



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2016
PROGRAMME OUTLINE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

**As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 7 May 2015**

Mr Chairman,

This past year our organisation has faced great challenges. We have been able to respond to these challenges by using different tools at our disposal. At the same time, we expect our secretariat, institutions and field missions to carry on with the important activities we have mandated them to pursue. It is clear that this has been a great strain on staff and financial resources.

Mr Chairman,

We should be ambitious on behalf of our organisation. We have heard our ministers describe it as a valuable platform for dialogue, for promoting comprehensive security and for strengthening respect for human rights. Norway strongly supports these ambitions, and we are prepared to contribute to fulfilling them.

The institutions are cornerstones of the OSCE. They help us live up to our commitments and make our societies more democratic, stable and peaceful. To continue doing so, the institutions need competent staff and sufficient financial and administrative resources. We would like to see the activities of ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities strengthened. To achieve this, we are willing to support an increase in their budgets, as they have requested.

Mr Chairman,

Norway would like to see a strong OSCE, an OSCE that is instrumental in maintaining peace by promoting security in all three dimensions across the OSCE area. We believe this is an objective shared by many around this table. It is our responsibility to provide our organisation with the resources it needs to continue to fulfil our expectations.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.