

**STATEMENT BY
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THE MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
TO THE U.N. OFFICES AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA
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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation wishes to thank the Swiss Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements. Looking back upon what has happened since the Swiss Chairmanship launched, our Swiss colleagues brilliantly dealt with their mission to navigate the organization in such a difficult time.

Mr. Chairman,

Today we are witnessing an unprecedented level of threat posed by terrorism. In Iraq and Syria, extremist terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Nusra Front (ANF) embroil the region with violence and sectarianism, posing grave threat to the peace and security of the world as well as the region. Without any hesitation, they terrorize, extort, and sexually enslave innocent civilians. This clearly goes against the humanity and the very values of Islam they claim to represent.

Furthermore, the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) does not stop at Iraq and Syria, and affects countries far beyond the region. Radicalized and disaffected FTFs can return to their home countries with advanced terrorist tactics acquired from the battlefield. At the same time, the terrorists' increased and adept use of the internet has made their recruitment and propaganda more pervasive and toxic. The international community is indeed facing new forms of threat that should be countered with more comprehensive and coordinated response by the international community.

Against this backdrop, heads of state demonstrated their resolve to tackle the challenge of terrorist entities, as well as FTFs, by unanimously adopting Resolution 2178(2014) at the United Nations Security Council Summit last September. In our fight against terrorism, it is important that every state establishes and implements effective strategy to stem the flow of human and economic resources to terrorist groups. A strategy to respond extreme messages coming out from the internet is also our priority. As a Member of the Security Council, the Republic of Korea joined this milestone summit and resolution. President Park Geun-hye expressed her strong commitment to thoroughly implement the resolution at the summit. She also emphasized the importance of addressing the socio-economic conditions which serve as a hotbed of terrorism.

(Accordingly, the ROK government has tightened our monitoring system to prevent the entry

or transit of terrorists and launched an interagency review process on our counter-terrorism legal framework. We will also keep working together with our partners on the global and regional strategies to address the fundamental conditions of terrorism.)

In this regard, I would like to appreciate the Chairmanship's timely contribution to the international counter-terrorism efforts, notably by convening the Counter-Terrorism Conference Interlaken last April. At this Conference, participants exchanged practical ideas on how to combat the current terrorist threat, especially terrorist financing through ransom payments and foreign fighters. By providing ideas on how to implement relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions from a regional perspective, the Conference also proved how regional organizations can complement the work of the United Nations in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

Peace in our time is threatened by complex challenges, ranging from geopolitical conflicts to the Ebola crisis. The battlefield varies from Syria to the cyber space. None of these challenges can be met by individual efforts. This is the reason that we see the true value of the OSCE and its vision of comprehensive and cooperative security.

Throughout the year, the OSCE has made significant contributions to easing tensions in Ukraine, such as dispatching the Special Monitoring Mission, suggesting the OSCE roadmap and observing two elections. Korea has provided with the humanitarian assistance of 500,000 dollars to Ukraine, and joined hands with the OSCE by providing 100,000 euros for the Special Monitoring Mission. Although the stabilization is still ongoing process, the OSCE's timely and proactive engagement in the crisis will be a benchmark for the future development of this organization and other regional bodies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Accords. This is a meaningful opportunity both for the OSCE and the Partners to reaffirm the spirit of cooperative security, which has a deep resonance in East Asia. Despite the ever-growing interdependence and prosperity, East Asian countries are still trapped in the state of "trust-deficit", where mistrust constantly drives political disputes. In order to overcome this vicious circle, Korea proposed the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative, which aims at building trust through the accumulation of cooperation practices. The OSCE is a great source of inspiration for us not only because it is a successor of the Helsinki Process, but also because it is pioneering a new path for regional security cooperation in the fields of conflict-resolution, countering transnational crimes, and protection of human rights and democracy.

In this sense, I am truly honored to inform that the OSCE-Korea Conference will be held next year in Seoul. This conference will serve as an excellent venue for the OSCE and Asian Partners to discuss our vision of peace and security of both regions for the next 40 years to come. We look forward to the active participation from all the Participating States and Partners for Co-operation in Seoul next year. /END/