



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE 2015 PROGRAMME OUTLINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 8. May 2014

Mr Chairman,

Norway regrets that we have not yet been able to approve the budget for 2014. All parts of our organization need to know which human and financial resources they will have at their disposal in order to plan and execute their activities in an efficient manner. No delegation will be happy with the final budget, but we must all accept a compromise that does not fulfil all our demands. Indeed, our way of organizing the budget discussions leads to micromanagement of the organization. This reduces its efficiency.

Mr Chairman,

The crisis in Ukraine shows the need for a strong and effective OSCE. If we want a strong organization, we must be prepared to provide the resources it needs to fulfil our expectations. We are concerned that the resources allocated to the OSCE are declining from year to year. We would support well-founded proposals for more funding in priority areas to increase the level of activity. To-day a large part of our activities are funded by extra-budgetary resources. This means that a few participating States are paying more than their fair share.

Mr Chairman,

Norway will support strengthening the activities of the Secretariat, the institutions and the field operations in the areas of democratization, promotion of human rights, police training, arms control and combating transnational threats. As regards the conflict cycle, the OSCE budget should allow for greater leeway in order to respond to evolving security needs.

The institutions continue to prove their relevance and importance. The activities of the ODIHR, the HCNM and the RFoM must be strengthened.

We support the continued gradual reduction in the large field operations in the Western Balkans and the recommended shifting of our focus to Central Asia. This shift could have been more pronounced in the Programme Outline.

Concerning field presence, it is not unlikely that Ukraine will require increased attention and assistance from the OSCE. The Programme Outline should reflect this.

Mr Chairman,

Human resources are the most important asset of our organization. Its success and effectiveness depend to a high degree on the expertise and motivation of the staff. The key to maintaining high performance is linked to our ability to attract and retain qualified staff across all staff categories: internationally contracted and seconded staff, national professionals and general services. We must ensure that the conditions the OSCE can offer are competitive.

Mr Chairman,

Norway would like to see a strong OSCE, an OSCE that is instrumental in maintaining peace by promoting security and stability across the OSCE area. We have to give our organization the financial means to continue to do so.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.