



**STATEMENT BY MS. TALYA LADOR- FRESHER,
THE AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL
AT THE TWENTY- THIRD MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Hamburg, 9 December 2016

Mr. Chairman in office,

Excellency's,

I wish to thank the Government of The Federal Republic of Germany for its successful chairmanship of the OSCE and for the generosity in hosting us in Hamburg.

I also wish to extend our deepest appreciation to the Secretary General, the OSCE Secretariat, and the Austrian chair of the contact group, on this year's robust agenda which expanded the scope of cooperation with the Mediterranean partners.

I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that Israel's commitment to the principles of the OSCE, as reflected in the Helsinki Final Act, and to the goal of a comprehensive security policy, remains steadfast and unwavering, as well as our commitment to the Mediterranean Contact Group. As part of our commitment, Israel, for the third year, has made a financial contribution to the Special Monitoring Mission in The Ukraine.

In the past year, we have participated in OSCE activities on Counter- Terrorism, Human Trafficking, Money Laundering, Boarder Control and Balancing Freedom of Speech. Next year we are planning to host a workshop organized in partnership with the OSCE and IOM, on the topic of Integration, a matter in which has extensive experience.

Mr. Chairman,

The most dangerous challenges to modern societies are the strengthening and savagery of Non State Terrorist Organizations and the phenomena of terrorists acting alone or in small cells. The aim of these groups is to destroy the fundamental values on which are societies are based, the same values that are at the heart of the OSCE. It is tragic that these radical groups manage to seduce too many young individuals. On this issue we applaud Austria's Mediterranean Partners Conference in October this year. To this challenging reality, new counter- terrorism strategies and policies must be developed and adapted. Effective responses to terrorism should include a strong



criminal justice-based approach, with respect to the rule of law and human rights. In this field, Israel's long lasting experience, which we shall openly share with this esteemed organization, can contribute to world stability.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel commends the work of ODIHR and applauds its tireless efforts in combating Anti- Semitism and in teaching the lessons of the holocaust across the OSCE region. IHRA, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, adopted in May 2016, an important definition on Anti- Semitism. We wish to thank the Romanian Chair of IHRA and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its special representative, for their special role in facilitating the adoption of that working definition.

In order to address the problem of Anti-Semitism, there must be clarity about what it actually means. We believe it is crucial that a prominent organization like the OSCE will also adopt the IHRA working definition of Anti- Semitism.

Mr. Chairman,

When so much of the world and our region is in turbulence, Israel remains a beacon of stability, adhering to the rule of law, to democratic ideals, and to the sanctity of holy sites of all faiths.

It is our sincere hope, that creating a conducive environment for enhanced economic activity within the Palestinian Authority, will encourage the resumption of direct negotiations, leading to a Two States for Two Peoples solution, living side by side, in security and in peace.

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to thank the German Chairmanship and send our best wishes to the Government of Austria, as it assumes chairmanship of the organization. We also wish to send our best wishes to the Italian delegation, as they take over the Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

Thank you very much.