

CSIS-IND
The Future of the OSCE
July 23, 2010
CSIS, Washington, D.C.

In the light of the decision at the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Almaty on July 16-17 to host an OSCE Summit in Astana in late fall or early winter of 2010, CSIS and IND organized a conference on the future of the OSCE. The conference was divided into three panels, during which representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, the U.S. government, former OSCE chairing countries, non-governmental organizations, and specialists from foreign policy think-tanks assessed the challenges for Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the OSCE. The three panel topics were: (1) OSCE Security: Matching missions with capabilities, (2) Preparing the OSCE Summit agenda, and (3) Assessing six months of Kazakhstan's OSCE chair.

The panelists provided constructive evaluations of the organization's role in promoting security in the wider Europe and Central Asia, especially concerning Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. The panelists also discussed the importance of updating and reinstating documents such as the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe in order to promote international security. All panelists stressed that the OSCE must serve as an institution that will enhance dialogue and cooperation between all 56 member states and other international organizations. And more importantly, the member states and international organizations must view OSCE as a legitimate, relevant, and effective institution that provides tools for European security.