



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Basel 2014**

MC.DOC/1/14
5 December 2014

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-First Meeting
MC(21) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

DECLARATION ON FURTHER STEPS IN THE HELSINKI+40 PROCESS

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recall the decision on the Helsinki+40 process launched at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin in 2012, and the Declaration on Furthering the Helsinki+40 Process of the Kyiv Ministerial Council in 2013 in view of the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015;

Will continue to use the OSCE as a platform for addressing European security;

Call on the incoming Chairmanship of Serbia, supported by the Troika, to continue pursuing the Helsinki+40 process in a transparent and inclusive manner.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

The United States makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure and asks that it be attached to this Declaration.

“This declaration we have just adopted is considerably shorter than the Helsinki+40 decision and declaration that preceded it in Dublin in 2012 and Kyiv in 2013. In those texts, we reaffirmed our full adherence to all OSCE principles and commitments and we recommitted that, as participating States, we are responsible to implement our commitments fully and in good faith. Unfortunately, we have not been able to make the same reaffirmations in our Declaration this year for one simple reason: the egregious ongoing violations by the Russian Federation of its international legal obligations and its continuing contravention of the fundamental principles and the commitments of this Organization in its aggression in Ukraine. Russia’s ongoing violations of its OSCE commitments have made it very difficult for this Ministerial to agree on many substantive documents or credibly broaden and deepen the commitments made across all dimensions of security. More importantly, Russia’s conduct has eroded trust among participating States, had a grave impact on human lives, including many thousands of deaths, and is undermining security and stability in the OSCE area and beyond. While this Declaration on the Helsinki+40 process is meagre, previous Ministerial texts on Helsinki+40 provide us both with a framework from which to move forward in the Helsinki+40 process, as well as with a key tool for addressing the crisis of Russia’s aggression in Ukraine: focusing on implementing our commitments fully in good faith.”

Thank you.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Ukraine:

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Ukraine makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of procedure of the OSCE.

“Ukraine has joined consensus on this declaration to support progress within the Helsinki+40 process in the course of 2015, a year that marks four decades since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

Ukraine viewed launching and pursuing the Helsinki+40 process as one of the priorities of its 2013 OSCE Chairmanship and invested substantial efforts towards implementation of this commitment.

We therefore deeply deplore that the flagrant violations of the OSCE core principles, in particular those enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, have negatively affected the process in 2014 in terms of achieving those ambitious goals set by the Dublin decision of 2012 and the Kyiv declaration of 2013, including advancing work towards a security community and recording practical results reflecting intensified efforts to fully implement OSCE commitments.

The lack of progress on this track stemmed from the Russian aggression against Ukraine, which resulted in illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and escalation in Ukraine’s Donbas. In pursuing its aggression the Russian Federation has effectively violated the Helsinki Final Act with its Decalogue of guiding principles, which served as a basis of the Helsinki+40 process.

We note that the Russian aggression has led to further erosion of trust and confidence within the OSCE, which is particularly harmful for our dialogue within the Helsinki+40 process in 2015.

We consider that the dialogue in 2015 should focus, *inter alia* on identifying measures to prevent aggression against an OSCE participating State and to restore respect for the OSCE principles and commitments and to enhance their implementation.”

The Delegation of Ukraine requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the Declaration just adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.