

Second day of the Twenty-Second Meeting
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MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Call upon the participating States:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Attachment

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

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.”