federspiel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, and chaired by Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs Peter Taksø-Jensen as well as the four co-sponsors China, Germany, Indonesia and the United Kingdom.
2. The conference held comprehensive, in-depth and fruitful discussions on the overall assessment of the terrorist threat and appropriate counter-measures in Asia and Europe as well as in the rest of the world. The conference, partly organised in working groups, discussed a number of areas where improved co-operation in the ASEM framework could help to intensify the fight against terrorism.
3. The conference strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. ASEM partners expressed their condolences and solidarity with all victims of terrorism and their families. The conference called for a concerted effort of the international community to combat terrorism, and for the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the U.N. Security Council.
4. The conference reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism must be carried out in accordance with partners' obligations under international law, in particular the U.N. Charter, human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. The conference further underlined that the fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach by the international community comprising political, economic, diplomatic, legal and military means, fully respecting the rule of law, and in accordance with respective domestic laws, duly taking into account underlying factors or root causes of terrorism without acknowledging these as justifications for terrorist and/or criminal activities. In this context, the conference emphasised the need for enhancing dialogue and broadening the understanding among cultures and civilisations. The conference rejected as a principle any attempt to stereotype terrorism or associate terrorism with any religion, race, nationality, or ethnic group. The conference reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in establishing standards for combating terrorism and providing a forum for coordinated action against terrorism.

5. The conference reiterated ASEM's firm support for the leading role of the United Nations and its commitment to further strengthening the role of U.N.-CTC in its efforts to implement U.N. Security Council resolution 1373. The conference urged the early agreement on and conclusion of the negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as member states becoming party to, and fully implementing the existing U.N. conventions and protocols. The conference supported the Secretary General's report *Uniting against Terrorism* and urged for an early adoption and implementation of a U.N. Global Counter-terrorism Strategy to promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses, at the national, regional and international levels, to counter terrorism, which also takes into account the need to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

6. The conference called for a further enhancing intra- and interregional co-operation, including strengthening capacity-building assistance.

7. The conference evaluated the progress of ASEM cooperation on counter-terrorism in particular with reference to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2005 Semarang conference. Guided by the Declaration on Cooperation against International Terrorism endorsed at the ASEM4 summit and its program, as well as the leaders' commitment made at the ASEM5 summit, the conference suggested that the following steps be taken:

- *cooperation with the U.N. Security Council's Committee on Counter-Terrorism, incl. making best use of the CTC as a clearing house for technical assistance.*

ASEM participants declared their commitment to fully implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and to enhance cooperation with the U.N. Security Council's Committee on Counter-Terrorism. ASEM partners supported the Committee's facilitation of technical assistance and the Committee's role in helping to identify gaps in member states counter-terrorism capabilities, as well as UNODC's complimentary role of providing assistance to requesting countries for becoming party to and implementing the universal counter-terrorism instruments. ASEM partners also encouraged the CTC to rapidly implement its decision to move towards more targeted dialogue with states, noting the burden of continued reporting. Partners also urged the CTC to further explore greater coordination with other U.N. committees relating to counter-terrorism in conducting visits and seeking information in order to avoid duplication. Partners further considered that criteria for visits should be developed by the CTC to ensure even-handedness in the selection of countries for visits. Partners welcomed cooperation between the CTC and international, regional and sub regional organizations including ASEM.

- *implementation of UNSCR 1624 and the fight against radicalisation*

The conference underscored the significance of making use of practical measures to prevent radicalisation and combat violent radicalism. The conference urged all ASEM partners as well as the international community to intensively promote interfaith, inter-cultural and inter-civilisation dialogue to broaden mutual understanding, and tolerance towards building cooperation within the international community. The participants were encouraged by developments of bilateral cooperation of a number of ASEM partners, involving religious communities, including the ASEM

Interfaith Dialogue and other initiatives. The conference recognized the role of the media in efforts to enhance dialogue, to promote tolerance and coexistence, and to discourage the development of an environment conducive to incitement to terrorist acts.

Partners expressed an interest in sharing experiences in de-radicalisation. Partners further expressed their wish to support and empower moderate voices and credible figures to counter radicalisation. The conference encouraged partners to consider how interfaith dialogue can further contribute to counter-terrorism efforts and reach the grass roots.

The conference encouraged states to submit reports on their implementation of UNSCR 1624 to the CTC.

ASEM partners will continue consideration of how the fight against radicalisation can contribute to counter-terrorism efforts during forthcoming conferences.

- *establishment of regular meetings of the heads of national counter-terrorism agencies*

The issue of establishing regular meetings of the heads of national counter-terrorism agencies was debated on the basis of a report from Finland mandated by the 3rd ASEM Counter-Terrorism Conference in Semarang. This proposal received some support from ASEM partners. However, many delegations reserved their position concerning the modalities of such meetings. The conference concluded that further study would be needed before partners could take a final position on this proposal.

- *strengthening regional cooperation between police authorities (in particular Europol and Aseanapol)*

The conference called for enhancing links and sharing of information between regional police cooperation structures to the extent possible, taking into consideration the sensitive nature of the data concerned and the respect of fundamental rights.

- *establishment of a computerised 24/7 terrorism threat alert system between counter-terrorism agencies*

Italy informed the conference on the status of the initiative concerning a computerised 24/7 terrorism alert system between ASEM partners' counter-terrorism agencies. The conference expressed its support to the efforts and urged partners to provide Italy with the relevant information.

- *establishment of a network of Financial Intelligence Units*

Partners exchanged views on the appropriateness of establishing a network of Financial Intelligence Units. The conference concluded that the objectives of such a network could be met within existing frameworks and agreed that this issue needed further consideration.

- *enhancing links among regional counter-terrorism centres*

The conference discussed the development of regional centres in Asia and Europe in promoting capacity building of law enforcement practitioners, disseminating information for public awareness and addressing transnational crimes. It encouraged ASEM partners' counter-terrorism authorities

to participate in the centres' activities to further promote the development of counter-terrorism capacity.

- *annual update of the Directory of Existing Institutions and Fora of Intra-Interregional and international Cooperation in the Area of Fighting Terrorism*

Germany informed the conference of the work concerning the directory and expressed its intention to approach partners later with a view to continuing the update.

The conference encouraged ASEM partners to become party to and implement the 13 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and to implement relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, taking advantage of the offer of UNODC to assist in institution- and capacity-building programmes available, upon request, at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

The conference further encouraged ASEM partners to ensure early agreement on and conclusion of the negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to work for an early adoption and implementation of a U.N. Global Counter-terrorism Strategy to promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses, at the national, regional and international levels, to counter terrorism, which also takes into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as suggested by the U.N. Secretary General.

10. The conference looked forward to the hosting of the next ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism by Japan in 2007 and Spain in 2008.