

Swedish Statement at the OSCE MC Dublin 2012

ENGLISH only

Let me first of all thank Ireland for hosting the 19th Ministerial meeting and for its ambitious efforts in chairing the OSCE this year. We would also like to join others in welcoming, Mongolia as the 57th participating State.

Being here in Dublin today, I note that two years have passed since the Astana summit and we are now 3 years away from celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Many challenges remain if we are to reach our objectives, for which an absolute pre-requisite is the full implementation of our OSCE commitments.

The protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia continue to present a serious threat to our common security. They represent a human tragedy for far too many individuals and families and overshadow the OSCE cooperation and dialogue between participating states. As long as the conflicts are not properly resolved, we run the risk that they one day could transform into open conflicts. Non-use of force, peaceful settlement of conflicts and co-operation among States are still the cornerstones of the Helsinki final act. We expect incoming Chairmanships and participating States to intensify efforts to reach tangible progress in resolving these conflicts in a peaceful manner, through negotiations within agreed formats and with full respect for the principles of international law.

A lack of progress in modernizing arms control regimes and Confidence and Security Building Measures could over time weaken the security in the OSCE area. We need strengthened efforts to establish a functioning arms control regime and increasing the transparency in relation to military capabilities. The stalemate in further updating and modernizing the Vienna Document, as well as the problems reaching consensus on tasking to the FSC on this issue, are very unsatisfactory.

UNSCR 1325 is highly relevant also for this organisation and should be implemented across the work of OSCE, an OSCE-Wide Action Plan is needed.

In the field of transnational threats, a growing number of cyber-attacks and incidents points to the need to increase efforts to develop transparency risk reduction measures and enhanced dialogue, in order to build confidence. The OSCE should enhance its efforts in

developing CBMSs in the cyber domain and we thank the US for its excellent work in this area. A multi-dimensional issue such as cyber security necessitates a comprehensive approach, for which the OSCE is a particularly suitable platform. The respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic governance should apply equally on line and as they do off line. We regret that it has still not been possible to adopt the Declaration on Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age, which enjoys a strong support from the large majority of participating States.

The Helsinki Final Act underlines that the respect for human rights is an integral part of our broad security concept. Looking back at 2012 we are deeply concerned by the poor implementation of commitments by some participating States, particularly in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This was also the signal sent loud and clear to participating States by NGOs in the parallel OSCE civil society conference here in Dublin.

In the area of media freedom we are worried about the numerous attacks against journalists observed throughout the OSCE region. Too often journalists face criminal investigation, prosecution or imprisonment because of their work. We must acknowledge the particularly important role played by journalists in matters of public interest, which often puts them at risk of intimidation, harassment and violence. We are equally concerned that some participating States try to control and monitor individuals who express their opinions through new media. We regret that Internet is not an open and public forum in all participating States in the OSCE. We have to recall our OSCE commitments on media freedom, the right to hold opinions and the freedom of expression.

We welcome progress in the Human Rights Council this year when resolutions on safety of journalists and on human rights and the internet were adopted. This was a big step forward. The OSCE commitments must not be any less than what we have agreed in the UN. We commend and express our support for the Representative of the Freedom of the Media in the OSCE for her outstanding work in this area.

Election observation is one of the most important tools of the OSCE in promoting democracy through free and fair elections. This year we continue to see challenges in some participating States in conducting elections. We are deeply concerned that some participating States

have tried to weaken and reduce the role of ODIHR, and we are troubled by the statement of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly that the cooperation agreement with ODIHR is no longer valid and operative. It is widely acknowledged that ODIHR's election methodology is the international gold standard. We urge incoming chairmanships and participating states to give ODIHR strong support and to fully implement ODIHR's recommendations in the area of election observation. We also highly appreciate ODIHR's work in other areas to promote democracy and human rights. The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is a unique format, allowing strong participation of NGOs. This must be preserved.

We commend the important and valuable work by the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We expect that the next High Commissioner will keep the same high standard of engagement and integrity as the current and previous High Commissioners.

As we have begun our journey towards the 40th birthday of the Helsinki Final Act, we cannot ignore the fact that there is a lack of democratic governance, respect for human rights and the Rule of Law in some States in the OSCE region today. 37 years after its adoption, the Helsinki final Act tells us that it is high time for participating States to fulfil their obligations in full. We expect the incoming chairmanships to lead by example when it comes to living up to the OSCE principles and commitments and helping us meet these.

We believe that we have the necessary tools in place to meet the challenges of the 21st Century; a multi-dimensional comprehensive and indivisible security concept, autonomous OSCE institutions, an effective secretariat and well-functioning field missions. Thus, these tools do not need to be revised nor reinvented. What we need however, is more political will, better implementation of commitments and higher degree of involvement by civil society.

Finally, let me welcome Ukraine, as the incoming Chairmanship. We look forward to work closely with you during the coming year.

Thank you!