

Second day of the Seventeenth Meeting
MC(17) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE
25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION
AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR
DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, reaffirm our strong commitment to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1984, to which all OSCE participating States have become parties.
2. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of this Convention we reaffirm that, as also set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
3. We recognize that torture is a most serious crime and affirm that freedom from torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right, which protects the inherent dignity and integrity of the human person.
4. We strongly condemn all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can never be justified.
5. We are seriously concerned that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment still take place in many parts of the world, including in OSCE participating States.
6. We therefore pledge to uphold the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as set forth in the Convention, to implement fully and in good faith its provisions, and to act in full conformity with all its principles.
7. We call upon the participating States, which have not yet done so, to give early consideration to becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.
8. We also reaffirm our determination to implement fully our common OSCE commitments to eradicate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

9. We shall intensify our efforts to take persistent, determined and effective measures to prevent and combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to ensure full rehabilitation of torture victims.
10. We recognize the valuable contribution of the OSCE in promoting the principles and provisions laid down in the Convention.
11. We consider it important to co-operate fully to this end with the applicable international intergovernmental bodies.
12. We commend the persistent efforts of civil society working to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to alleviate the suffering of victims.