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**22-23 June 2017**

**OSCE Human Dimension Meeting – Austria, Vienna**  
**Working Session 4: Interfaith and interreligious dialogue and cooperation and creating the conditions for peaceful and secure societies in the OSCE region.**

**Statement of Francesco Di Lillo, Head of the European Union Office of  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

Madam/Mr. Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,

We are honoured to participate in these two-day conference, and welcome the Austrian Presidency's decision to bring interreligious and interfaith dialogue on the OSCE agenda. We are pleased by the direction of the OSCE commitments to FoRB, tolerance, and non-discrimination.

More can still be done to promote trust, mutual respect, and combat radicalisation and bigotry across the OSCE area. Interreligious dialogue has the unique ability to cultivate positive and harmonious relations with those of other faiths. As we continue to learn of one another and set aside our differences, we develop a new level of understanding and respect that can overcome centuries of mistrust and negative preconceived notions. The perpetuation of bigoted beliefs through intolerance and lack of interaction and education are the driving forces behind insecurity today. May I state what we already know: education at the individual and local level is key to cultivating an atmosphere of peace. Interreligious dialogue takes time and patience but must be encouraged, not undermined.

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

May I share as words of encouragement and recommendation, a quote from Gordon B. Hinckley, a late President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: “Each of us is part of a great family, the human family, sons and daughters of God, and therefore brothers and sisters. We must work harder to build mutual respect, and attitude of forbearance, with tolerance one for another regardless of the doctrines and philosophies which we may espouse.”

We encourage participating States and all individuals to actively facilitate opportunities for an open and transparent dialogue with and between churches and religious communities. Interfaith interaction can prevent differences and sensitivities from degrading into conflict. We believe that such engagements will, in time, develop and grow in mutual respect and peace in our societies.

Thank you.