

SECOND DAY OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Friday, 4 December 2015

Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 12.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE
Ambassador Katarina Lalić-Smajević, Deputy Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 7: STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, FOLLOWED BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

Chairperson, Ireland (MC.DEL/56/15), Liechtenstein (MC.DEL/39/15), Netherlands (MC.DEL/45/15 OSCE+), Iceland (MC.DEL/24/15), Turkmenistan, Belgium (MC.DEL/36/15), Cyprus (MC.DEL/23/15 OSCE+), Japan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/26/15), Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation), Thailand (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/47/15), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Israel (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/40/15), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/37/15), Jordan (Partner for Co-operation), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/58/15), Australia (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/34/15), Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 4 December 2015, to be announced, in the plenary hall

THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CONTINUED) (CLOSED)

1. Date: Friday, 4 December 2015

Opened: 10.40 p.m.
Closed: 11 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE
Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Chairperson of the Permanent Council

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 8: ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS
AND DECISIONS

Chairperson (Serbia)

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” Format (MC.DOC/1/15), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Declaration on the OSCE Activities in Support of Global Efforts in Tackling the World Drug Problem (MC.DOC/2/15), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of Recent Terrorist Attacks (MC.DOC/3/15), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (MC.DOC/4/15), the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment to the document)

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Declaration on Youth and Security (MC.DOC/5/15), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 1/15 (MC.DEC/1/15) on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Security sector governance and reform*: Slovakia (also on behalf of Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation)) (MC.DEL/55/15)

- (b) *Fundamental freedoms in the OSCE area*: Montenegro (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (MC.DEL/50/15 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 4 December 2015, to be announced, in the plenary hall

CLOSING SESSION (OPEN)

1. Date: Friday, 4 December 2015

Opened: 5.45 p.m.
Suspended: 5.55 p.m.
Resumed: 11 p.m.
Closed: 12.20 a.m. (Saturday, 5 December 2015)

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 10: FORMAL CLOSURE (STATEMENTS BY THE CURRENT AND INCOMING CHAIRPERSONS-IN-OFFICE)

Germany (MC.DEL/44/15), Chairperson (Serbia) (MC.GAL/9/15 OSCE+), Russian Federation (Annex 1), United States of America (Annex 2), Switzerland (Annex 3), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 4), Norway (MC.DEL/43/15), Lithuania (also on behalf of Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 5), Belarus (Annex 6), Finland (Annex 7), Canada (Annex 8), Ukraine (Annex 9), Azerbaijan (Annex 10)

The Chairperson formally declared the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Ministerial Council closed.

4. Next meeting:

8 and 9 December 2016, to be held in Hamburg, Germany



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC(22).JOUR/2
4 December 2015
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

We should like to sincerely thank the Serbian Chairmanship, the Chairperson-in-Office Mr. Ivica Dačić personally and all the Serbian authorities for their hospitality in Belgrade, for the excellent organization of the Ministerial Council meeting and more generally for the comprehensive and balanced programme of work for the Organization in 2015.

Unfortunately, not all the decisions and documents, including some on the most pressing security problems in the OSCE area, were agreed upon. Nevertheless, it proved possible to adopt several important documents that set specific tasks for the Organization. Among these was a clear and substantive declaration on countering terrorism, which was initiated by the Russian Federation. All in all, a very important discussion took place at this Ministerial Council meeting, which confirmed the need to put aside anything that is not concerned with the fight against terrorism now that it is our chief enemy, especially anything that hampers this fight. We firmly believe that under the current circumstances the OSCE participating States must show the political will to step up common efforts to counter the new threats and challenges. The Organization needs to integrate itself smoothly into the global efforts to form a broad international counter-terrorism coalition without politicization and preconditions. It is important to pay attention to the eradication of the root causes of terrorism and to the inadmissibility of using extremist groups for narrow political purposes.

In that connection, it is as relevant as ever to find joint responses to other serious transnational challenges, including the drug problem on which a separate document has been adopted. We trust that it will also be possible to discuss this topic during the OSCE's customary conferences on the subject of transnational threats.

We look forward to continuing the informal discussions next year on various aspects of European security and the functioning of the OSCE, including in academic formats. The need to step up common efforts in this area is also confirmed by the fact that the Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project was unable to produce consensus recommendations to which all Panel members could subscribe. We regard the report presented on the margins of the Ministerial Council meeting as an interim stage reflecting the persisting differences of opinion in the Panel on the reasons for the emergence of the current European security crisis and the ways of resolving it.

We trust that the incoming German Chairmanship will continue the productive dialogue on general political and thematic aspects. We hope that a substantive discussion can also be launched in the OSCE on ways of linking integration processes in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region.

We regret that, owing to politicization by a number of countries, it proved impossible to reach agreement on a document on the role of the OSCE in settling the crisis in Ukraine. Nevertheless, the discussions held confirmed the important role of the Organization. It is important that an absolute majority of countries expressed the view that there is no alternative to a peaceful political process and the implementation of all the provisions of the Minsk Package of Measures endorsed by a United Nations Security Council resolution, including constitutional reform, an amnesty, special status and local elections in Donbas. We trust that this unanimous understanding will provide a powerful incentive for Kyiv to reach agreement on compromise solutions through direct dialogue with Donetsk and Luhansk. We confirm our support for the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine as an important instrument in facilitating a settlement of the Ukrainian crisis.

It should be noted that it did not prove possible this year to adopt a single decision on politico-military issues. The reason for this lies in the attempts to politicize even the most innocuous drafts by “tying” them to the situation in Ukraine and in certain countries’ general policy of confrontation with Russia, which inevitably discredits and degrades the regime of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. Nevertheless, we are ready for substantive consultations on a new conventional arms control regime in Europe, if and when our partners put forward their proposals. We believe it necessary in the near future to work on improving the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 and creating the conditions needed to resume constructive discussions on the politico-military aspects of European security. Such conditions include renouncing power politics aimed at “containing” Russia, recognizing and respecting Russia’s interests, and resuming normal relations with our country. We regard the OSCE and the Forum for Security Co-operation in particular as a key platform for dialogue in this regard.

We regret that, owing to the unconstructive position of a number of European Union countries, agreement could not be reached on a declaration on the 30th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

We shall not dramatize the deadlock that has now set in regarding humanitarian decisions at the Ministerial Council meeting. The inability to adopt declarations on combating intolerance and discrimination against Christians and Muslims showed the excessive degree of conflict and politicization in the third basket, which makes it impossible to work properly and successfully on solving urgent human rights problems in the OSCE area. This is clearly illustrated by the long overdue need to revise the OSCE’s approaches and working methods in the human dimension. Reforming the human dimension, including a critical review of the activities of the so-called autonomous institutions, is one of the key tasks in improving the Organization’s effectiveness.

Despite their frequent sharp tone, the discussions held are evidence of the continuing need for the OSCE as a most important forum for dialogue and the development of decisions on the pan-European agenda. This asset of the Organization, expressed in its unique

comprehensive approach to security and underpinned by the consensus rule, needs to be preserved and strengthened through serious reform, including the development and adoption of an OSCE charter.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the German Chairmanship every success in the difficult and highly responsible endeavour of developing consensus decisions and strengthening inclusive dialogue aimed at drawing up a unifying agenda.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to the many delegations who offered condolences for the events in San Bernardino, California.

Mr. Chair, before reiterating some of the points made by Secretary Kerry yesterday, I want to make an administrative note. We note that this year we were unable to agree on the modalities concerning the participation of other international organizations, and therefore had to fall back on past agreed modalities. Under the circumstances, NATO elected not to make a statement. We stress that this year's practice does not set a precedent for future Ministerials.

Colleagues, in President Obama's Proclamation marking 40 years since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 and declaring yesterday as Helsinki Human Rights Day, he urged us to stand united on the importance of reinforcing a principles-based and rules-based order that can help us meet the challenges of the 21st century. As we prepare to leave Belgrade, we should all reflect on the wisdom embedded in the Helsinki Final Act, and in the commitments that followed in Copenhagen, Paris, Istanbul, Astana and elsewhere.

Three weeks ago, we saw terrorists strike in the City of Light, and since then we've seen the people of France – and the people of the world – come together with determination to reject the darkness of Daesh. The United States remains committed to combating terrorism with partners across the OSCE region; and we mourn the loss of innocents from Russia, Turkey, Britain and too many other places. As we mourn the loss of life, we should also appreciate the importance of the international system and of trust within it. And herein lies one of the challenges in what the distinguished Ambassador of the Russian Federation just said, that we should “put aside anything that does not have to do with counterterrorism.” Because you see, colleagues, it is often as we seek to forge a co-operative response in the wake of an event like the Paris attacks that we sense most acutely the loss imposed on all of us by actions that violate international law and abrogate the principles of Helsinki and the international system.

Russia's ongoing occupation of Crimea and support for conflict in the east of Ukraine have caused tremendous human suffering and have destroyed trust and confidence. The full implementation of the Minsk agreements – including the release of Nadiya Savchenko, Oleg Sentsov, Olexander Kolchenko and others; including local elections in the special status areas, under Ukrainian law and with ODIHR observation; and the return of Ukrainian control

over its border – these things are necessary not only to bring an end to the conflict and to pave a political way forward, but also to begin the long process of rebuilding trust.

As the Secretary made clear, we face and will continue to face global challenges. In Paris this week, leaders came together because climate change threatens security and livelihoods. We are working to defeat Daesh and we welcome the British and German moves this week to strengthen the coalition. Many of us are working both within and across our governments to respond to enormous human and security needs precipitated by refugee and migration flows. I could go on, but colleagues, the point is this: in the year 2015, we have too many shared challenges that strain the international system to be able to afford actions from members of the international system that attack and undermine its foundational principles from within.

We can and should do more to bolster a rules-based order grounded in human dignity, including by working with civil society. Secretary Kerry met with a group of activists from across the OSCE area yesterday and they shared concrete ideas about how we can be more effective in tackling shared challenges and building stronger communities and countries. We should listen to them. The story of progress in the United States would have many, many fewer chapters without civil society. Even when those in government didn't like what was said, the work of activists and journalists pressed us to do better and our country is stronger for their efforts. And they've helped make us a better partner for those represented around this table too. We should all continue to hold each other accountable for our commitments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of expression, association, assembly and religion or belief. And we should stand with human rights defenders and independent journalists from Belgrade to Budapest to Bishkek, from Moscow to Ankara, from Minsk to Ashgabat.

We need to strengthen the OSCE too. As Secretary Kerry noted, it has become an unattractive habit of some participating States to attack the budget and mandates of the OSCE's independent institutions. These institutions are crucial parts of our early warning and conflict prevention systems. No one should be seeking to silence or undermine the independent work of ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, or the High Commissioner for National Minorities. It's fine to have a substantive disagreement with a particular statement or assessment – if a country has a credible argument, that delegation should present it. But when countries attack the institutions themselves, it suggests insecurity and the lack of a credible complaint. We have seen examples of this even since we arrived in Belgrade.

When the action returns to Vienna, we should assist the incoming German chairmanship and agree to a budget on time. We should negotiate efficiently the continued support needed for the Special Monitoring Mission, whose more than 600 courageous monitors are the eyes and ears of the international community. We have important work to do together.

After all, fulfilment of the vision founded on the Helsinki Final Act and elaborated in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe remains incomplete. We must make progress on building a Europe and Eurasia that is whole, free, and at peace. As we heard from Secretary Kerry and many other ministers, we need to rebuild military transparency in Europe through an intensive effort to update the Vienna Document in 2016. We cannot accept as permanent

the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and the protracted conflicts in Moldova and Georgia. We welcome the statement by the heads of delegation of the Minsk Group co-chair countries and encourage maximum efforts toward a productive meeting between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan. We welcome also the consensus statement on the “5+2” negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process. We regret that it proved impossible to reach agreement on even a simple statement addressing the need for progress on the conflict in Georgia. The United States expresses its unwavering support for Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We fully support the Geneva International Discussions, call for the expeditious resumption of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, and remain committed to enhancing the role of the OSCE in facilitating progress on this conflict.

Forty years after Helsinki we must embrace its enduring promise with renewed urgency. Too many of our shared commitments to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to counter intolerance and hatred remain unimplemented. The failures of participating States to implement their OSCE commitments do not make the fundamental truth underlying the OSCE concept of comprehensive security any less true: States with governments that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, that foster shared prosperity through openness and good governance, and that respect the rules of the international system – including the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their neighbours – are States that are more stable, more resilient, and more innovative, and that are better partners and better able to provide a stronger future for their people.

Before concluding, allow me to thank, on behalf of Secretary Kerry and the entire US Delegation, Foreign Minister Dačić as well as Ambassador Šahović and Ambassador Žugić and their teams for the hospitality, for their patience, for your good cheer and for your hard work.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC(22).JOUR/2
4 December 2015
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As a Troika member, Switzerland has had a special commitment with regard to this Ministerial Council. Dear Serbian colleagues, in the name of the whole Swiss delegation, let me warmly thank you for the hospitality that you have shown to all of us throughout this week and for the management of this huge event under difficult circumstances. Above all, thank you, Chairperson-in-Office Minister Dačić, Ambassador Vuk Žugić and Ambassador Dejan Šahović, as well as the entire Serbian team in Vienna and Belgrade for your dedication in the service of the OSCE in a true spirit of seeking compromise on all issues on the table.

Looking back at our Troika membership, I can say that despite all the difficulties, we firmly believe that the OSCE is not only an organization for discussing issues of comprehensive security but it is also an organization that can address these issues and act on them across the three dimensions and in all phases of the conflict cycle, thereby making a difference for people on the ground.

Another crucial reason for this belief is the fact that the OSCE has been able to swiftly provide operational responses with a de-escalating effect to the current crisis in and around Ukraine.

There is now a large field presence in Ukraine that our Ministers have paid special tribute to during their interventions at this Ministerial Council.

Unfortunately, words were not followed by deeds, since we failed to produce a text in support of our monitors on the ground and in support of the fulfilment of their mandate. This would have been a minimum, since we also failed to adopt a broader text on the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Keeping the consensus on the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine will be of paramount importance throughout the next year.

It will be of no lesser importance to move the Minsk process forward. We thank Ambassador Sajdik and his team for their dedication to the Trilateral Contact Group.

We are also supportive of the close engagement of the Normandy format in the Minsk process.

What is positive is that we did not lose sight of other conflicts in the OSCE area during this Ministerial Council. Switzerland is pleased that we have adopted a Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” format, which is a positive result for moving the process forward during the German Chairmanship.

Also, it is positive that we have adopted declarations on tackling transnational issues such as countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and efforts to counter terrorism as well as illicit drugs and youth and security.

Yet this is certainly not a time to be complacent. Despite the many positive ministerial comments on the commitment to co-operative security that we heard today and yesterday, the negotiations have often not been guided by the same co-operative spirit. We have to stress our disappointment that we could not adopt decisions on very important issues such as prevention of torture, gender equality, water governance, sustainable development, as well as on discrimination against Muslims, Christians and others.

In general, we are disappointed that consensus could not be found on important issues in the third dimension, which could have ensured better protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the citizens of the OSCE area. In many cases, this is a sad testimony to the shrinking democratic space in several participating States. Likewise, the growing unfounded and personal criticism by senior government members of participating States directed at the heads of our autonomous institutions is undignified and deeply alarming for us.

Also, we have just started to address the broader crisis of European security. Further intensive work on this issue is necessary in order to overcome the current crisis.

Let me conclude with two recommendations for the future.

Firstly, Switzerland believes that the co-operation with our Asian and Mediterranean partners must be enhanced, diversified and not only focused on common challenges but also on common opportunities.

Secondly, there has probably never been a time when the OSCE Troika was used as intensively as in the last three years. We have had very positive experiences with this, since the Troika is both a flexible and effective instrument, in particular for managing longer-term processes in the OSCE. We are of the opinion that this very positive practice should be continued in the future. This will significantly enhance the OSCE’s capacity to respond consistently in connection with our common endeavours in the service of effective co-operative and comprehensive security in the OSCE area.

I request that the full text of this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC(22).JOUR/2
4 December 2015
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The delegation of Luxembourg, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement.

We want to start by expressing our very warm “hvala” to our Serbian friends for the hospitality we have enjoyed here in Belgrade. We would like to thank your team for the tremendous work you have put into preparing and hosting this Ministerial Council, and for your tireless efforts in taking us through difficult discussions, this week and throughout this year.

We all know the context in which this meeting has taken place. It is the second Ministerial Council in which discussions have been overshadowed by the crisis in and around Ukraine. Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea and the continued destabilization of Eastern Ukraine continue to challenge the principles and commitments at the heart of the OSCE. There is agreement among us on the crucial role of the OSCE, but we deeply regret the failure once again to agree on common language on the resolution of this crisis.

The crisis in and around Ukraine has continued to demonstrate the OSCE’s relevance for European security. The principles and commitments of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris lay down the normative foundation of the European security order. We underline our strong political and practical support to the Special Monitoring Mission under the able leadership of Ambassador Apakan. We commend and support the work of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group. We commend the OSCE executive structures, notably the ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, for their invaluable work to address the crisis in and around Ukraine, including the human rights situation in Crimea.

The European Union supports all efforts that can lead to a politically sustainable solution to the crisis in line with OSCE principles and commitments, a solution that upholds respect for Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Restoring respect for the fundamental principles is crucial. We strongly support the efforts in the Normandy format to reach such a solution. We remain firm in our call on all parties to swiftly and fully implement the Minsk agreements and honour their commitments. We underline the Russian authorities’ responsibility in this

regard. We encourage the participants in the Trilateral Contact Group and its sub-groups to show determination to achieve concrete progress. We furthermore reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which we will not recognize.

Mr. Chairperson,

Yesterday and today, almost every Minister called for united and comprehensive efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. In the wake of the recent terrorist attacks including in OSCE participating States, and in light of the number of young people that are being radicalized and recruited including in our area, it is important that we reached consensus on reinforcing OSCE efforts to counter terrorism and on countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism, while respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

The conflicts in our immediate neighbourhood, human rights violations and the fear of persecution as well as poverty have led to unprecedented flows of refugees and migrants across Europe and its neighbouring countries. We have mobilized all instruments at our disposal to respond to this dramatic situation. But it is only through co-operation, solidarity and sharing responsibility that we will be able to effectively manage these flows, to provide protection to those who are entitled to it, and to address the root causes of the flows, while doing all we can to dismantle criminal networks and fight the impunity of traffickers. We also welcome the Mediterranean Conference recently held in Jordan which constituted an occasion to strengthen co-operation and dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners. We deeply regret that it was not possible to adopt a decision on the OSCE's response to the ongoing migration and refugee crisis.

The resolution of the protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova and Georgia and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a top priority for the European Union. We call on all parties to show the political will necessary to make progress in resolving them in 2016. We regard this as a core task of the OSCE. The status quo is neither acceptable nor sustainable. This and the risk of increased instability are stark reminders of how imperative it is to solve these conflicts. We reiterate our strong support for the Geneva International Discussions, the negotiations within the "5+2" format and the mediation of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group. In this context, we welcome today's Ministerial Statement confirming our commitment to advance efforts in reaching a settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. In addition, commitments regarding the withdrawal of Russian military forces should be honoured. We regret that it was not possible to adopt a statement on the conflict in Georgia.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union is committed to strengthening the OSCE as an instrument for security and co-operation. Every day, events throughout our area confirm that its comprehensive approach to security is the right one. There can be no sustainable security without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. The European Union is deeply concerned by the backtracking on these commitments in parts of the OSCE space. The signal sent on this deteriorating trend by the parallel civil society conference is heard loud and clear. We will work harder than ever to strengthen the respect for fundamental freedoms and to advance the implementation of our commitments in this

regard. We strongly support the outstanding work carried out by our autonomous institutions, and their existing mandates – these institutions are our common asset that need to be defended under all circumstances. We condemn the attacks against these institutions by a small number of participating States. In this regard, we are deeply concerned by recent public criticism of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. We underline that the impartial work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media deserves the support of all participating States, and we expect the Chairmanship to lead by example. We also deeply regret that a few participating States have prevented the adoption of decisions on fundamental freedoms even though we recognize significant progress at this Ministerial Council in the negotiations on the issue of prevention of torture.

Our comprehensive security cannot exclude or marginalize half of our populations. Gender equality is a core value for us, and we regret that consensus could not be reached on an addendum to the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

We regret that no consensus could be reached on water governance, which we discussed throughout this past year's economic and environmental forum. It is also regrettable that we could not adopt a declaration in support of the Sustainable Development Goals to which we all previously subscribed in the United Nations.

Instruments of military transparency could play an important role today in fostering confidence and stability. In this context we are disappointed that despite our active and constructive engagement the participating States were unable to reach an agreement on a decision in the politico-military dimension. We remain committed to advance work and progress in the Forum for Security Co-operation. The Vienna Document has to be reissued next year, and we stress in particular the need to substantially modernize it to ensure its relevance in line with the evolution of our security environment.

The OSCE's southern region – the Mediterranean – should be kept on our agenda in 2016 as one area of priority. Events in the Middle East and North Africa, including Libya, represent a major risk to security in the Mediterranean region and the OSCE area as a whole.

We regret that consensus could not be reached on the modalities for this Ministerial Council, and in particular on which organizations to invite and the modalities of their participation. We regret that the practice of past years' agreed modalities was not implemented. As we made clear in our interpretative statement, we do not consider this year's practice a precedent for future Ministerial Council meetings.

This year was marked by the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. With the Helsinki+40 process effectively coming to an end, we support the efforts of the incoming Chairmanship to steer a future dialogue on security and co-operation in Europe, based on full implementation of OSCE principles and commitments.

We greatly appreciate Germany's readiness to assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE at this critical point in time. We look forward to working with you and your able team during your Chairmanship and we wish you every success. You can count on our full support. In this context, we join Minister Steinmeier's call for a timely adoption of the budget for 2016.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC(22).JOUR/2
4 December 2015
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA,
CANADA, CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK,
ESTONIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND,
ITALY, LATVIA, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY,
POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA,
SPAIN, TURKEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the following participating States: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America as well as my own country, Lithuania.

Mr. Chairperson,

Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation continue to play an important role in the achievement of our security objectives. Both the success and failure of these efforts can have a direct impact on our security environment.

We reaffirm our long-standing commitment to conventional arms control as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security and emphasize the importance of full implementation and compliance to rebuild trust and confidence. Russia's unilateral military activity in and around Ukraine has undermined peace, security, and stability across the region, and its selective implementation of the Vienna Document and Open Skies Treaty and long-standing non-implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) have eroded the positive contributions of these arms control instruments. We call on Russia to fully adhere to its commitments. We are determined to preserve, strengthen, and modernize conventional arms control in Europe, based on key principles and commitments, including reciprocity, transparency, and host nation consent.

We underscore the importance of substantially modernizing the Vienna Document to ensure its continued relevance in the evolving security environment, including through its substantive update in 2016.

Earlier this week, Montenegro was invited to begin accession talks to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We congratulate Montenegro on this historic achievement.

Mr. Chairperson,

The countries subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the journal of this Ministerial Meeting.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC(22).JOUR/2
4 December 2015
Annex 6

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, we should like to thank the Serbian Chairmanship for the good organization of this meeting and the warm hospitality shown to us.

On the eve of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting, Belarus, as one of the countries to have been most affected, presented a proposal for the drafting of a ministerial declaration to mark the 30th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Our aim was to draw the attention of the international community once again to the need for concerted efforts to deal with the consequences of this disaster.

Belarus made every effort to find a compromise version of the document that would satisfy everyone. In that connection, we should like to thank all of the delegations who supported the idea and the draft declaration.

We regret that the document proposed by Belarus was not adopted because of the position of some European partners, who insisted on the inclusion in the text of non-consensus wording that had no direct relationship to the substance of the declaration and which is within the competence of other international organizations.

We regard this situation as an example of the inability of our Organization to agree not only on acute political questions but also on completely neutral matters, whose importance and relevance, one would think, are not disputed by any participating State.

We are forced to note that actions such as these by some of our European partners not only fail to help strengthen the OSCE, the need for which has been mentioned a lot at this meeting, but also, on the contrary, undermine its authority as a platform for dialogue and co-operation.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC(22).JOUR/2
4 December 2015
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union but we would also like to make a statement in our national capacity.

Finland deeply regrets that the OSCE participating States were not able to agree on an Addendum to the OSCE 2004 Gender Action Plan. We believe that an addendum to the OSCE Gender Action Plan could have had clear added value to address the gaps in gender equality within the OSCE context.

Gender equality is one of the top priorities for Finland and we would have liked to see OSCE participating States to agree on further advancing gender equality in the OSCE context. There have been ongoing discussions on this issue already for two years. Further steps are needed by the OSCE to advance gender issues. Women's rights are violated every day and it is our responsibility to promote equality also here at the OSCE.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Minister.



Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Canada would also like to make a short closing statement, in addition to the statement on fundamental freedoms and support to the OSCE autonomous institutions delivered by Montenegro a few minutes ago on behalf of 43 participating States, including Canada.

The Ministerial Council just adopted six decisions. We had hoped for more, in particular on important topics in the human dimension or of a cross-dimensional nature such as the OSCE's response to the ongoing migration and refugee crisis.

As Minister Dion said yesterday, the OSCE has its own role to play in reinforcing the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism by helping to prevent radicalization and violent extremism through an approach centred on respect for human rights, promotion of diversity as a strength, and inclusiveness. We are pleased that consensus could be reached on two decisions on this topic.

But clearly, on other topics, deep divergences persist among us, or are even growing.

In this context, we deeply regret that consensus remained elusive on a key decision related to a stated priority of the Canadian Government: gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Last year in Basel, we had joined consensus on a good decision on the elimination of violence against women on the understanding that a broader addendum to the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality would be adopted in Belgrade. Unfortunately, it proved impossible to reach consensus today on a text covering the full range of issues at play and ambitious enough to reflect global developments since 2004 due to attempts by some participating States to backtrack on previous commitments. For Canada, backtracking on these commitments is simply not acceptable.

Consensus could also not be reached on a text addressing the tragic situation fuelled by Russia in Ukraine and expressing our collective support for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM). Therefore, Canada wishes to reiterate here our full support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally-recognized borders (including Crimea) as well as our deep appreciation for the work of the SMM as it continues to face access restrictions primarily imposed by Russian-backed illegal armed groups.

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank you and the entire team of the 2015 OSCE Chairmanship for your efforts throughout the year and for your warm hospitality in Belgrade. Canada looks forward to working closely with Germany as it takes over the Chairmanship of our Organization in 2016 and to meeting in Hamburg next year.

I would ask that this statement be reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.



Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,
Excellencies,

The delegation of Ukraine would like to start by expressing gratitude to our Serbian hosts, and personally to Minister Ivica Dačić, for the warm hospitality that we have enjoyed during our stay in Belgrade. We commend the efforts that the Serbian Chairmanship invested in preparing the Belgrade Ministerial, and indeed also the work of the Serbian Chairmanship throughout this challenging year, which has been done with dedication and persistence. We express our appreciation to the Chairmanship team in Vienna, led by Ambassador Vuk Žugić.

As our meeting in Belgrade draws to a close, we wish to emphasize the significance of the fact that our discussions have been dominated by the issue of ensuring compliance with the OSCE's principles and commitments. We greatly appreciate the firm stance of the OSCE participating States on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, which includes the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Despite the significant international efforts invested in resolving the crisis, which itself stemmed from Russian aggression against Ukraine, and despite the violations of fundamental principles of international law, in particular ones enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation have not ceased and the situation in the Ukrainian region of Donbas remains dire and fragile. The Russian Federation ignores repeated and insistent calls upon it to reverse the illegal occupation and annexation of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and to stop fuelling the conflict in Donbas and withdraw its servicemen, weaponry and fighters from the region.

We regret that our attempt to adopt a declaration regarding the crisis around Ukraine was not successful on account of the Russian Federation's failure to recommit to the fundamental principles of the OSCE, in particular on respect to sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, and non-use of force. This was supposed to be a document which would provide a strong impetus for the advancing of a political resolution of the crisis by peaceful means on the basis of OSCE principles that all of us, including the Russian Federation, have committed to abide by. Once again, Russia has not showed readiness to return to the tenets of international law.

We appreciate the OSCE's efforts to respond to the crisis and in particular greatly value the activities of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the work of the OSCE autonomous institutions. We very much regret that it has not proved possible to table and adopt a Ministerial statement on support for the activities of the Special Monitoring Mission, despite Ukraine's support of such initiative and intensive efforts undertaken to this end by the Serbian Chairmanship and the incoming Chairman-in-Office.

We reiterate that Ukraine is fully committed to implementation of the Minsk agreements in good faith as a basis for a sustainable and peaceful resolution of the crisis. It is important to continue to urge the Russian Federation, as a signatory of the Minsk agreements, to abide by the agreements fully and to take practical measures to fulfil its commitments, thus allowing for restoration of peace in Donbas and of Ukraine's sovereignty over its territory, including control over the border.

We reiterate that there is an urgent need to address serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in occupied Crimea by, among other things, seeking unimpeded access to the territory on the part of the OSCE and other international organizations. Consistent grave violations target mostly the representatives of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian communities.

We urge Russia as an occupying authority to allow international organizations unfettered access to occupied Crimea.

Mr. Chairperson,

The present Ministerial Council has also focused on the challenge of combating terrorism, in particular in the light of horrifying attacks in recent times. We strongly support international efforts to combat terrorism, which viciously strikes many countries throughout the OSCE area, including Ukraine.

We have contributed to agreement on Ministerial declarations addressing the issues of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, and of combating violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

It is important to ensure that anti-terrorism efforts are not undertaken at the expense of fundamental values and principles.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE's persistent efforts to restore respect for its principles and commitments are the only efficient antidote to the recurrence of their flagrant violation in the OSCE area. Any compromise on the principles would further erode confidence in the ability of the OSCE to maintain a credible security environment in its area of responsibility. We are confident that this would not be in the interests of the OSCE community, including Russia.

We look forward to seeing the issue of ensuring strict adherence to the OSCE's principles and commitments kept at the top of the OSCE agenda in 2016 under the German Chairmanship.

We wish our German friends every success at the helm of the OSCE and are ready to closely co-operate with the Chairmanship on all aspects of the OSCE mandate, in particular on issues related to restoring respect for the Helsinki principles and numerous OSCE commitments.

The delegation of Ukraine kindly requests that this statement be attached to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC(22).JOUR/2
4 December 2015
Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan thanks our Serbian hosts for their warm hospitality and their excellent organization of the Belgrade Ministerial Council. We express our gratitude for the tireless efforts of the Serbian Chairmanship in aiming to overcome many challenges in the OSCE.

We observe that the balance of the three dimensions of security has been undermined and that attempts are being made to use the human dimension to exert pressure on participating States.

The relevance of the OSCE executive structures and field presences is called into question when their mandates are ignored or violated and when there are serious deficiencies in their activities. We regret that the decision on the OSCE/ODIHR proposed by Azerbaijan was not adopted because of lack of commitment on the part of some delegations. Instead of engaging in dialogue, these delegations chose the practice of blaming and shaming. We condemn such an attitude and suggest that the delegations which refused to engage in dialogue should consider to what extent such an approach helps to restore trust or is in the interests of the OSCE.

I hope that the priorities of the German Chairmanship announced by Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier – dialogue, confidence, and security – will prevail next year, and in this regard we wish every success to the incoming German Chairmanship.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT
PROCESS IN THE “5+2” FORMAT**

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:

Recall the Ministerial Statement on the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Basel on 5 December 2014,

Reiterate their strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;

Underline the need to advance the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format as the only mechanism to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable resolution of the conflict and the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process. The sides should engage in it without interruption and should be represented by fully empowered political representatives;

Emphasize the need to achieve tangible progress in the negotiations on all three baskets of the agreed agenda for the negotiation process: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues;

Welcome the holding of two productive meetings of the leaders of the sides during 2015 and encourage them to move the process forward;

Express satisfaction with the commitment of the political representatives to meet on a regular basis and encourage the sides to increase the continuity and effectiveness of the process by agreeing at the beginning of the year on a calendar in the “5+2” format for the official negotiations in the framework of the Transdniestrian settlement process for the whole year;

Invite the sides to implement existing agreed confidence-building measures and develop further measures in the framework of the negotiation process to the benefit of the people on the ground and further urge the sides to refrain from unilateral actions that could destabilize the situation in the region;

Call upon the mediators and observers of the OSCE, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the European Union and the United States of America to redouble their co-ordinated efforts and to make full use of their potential to promote progress in achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECLARATION ON THE OSCE ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL EFFORTS IN TACKLING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 1048 on the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, Permanent Council Decision No. 1049 on the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities, and other relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering illicit drugs, and taking note of the OSCE executive structures' efforts in implementing them in accordance with their respective mandates,

Willing to achieve targets and goals set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action in International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,

Taking note of the outcomes of the OSCE-wide conferences on tackling the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors, and of the relevant regional and sub-regional expert workshops, training courses, and awareness-raising and capacity-building events,

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations, in particular the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in tackling the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors,

Mindful of the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016),

Willing to support, within existing means, capabilities and commitments, the contribution of the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, to the preparation for UNGASS 2016, which will take stock of achievements and challenges in tackling the world drug problem,¹

1 In line with the OSCE commitments and as defined in Permanent Council Decision No. 1048.

Call upon participating States:

1. To contribute to the preparation for UNGASS 2016 being led by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, by supporting the following recommendations drawn up in accordance with the OSCE drug-related mandate:
 - (a) To comply with the provisions and effectively implement the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which together remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system;
 - (b) To pursue a balanced, integrated approach to the world drug problem, in which reduction of both supply and demand, as well as international co-operation, are mutually reinforcing elements in narcotic drugs policy;
 - (c) To facilitate, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, partnership with the private sector in preventing the diversion of chemical precursors and in countering the trade in illicit drugs and their precursors;
 - (d) To facilitate co-operation, when appropriate, among public health, education sectors and law enforcement on a comprehensive approach to tackling drugs demand and supply reduction by raising awareness, especially among children and young people of the threat of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances with a view to reducing drug-related crime and promoting healthy living;
2. To underline that countering drug trafficking needs to be accompanied by efforts to fight corruption, money laundering and other forms of organized crime;
3. To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to engage actively in these efforts in line with our common and shared responsibility to tackle the world drug problem;

Call upon the OSCE executive structures:

4. To continue to promote within existing resources and mandates, in close co-operation with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board, and other relevant multilateral organisations the OSCE's efforts to tackle the threat of illicit drugs, the emergence and spread of dangerous new psychoactive substances and the diversion of chemical precursors and to extend relevant assistance to participating States at their request and in line with the three United Nations drug control conventions.



Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON REINFORCING OSCE EFFORTS TO COUNTER TERRORISM IN THE WAKE OF RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, are horrified by the deadly terrorist attacks against civilians that occurred across the OSCE area and in its neighbourhood in 2015; we offer heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to the people and governments that have been targeted, and wish a speedy recovery to those who were injured.

We condemn unequivocally and in the strongest terms all terrorist attacks, including the indiscriminate killing of civilians and the deliberate targeting of individuals and communities, *inter alia* on the basis of their religion or belief, in particular by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, also known as DAESH (ISIL/DAESH), Al-Nusrah Front (ANF), and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, which constitute a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security.

We reaffirm that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization.

We are committed to reinforcing our efforts to address the threat of terrorism, including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and to this aim to continue to fully implement OSCE commitments in the field of preventing and combating terrorism, as well as UN Security Council resolutions 2170, 2178, 2199 and 2249.

We recall that participating States shall prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, and shall refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists.

We reaffirm our commitment to remain united in combating terrorism and to work together to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, as well as to address the conditions conducive to its spread, through increased international solidarity and co-operation, in full recognition of the central role of the United Nations, and in accordance with the UN Charter and other obligations under applicable international law, in particular international human rights law,

international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as through the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We underscore that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures, and are an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort, and note the importance of the respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism.

We reiterate our determination and commitment to co-operate fully in preventing and countering terrorism in accordance with our obligations under international law in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on basis of the principle of “extradite or prosecute”, any person who supports, facilitates, participates in or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

We stress that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and co-operation of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations, as well as, where appropriate, civil society, to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate terrorist threat.

We recall relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering terrorism, in particular Permanent Council Decision No. 1063 on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, and Ministerial Council Declaration on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014).

We are convinced that combating terrorism, in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments, requires comprehensive and sustained efforts, in addressing the manifestations of terrorism, as well as the various social, economic, political and other factors, which might engender conditions in which terrorist organizations could engage in recruitment and win support, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

We reaffirm the steadfast determination of the participating States to protect the fundamental principles on which the OSCE is based, and to implement all OSCE commitments, particularly those related to preventing and combating terrorism, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, to respecting human rights and the rule of law and to fostering tolerance and non-discrimination, mutual respect and understanding in our societies.



Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON
PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND
RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM**

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recalling relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering terrorism, in particular Permanent Council Decision No. 1063 on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, and Ministerial Council Declaration No. 5/14 on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014),

Underscoring our resolute and unconditional condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism, and our profound solidarity with all the victims of terrorism,

Reaffirming the commitment of participating States to work together to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute terrorism-related acts, including their financing, and stressing their strong determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and that terrorism and violent extremism cannot and should not be associated with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion,

Expressing particular concern that youth, including children, are being radicalized to terrorism and recruited as foreign terrorist fighters, and recognizing the importance of working with youth to prevent and counter radicalization of youth to terrorism,

Strongly condemning manifestations of intolerance, including on the basis of religion or belief, reaffirming the will of participating States to foster tolerance and non-discrimination, mutual respect and understanding in their societies, and reaffirming our commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

Expressing deep concern at the fact that some serious crimes committed by terrorists or terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters, have targeted persons and groups on the basis of their ethnicity, religion or belief, and noting the role that discrimination and intolerance can play in fuelling violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,

Underscoring the commitment of participating States to take the measures needed to protect everyone within their jurisdiction against terrorist acts, and to take resolute action to counter terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters, including by fully implementing UNSCR 2170, 2178, 2199 and 2249, with regard to the terrorist groups identified therein, in support of our relevant OSCE commitments, and in compliance with applicable obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Strongly condemning the destruction of cultural heritage and religious sites, including the targeted destruction of UNESCO World Heritage sites, by terrorists, foreign terrorist fighters associated with ISIL and other terrorist groups,

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations in the international efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, and the commitment of participating States to the full implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Guided by our conviction that combating terrorism and violent extremism, in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments, requires comprehensive and sustained efforts, in addressing the manifestations of terrorism, as well as the various social, economic, political and other factors, which might engender conditions in which terrorist organizations could engage in recruitment and win support,

Reaffirming the commitment of participating States to exchange ideas and national best practices about their strategies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in order to enhance practical co-operation,

Taking note of the fact that radicalization to terrorism and recruitment by terrorists can take place in prisons, and therefore affirming the importance of elaborating and sharing, as appropriate, international guidelines on reintegration, rehabilitation and the prevention of radicalization to terrorism in prison,

Stressing that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, while respecting their obligations under international law,

Stressing the important roles that youth, families, women, victims of terrorism, religious, cultural and education leaders, civil society, as well as the media, can play to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, and to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in particular by fostering mutual respect and understanding, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among cultures, and by promoting and protecting human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratic principles and the rule of law,

Recognizing that UNSCR 2242 (2015) calls for the greater integration by States of their agendas on women, peace and security, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism which can be conducive to the spread of terrorism; recalling the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and taking note of the good practices documents on countering violent extremism adopted by the Global Counterterrorism Forum,

Recognizing the efforts of the 2014–2015 Swiss and Serbian consecutive Chairmanships of the OSCE, as well as previous Chairmanships, in fostering the link between youth and comprehensive security throughout the OSCE area, and in that regard

taking note of the Serbian Chairmanship's conference on "Working with youth for youth: protection against radicalization", and the Ukrainian Chairmanship's OSCE Youth Summit,

Taking note of the outcome of the 2015 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Expert Conference on "Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters", convened by the Chairmanship-in-Office on 30 June and 1 July 2015 in Vienna, as well as the relevant Security Days events convened by the Secretary General,

Taking note of the launch of the communication campaign "OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism" by the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretary General to reinforce the global efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and to highlight the OSCE's multi-dimensional approach to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in line with the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism,

Call upon the participating States:

1. To further increase their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism in their countries, following a multi-dimensional approach, and in this regard to make use, as appropriate and where necessary, of the OSCE executive structures, including field operations within their respective mandates;
2. To strengthen their efforts to counter and suppress the financing of terrorism, in application of, and in compliance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including UNSCR 2199 (2015), and in support of OSCE commitments, underlining that any sources of income support the recruitment efforts and strengthen the operational capabilities to organize and carry out terrorist acts;
3. To adopt measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law, including with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, and to prevent such conduct;
4. To co-operate in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, through, *inter alia*, capacity-building, co-ordination of plans and efforts and sharing lessons learned, including in eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists, preventing the radicalization to terrorism, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals as terrorists, including as foreign terrorist fighters;
5. To consider, as appropriate, developing and updating national counter-terrorism strategies and action plans, including specific policies and measures to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in furtherance of OSCE commitments and in compliance with their obligations under international law, including human rights law;
6. To foster a comprehensive approach at all levels in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including co-ordination among national authorities, co-operation among participating States, and co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations;

7. To promote research and information sharing on the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and on how to counter them;
8. To encourage political leaders and public figures, including civil society and religious leaders to contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, by speaking out strongly and promptly against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
9. To further promote public-private partnerships in countering terrorism, where appropriate, among public authorities, the private sector, civil society, members of, or representatives of religious communities, and the media, in line with, *inter alia*, Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/08, in order to counter incitement to terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
10. To enhance international co-operation and public-private partnerships to develop practical measures to counter the use of the Internet and other means for the purposes of inciting violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and for recruiting foreign terrorist fighters. Such international co-operation and public-private partnerships could foster communication efforts, including via social media, to counter violent extremist messaging, while fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression;
11. To consider developing community policing approaches to preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including at the local level, in accordance with national legislation and international law;
12. To encourage open and transparent intercultural, interfaith and interreligious dialogue and co-operation to contribute to, *inter alia*, enhancing tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, at the local, national, regional and international levels;
13. To take into account a gender perspective¹ in their efforts to counter terrorism and to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, with a focus on women's empowerment and the participation of women as well as men in these efforts;
14. To engage and empower youth, in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, *inter alia*, by:
 - (a) Creating an enabling environment and opportunities for youth to participate and engage voluntarily and freely in public life and in the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, the rule of law, tolerance, non-discrimination, dialogue, mutual respect and understanding, and to facilitate their access to social services;
 - (b) Supporting youth, which are willing to contribute to such efforts, through education in schools and higher education institutions;

1 Throughout this declaration, "gender perspective" is used in accordance with its meaning in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

(c) Supporting youth-led and youth-focused awareness-raising initiatives, including through the Internet and social media, to prevent and counter their radicalization to terrorism, and to promote respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, tolerance and non-discrimination;

(d) Promoting programmes to facilitate youth access to employment;

15. To consider supporting OSCE activities in all three dimensions of security, including through voluntary financial contributions, which contribute to the global efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, while acknowledging the leading role of the United Nations;

16. To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage with us to strengthen our dialogue and co-operation in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in this context, preventing and countering manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, including on the basis of religion or belief, xenophobia, violence, as well as promoting interfaith, interreligious and intercultural dialogue, taking note of the Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace, and Security dated 22 August 2015, and to encourage the Partners for Co-operation to continue to make the best use of the OSCE principles, norms and commitments, as well as its relevant tools;

17. We encourage parliamentarians to continue to dialogue with a view to strengthening legislation essential in combating terrorism, promoting solidarity with victims of terrorism, and to encourage them to speak out strongly and promptly against intolerance, discrimination, terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism;

Call upon relevant OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates and available resources:

18. To continue their support to participating States, upon request, in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, following a multi-dimensional approach, including in relation to youth, as appropriate;

19. To facilitate the exchange of practical experiences and good practices, and, upon request, provide assistance as appropriate, *inter alia*:

(a) To promote research and information sharing on the conditions conducive to violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and on how to counter them;

(b) To develop, where appropriate, national counter-terrorism strategies and action plans, including policies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;

(c) To integrate a gender perspective in the context of preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, with a focus in particular on women's empowerment and the participation of women as well as men in these efforts;

- (d) To assist participating States in developing practical activities, in partnership with civil society and the private sector as appropriate, to support the elaboration of policies, approaches, and strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (e) To promote the sharing of best practices, as appropriate, and explore the possible elaboration of international guidelines on rehabilitation, reintegration and the prevention of terrorist radicalization in prisons;
 - (f) To implement community policing approaches to preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (g) To promote co-operation among experts from government, civil society, academia, the media and the private sector to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (h) To strengthen the role of civil society, women, youth and religious leaders in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (i) To promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the rule of law, in the context of measures to prevent terrorism and to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (j) To address negative socio-economic factors in the context of preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (k) To encourage educational initiatives and other measures to promote tolerance and non-discrimination, non-violence, and to raise public awareness of, and counter xenophobic stereotypes, intolerance and discrimination, as part of efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (l) To recognize the role of the media in encouraging pluralistic debate and to encourage professionalism and voluntary self-regulation in the media, with a view to fostering tolerance of ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural diversity, and to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, while respecting the independence and freedom of the media;
20. To co-operate with the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations and initiatives, to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize synergies in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
21. To support the Partners for Co-operation in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by them, as stated in Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 on Partners for Co-operation, and in line with established procedures and when so requested;
22. We task field operations to report through the Secretariat to the Permanent Council by 26 May 2016 on their past, current, and possible activities, in accordance with their respective mandate, specifically aimed at supporting efforts in their respective host country to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, following a multi-dimensional approach.

MC.DOC/4/15
4 December 2015
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**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:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In connection with the Ministerial Council Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism just adopted, and in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, the United States would like to make the following interpretive statement.

We reiterate that the OSCE’s efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism should be built upon its comprehensive approach to security, encompassing all dimensions and OSCE executive structures. This includes the OSCE Secretariat, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and field operations.

The OSCE participating States have repeatedly reaffirmed that counterterrorism measures must be consistent with human rights obligations and commitments. As such, we highly value ODIHR’s work in this regard, and in particular ODIHR’s Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism project that assists participating States promote, protect, and respect human rights in the development and implementation of anti-terrorism policies.

We applaud the OSCE’s launch of an organization-wide campaign, ‘OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism,’ that highlights the Organization’s multi-dimensional approach to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. We strongly support this campaign as it brings together all OSCE executive structures to reinforce global efforts against this threat.

Mr. Chairman, we ask that this statement be attached to the declaration we have just adopted and included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC.DOC/5/15
4 December 2015

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECLARATION ON YOUTH AND SECURITY

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, recall the OSCE commitments relating to youth, built upon relevant provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

We take note of the efforts of the current and previous OSCE Chairmanships and stress the importance of promoting the implementation of the OSCE commitments on youth, particularly in the area of education and the role young people can play to support participating States in implementing OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

We recognize that youth and children require particular attention and that their needs, concerns and interests should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Belgrade 2015**

MC.DEC/1/15
4 December 2015

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
MC(22) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 1/15
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Twenty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Hamburg on 8 and 9 December 2016.

MC.DEC/1/15
4 December 2015
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**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 looks forward to next year’s Ministerial Council in Hamburg and welcomes this decision by the Ministerial Council.

As we look toward next year we must express our deep disappointment that because of the apparent unwillingness of a few participating States to join consensus on many draft decisions consistent with OSCE principles and commitments, this year’s Ministerial meeting has produced few consequential and valuable decisions.

This is principally a symptom of the ongoing security crisis in the OSCE area precipitated by the ongoing occupation of and attempted annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and its abrogation of numerous OSCE commitments and violation of international law.

The crisis in European security fomented by Russia has been reflected in our work here in Belgrade. We thank the Chairmanship for its good faith efforts to mitigate this reality.

We recall that the SMM has yet to realize its full potential, as Russia-backed separatists continue to obstruct SMM access to territory under their control, including up to the Russia/Ukraine border, and to employ violence to threaten or intimidate SMM personnel. Consequently, the SMM is not able either to monitor the ceasefire fully or verify the withdrawal of weapons – both of which are essential to the Minsk implementation process. Russia-backed separatists deprive the SMM of the security guarantees needed to open new patrol bases near the line of contact and continue to jam the organization’s UAVs.

Like many other delegations represented at this Ministerial, we supported efforts to pass a clear Declaration in support of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, with the goal of a peaceful and sustainable resolution to the conflict. That Declaration also would have affirmed the OSCE’s response to the conflict, recognizing the contributions of the three OSCE field missions and the vital work of OSCE’s independent institutions.

The reason is clear: Russia has consistently and repeatedly contravened OSCE principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter. It has been unwilling at this Ministerial to allow for a Declaration that accounts for the full extent of

its actions in Ukraine. We also note that the only reason the SMM was needed in the first place was because of Russia's aggression against another participating State.

We appreciate the SMM's efforts to support full implementation of the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum, and the Package of Measures. We note that Russia still has not fulfilled its commitment to free hostages and Ukrainians detained for political reasons, including Nadiya Savchenko, Oleg Sentsov, and Oleksander Kolchenko. We also repeat our call to Russia and the separatists it backs to agree to modalities for free and fair local elections in the special status area that are held under Ukrainian law, in line with OSCE standards, and monitored by ODIHR.

We recall that the SMM's mandate clearly states that 'SMM members will have safe and secure access throughout Ukraine,' which includes Crimea. The United States reaffirms its commitment to the SMM, and even more fundamentally to Ukraine's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

I ask that this interpretive statement be attached to the decision and the journal of the day.

Thank you."