

**SECOND DAY OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL****THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)**

1. Date: Friday, 30 November 2007

Opened: 9.40 a.m.
Suspended: 2.10 p.m.
Resumed: 4.20 p.m.
Closed: 5.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ilkka Kanerva, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland
H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Co-operation of Spain, Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE
Mr. A. Härkönen, Head of the Finnish OSCE Task Force

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Ministerial Council, expressed condolences to the families of the victims of the plane crash in Turkey on 30 November 2007. Turkey expressed its appreciation to the Ministerial Council.

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

Agenda item 7: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

Belgium (MC.DEL/65/07), Montenegro (MC.DEL/62/07), Cyprus (MC.DEL/32/07/Rev.1), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MC.DEL/66/07), Sweden (MC.DEL/50/07), Croatia (MC.DEL/52/07), Kyrgyzstan (MC.DEL/88/07/Corr.1), Switzerland (MC.DEL/49/07), Moldova (MC.DEL/70/07), Monaco (MC.DEL/83/07), Luxembourg (MC.DEL/61/07), Azerbaijan (also on behalf of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) (MC.DEL/75/07), Azerbaijan (MC.DEL/75/07), Turkmenistan (MC.DEL/63/07), Lithuania (MC.DEL/68/07), Albania, Slovakia (MC.DEL/57/07/Corr.1), Greece (MC.DEL/78/07), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/20/07), Mongolia (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/46/07), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/79/07), Israel (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/51/07), Thailand (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/60/07), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Tunisia

(Partner for Co-operation), Japan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/81/07), Jordan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/53/07), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/59/07), Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/64/07)

Contributions by: United Nations (MC.DEL/41/07) (MC.DEL/76/07), Council of Europe (MC.DEL/2/07), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (MC.DEL/85/07), Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (MC.DEL/55/07)

Chairperson, Spain

Agenda item 8: ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Chairperson (Spain)

The Chairperson (Spain) informed the Ministerial Council that the preceding Chairman-in-Office (Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium), in a letter issued on 20 December 2006 (CIO.GAL/227/06), had announced the adoption, through a silence procedure, of Ministerial Council Decision No. 21/06 on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (see MC.DEC/21/06, the text of which is appended to this journal).

The Chairperson (Spain) announced that Decision No. 1/07 (MC.DEC/1/07) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the text of which is appended to this journal, had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 7 March 2007 through a silence procedure.

The Chairperson (Spain) announced that Decision No. 2/07 (MC.DEC/2/07) on the appointment of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the text of which is appended to this journal, had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 4 July 2007 through a silence procedure.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation (MC.DOC/1/07), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Statement (MC.DOC/2/07), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (MC.DOC/3/07), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security (MC.DOC/4/07), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 3/07 (MC.DEC/3/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 4/07 (MC.DEC/4/07/Corr.1), the text of which is appended to this journal, on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan.

Netherlands (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision),
Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision),
Russian Federation (Annex 1)

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 5/07 (MC.DEC/5/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on public-private partnerships in countering terrorism.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 6/07 (MC.DEC/6/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 7/07 (MC.DEC/7/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the follow-up to the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum: water management.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 8/07 (MC.DEC/8/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on combating trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 9/07 (MC.DEC/9/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on combating sexual exploitation of children on the Internet.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 10/07 (MC.DEC/10/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on tolerance and non-discrimination: promoting mutual respect and understanding.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 11/07 (MC.DEC/11/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on OSCE Chairmanships in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Kazakhstan (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision), Greece (Annex 2), Belarus (Annex 3), Lithuania (Annex 4), Russian Federation (Annex 5)

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 12/07 (MC.DEC/12/07), the text of which is appended to this journal, on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade

Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 6), Lithuania (also on behalf of Germany, the United States of America, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Turkey) (Annex 7), Ukraine (also on behalf of Germany, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Norway, Poland, the Holy See, Slovakia, Sweden, and the Czech Republic) (Annex 8), Ukraine (Annex 9), United States of America (MC.DEL/72/07), Russian Federation (Annex 10), Turkey (Annex 11), Georgia (Annex 12), Moldova (Annex 13)

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 30 November 2007, at 5.20 p.m., in the plenary hall

CLOSING SESSION (OPEN)

1. Date: Friday, 30 November 2007

Opened: 5.20 p.m.
Closed: 5.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Spain, Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE

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

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

Chairperson (MC.DEL/67/07), Finnish OSCE Task Force (MC.DEL/84/07)

The letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairman-in-Office is annexed hereto (Annex 14).

The letter from the Chairperson of the Open Skies Consultative Commission to the Chairman-in-Office is annexed hereto (Annex 15).

The Chairperson formally declared the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council closed.

4. Next meeting:

4 and 5 December 2008, to be held in Helsinki



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007**

MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY THE
DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision regarding co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan, I should like to make the following statement.

The Russian Federation supported the idea that there should be closer co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan in a number of areas, notably the fight against drug trafficking, strengthening of borders, and training of drugs police and border guards.

At the same time we have always said that all these activities should take place only in the area directly subject to the OSCE's responsibility, namely on the territory of participating States.

A condition for our willingness to approve the decision on Afghanistan was also the assurance of appropriate control over the planning and funding of relevant projects, to be exercised by the Permanent Council of the OSCE.

The Russian Federation, together with other member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), was from the start in favour of a decision reflecting the intention to develop co-operation between the OSCE and the CSTO in all the matters mentioned above. This point of view seems entirely justified to us as the CSTO has successful experience and the potential to make an effective contribution to the OSCE's activities concerned with the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and the protection of borders in the region of Central Asia adjacent to Afghanistan. As we know, there already exist agreements on this matter between the Secretaries General of the OSCE and the CSTO.

We note with satisfaction that these approaches, which are of importance to us, have been clearly reflected in the decision adopted.

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

Thank you for your attention.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007**

MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE

Mr. Chairperson,
Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for Greece to assume the OSCE Chairmanship for the year 2009, and one for which I wish to thank you all heartily.

This is a significant challenge for my country, given that the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization, promoting regional stability through peaceful coexistence from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Furthermore, its commitment to democracy and prosperity has been successfully tested "in the field".

I assure you that we will use all the means at our disposal to fulfil your expectations and to increase the OSCE's relevance and effectiveness.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world is facing a number of threats. Terrorism is threatening democracy and the rule of law. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is putting world order at risk. The combination of organized crime and the failure of States to counter it is spreading violence beyond those States' borders. Climate change is exacerbating conflicts.

The more we fight these ills, the clearer it becomes that they are interrelated.

Collective action is urgently required if these perils to human security are to be addressed adequately.

For this reason, co-operation, transparency and the principle of consensus will constitute the operational mode of the Greek Chair.

Dear Partners,

Greece's foreign policy is based on values whose importance has been attested since time immemorial: freedom, democracy, and respect for international law and its principles.

These universal ideals form our value system. They provide a solid foundation upon which co-operation and prosperity among States can develop safely.

It goes without saying that respect for those values is the cornerstone for any settlement of the pending disputes within the OSCE's field of operations.

We look forward to seeing them cherished and are eager to draw attention to their significance while carrying out our Organization's mandate.

It is indeed the case that our Organization is praised for its efficient work. Over the past decades, the OSCE has contributed significantly to securing peace and stability in the broader Transatlantic and Eurasian area.

Key to our performance is a real sense of co-operation. Trust and confidence are manifest among us. Hard work and sincere interest are typical of our attitude. This is our dynamic at work. The challenge of preserving the OSCE's vigour will be a great stimulus for the Greek Chair.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some of our goals have been met. Others have yet to be achieved. Our accumulated experience shows that tolerance among States is missing in many corners of our globe. The most promising avenues for helping societies to prosper are often ignored.

We have to devise new approaches and to formulate real tools to address the problems. Raising levels of education appears to be a powerful antidote to the culture of violence.

At this point, allow me, dear partners, to express once again my gratitude to Minister Moratinos for his zeal and tireless efforts as Chairman-in-Office.

Moreover, I would like to wish all the best to Minister Kanerva and the incoming Finnish Chairmanship.

I also wish to congratulate Kazakhstan and Lithuania on being accorded the Chairmanships for 2010 and 2011 respectively.

I thank you for your attention and I assure you that Greece will do its best to live up to your expectations.

Mr. Chairperson, please append this statement to the journal of the Ministerial Council.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Belarus welcomes the decision on the upcoming OSCE Chairmanships for 2009, 2010 and 2011 for Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania.

From the very beginning we, along with other CIS countries, strongly supported Kazakhstan's candidacy for the 2009 Chairmanship.

We wholeheartedly congratulate all the prospective Chairmanships and expect them to be strictly guided by the fundamental principles of the OSCE in carrying out their duties.

The Chairmanship, by definition, must be absolutely free of any preconditions imposed on potential candidates from any quarters within the Organization. Any such preconditions are null and void. The Chairmanship is to be bound only by the principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE decisions.

We wish all success to Finland, Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania in exercising their Chairmanship and Troika functions. Belarus hopes that in doing so they will take into account the interests and positions of all the participating States and will make genuine efforts to continue the reform of our Organization, with a view to increasing its role and relevance in the Euro-Atlantic security architecture.

I ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007**

MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania I would like to express sincere thanks for your personal efforts and those of the Spanish Chairmanship in paving the way for the decision on future OSCE Chairmanships in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Lithuania announced its candidacy for the 2010 OSCE Chairmanship as early as 2004. Showing flexibility and wishing to contribute to the continued efficiency of the OSCE's work, Lithuania has extended its support to this decision. For our Chairmanship we offer continuity and active engagement in promoting the implementation of OSCE commitments, encouraging regional co-operation, and countering old and new threats to security and stability.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007**

MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 5

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY THE
DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation supports the interpretative statement just made by Kazakhstan and would like to add the following statement to it.

We take due note of the agreement that Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania will assume the OSCE Chairmanship for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively.

At the same time we note that the decision was preceded by attempts to tie us all down with certain conditions regarding the attainment of consensus, including the demand that we must renounce all further efforts to reform the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Obviously, manoeuvres of this kind undermine one of the fundamental principles of the OSCE, namely that of equal rights for all participating States, stemming as they do from a policy of double standards designed to create new dividing lines in Europe.

We are convinced that attempts to apply pressure to States holding the OSCE Chairmanship with a view to influencing their political course are totally unacceptable to the vast majority of participating States of our Organization.

In view of the crisis in which the OSCE currently finds itself, the period lying ahead of us seems likely to be decisive in many respects. Future chairmanships will bear a special burden of responsibility. We trust that Finland, Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania, which are to head the Organization from 2008 to 2011, will be guided strictly in their work by the principles of the OSCE as laid down in the Helsinki Final Act and will promote reform of the Organization with a view to making it able to cope with the demands of the time.

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

Thank you for your attention.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007**

MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY PORTUGAL ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,

The European Union warmly thanks the Spanish Chairmanship and expresses great appreciation for its excellent organization, very generous hospitality and strenuous efforts to seek consensus during this Ministerial Council. We are disappointed that no consensus was reached on a political declaration.

The EU is pleased with the approval of the decision on the upcoming three OSCE Chairmanships: Greece, for 2009; Kazakhstan for 2010 and Lithuania for 2011. We appreciate the flexibility shown by these three participating States and the Chairmanship's determined efforts to pave the way for a decision acceptable to all.

We also welcome all other important decisions that have been adopted in this Ministerial Council.

Mr. Chairperson,

Support for human rights defenders is a long established principle of the European Union's human rights external relations and one of our main priorities in the human dimension. We are therefore disappointed that, yet again, no consensus was reached on a decision on strengthening OSCE engagement with human rights defenders and independent national human rights institutions. The EU remains firmly committed to the approval of this decision and will continue to support the inclusion of this important issue on the OSCE agenda.

The EU deeply regrets that the text of the Convention on the International Legal Personality, Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE was not approved here in Madrid. The EU remains firmly committed to its approval which would give the OSCE the recognition as a full-fledged international organization. The EU reiterates its view that this Convention, when adopted, will improve considerably the functioning of the OSCE, including its field operations.

Mr. Chairperson,

On elections, the EU recalls its firm support for the standards and commitments undertaken in the 1990 Copenhagen Document, in the 1994 Budapest Document and further developed since then. We also reaffirm our support for ODIHR's election observation activities and its internationally recognized election observation methodology.

Mr. Chairperson,

The EU is pleased that agreement was reached on the statement on Nagorno-Karabakh. We reiterate our call on the leadership of Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue to engage fully in the negotiations on the basis of the set of basic principles for a peaceful settlement of the conflict developed by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group.

We regret that a consensus was not found on the statements regarding the conflicts in Moldova and Georgia. The EU thanks the Spanish Chairmanship for their excellent work and is determined to continue to play a constructive role in working towards a peaceful resolution of these conflicts.

The EU also notes with regret that no agreement was achieved on a statement on the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. We recall our firm support for OMIK's work and for the extension of its mandate for another year, irrespective of the outcome of current negotiations on the future status of Kosovo.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate our appreciation to the Spanish Chairmanship for their tireless efforts in leading this Organization over the last year. The EU looks forward with full confidence to the incoming Finnish Chairmanship. We would like to express our full support and wish them success in their endeavours.

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

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



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MC(15).JOUR/2
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Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA

I should like to make a statement on behalf of the following countries: Germany, the United States of America, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Turkey.

The text of the statement reads as follows:

“NATO Allies place the highest value on the CFE regime and underscore the strategic importance of the CFE Treaty as a cornerstone of Euro-Atlantic Security. The CFE Treaty benefits all of Europe through its system of limitations, information sharing, and verification, by providing stability, unprecedented transparency, predictability and confidence concerning the military forces of its 30 States Parties.

We remain firmly committed to the CFE Treaty and wish to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation which is our common goal and which would also permit accession by new States Parties, in a manner consistent with the Alliance’s position of principle contained in the 2006 NATO Riga Summit Declaration. The Allies have taken careful note of the concerns expressed by the Russian Federation about the conditions under which the Treaty is operating. Accordingly, we have pursued a multifaceted dialogue with the Russian Federation, including through US-Russia bilateral discussions, leading to constructive proposals for a way forward, which respects the integrity of the Treaty and addresses the concerns of all Treaty partners. In this context, it would be a regrettable loss for all parties if the Russian Federation were to proceed with unilateral action which could undermine the viability of the CFE regime.

We continue to pursue an intensified engagement, on the basis of the Parallel Action Package, supported by all Allies, to: resolve outstanding concerns of all States Parties; fulfil remaining commitments reflected in the 1999 CFE Final Act including its Annexes, including those relating to the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Georgia; lay the basis for ratification of the Agreement on Adaptation by all 30 States Parties; and ensure full implementation of the Treaty by all States Parties. We urge the Russian Federation to continue to implement the Treaty while working co-operatively to resolve these complex

issues, and to avoid steps that would undermine the long-term viability of the CFE regime and prospects for entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation.”

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



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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Madrid 2007**

MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE (ALSO ON BEHALF OF GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELGIUM, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CANADA, DENMARK, SPAIN, ESTONIA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, FRANCE, GEORGIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ICELAND, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MOLDOVA, NORWAY, POLAND, THE HOLY SEE, SLOVAKIA, SWEDEN, AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC)

In 2007 we remember the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine. This tragedy took innocent lives of millions of Ukrainians as a result of the mass starvation brought about by the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian Stalinist regime. We pay tribute to the memory of the victims of this national tragedy of the Ukrainian people.

We acknowledge the efforts undertaken in the recent years to raise awareness of the Holodomor, including in the United Nations, its specialized agencies and in the OSCE participating States, in particular the adoption by consensus on 1 November 2007 of the relevant UNESCO Resolution by 193 Member States. We also welcome the initiative of Ukraine to organize the commemorations on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. We will consider taking part in relevant events and invite other OSCE participating States to do the same.

Given the OSCE commitment to “clearly and unequivocally condemn totalitarianism” (1990 Copenhagen Document), we once again underline the importance of raising public awareness of the tragic events of our common past, of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, of strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for the prevention of human tragedies in the future.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine the Delegation of Ukraine proposed that tribute be paid to the victims of the cruel policies of the totalitarian Stalinist regime in a Ministerial declaration.

Our initiative in raising this issue in this Organization was inspired by the commitment made by the OSCE participating States in Copenhagen in 1990 to “clearly and unequivocally condemn totalitarianism”.

On behalf of the Government of Ukraine, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to those participating States who aligned themselves with a joint statement, which I have just read out, supporting the act of remembrance for the victims of the national tragedy of the Ukrainian people. This statement is open for further alignments and we invite participating States to add their voices of support and solidarity.

We deeply regret that due to the open opposition of one delegation in the framework of the Preparatory Committee it has not been possible to achieve consensus on the draft Ministerial declaration, which was intended to underline the importance of raising public awareness of the tragic events of our common past, of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, and of strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, with the aim of preventing similar crimes in the future.

My delegation continues to believe that at the OSCE the value of human life and dignity should prevail over political expediency. We sincerely hope that the principles of dialogue, co-operation, equality and solidarity among the OSCE participating States will remain at the heart of our common endeavours in the future.

I would also like to request the Chairperson to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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MC(15).JOUR/2
30 November 2007
Annex 10

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Chairperson,

We associate ourselves with the words of gratitude addressed to the Spanish Chairmanship for its hospitality and for the work carried out this year at the head of the OSCE. Allow me also to wish every success to Finland, which is taking up the post of OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 2008.

In conclusion, we should like to express a few thoughts.

First. In connection with statements by the delegations of a number of participating States, I want to make the point that such issues as the "Istanbul commitments", the CFE Treaty and the resolution of regional conflicts were covered in detail in the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, S. V. Lavrov, at this Ministerial Council meeting. We believe that there is no need for additions to be made to the aforementioned statement.

Second. The Russian Federation expresses its gratitude to the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the OSCE, Mrs. Ida van Veldhuizen-Rothenbücher, who headed the Working Group on the preparation of the draft Convention on the Legal Personality, Legal Capacity, Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE during the past year. We commend her determination and diplomatic talent, which made it possible to bring the activities of the Working Group to a successful conclusion.

We regret that, as a result of the refusal of a number of participating States to continue efforts to strengthen the international legal status of the OSCE by elaborating and adopting its Charter, it was not possible to approve the draft Ministerial Council decision by pointing to the fact of successful completion of the Working Group's activities. Despite this, it is fair to say that the text of the Convention has, by and large, been agreed upon. We believe that the provisions of the Convention which made it possible to reach agreement should not be reopened for discussion.

We reaffirm the position of the Russian Federation that the Convention may be adopted only in conjunction with an OSCE Charter, the elaboration of which the Russian Federation and quite a number of other OSCE participating States have been persistently calling for.

Third. As you are aware, the Russian Federation, together with a number of other OSCE participating States, submitted for consideration by the Ministerial Council a draft decision “on OSCE/ODIHR observation of national elections”. We deeply regret that neither that draft, nor the attempt by the Spanish Chairmanship to put forward an alternative version of the decision, aimed at the continuation of substantive dialogue on the question of improving the ODIHR’s work in monitoring and assessing election processes in participating States, achieved consensus.

In that connection, we should like to confirm our assessment of the counterproductive nature of attempts to avoid discussion in the OSCE of a truly important and acute problem, the essence of which lies in the question whether the participating States can jointly agree on election monitoring rules or whether variant readings in this area will threaten the prospects of the ODIHR as an OSCE institution. The Russian Federation would, naturally, prefer the first option, which presupposes the reaching of agreements.

Fourth. The Russian position on the problem of the “Holodomor” remains unchanged — millions of citizens of many different nationalities were victims of the indeed tragic events of 1932 and 1933 and, accordingly, it would be unjust to talk of the annihilation of only ethnic Ukrainian citizens. The famine in the USSR in the 1930s was a consequence of the “class” policy, collectivization of agriculture and “dekulakization” of the peasantry pursued during that period.

At the 58th session of the General Assembly, member States of the United Nations adopted a joint declaration expressing sympathy with the millions of Russians, Ukrainians, Kazakhs and representatives of other nationalities who were victims of the famine in 1932 and 1933. We take the position that this declaration, circulated as a United Nations General Assembly document, and also the resolution of the 34th session of the UNESCO General Conference with similar content, provided a final assessment of this tragedy.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting.

Thank you for your attention.



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Ministerial Council
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Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

Mr. Chairperson,

We are at one with the Government and the people of Ukraine in their commemoration of a humanitarian disaster that also constitutes a tragic episode in their history. Regarding the humanitarian impact of this tragedy, no participating State can distance itself from the statement made by Ukraine. There can be no question of lack of sympathy or insensitivity in the face of such an event.

It appears that the Ukrainian authorities would seek to complement the humanitarian significance of this sad event with a desire for political recognition. And it is precisely this feature that distinguishes the present Ukrainian statement from the UNESCO resolution dated 1 November 2007. Such a distinction is almost unavoidable, primarily on account of the political nature of our Organization. I must recall that when it comes to addressing such an issue in a political context, the overarching and unchangeable principle of Turkish policy is that “judgment on historical events must remain the sole purview of historians.”

Let me close by reiterating the expression of our sympathy for the victims of this tragic event and our hope that our sincere sentiments will be conveyed to the people of Ukraine.

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

Thank you.



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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank the Spanish Chairmanship once again for their leadership and guidance during the year 2007.

While we have aligned ourselves with the closing statement of the European Union, I would like to add few words on the issues that are of particular importance for us.

We continue to consider the CFE Treaty to be a cornerstone of European security. We urge the Russian Federation to reverse its decision to suspend its participation in the CFE Treaty and to engage constructively in the consultation process aimed at facilitating the early entry into force of the adapted CFE Treaty.

We support the parallel action approach in general and stand ready to work intensively with all interested parties on the solution of outstanding issues, including that of Gudauta, on the basis of the fundamental principle of host State consent, to ensure the early entry into force of the adapted CFE Treaty.

I would like to thank the Chairmanship and all those delegations who participated in the drafting of the Ministerial Statement on Georgia. Unfortunately, we could not reach consensus over the statement due to the lack of flexibility of the Russian side. We stand ready to engage ourselves with Russia in a meaningful and result-oriented dialogue based on the principles and vision agreed with the rest of the OSCE community.

Finally, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the Finnish Chairmanship. We hope that their work in the coming year will be productive and efficient.

Thank you.



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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

While the Moldovan Delegation has aligned itself with the statement delivered by Portugal on behalf of the European Union, I would like to stress a few points that my country considers it necessary to bring to the attention of the Ministerial Council.

We join other delegations in expressing our deep regret that this Ministerial Council, like its forerunners, has had its share of disappointments. Once again the Council was not able to adopt the Ministerial Declaration and the Statement on Moldova. Despite tireless efforts on the part of my delegation and most of the actors involved, we failed for the fifth year in a row to reach consensus on these important documents. Because of the position of one State, we were not able to agree on the step forward that would inspire confidence and make for progress in the political settlement of the Transnistrian problem.

We remain determined to find a final political settlement based on full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. Given that the key objective at present is to advance the political settlement process, we call on all actors involved, particularly the authorities of the Transnistrian region, to resume negotiations in the “five plus two” format, without any preconditions. The final goal of the negotiations should be the identification of the special legal status of the Transnistrian region on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

We consider that it is time for all actors involved to engage actively in the discussions on the transformation of the current peacekeeping operation into a multinational civilian mission under an international mandate. We regret the lack of progress in 2007 on the removal of the Russian forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova and recall the crucial importance of fulfilment of the commitments undertaken at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit. We are convinced that only tangible progress in the implementation of the remaining Istanbul commitments will make for further advancement of the settlement process. We reiterate our position that the full, early and unconditional withdrawal of the military forces of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Moldova will provide the necessary ground for the ratification by our Parliament of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

We would also like to align ourselves with the statement concerning the CFE Treaty delivered by Lithuania on behalf of 26 countries.

Mr. Chairperson, I ask that the statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF
THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SPAIN,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Your Excellency,

As Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is a pleasure for me to inform you about the activities of the FSC since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council. In this respect, I have consulted with my colleagues from Cyprus and the Republic of Croatia, who held the FSC Chairmanship earlier in 2007. The Chairpersons have worked in close co-operation to obtain continuity, balance and efficiency in the annual work programme. The focus in 2007 has remained on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), including rocket fuel component “melange”, and last but not least, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC).

One of the most important events in the yearly FSC work programme, the Seventeenth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) was held on 6 and 7 March for the purpose of discussing present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, as established in Chapter IX of the Vienna Document 1999.

This year's Meeting introduced two new agenda elements, namely, a meeting of the heads of verification centres and a working session aimed at providing suggestions for improved implementation of CSBMs. Both sessions were acknowledged by many delegations as an enrichment of the discussions. During the course of the Meeting, a great number of suggestions were made for the further implementation of OSCE documents, and these have been the basis for discussions during the remainder of the year. So far, the suggestions have resulted in three FSC decisions.

Following the AIAM, the FSC in May prepared its contribution to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference for 2007. The contribution consisted of a list of politico-military elements that were meant to serve as a suggestion of topics for discussion at the Conference.

During the course of the year it became necessary to depart from the planned FSC work programme because a number of occurrences turned out to have implications for the work in the Forum. These occurrences included the international focus on the preparations to set up a missile defence system in Europe; the emerging uncertainty regarding the European security framework; and also the missile incident, which took place in Georgia on 6 August. All of these occurrences have led to an intensified dialogue on confidence- and security-building measures, which has emphasized the FSC's importance as a platform to address and discuss security issues.

Especially the Forum's agenda item "Security Dialogue" has proven valuable as a tool to bring up regional and subregional security issues, since it is customary for the Chairperson not to reject requests from participating States to offer a Security Dialogue presentation. It is worth noting that, on issues that may have been of a sensitive nature to some participating States, these States have responded with an active, rather than a passive, engagement in the Security Dialogue. This has been an encouraging experience for the Chairperson and for the FSC as a whole.

It should also be noted that several proposals on CSBMs with relation to the Vienna Document 1999 have been discussed in the FSC working groups.

While the Security Dialogue has gained recognition in 2007 as a platform to discuss topics of specific concern and current security issues, the special FSC meetings continued to be an important instrument to focus on issues of general interest to the Forum.

The Special FSC Meeting on Existing and Future Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the OSCE Area was a reaction to changes in the security environment and the challenges pertaining to the European security framework.

At the Special Meeting, it was acknowledged that the international security environment had undergone a significant change since the end of the Cold War. Although "old" threats continued to exist, the emergence of new challenges needed to be borne in mind. The fact that the core of the European arms control regime had originated almost two decades ago was recognized, and consequently the possibility of updating these measures should at least be considered. It was emphasized that existing CSBM instruments continued to have relevance in the present security environment, and that they should therefore not be discarded. Only by building on past achievements would future challenges be overcome.

The Special Meeting afforded an opportunity to exchange views and comments in a structured and specialized manner. Thus, the Meeting contributed to the collective aim of strengthening European security.

With regard to implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (2003), these Documents also continued to receive considerable attention. Progress reports on the further implementation of both Documents have been forwarded to the Ministerial Council. It should be noted that the OSCE project on elimination of rocket fuel "melange" in Armenia was brought to a successful conclusion in 2007. Furthermore, the OSCE completed its assistance to Ukraine in overcoming the devastating consequences of the disaster in Novobohdanivka. Three new

requests for assistance were submitted by Georgia, Montenegro and Ukraine relating to enhancement of the security and management of stockpiles of conventional ammunition and its destruction. In addition, the OSCE launched joint OSCE-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) projects on SALW and conventional ammunition in Belarus and Montenegro. The projects are being implemented on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP in 2006. Whilst welcoming those that were made, it should be noted that donations for SALW projects declined by approximately 50 per cent in 2007. The reasons for this reduction should be examined.

In addition to the work carried out by the OSCE field missions with regard to SALW and SCA, on 21 March, the FSC held a Special FSC Meeting on Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons by Air. Presentations revealed the close links between illicit trafficking of SALW and security threats such as terrorism and regional conflicts. The discussions at the Meeting focused on improving control over the air-cargo sector through enhanced implementation of relevant international regulations and international commitments. The participating States supported the development of a mechanism to exchange information on national legislation and regulatory frameworks, enhanced dialogue and increased synergy between actors in the field and the development of a best practice guide on combating illicit trafficking of SALW. The discussions and endorsements of the Meeting have served as a basis for further discussions in 2007.

Other aspects of small arms control have also been discussed. This has resulted in an FSC decision requesting the participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to small arms and light weapons.

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is a normative document adopted by the OSCE participating States with a view to enhancing norms of responsible and co-operative behaviour in the field of security and responsibilities of States towards each other as well as democratic control of armed forces in the OSCE region.

During 2007, several food-for-thought papers and proposals for draft decisions were introduced by a number of participating States concerning, for example, a review of the Questionnaire; suggestions to promote public awareness; publication and outreach; and supplementary measures to further the implementation of the Code.

On 23 May, the FSC convened a special meeting of Working Group A on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The meeting represented a follow-up to the successful meeting on the Code of Conduct held on 27 September 2006.

The special meeting of Working Group A aimed at contributing to better implementation of the Code of Conduct based on a number of proposals, which served as a platform for interactive discussion. The debate was structured in three clusters: (1) suggestions on how to strengthen the implementation of the CoC, (2) suggestions on how to promote public awareness, publication and outreach of the CoC, and (3) suggestions regarding supplementary measures to improve implementation of the CoC.

Following the meeting, an FSC co-ordinator was appointed. The main function of the co-ordinator is to collate ideas, views, proposals and inputs by the delegations of participating States concerning the CoC, and to help the FSC Chairperson and Troika to develop modalities for implementing the various steps in furthering the implementation of the CoC.

After the first phase of consultations, progress can be seen in developing a draft for updating the questionnaire and consolidating a register of proposals.

In addition to discussions in the FSC, the OSCE and the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) organized several seminars and workshops in 2007 to support implementation of the Code:

- The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized three OSCE Code of Conduct seminars for non-military and military security-sector professionals to familiarize them with the Code and commitments to its implementation;
- The OSCE Office in Yerevan supported a three-day training seminar on the democratic control of the armed forces, from 30 March to 1 April, in Tsakhkadzor, Armenia. Representatives of the Defence Ministry, parliament, media and NGOs took part in the event, at which basic principles of good governance in the security sector, as well as the rights of defence personnel were discussed;
- On 2 and 3 August, the OSCE Office in Baku organized a meeting on the principles of democratic control of the armed forces and ways to address the welfare needs of Azerbaijan's service personnel. Participants in the meeting discussed how to enhance the capacity of the community at large to ensure transparent and fair treatment for service personnel and their families, as well as topics such as human rights in the military context, the role of welfare in modern armed forces, and the role of external civil associations in the effective oversight of the security sector;
- Finally, the CPC, in co-operation with Switzerland, organized a seminar on the democratic control of armed forces and implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 27 and 28 September 2007. The purpose of the seminar was to promote awareness of the parliamentary responsibilities outlined in the Code of Conduct primarily among the members of the newly established Parliamentary Defence Committee of Montenegro. It also aimed at fostering dialogue and co-operation between the country's parliamentarians, ministries and senior military personnel involved in the oversight of the armed forces in order to promote full implementation of commitments stemming from the Code of Conduct and to assist Montenegro in fulfilling these commitments.

The implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continues to be an area of great significance. This was clearly shown at the G8 Summit in June 2007, where the Heads of State underlined the importance of full implementation of resolution 1540 and reiterated their support for the efforts of the 1540 Committee, including the sharing of best practices. The FSC has discussed concrete steps towards the development of a best practice guide on the subject, and a draft version is currently being prepared by the United States and Canada.

The best practice guide is a regional initiative in support of the work carried out by the 1540 Committee. Therefore, the guide is intended for use within the OSCE region of the 56 participating States, but it will, of course, also serve an outreach purpose. Thus, the guide should also be considered a possible source of inspiration for the 11 OSCE Partners for Co-operation, as well as other countries currently in the process of implementing resolution 1540. The OSCE sees such efforts as supportive of the 1540 Committee's strategy to work with regional organizations, which have first-hand knowledge of existing non-proliferation challenges.

In terms of awareness-raising and outreach initiatives, the FSC Chairmanship has participated in 1540 seminars in Jordan and Kyrgyzstan. These initiatives and others prove that the OSCE has already gone far in its support of the implementation of resolution 1540, yet, within the Organization, there is not only the potential, but also a significant will to examine the possibility of taking even further steps.

In the development of new measures, the FSC has looked into the area of Civil-Military Emergency Preparedness (CMEP). The Forum held a Special Meeting on the subject on 26 September for the purpose of awareness-raising, information-sharing and networking. Presentations made at the Meeting pointed to the fact that preparation for emergencies is a national responsibility. However, as no two crises are alike and often cross-dimensional in nature, affected countries or regions can be in need of assistance from other countries and international organizations. The discussions focused on a possible role for the OSCE within this field, without duplicating the efforts undertaken by other organizations such as the UN or the EU. At the Meeting, it was stressed that the FSC in a way already contributes to CMEP in the form of conflict prevention, e.g., projects on SALW and SCA. A proposal on an extended dialogue on the subject with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation is currently being discussed in the FSC.

Another area for development of measures could be that of anti-personnel landmines. Based on a proposal from Germany and France, Working Group A has agreed on holding a special meeting early in 2008, under the Spanish FSC Chairmanship. The meeting will be devoted to addressing ways of enhancing the OSCE's role in combating anti-personnel landmines. The initial aim will be to collate ideas, views and inputs by the delegations of participating States with a view to the possible development of proposals on ways in which the OSCE could deal with this issue.

Finally, let me state that it has been the aim of all three FSC Chairmanships in 2007 to strengthen co-operation with the Permanent Council (PC) as part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Joint FSC/PC meetings have been held to address issues related to security in a cross-dimensional and integrated way. The synergistic effect of this strengthened co-operation should lead to further accomplishments in a broad range of politico-military activities across the OSCE area in 2008.



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**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
OPEN SKIES CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION TO THE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CO-OPERATION OF
SPAIN, CHAIRPERSON OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Your Excellency,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC), I have the honour, on behalf of the chairmanships of the Czech Republic, Turkey and Ukraine, to inform you of the activities of the OSCC in 2007.

During the reporting period, following the Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels, the OSCC focused on current issues essential to the effective implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies, in the framework of the continuing implementation of the Treaty during the second phase of its implementation, which started on 1 January 2006.

The overall number of States Parties to the Treaty has remained at 34. In 2007, no new applications for accession to the Treaty have as yet been registered. The Chairperson encourages and welcomes accession to the Treaty by more OSCE participating States. The application of Cyprus remains pending on the agenda of the OSCC.

Since the previous reporting period, the States Parties have conducted about 119 observation flights that by and large have been judged successful and have been conducted in an atmosphere of mutual co-operation between the observing and the observed parties. In the course of these observation flights, the States Parties made wide use of such forms of co-operation as shared observation flights, in which two or more observing parties participated in an observation mission over the observed party. Furthermore, the States Parties continued the practice of conducting training observation flights on a bilateral basis.

The OSCC continues to address the issues arising in relation to the day-to-day implementation of the Treaty through the Informal Working Group on Rules and Procedures (IWGRP). In this context, the OSCC adopted a decision on Revision Four of Decision Number One to the Treaty on Open Skies — the major OSCC financial document which governs the distribution of costs arising under the Treaty on Open Skies. At the present time,

the IWGRP is also continuing to discuss some other financial aspects of implementation of the Treaty, as well as the influence of hazardous airspace on observation flights.

The Informal Working Group on Sensors (IWGS) completed two very significant decisions which were adopted this year: (1) a new Infrared Decision and (2) a Certification Decision. The Infrared Decision incorporated several new cost-effective protocols which were developed and proven over a period of several years, including through several international flight test events. The Certification Decision coalesces and codifies certification procedures. Both decisions make the Treaty function more efficiently and at lower costs.

The IWGS is currently working on new procedures for modern digital camera systems. As shown at the Digital Sensor Seminar in Berlin in May 2007, commercial aerial imagery systems have evolved away from film cameras and into digital technology. Current efforts are focused on revising Decision Number Fourteen to establish cost-effective procedures for certifying and operating commercial digital aerial camera systems for the Open Skies Treaty.

The OSCC agreed on a Chairperson's statement on the procedure for the distribution of active quotas for the year 2008. At the quota distribution meeting held on 4 and 5 October, agreement was reached on the distribution of quotas for 2008. The meeting and the procedure were regarded as very successful and in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty. The Chairperson is hopeful that this vital instrument of co-operation will continue to function effectively. The OSCC adopted a decision on distribution of active quotas for observation flights in the year 2008.

The Open Skies Treaty continues to enhance openness and transparency among the States Parties and contributes to maintaining a climate of co-operation in their territories, from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Moreover, the Treaty is making a substantial contribution to achieving the goals and objectives of the OSCE, in particular to that of promoting confidence, stability and security in Europe.

Your Excellency, you may deem it useful to reflect this information in the relevant documents of the Ministerial Council meeting.



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**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE
OSCE PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION**

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the increased engagement by the Partners for Co-operation in the OSCE, noting that, over the years, a solid foundation has been laid for a strengthened partnership. We should build further on the Helsinki Final Act 1975, Helsinki Document 1992, the Budapest Document 1994, the Charter for European Security 1999, the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, and other relevant documents and decisions, which underlined the importance of dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation, exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with them.
2. We remain concerned about threats to security and stability within and around the OSCE area. We reiterate the interdependence between the security of the OSCE area and that of the Partners for Co-operation, and we encourage further efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Partners for Co-operation and the participating States in order to increase our ability to respond to new and traditional threats to security.
3. We support the efforts of the Partners for Co-operation to promote the OSCE's norms, principles and commitments in their regions, and encourage them to take further steps towards their voluntary implementation. We call on the Partners for Co-operation to report on their implementation in appropriate OSCE meetings. We advocate the development of the annual Mediterranean Seminars and Conferences with the Asian Partners for Co-operation into effective channels of communication between countries in different regions. We encourage the Partners to continue engaging on issues of common relevance to the OSCE and their regions. We also advocate increased sharing of the OSCE's experience in preventive diplomacy and confidence-building measures as well as further interaction with relevant regional organizations.
4. We encourage the OSCE Chairmanship to make full use of the possibility to invite Partners for Co-operation to attend meetings of the decision-making bodies, as well as of relevant informal subsidiary bodies on a case-by-case basis, and to make oral and/or written contributions, in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure. In this respect, we commend the efforts undertaken by the Chairmanships of the Permanent Council and of the Forum for Security Co-operation to facilitate regular attendance by the Partners for Co-operation in the meetings of the two bodies.

5. We will, through the respective Contact Groups, keep the Partners for Co-operation regularly informed on discussions on relevant Ministerial Council decisions. We invite the Chairpersons of the Contact Groups to inform the Permanent Council about topical matters and to submit yearly reports to the Ministerial Council. In the spirit of paragraph 49 of the Charter for European Security, we also encourage the Permanent Council to examine the recommendations emerging from the Contact Groups and the Mediterranean Seminars and the OSCE Conferences with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.
6. We proceed from the understanding that further OSCE engagement with the Partners for Co-operation will be carried out within available resources and avoid duplication of efforts by other international organizations.
7. We take note with appreciation of the outcome of the 2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation. We call for examination of the wider applicability of the recommendations and suggestions stemming from this Conference. We look forward to the next OSCE conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.
8. We equally look forward to the 2007 Mediterranean Seminar on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, to take place in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 18 and 19 December 2007.
9. We welcome the initiative taken by the Chairmanships of the Contact Groups in organizing the first Joint Meeting of the Contact Groups to assess the state of co-operation between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation.
10. We encourage the Partners for Co-operation to increase their interaction with the participating States and the OSCE executive structures in all three dimensions. In this context, the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned could be further enhanced, in particular, by creating opportunities to involve experts from the Partners for Co-operation in OSCE activities. We stand ready to examine requests from the Partners for Co-operation for assistance in areas where the OSCE has particular expertise.
11. We welcome the decision by the Permanent Council on the establishment of a Partnership Fund, which will facilitate further promotion of the engagement of the Partners for Co-operation. We encourage the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to contribute to it.
12. Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 233 of 11 June 1998, we invite the Partners for Co-operation to send observers to participate in election observation missions, and call on the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to make arrangements to include them in election monitoring organized by the OSCE.
13. We welcome the initiative by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to hold an annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and encourage it to consider holding Asian Forums as well. We also encourage the Partners for Co-operation to participate in these events.

14. We encourage the OSCE Chairmanship and the chairpersons of the Contact Groups, together with the Secretary General, to continue supporting the dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation and to facilitate their contacts with OSCE executive structures in order to address common threats to security and stability and to promote the voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

15. Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001, we remain open to considering future applications for partnership from interested countries.



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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

We note with satisfaction that Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to continue the ongoing negotiations on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict during the forthcoming election year.

We support the mediation efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group, and their development with the parties of a set of basic principles for the peaceful settlement of the conflict. We are strongly encouraging both sides to overcome the last remaining differences and thereby to endorse the overall concept of the settlement and to proceed on this basis with drafting a comprehensive Peace Agreement.



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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON
SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL
COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY**

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, remain concerned about the persistent terrorist threat in the OSCE area.
2. We reaffirm the existing OSCE counter-terrorism commitments and the intention to maintain our counter-terrorist activities as priorities for the OSCE.
3. We recognize the leading role of the United Nations in the international efforts against terrorism and support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006 by the UN General Assembly, which we look upon as providing guidance for OSCE counter-terrorism activities, since the Strategy outlines a comprehensive global approach towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, within a framework based on human rights and the rule of law and complying with all obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.
4. We recall the comprehensive global approach of the Strategy towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, including but not limited to, prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.
5. We note that the UN General Assembly encourages regional organizations “to support the implementation of the Strategy, including through mobilizing resources and expertise”.
6. We recall the commitment to implement all UN Security Council resolutions related to international terrorism, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in their implementation.
7. We support the OSCE Secretariat’s work to promote the implementation of the Strategy, in particular the annual high-level consultations between representatives of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations (Vienna, February 2007) in the “Tripartite-Plus” format, as well as the

roundtables for counter-terrorism practitioners from regional organizations and counter-terrorism centres in Copenhagen (July 2006) and Vilnius (June 2007), organized by the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit.

8. We are satisfied that the OSCE approach to the fight against terrorism corresponds to that of the UN Strategy, because, among other things, it promotes the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems, all of which constitute the fundamental basis of our common fight against terrorism, and that all our counter-terrorist activities could be seen as a contribution to the Strategy's implementation. The OSCE, in particular its participating States, assisted when necessary by the Secretariat, institutions and field presences, will continue to implement counter-terrorism commitments and could focus, albeit not exclusively, on the following activities:

9. The OSCE will continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, in particular the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, encouraging participating States to become parties to them and to implement their obligations under these instruments;

10. After conducting, in the period 2005–2007, in co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a number of workshops at the OSCE-wide, subregional and national levels, aimed at enhancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, and recognizing the emphasis the UN Strategy places on prosecution and related judicial co-operation, the Secretariat will continue its legal co-operation programme with particular — though not exclusive — attention to training assistance to judicial officials at the subregional and national levels;

11. Participating States will use the Forum for Security Co-operation to continue promoting, in close co-operation with the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) given the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists. The FSC will also strengthen co-operation in combating the risk emanating from illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW), including man-portable air defence systems, and conventional ammunition. Participating States will work towards full implementation of relevant existing politico-military commitments, in particular those contained in the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;

12. Having developed a comprehensive programme on travel document security, which fully corresponds to the call of the UN Strategy to step up efforts and co-operation to improve security of manufacturing and issuing of identity and travel documents, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit will strengthen its efforts to facilitate the deployment of technical platforms for accessing Interpol's stolen and lost travel documents database at border control points, will encourage States to report data on lost and stolen documents to Interpol, and will continue to promote technological upgrades of travel documents and the implementation of a comprehensive and secure handling and issuance process, in line with ICAO standards, that protects identity and strengthens civil registry systems which would respect the principle of non-discrimination;

13. Participating States will co-operate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on the 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. Participating States will take appropriate measures in conformity with the relevant provisions of national and international law, including international standards of human rights, before granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts. They will ensure, in conformity with international law, that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and that claims of political motivation are not recognized as grounds for refusing requests for the extradition of alleged terrorists;

14. Remaining seriously concerned about the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, the OSCE participating States will continue the exchange of information about this threat, and take other measures in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/06 on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;

15. The OSCE will support efforts by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee/Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to advance implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1624 (2005);

16. The OSCE will continue its participation in processes for the resolution of protracted conflicts, which are among the conditions conducive to terrorism;

17. The OSCE will continue its activities in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. Intolerance and discrimination must be addressed and countered by the OSCE's participating States and OSCE's executive structures within their respective mandates. The Permanent Council, with the support of the Secretariat and institutions, will consider in 2008 how the OSCE, with a multidimensional approach, could contribute to the development of a better understanding of the phenomena of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, through sharing of national experiences;

18. The OSCE will continue its activities aimed at promoting supply chain security, especially by supporting and facilitating the capacity-building work of the World Customs Organization in implementation of the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and will endeavour to serve as a platform for co-ordination and co-operation between relevant international organizations and national authorities for the development and application of an integrated approach to supply chain security;

19. The OSCE will remain committed to the promotion of public-private partnerships in countering terrorism and will continue involving the private sector (civil society and the business community) in its counter-terrorism activities;

20. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will continue, in co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Euro-Asian Group (EAG) and other relevant partners, to provide assistance to participating States, at their request, in building up their capacity to counter terrorist financing, by, *inter alia*, the strengthening of financial

control mechanisms and the implementation of the nine special FATF recommendations on terrorist financing and the 40 FATF recommendations on money laundering;

21. Working in close co-operation with UNODC, the OSCE will remain seized of the threat of illicit drugs, following up on activities successfully carried out in 2006 and 2007 on this issue;

22. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will continue to assist participating States, at their request, in ensuring that their counter-terrorism initiatives are human rights compliant, pursuant to their OSCE commitments. The ODIHR will continue to offer technical assistance and advice on the human rights aspects of the drafting and implementation of national legislation aimed at countering the threats posed by terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and will continue to facilitate dialogue between State and non-governmental actors with a view to exploring areas of co-operation and mutual assistance;

23. The OSCE institutions will continue their overall effort aimed at combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding, *inter alia* through projects and programmes involving all sectors of society;

24. The OSCE will continue addressing the issue of solidarity with the victims of terrorism, drawing, *inter alia*, on Permanent Council Decision No. 618 on solidarity with victims of terrorism and taking note of the High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism held in Vienna in September 2007.

25. We reiterate that the OSCE, including its Secretariat, institutions and field presences, is ready to work closely with the United Nations system, and other international and regional organizations for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The OSCE will continue supporting the UN in its counter-terrorism efforts and will co-operate with other international and regional organizations active in this area, facilitating their capacity-building assistance to participating States, supporting and promoting their counter-terrorism and security standards, identified as best practices for countering terrorism as well as contributing to networking between counter-terrorism practitioners from participating States and international and regional organizations to bring about better co-operation and synergies in their work, thus making its contribution to the global effort against terrorism.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007

MC.DOC/4/07
30 November 2007

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

MADRID DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY

The OSCE Ministerial Council,

Recalling the provisions of the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht Strategy) in the area of environment and security,

Recalling the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Concluding Document of the CSCE Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (Bonn Document), the 1999 Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit, the already-mentioned 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, other OSCE relevant documents and decisions regarding environmental issues, and the outcome of all previous Economic and Environmental Fora, which have established a basis for the OSCE's work in the area of environment and security,

Taking account of the environmental risks, notably those related to land degradation, soil contamination, desertification and water management, and the environmental impact of natural and man-made disasters, such as the Chernobyl accident, which may have a substantial impact on security in the OSCE region and which might be more effectively addressed within the framework of multilateral co-operation, and recalling the outcome of the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum,

Recognizing that climate change is a long-term challenge; acknowledging that the United Nations climate process is the appropriate forum for negotiating future global action on climate change, and the OSCE, as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, has a complementary role to play within its mandate in addressing this challenge in its specific region,

Recalling the final declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Belgrade, which recognizes that addressing common environmental problems offers opportunities for co-operation amongst governments diffusing tension and contributing to a greater co-operation and security, and that environmental co-operation may contribute to peace-building process, and also noting the continued work and the lessons learned from the demand-driven Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) in participating States,

Recognizing the importance of good environmental governance for the governments of participating States,

Reiterating the determination of all the participating States to further strengthen co-operation aiming at reducing environment-related security risks, amongst each other and with other international and regional institutions and organizations working in the area of environment, *inter alia*, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, programmes and conventions and the OSCE Partners, and focusing on the OSCE's added value and avoiding duplications,

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on the Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE and welcoming the theme of the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum "Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment",

Affirming that co-operation on environmental issues may serve as a tool to prevent tensions, to build confidence and to promote good neighbourly relations in the OSCE region,

Has come to the following conclusions:

1. We highlight the importance of enhancing co-operation in the area of environment and security in the OSCE region.
2. Environmental degradation, including both natural and man-made disasters, and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict. Climate change may magnify these environmental challenges.
3. Environmental co-operation and the promotion of early warning could be useful tools in diminishing tensions as part of a broader effort to prevent conflict, build mutual confidence and promote good neighbourly relations.
4. The OSCE, within its mandate, financial and human resources and capacity has a potential for widening and deepening its co-operation with other international organizations working in the area of environment and thereby making contributions to deal with future relevant risks and challenges in the OSCE region.
5. The OSCE should consider bringing better focus to its existing activities on environmental matters and utilize more effectively its institutional capacity and its transboundary co-operative arrangements in this field.
6. The OSCE could raise awareness on the potential impact on security of environmental challenges, by using its forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices and also by integrating these considerations into its activities.
7. We commend the Spanish Chairmanship initiative to make the Madrid Ministerial Council a carbon neutral event and welcome any voluntary carbon offsetting programmes including other OSCE initiatives in this regard.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to improve environmental governance, *inter alia*, by strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources, especially water, soil, forests and biodiversity.
9. We underline the importance of further implementing the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the recommendations of the OSCE Handbook of the Best Practice Guides on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in all aspects relating to the risks for the environment.
10. We commend the OSCE, in co-operation with relevant international organizations, to support, within existing resources, regional and transboundary co-operation on the rehabilitation of the land contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl disaster both to prevent the radionuclide migration and to promote the natural recovery processes.
11. We note the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship proposal of an action plan on the threats and opportunities in the area of environment and security.

Participating States may further elaborate, if deemed necessary, common response to environmental challenges, fully taking into account the OSCE mandate and capabilities and focusing on the OSCE's added value and avoiding duplication.



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

MC.DEC/21/06
20 December 2006

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 21/06
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Fifteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be convened in Madrid on 29 and 30 November 2007.



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

MC.DEC/1/07
7 March 2007

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/07
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Considering that the first term of office of the current Representative on Freedom of the Media comes to an end on 9 March 2007,

Underlining the important contribution of Mr. Miklós Haraszti to the promotion of the freedom of expression and free media in the OSCE area,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of Mr. Miklós Haraszti as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media until 10 March 2010.



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

MC.DEC/2/07
4 July 2007

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 2/07
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER
ON NATIONAL MINORITIES**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the CSCE Helsinki Summit 1992 to establish a High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/04, the mandate of Mr. Rolf Ekéus as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities expired on 30 June 2007,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Rolf Ekéus, for his contribution to the work of the OSCE and to developing the activities of the OSCE,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Mr. Knut Vollebaek as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for a period of three years with effect from 5 July 2007.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007**

MC.DEC/3/07
30 November 2007

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 3/07
ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Decision V of the CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, which established the Forum for Security Co-operation, and reaffirming that the participating States will ensure that their efforts in the Forum towards arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building, security co-operation and conflict prevention are coherent, interrelated and complementary,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 3, adopted at the Ninth Meeting of the Council, in Bucharest in 2001, on Fostering the Role of the OSCE as a Forum for Political Dialogue that, *inter alia*, tasked the Forum for Security Co-operation with addressing those aspects of new security challenges which fall within its mandate, and updating its activities accordingly,

Desirous of further building upon the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the relevant decisions adopted in the framework of the Forum for Security Co-operation,

Recognizing the security and safety risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, including liquid rocket fuel, in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some participating States in the OSCE area, and reaffirming the will of the OSCE participating States to continue providing assistance regarding the destruction of these stockpiles and/or the upgrading of stockpile management and security practices for participating States that request it,

Determined to continue enhancing the implementation of the existing confidence- and security-building measures in the framework of the Vienna Document 1999, taking into account the evolving nature of threats to security and stability in the OSCE area,

Also determined to continue enhancing the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,

1. Welcomes, within the Forum for Security Co-operation:
 - The efforts aimed at strengthening the implementation of existing confidence- and security-building measures in the OSCE area;
 - The active and topical discussions held in 2007 on regional and subregional issues under the Security Dialogue;
 - The discussions at the special meetings of the Forum on combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons by air, held on 21 March 2007; on civil-military emergency preparedness, held on 26 September 2007; and on existing and future arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in the OSCE area, held on 24 October 2007, and takes note of the chairpersons' reports on these meetings;
 - The progress achieved so far in the ongoing work in the Forum for Security Co-operation to develop best practice guides related to stockpiles of conventional ammunition, and best practice guides for implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
 - The progress reports on the further implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and on the further implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, as submitted to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 8/06, adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - The ongoing work in the FSC on efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;
 - The decision adopted by the Forum for Security Co-operation, declaring its support for the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism;
2. Calls upon the Forum for Security Co-operation to continue its efforts to address these issues in a comprehensive manner, reflecting the OSCE's concept of co-operative security and working in concert also, when appropriate, with other international fora;
3. Requests the Forum for Security Co-operation to submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2008 on the following:
 - The continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
 - Efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;
 - Efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures in accordance with its mandate.



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DECISION No. 4/07
OSCE ENGAGEMENT WITH AFGHANISTAN

The Ministerial Council,

Taking note of the request by Afghanistan (PC.DEL/922/07 from 21 September 2007) that the OSCE provide assistance to the country in the fields of border security, police training and combating drug trafficking,

Seriously concerned that the situation in Afghanistan is having an impact on security in the OSCE area,

Recognizing the primary role of the United Nations Security Council in maintaining global security and stability, and with a view to supporting the goals set forth in the Afghanistan Compact, agreed to at the London Conference on Afghanistan in 2006,

Acknowledging the contribution of the United Nations as well as of regional arrangements under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and of other international organizations, such as, *inter alia*, NATO, EU, CSTO and other relevant international actors as well as participating States actively engaged in Afghanistan and desirous of complementing their efforts also in order to avoid unnecessary duplication,

Recalling the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, which states the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

Also recalling the 1999 Charter for European Security, which states that “the OSCE is the inclusive and comprehensive organization for consultation, decision-making and co-operation in its region”,

Taking into consideration the status of Afghanistan as a Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE, and recalling the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Maastricht, which states that “the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action”,

* Incorporates a reissue of attachment 1.

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571 of 2 December 2003 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 of 7 December 2004,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/05, encouraging the Partners for Co-operation to implement voluntarily the OSCE commitments to combat the threat of illicit drugs,

Recalling the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, adopted in 2005 at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Ljubljana, which states that the provisions of the Concept will be shared by the Partners for Co-operation, on a voluntary basis,

Taking note of the OSCE project to train Afghanistan's anti-drug police officers in Domodedovo, launched on 12 November 2007,

Convinced that long-term security and stability in Afghanistan is of the utmost importance for the OSCE region, in particular for Central Asia,

Stressing the particular responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan for security and stability in the country and the important role of the International Security Assistance Forces in assisting Afghan authorities on these matters,

Underscoring the importance of contributing to international efforts to combat terrorism and trafficking in small arms and light weapons, illegal drugs, and human beings,

1. Within available resources, tasks the Secretary General with examining the prospects for intensifying OSCE action to support measures for securing the borders between the Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan in line with the objectives and principles set forth in the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept;
2. Further tasks the Secretary General with exploring all possible co-operation options, in co-ordination with the United Nations and other relevant regional and international organizations and other actors, and making proposals, as appropriate, for further actions by the Permanent Council;
3. Encourages the OSCE field operations in Central Asia, in consultation with their host governments, to intensify the involvement of Afghan counterparts in their relevant activities;
4. Tasks the Secretary General with providing support for intensifying the involvement of Afghan counterparts in OSCE activities, such as those related to the fields of border security and management, policing and the fight against drug trafficking, and those at the educational and training facilities in Central Asia and in the rest of the OSCE area, and with developing specific projects and programmes for Afghan counterparts in the OSCE area, as necessary and without unnecessary duplication of existing efforts, including those of international actors such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime;

5. Encourages the Secretary General and OSCE field operations in Central Asia to co-ordinate with relevant regional organizations with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication and reinforce mutual efforts;
6. Endorses the Permanent Council Decision on combating the threat of illicit drugs, *inter alia* tasking the Secretary General with conducting in 2008 a follow-up training project for Afghanistan's anti-drug police officers in Domodedovo;
7. Encourages the participating States and Partners for Co-operation to contribute to activities in the above-mentioned fields;
8. Tasks the Permanent Council with remaining seized of the matter and with researching and evaluating options for future engagement with Afghanistan upon its request.

**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 Netherlands:

“While it has joined the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan, the Netherlands deplors the fact that, during the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid, the participating States were not able to reach consensus on the report and its annex submitted by the Chairperson of the informal working group at expert level tasked with finalizing a draft convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE. Adoption of the text of this draft convention without footnotes would have paved the way towards providing the OSCE with a legal personality and a legal status, thus giving the OSCE recognition as a fully fledged international organization.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and be included in the journal of today’s meeting.”

* Reissued due to a technical error.

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

By the Delegation of Ukraine:

“In connection with the Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan, the Delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following interpretative statement:

Ukraine joins the consensus on this decision and welcomes its adoption. We have consistently supported the OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and consider this activity as one of the OSCE’s priorities. We strongly believe that our Organization with its expertise and experience will make a significant contribution to securing and managing the borders between Afghanistan and the Central Asian participating States, in particular in the fields of policing, the fight against drug-trafficking, and illegal migration. We also support the active engagement of the international community in Afghanistan on the basis of the principle of complementarity and upon the request of the Afghan Government.

However, we would like to clarify our views in relation to the reference to international regional organizations in this or any other OSCE document. Development of co-operation between the OSCE and other international structures and/or acknowledgement of their contributions in the OSCE documents require an in-depth preliminary assessment of their purposes and role in the OSCE region with the participation of all sides concerned. Given the fact that during formal and informal consultations on the text of the said decision this rule was not followed with regard to one international regional organization, we emphasize that mentioning the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the text of the decision adopted does not establish a precedent.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”



Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 5/07
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN COUNTERING TERRORISM

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the intention to maintain counter-terrorist activities among the priorities of the OSCE,

Acknowledging that States are primarily responsible for preventing and countering terrorism and for managing the consequences of terrorists acts, but should draw on the support of the business community and civil society as a whole to successfully counter those threats,

Reaffirming the fundamental importance, including in response to terrorism and the fear of terrorism, of respecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law and complying with applicable obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law,

Recognizing the significance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in countering terrorism, as highlighted in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the G8 initiative to establish and foster anti-terrorist partnerships of States and the business community, its “Global Forum for Partnerships between States and Businesses to Counter Terrorism” (Moscow, November 2006) and the resulting International Strategy,

Welcoming the efforts of the OSCE, its Secretariat and institutions, to involve the private sector (civil society and the business community) in its counter-terrorist activities, and noting the Chairman-in-Office’s summary of the OSCE Political Public-Private Partnership Conference held in Vienna in May/June 2007 (CIO.GAL/81/07/Corr.1),

Recognizing the role of media and educational institutions in encouraging pluralistic debate with a view to promoting ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural diversity and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism, and in this regard welcoming the work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media and the ODIHR in these fields,

Acknowledging the usefulness of joint counter-terrorist efforts by government bodies and the private sector (civil society and the business community) in the form of voluntary co-operation, based upon the principles of partnership and mutual trust, in order to provide

better security and clear benefits to all parties. In this regard, efforts should particularly take due account of:

- Promoting economic stability and security and addressing the underlying factors, such as social, political, and conditions which terrorists exploit,
- Promoting tolerance, human rights, the rule of law, democracy, good governance and inter-cultural dialogue,
- Promoting public awareness and outreach through the media and educational institutions, while respecting cultural and religious diversity,
- Identifying, prioritizing, and protecting critical infrastructure and addressing preparedness/consequence management issues,
- Countering the financing of terrorism *inter alia* by supporting the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other relevant institutions,

Decides to:

1. Task the Secretary General and OSCE institutions to continue to promote the involvement of the private sector (civil society and the business community) in their counter-terrorist activities, where relevant and appropriate;
2. Task the Secretary General to organize in 2008 in Vienna, in co-ordination with the Chairmanship-in-Office and OSCE institutions, a follow-up OSCE PPP conference “Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism”;
3. Invite participating States as well as the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to exchange information and best practices on PPPs in countering terrorism and task the Secretary General, upon receipt, to disseminate this information through the Counter-Terrorism Network.



Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 6/07
PROTECTING CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE
FROM TERRORIST ATTACK

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE participating States' commitments to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Gravely concerned with the growing risk of terrorist attack on critical infrastructure, which, if disrupted or destroyed, would have a serious impact on the health, safety, security or economic well-being of citizens,

Determined to support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which, *inter alia*, encourages Member States "to step up all efforts to improve the security and protection of particularly vulnerable targets, such as infrastructure and public places, as well as the response to terrorist attacks and other disasters, in particular in the area of civil protection",

Recognizing that critical energy infrastructure, including nuclear power-plants, dams of hydroelectric power plants, oil and gas producers, refineries, transmission facilities, supply routes and facilities, energy storage facilities as well as hazardous waste storage facilities, can be vulnerable to terrorist attack,

Willing to support the implementation of the G8 Action Plan on the Global Energy Security adopted in St. Petersburg in 2006, which promotes international co-operation to address threats to and vulnerabilities of critical energy infrastructure,

Noting Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE,

Recalling the outcome of the OSCE Political Conference on Public-Private Partnership in Countering Terrorism (31 May and 1 June 2007, Vienna),

Convinced that effective co-operation among participating States to protect critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack would enhance security and stability in the OSCE region,

Determined to contribute to the enhancement of critical energy infrastructure protection from terrorist attack in addition to and in support of the efforts undertaken in relevant international organizations and structures,

1. Calls upon participating States to consider all necessary measures at the national level to ensure an adequate protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack;
2. Urges participating States to continue co-operation amongst them and to better co-ordinate measures to increase protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack;
3. Encourages participating States to further promote public-private partnership with business communities with a view to increasing critical energy infrastructure protection against terrorist attack and to effectively address preparedness/consequence management issues in this field;
4. Tasks the Secretary General to examine and report to the Permanent Council on opportunities for co-operation with relevant international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the field of protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack;
5. Invites the Secretary General to consider facilitating the exchange of best practices and the timely sharing of information on, and effective responses to, terrorist threats to the security of critical energy infrastructure without duplicating the activities already carried out by the relevant international organizations;
6. Invites the Permanent Council to remain seized of this issue and include it for consideration in the framework of relevant meetings and discussions within the OSCE;
7. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.



Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 7/07
FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIFTEENTH ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM: WATER MANAGEMENT

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension,

Taking note of the work done in the ongoing process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic and Environmental Forum, and bearing in mind the importance of appropriate follow-up to Economic and Environmental Forums,

Taking into account the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003),

Recognizing the importance of co-operation on the management of water resources to the enhancement of regional economic and environmental co-operation and stability in the OSCE area,

Drawing upon the outcome of the Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum,

Noting the previous OSCE experiences with regard to integrated river basin management, for example in the Sava river basin and the Chu and Talas Rivers, as well as the lessons learned from the demand-driven Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC),

Welcoming the existing co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations, in particular with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and recognizing the importance of further strengthening co-operation with other relevant international organizations and institutions on a case-by-case basis, in close consultation with the participating States,

Considering that, within its comprehensive approach to security, the OSCE might make contributions, as appropriate and within its capacity, in the field of water management by, *inter alia*:

- Providing a framework for dialogue with regard to the possible further development of water management co-operation networks, where relevant, if so requested and agreed by the participating States concerned,
- Contributing to relevant international events related to water management, and in particular the Review Session on Water at the Sixteenth Session at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in May 2008, the International Expo on Sustainable Development and Water Management in Zaragoza, Spain, from June to September 2008, and the Fifth World Water Forum which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 15 to 22 March 2009,
- Encouraging continued partnerships between participating States and with relevant international organizations that focus on water management,
- Paying attention to transboundary issues of water management, where relevant, if so requested and agreed by all riparian countries concerned,
- Promoting a wide dissemination of best practices and facilitating the implementation of standards developed by relevant international organizations in the field of water management, as well as better co-ordination in this area among participating States and partner organizations,
- Striving to promote good public and corporate governance and combating corruption in the area of water management,
- Promoting wider public participation, as well as a better civil society and business community participation in the area of water management related matters, where applicable,

Decides to:

1. Endeavour to enhance the existing co-operation between the OSCE and the UNECE, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, as well as the existing co-operation with other relevant international organizations on water management related matters;
2. Encourage participating States to strengthen dialogue and co-operation on water management within the OSCE;
3. Task the OSCE structures, within the framework of their mandates, to support the participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
4. Encourage participating States to consider the ratification of existing international environmental legal instruments related to water management and relevant to the OSCE region and support their full implementation by participating States that are parties to them.



Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 8/07
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming our determination to combat all forms of trafficking in human beings, as well as reaffirming the commitments that the participating States have undertaken in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and the resolve to implement them,

Recalling the tasking of the Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 14 to consider ways to further strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, including for labour exploitation (MC.DEC/14/06),

Reaffirming furthermore the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which provides participating States with a comprehensive toolkit for combating all forms of trafficking in human beings by protecting victims, preventing trafficking in human beings and prosecuting those who facilitate or commit the crime,

Reiterating the support of the participating States for the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children,

Seriously concerned that trafficking in human beings remains widespread in the OSCE region and beyond, despite national and international efforts to prevent it and to bring to justice those responsible,

Recognizing the need to strengthen further the framework of OSCE commitments to address the challenges of trafficking for labour exploitation,

Recognizing the vulnerability of children to trafficking for labour exploitation and the special needs of child victims,

Emphasizing that policies and practices to address trafficking for labour exploitation, which arises within the formal and informal economy, should be comprehensive and therefore include enforcement of labour laws,

Underlining that measures to address trafficking for labour exploitation should be formulated with and encourage greater participation of labour actors, including workers and employers organizations, labour administrators and inspectors,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments concerning travel document security,

Recognizing that persons with irregular immigration status are likely to be more vulnerable to trafficking for labour exploitation,

Reaffirming the need to ensure respect for human rights and in this context recalling the core international human rights instruments of the United Nations, including, as they may apply to those particularly vulnerable to trafficking for labour exploitation,

Recognizing the challenges of identification of and assistance to victims, including their uncertainty regarding their eventual residential status, and that might arise out of the use of intimidation and the exploitation of victim's fears by traffickers, and recognizing the need for complaints procedures that encourage victims to come forward,

Calls on participating States to:

1. Ensure that victims of trafficking for labour exploitation have access to justice;
2. In conformity with domestic law and international obligations, provide a reflection delay and grant temporary or permanent residence permits to victims of trafficking, allow for the provision of work permits to victims during their stay, and raise awareness of such opportunities;
3. Ensure the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking for labour exploitation, and in particular access to shelter, healthcare, legal assistance and social assistance taking into consideration the recommendations in Part V of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its Addendum Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance, and raise awareness about the availability of such services;
4. Provide increased efforts and more effective procedures to identify victims of trafficking and, in this respect, provide training and resources necessary for this task to their labour inspectors and, where appropriate, step up inspections in sectors vulnerable to labour exploitation;
5. Support and promote partnerships between civil society, including NGOs, and State agencies with a labour protection mandate to monitor working conditions, to provide, among others, assistance to victims and prevent trafficking for labour exploitation and violation of labour laws, including through targeted awareness-raising programmes or voluntary codes of conduct;
6. Consider allowing, in accordance with national law, for alternate representation for victims of trafficking for labour exploitation in proceedings where the victim is unable to do so;

7. Consider elaborating or strengthening their legislation that offers victims of trafficking for labour exploitation the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered, including, where appropriate, restitution of wages owed to them;
8. Increase multi-agency co-operation and interaction on labour trafficking issues among their labour and immigration officials, law enforcement, judicial officials and social services providers, including through the establishment or strengthening, as appropriate, of national referral mechanisms as recommended in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings;
9. Ensure that civil society organizations, which legally provide assistance to victims of trafficking for labour exploitation, are not penalized or criminalized for providing such assistance;
10. Provide, in accordance with the basic principles of their legal system, for the possibility, where appropriate, of not imposing penalties on victims for their involvement in unlawful activities, to the extent that they have been compelled to do so;
11. Ensure effective complaint procedures where individuals can report in a confidential manner circumstances that might be indicative of a situation of trafficking for labour exploitation, such as exploitative working and living conditions;
12. Develop indicators taking into account, as appropriate, those developed by the ILO Committee of Experts to ensure consistency and transparency in the identification of victims of trafficking for labour exploitation and in the detection of situations of trafficking for labour exploitation;
13. Consider further expert discussion of how to distinguish cases of trafficking for labour exploitation from other situations of irregular employment;
14. Ensure effective and proportionate sanctions against those who facilitate trafficking for labour exploitation, including exploitative employers;
15. Ensure effective sanctions when employers or recruitment agencies create situations of debt bondage;
16. Develop programmes to curb the fraudulent recruitment used by some employment agencies that can make persons more vulnerable to being trafficked;
17. Consider ensuring that contractors who knowingly use subcontractors involved in trafficking for labour exploitation can be held accountable for that crime;
18. Consider providing training for judges, prosecutors, police officers and labour inspectors concerning trafficking for labour exploitation, from the perspectives of both prosecution and victim protection, and in this respect, ensure, where necessary, adequate resources are provided;
19. Target awareness-raising campaigns in countries of origin, transit and destination, directed in particular at groups vulnerable to trafficking for labour exploitation;

20. Intensify efforts to prevent child labour, by considering signing and ratifying the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999, if they have not already done so, and if they are already parties to it, by implementing its provisions;
21. Increase co-operation at an international level by sharing information and best practices on combating trafficking for labour exploitation, and examining ways to strengthen collaboration concerning law enforcement as well as victim protection and reintegration assistance in situations of repatriation;
22. Improve data collection and analysis of the nexus between trafficking for labour exploitation and migration and share such information with other OSCE participating States.

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 9/07
COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF
CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET**

The Ministerial Council,

Alarmed that the growth of the Internet has generated an enormous global expansion of the viewing and distribution of child pornography and of its profits, including for criminal organizations,

Reaffirming participating States commitment to implement Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/06 and taking note of the efforts of the OSCE executive structures to assist participating States in this regard,

Taking into account the proceedings of the 20 and 21 September 2007 experts meeting on the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet and of the 18 and 19 October 2007 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on combating the sexual exploitation of children,

Determined to combat this growing phenomenon, including through increasing OSCE activity to address it, decides to:

1. Encourage participating States that have not already done so to establish a national operational centre, or other structure as appropriate, to increase co-ordination and to involve to the extent possible public private partnership in order to more effectively address issues related to sexual exploitation of children;
2. Call on participating States that have not already done so to collect and store information, in accordance with national provisions on the protection of personal data, on persons convicted of child sexual exploitation or abuse in order to facilitate the apprehension of perpetrators and monitoring of their probation, and to develop, where appropriate, instruments to enable the exchange of information internationally among law enforcement agencies pertaining to sex offenders' convictions and disqualifications;
3. Encourage participating States that have not already done so to establish a system that allows law enforcement to work with public broadcasting and quickly send out a public alert when a child is found missing, when appropriate;

4. Urge participating States that have not already done so to consider criminalizing the intentional acquisition and possession of child pornography, given that the viewing and possession of child pornography stimulates the growth of this illicit industry;
5. Advocate that participating States that have not already done so set up specific national hotlines for the reporting of child abuse, including sexual exploitation of children on the Internet;
6. Call on participating States to support, as appropriate, increased data collection and research on sexual exploitation of children and child pornography on the Internet in order to better understand the scope and trends of the problem and thereby increase the effectiveness of programmes to combat it;
7. Advocate that participating States, in accordance with national legislation concerning the protection of personal data, work not only on a national basis but also on an international basis with Internet service providers, credit-card companies, banks and other relevant corporations to prevent the use of the Internet for sexual exploitation of children and to impede payment methods in order to make the crime less profitable in order to address demand for child pornography on the Internet;
8. Reiterate our call on the participating States to facilitate legal protection, assistance, appropriate medical care, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation and, where appropriate, to ensure the safe return of children trafficked internationally;
9. Urge OSCE participating States to further enhance specialized training for law enforcement, teachers and health professionals, as appropriate, on combating child pornography on the Internet, including by taking advantage of existing programmes such as that offered by the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures to facilitate contacts in this regard;
10. Task the relevant OSCE executive structures to assist OSCE participating States, on their request, with the implementation of this decision and Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/06, within available resources and without prejudice to existing activities;
11. Task, within existing resources, the OSCE Secretariat to set up within the POLIS website of its Strategic Police Matters Unit a multilingual section devoted to combating sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, and in this regard the POLIS section should create an expert forum that would facilitate access of participating States' law enforcement agencies to best practices and available investigative techniques or software, access to legislative drafting assistance or legislative models, and provide awareness-raising information and web links for the public;
12. Task the OSCE Secretariat to organize in 2008 an OSCE on-line workshop through the POLIS website on sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, funded with extra-budgetary contributions;

13. Task the Secretary General, in consultation with the participating States, to consider ways to increase OSCE expertise on the issue, within existing resources and with due regard to the activities of other international organizations;
14. Invite OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily share the commitments of the participating States on combating sexual exploitation of children.



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MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 10/07
TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:
PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, and that tolerance and non-discrimination are important elements in the promotion of human rights and democratic values,

Reaffirming that manifestations of discrimination and intolerance threaten the security of individuals and societal cohesion and reiterating that they may give rise to wider-scale conflict and violence,

Concerned by hate crimes throughout the OSCE region and acknowledging the need for co-operation to combat effectively such crimes, and taking note of the ODIHR's report on "Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses", as tasked by participating States,

Recognizing the role that national parliaments play by enacting hate crime and anti-discrimination legislation, as well as serving as a forum for a national debate, and recognizing also the role that the Parliamentary Assembly plays in raising awareness of existing OSCE commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination,

Highlighting the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office in support of the overall effort of the OSCE to combat intolerance and discrimination, and looking forward to the conclusions of the review by the Chairman-in-Office, in consultation with the participating States,

Underscoring that the primary responsibility for addressing acts of intolerance and discrimination rests with participating States, including their political representatives,

Reaffirming its commitment to raise awareness of the value of cultural and religious diversity as a source of mutual enrichment of societies and to recognize the importance of integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as a key element to promote mutual respect and understanding,

Acknowledging the important role youth can play in fostering mutual respect and understanding between cultures and religions contributing to the promotion of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard taking note of the Youth Forum held in Madrid on 5 and 6 November 2007,

Recognizing that manifestations of intolerance and discrimination can undermine the efforts to protect the rights of individuals, including migrants, refugees and persons belonging to national minorities and stateless persons,

Recognizing the importance of freedom of religion or belief and education on tolerance and non-discrimination as a means to promote mutual respect and understanding and in this regard taking note of the presentation of the “Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools”,

Reiterating the interest of the OSCE in the Alliance of Civilizations initiative with a view to considering an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the High-Level Group’s report,

Noting the appointment of the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations and his presentation of the Implementation Plan (2007–2009) to the Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting in September 2007 in New York, as well as the upcoming First Annual Forum of the Alliance in Madrid in January 2008,

Recalling the OSCE commitments on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, as undertaken by previous Ministerial Councils, and taking note of the outcomes of the various conferences focusing on tolerance and non-discrimination,

Appreciating the OSCE High Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, follow-up to the 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, held in Bucharest in June 2007, and noting the Declaration made by the Chairman-in-Office — Bucharest Declaration,

Recalling furthermore the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims held in Cordoba in October, and noting the “Chairmanship Cordoba Declaration on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims”,

Acknowledging the specificity of different forms of intolerance, while at the same time recognizing the importance of taking a comprehensive approach and addressing cross-cutting issues in such fields as, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, data collection and monitoring of hate crimes, education, media and constructive public discourse and the promotion of inter-cultural dialogue, in order to effectively combat all forms of discrimination,

1. Calls for continued efforts by political representatives, including parliamentarians, strongly to reject and condemn manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance, including against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions, as well as violent manifestations of extremism associated with aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism, while continuing to respect freedom of expression;

2. Underlines the continued need for participating States to collect and maintain reliable data and statistics on hate crimes and incidents, to train relevant law enforcement officers and to strengthen co-operation with civil society;
3. Encourages the promotion of educational programmes in the participating States in order to raise awareness among youth of the value of mutual respect and understanding;
4. Reiterates the recognition of the essential role that the free and independent media can play in democratic societies and the strong influence it can have in countering or exacerbating misperceptions and prejudices and in that sense continues to encourage the adoption of voluntary professional standards by journalists, media self-regulation and other appropriate mechanisms for ensuring increased professionalism, accuracy and adherence to ethical standards among journalists;
5. Calls on participating States to increase their efforts, in co-operation with civil society to counter the incitement to imminent violence and hate crimes, including through the Internet, within the framework of their national legislation, while respecting freedom of expression, and underlines at the same time that the opportunities offered by the Internet for the promotion of democracy, human rights and tolerance education should be fully exploited;
6. Calls for a strengthened commitment to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area;
7. Calls on participating States to protect migrants legally residing in host countries and persons belonging to national minorities, stateless persons and refugees from racism, xenophobia, discrimination and violent acts of intolerance and to elaborate or strengthen national strategies and programmes for the integration of regular migrants, which also requires active engagement of the latter;
8. Encourages participating States to share best practices in their legislation, policies and programmes that help to foster inclusive societies based on respect for cultural and religious diversity, human rights and democratic principles;
9. Commits to ensure efficient follow-up on the work done so far by the participating States and relevant OSCE institutions, particularly ODIHR through its Tolerance and Non-Discrimination programme, to promote within their mandates tolerance and non-discrimination, underlining the importance of implementing the existing OSCE commitments taking into account the experience and expertise of other relevant international and regional organizations in this field in order to avoid duplication, and shall consider future conferences at the political level, possibly at regular intervals, with implementation meetings in 2008;
10. Encourages the establishment of national institutions or specialized bodies by the participating States which have not yet done so, to combat intolerance and discrimination as well as the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans in this field, drawing on the expertise and assistance of the relevant OSCE institutions, based on existing commitments, and the relevant international agencies, as appropriate;
11. Decides to consider an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the Alliance of Civilizations' High-Level Group recommendations, taking into account the

Implementation Plan prepared by the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, and recommends that the OSCE Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office, attends the upcoming first Annual Forum of the Alliance in Madrid and reports on its outcome to the participating States.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007**

MC.DEC/11/07
30 November 2007

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 11/07
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIPS IN 2009, 2010 AND 2011**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Greece will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2009;

Decides that Kazakhstan will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2010;

Decides that Lithuania will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2011.

MC.DEC/11/07
30 November 2007
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 Kazakhstan:

“Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Kazakhstan has been actively campaigning for the OSCE chairmanship for almost five years.

We believe that the election of Kazakhstan as OSCE Chairman and the related consequent processes will have a multiplicative effect for the comprehensive modernization of our country and the region in its entirety as well as for the renewal of our Organization for the good of all of its participants.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the partner countries that have consistently supported Kazakhstan’s candidacy.

The year of our chairmanship — 2009 — was important for us as a proof of the high tempo of democratic transformations in our country.

We do not see any serious and objective reasons that might have led to our candidacy being refused, since Kazakhstan was the only candidate for the 2009 chairmanship and as such enjoyed the support of the overwhelming majority of the OSCE participating States.

In this connection, the delegation of Kazakhstan would like to express its opinion regarding the decision to change the year of our chairmanship to 2010. We respect this consensus-based decision. We would like this step to be considered an act of good will on the part of Kazakhstan and all OSCE participating States, undertaken out of a concern to strengthen the Organization as a whole.

The delegation of Kazakhstan proposes that the situation related to our bid should not be regarded as a precedent but, nevertheless, as an example of a constructive decision taken with a view to raising the importance and role of the OSCE in the global community.

We would request you, distinguished Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the decision adopted and to include it in the journal of today’s meeting.”



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Madrid 2007**

MC.DEC/12/07
30 November 2007

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Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 12/07
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Sixteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be convened in Helsinki on 4 and 5 December 2008.