

**STATEMENT BY MR. GILBERT SABOYA SUNYÉ,  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF  
ANDORRA, AT THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE  
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Basel, 4 December 2014

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thanks for your warm welcome and kind hospitality in Basel.

First of all, I should like to congratulate Minister Didier Burkhalter and his team for their constructive leadership in a particularly difficult year notable for not being “business as usual”.

The OSCE’s response to the situation in Ukraine demonstrates the important role of the Organization as a platform for dialogue and an instrument for settling disagreements.

We support the activities of the Chairmanship, Secretariat and OSCE institutions in Ukraine. We also appreciate the work of the Special Monitoring Mission, to which my country has made a financial contribution. We should also like to stress that no solution to a conflict can be permanent if it fails to respect the principles of international law and if it is not the fruit of dialogue and consensus. In that regard, ensuring the full application of the Minsk agreements by all parties is a vital element in helping to de-escalate the conflict.

In spite of the present political situation, we are confident that it will be possible here and now to adopt decisions promoting peace and security in the region and strengthening the Organization to enable it to confront the current threats and challenges more effectively.

The Helsinki+40 process could provide a basis for moving forward in this direction in order to establish a security community as agreed at the Astana Summit four years ago.

In that context, we welcome the initiative by the Chairmanship to establish a Panel of Eminent Persons to initiate strategic discussion on European security as a joint project; this will, without a doubt, help to stimulate and complement the work of the Helsinki+40 process.

Mr. Chairperson,

Andorra is a small country without armed forces and it is not a member of any security alliance. For that reason we are very aware of the importance of the concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Without peace there can be no stability. Without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law cannot become established and there can be no security.

We are aware of the importance of multilateral forums for resolving conflicts, strengthening international law and finding comprehensive solutions to multidimensional and shared threats to security. In that regard the OSCE has proved its usefulness.

Obviously, the situation in Ukraine was a focus of the OSCE's activities in 2014. We cannot, however, ignore the threat to the security of us all posed by Da' Ish, Boko Haram, Al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations right on our doorstep.

In that regard, we are concerned about the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. This certainly calls for an immediate response, but also a more long-term one. We shall persevere in the fight against extremist discourse and the hate speech it engenders.

In that connection, the education of young people, who are an asset to our societies, and in particular raising awareness in civil society of human rights are the best weapons in the long term for countering intolerance and promoting equal opportunities and social cohesion.

For Andorra, education is both a national priority and a prime focus of our external actions. Our country was invited by the United Nations Secretary-General to join the global initiative "Education Above All". Moreover, education in democratic citizenship was a priority for Andorra when it chaired the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers last year.

As a result, Andorra supports the Swiss initiative to draft an action plan for young people and to include them in the Organization's work. It also welcomes all activities aimed at promoting gender equality.

The OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security would not be complete without establishing a direct connection between the security of our own region and that of neighbouring ones. We hope that the discussion at the next working session will be translated into specific actions and programmes aimed at improving dialogue and strengthening co-operation with our Mediterranean and Asian partners.

Finally, I should like to congratulate Germany and Austria for their forthcoming Chairmanships. Also, on behalf of the Government of Andorra, I should like to offer my best wishes for success in 2015 to Serbia as the incoming Chairmanship and to assure it of my country's full co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.