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*ECPD International Round Table*

**IMPORTANCE OF RECONCILIATION AND TOLERANCE  
IN ACHIEVING THE HUMAN SECURITY CONCEPT'S GOALS:  
FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND FREEDOM FROM WANT**

Belgrade, May 24, 2010

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**OPENING REMARKS**

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*by the Chairman, Professor Dr Takehiro TOGO  
Head of the Study Group and President of the ECPD Academic Council*

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel privileged to open the ECPD International Round Table entitled "**Importance of Reconciliation and Tolerance for Implementation of the Human Security Concept's Goals 'Freedom from Fear' and 'Freedom from Want' in the Balkans**". Organisation and holding of this Round Table represents continuation of the ECPD's long-lasting activities devoted to the promotion of peace and stability in the Balkans. In that order, the ECPD developed a framework programme "The Balkans in the 21st Century – the paths towards building peace and stability from which the ECPD international educational and research project "National/Inter-Ethnic Reconciliation, Religious Tolerance and Human Security in the Balkans stemmed out. This project, introduced in 2005, has been realized through organising and holding of the ECPD International Conferences and ECPD International Permanent Study Group work. In the meantime, five conferences and eight Study Group sessions have been conducted. The last (that is the Fifth) Conference, as you all know, was held in the Islands of Brioni, Croatia, in October last year, while the next one will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 28-29 October this year.

The Sixth Conference entitled "National and Inter-Ethnic Reconciliation, Religious Tolerance and Human Security in the Balkans", with sub-title "Implementation of the Human Security Concept" will be devoted primarily to the implementation of this concept in the Western Balkans. Human Security, as I believe you are well aware, is a UN concept adopted more than 25 years ago. This is a very complex concept indeed and at the beginning it was not so well understood nor accepted. However, the concept was further analyzed and elaborated in The Report of the Commission on Human Security of 2003 „Human Security Now“.

Former UN Secretary General, Koffee Annan's clarification of its basic aim – to **make peoples free from fear and free from want**, made it more acceptable. Through Human Security Network and General Assembly Resolution called "World Summit Outcome Document, the concept became established and supported, and it is implemented in many regions and in various fields. The European Union adopted human security as central to the EU's particular strategic goals in its European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The United Nations will be debating at the plenary session of the General Assembly on 2 June this year. But in the Balkans where its implementation is more than necessary, it is yet to be established. Namely, peoples in the Balkans, almost traditionally have been exposed to various kind of threats and violence and deprived of enjoying a better life. The most recent events – inter-ethnic and inter-confessional conflicts, the crisis situation in the region made it even worse. Actions aimed at making it better are not only desired they are badly needed.



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Suffice to mention and emphasize that the Human security concept **with** its aims and objectives is primarily oriented towards peoples or more precisely toward individuals – their security and their wellbeing. Its vision is to make that such societies and the international community in which human beings will live a healthy and dignified life, protected from fear and poverty. That obviously requires actions from all national and international institutions and individuals focused on achieving its two main goals – Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want. The European Center for Peace and Development, an international educational and research institution within the wider system of the Organization of the United Nations feels both obliged and capable to be involved in the promotion and implementation of the concept in the Balkan region. That is well-marked in its organisation of this Round Table and the incoming Sixth International Conference.

Dear colleagues, esteemed participants, let me remind you that this Round Table was foreseen as an extended ECPD International Permanent Study Group Session and its basic aim is to serve as a preparation for the Sixth ECPD International Conference. Therefore its work should be subordinated to those tasks and objectives. The Agenda of the Round Table has been adapted to satisfy that aim. Its fifth session has been assigned for re-consideration of the Conference AGENDA. Therefore, comments, suggestions and proposals for its improvement are required.

At the Fifth ECPD International Conference, held in Brioni, 2009, the DECLARATION on Implementation of the Human Security Concept in the Balkan countries was taken into consideration and agreed in principle. However, it was not adopted since there were some disapprovals and/or opposite views on description of political situation in the West Balkans. It was agreed that it should be renewed and presented at the Sixth Conference for acceptance. Following the given suggestions and conclusion, a new version of the Declaration has been prepared and presented for your consideration.

Presented documents for your kind attention, particularly this Round Table and the Sixth Conference agenda, as well as your previous communications with the organizer on this important event, does provide basic orientation on your participation either presenting your statements and/or taking part in discussions. Certainly, any new initiative or presented point of view will be welcome. It is expected also that your participation will bring new ideas and appropriate directions on the ways and means leading to achieving the Human Security goals.

Last but not the least, I want, in the name of the ECPD and in my own name, to express high gratitude to the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Belgrade, for their support and financial, although symbolic, aids in organizing and holding of this extremely important international meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.