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**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR HUBERT WURTH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF
LUXEMBOURG TO THE OSCE, AT THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Kyiv, 5 and 6 December 2013

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Nelson Mandela's wisdom will remain with us. He exerted a vital influence during his lifetime in South Africa and in the world as a whole. It will remain an indispensable and constant source of inspiration for how we live our lives.

I thank our Ukrainian hosts for their welcome and congratulate Minister Leonid Kozhara and his team for the effective and collegial manner in which they have led the work of the OSCE in 2013.

Because of the formation of the new Luxembourg Government, Jean Asselborn, our Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been unable to come to Kyiv, and he has asked me to pass on his regret at not being here today.

Naturally, Luxembourg fully subscribes to the views expressed by Helga Schmid on behalf of the European Union.

We have been following events in Ukraine, as well as the statements made by the Ukrainian authorities, with great interest. It is crucial that the commitments made within the OSCE be fully respected and implemented. Luxembourg hopes that the willingness to engage in dialogue will lead to tangible results.

Luxembourg, which has now been a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a year, is a steadfast advocate of multilateral co-operation. Our consistent commitment to the OSCE is also a result of this, and we will spare no effort in contributing to the creation of a security community as our Heads of State or Government declared in Astana.

In Dublin, we provided ourselves with an instrument to hone this vision, and I applaud the efforts of the Ukrainian Chairmanship on the Helsinki+40 process. It will be up

to the forthcoming Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships to steer us towards summer 2015, the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

Mr. Chairperson,

The third basket is of crucial importance to our community, our societies and our citizens. Without commitments to continue our work on the human dimension, the notion of a “security community” would no longer be entirely meaningful. The projects proposed by the Ukrainian Chairmanship for this year created a balanced package. Today, we wish to commend the agreements reached in this basket.

The work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and their autonomy and impartiality, lies at the heart of the OSCE. Their authority and their effectiveness cannot make themselves felt without the firm support of the participating States, and Luxembourg encourages them to intensify their efforts.

Election observation by the OSCE remains an indispensable tool for supporting democracy. The renewed and reinforced co-operation between the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is encouraging. Luxembourg thanks the ODIHR for its Needs Assessment Mission to Luxembourg during the October 2013 general election. The recommendations made by the ODIHR will be studied with a view to exploring lines for follow-up.

I should like to join my colleagues who have welcomed the adoption of an initial set of confidence-building measures reinforcing our cybersecurity. It is the first document of this type adopted by an international organization, and it is remarkable that the participating States have been able to find common ground in spite of the complexity and the pressing nature of the topic.

Mr. Chairperson,

Luxembourg has chaired the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) since the end of this summer. I wish to thank my colleagues from Liechtenstein and Lithuania, our predecessors in this role, for their exemplary co-operation over the course of this year and I wish our successor, Malta, the best of luck. In 2013, the FSC Chairmanships organized a large number of Security Dialogues that helped to improve our understanding of the challenges to our common security. I should like to make particular mention of those focused on small arms and light weapons (SALW), the proliferation of which is a genuine challenge to regional and global peace, as well as the Security Dialogues focusing on conventional arms control.

In Kyiv, three draft decisions have been discussed. The first concerns the tasks of the FSC for 2014, and the second follows on from the priorities of the Luxembourg Chairmanship, namely, the work on SALW. Progress in our discussions of these two texts has been increasingly substantial, but it has not been possible to reach a consensus on the first. This is a shame, but I should like to nonetheless thank all of the delegations for their endeavours in this context.

With regard to the updating of the 2011 Vienna Document, we hope that there will be productive consultations during 2014. In our opinion, with the upcoming Maltese Chairmanship of the FSC, this discussion is in good hands.

Another text relates to the updating of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994. Our Ukrainian friends have worked committedly to update these principles, and the decision was adopted by the FSC.

Afghanistan is a partner and neighbouring State of the OSCE area. The Luxembourg Chairmanship of the FSC organised two meetings on security in and around Afghanistan. At the joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council, and at the Security Dialogue of 16 October on Central Asia, the participating States discussed the necessity and importance of a regional approach for the OSCE.

Conventional arms control in Europe must be reactivated. The Astana Commemorative Declaration launched an appeal to restart negotiations in order to achieve the highest level of security with the lowest level of armaments.

I am pleased that the work of the Economic and Environmental Committee has been carried out in a good atmosphere and has led to the positive outcomes of which we are aware.

I should like to recall that it is essential to aim for and achieve adequate results in all three dimensions.

As we approach the end of 2013, frozen conflicts have, alas, not become a thing of the past. This is not for want of trying, however: undoubtedly, all participating States must make an even deeper commitment to support mediation processes. We nevertheless welcome the summit held on 19 November of this year between the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and the preliminary results. The ministerial statement on the situation in Transdniestria is clearly opportune and a positive signal.

The challenges that our Organization faces are dynamic, numerous and growing. They require our attention. Within this complex context, our Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier, accomplishes his duties with courage and perseverance – for which Luxembourg is grateful.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairperson, I should like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you and your team for the excellent work you have carried out throughout the year and during this Ministerial Council meeting.

We also extend our best wishes to the forthcoming Swiss Chairmanship, and should like to assure it of our support in the important and challenging task it faces.

Thank you for your attention.