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**STATEMENT BY  
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF  
LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE OSCE, AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF  
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Stockholm, 2 December 2021

Madam Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Minister for Foreign Affairs Dominique Hasler, I should like to thank Sweden for its leadership role in the OSCE this year. The Swedish Chairmanship has made an important mark with its slogan “Back to Basics” and its focus on gender equality. Sweden has been working in a very challenging environment, which continues to be characterized by geopolitical tensions and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Swedish Chairmanship has demonstrated great commitment to strengthening multilateralism, human rights and the rule of law in the OSCE area. The past OSCE year has also shown how necessary it is to address the “basics” with reference to institutional matters within the Organization.

Madam Chairperson,

On 5 October Liechtenstein celebrated the 100th anniversary of its Constitution. At the centre of this anniversary was a particular article in the Constitution, Article 14, according to which the supreme function of the State is to promote the general welfare of the people. Liechtenstein contributes to the successful implementation of this basic principle and to political stability through its unique dual form of government. The State authority rests with the Prince and the people. In this are enshrined democracy, the rule of law and human rights and also the distinctive direct democracy in Liechtenstein. We firmly believe that respect for and promotion of these principles are of central significance in the political search for the best solutions. This applies at both the national and the international level and hence also to the OSCE.

Since the start of the CSCE process, Liechtenstein has emphatically supported the aims and work within the OSCE. We believe that the OSCE can continue to make an important contribution to comprehensive security in Europe and regret that in view of the further increasing tensions and the lack of consensus on many issues it cannot exploit its so urgently needed potential.

This also includes the growing institutional challenges that the Organization increasingly faces. Decisions that are essentially part of the OSCE’s routine work are blocked and excessively politicized. I am referring to the timely adoption of the OSCE budget or the decisions on the holding of annual OSCE events, such as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. With regard to the budget cycle, I should like to thank Germany and Switzerland for their important initiative.

The full implementation of OSCE principles and commitments by all participating States would make an essential contribution to restoring and strengthening security and trust in the OSCE area. This applies particularly to the conflicts that we observe with great concern.

The situation in eastern Ukraine remains highly volatile and is marked again increasingly by ceasefire violations and unacceptable restrictions on the freedom of movement of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission. A year after the escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict last autumn, violence once again erupted a few weeks ago. The situation in Belarus is also of particular concern both with regard to human rights and the situation at the outer border of the European Union with Belarus.

We must devote our undivided attention to the serious humanitarian impact of the conflicts and the oppressive situation of the civilian population.

The past year has once again been marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated existing challenges to security in many fields. This applies in particular to trafficking in human beings. With its initiative Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST), Liechtenstein emphasizes its commitment to combating modern slavery and trafficking in human beings. We are pleased that we have been able to further intensify co-operation within the OSCE in this area. We thank the United States of America and Albania for their proposal for a Ministerial Council decision on combating trafficking in human beings, which also includes the role of financial institutions.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I should like to wish Poland all the best for its Chairmanship in the coming year.

Thank you.