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Statement by Ambassador Cornel Feruță,
Permanent Representative of Romania to the OSCE
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Document: Status and future perspectives”
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Session 5: Measures to improve the implementation of human dimension commitments

Mr. Moderator,

At the outset, we should acknowledge the ambitious, visionary, far-reaching character of the commitments undertaken, including in the Copenhagen Document. Today, we can pride ourselves with a significant body of human dimension commitments. It is time to focus on their FULL implementation as the true measure of our engagement in this organization.

We believe that better implementation has three basic components: monitoring, review and follow-up to recommendations. While there is nothing genuinely new for the OSCE in these concepts, there is significant room for systematically putting them into practice.

Regarding the first phase of **monitoring**, we should make better use of our institutions’ expertise and activities and enhance, in certain areas, data collection. Full cooperation with our institutions and response to their requests for data through various questionnaires, for instance, needs to be improved.

Review of implementation of commitments – we are already doing that in the framework of the Permanent Council, but also within the HDIM where the participation of civil society is indispensable for getting the full picture of the implementation of our commitments. There is room for improvement in this field in terms of an in-depth analysis of implementation of our commitments. We believe that this could be done through peer review annually on thematic issues as proposed in the framework of the Corfu process.

Follow-up on recommendations and activities is a weak link in the process of implementation. We need to make full use of the recommendations of the institutions, of the human dimension activities if we want the implementation to be

truly successful and if we want to use our financial and human resources efficiently. We welcome the ideas put forth in this respect in the framework of Corfu process and we hope that we will see their implementation in the very near future.

Mr. Moderator,

Let me now get back to one of the issues at the core of any democratic system, **free and fair elections**. The election-related commitments undertaken in the Copenhagen document remain a landmark in terms of international engagements. These commitments have generated progress throughout the OSCE area.

The long-term perspective in elections became, in our view, paramount for the quality of the election exercise. Electoral legislation, public trust in elections, mass-media during the electoral campaign, voters' lists –all of these key elements for the electoral processes need time to be improved. Therefore, improvements made in-between elections are indispensable and the election observation reports and their recommendations are most instrumental in this respect if they are followed. The participating States have recognized that need on several occasions, notably at Istanbul Summit, and have committed themselves to follow-up promptly on election recommendations.

There is an acute need to better follow-up on election observation recommendations and we praise ODIHR's renewed focus on that. We recently had an extremely useful follow-up visit to our presidential elections recommendations and look forward to continuing cooperation with ODIHR in this respect. Additionally, we put forth, in the framework of the Corfu process, a food-for-thought paper on how to enhance election follow-up activities.