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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO AT THE
TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Hamburg, 8 and 9 December 2016

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I should like to thank the German Government for its generous hospitality and to express my most sincere congratulations on its excellent work this year.

The ongoing unstable situation of the past few years is characterized by various drawn-out conflicts and challenges afflicting the entire world. In the face of such crises, our region can count on the OSCE to play a major role.

One of these challenges is the flow of refugees and migrants towards our area, which has given rise to an emergency situation in the transit and receiving countries. The OSCE has already made and can certainly continue to make a valuable contribution to the management of these flows, in collaboration with other international organizations and individual States.

It is essential, on the one hand, to tackle the causes of the migration flow – which has already taken on the proportions of a veritable exodus – and to ensure that the arrivals are managed properly, but also, on the other, to strive to ensure that the sentiments and manifestations of xenophobia, intolerance and racism, whose emergence we are witnessing in all of our countries, do not prevail.

The Government of San Marino has also contributed to the international humanitarian action in support of the initiative on humanitarian corridors.

Mr. Chairperson,

San Marino is convinced that dialogue and negotiation are the path to pursue, avoiding incitement to hatred and recourse to war and violence, and supports the OSCE's mechanisms for reaching solutions acceptable to all parties to a conflict in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Strong political will is required to establish and/or rebuild mutual trust and to resume genuine dialogue oriented towards peace and stability.

We are following the various conflict situations in the OSCE area, in particular in Ukraine, with concern. We reaffirm our respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, and our full support for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission. We consider it essential that the Mission have access to the entire territory of the country and that it be in a position to carry out its work effectively.

It is important that progress be made in arms withdrawal and the restoration of political and social order. San Marino supports the work of the Trilateral Contact Group and urges the parties to implement the Minsk agreements and to respect international law with regard to humanitarian aid and monitoring by international organizations.

Mr. Chairperson,

San Marino has always supported respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and stresses, in particular, the importance of pluralism of the mass media and freedom of expression, and its wholesale rejection of torture and the death penalty.

We consider it necessary to improve the position of women and persons with disabilities, and to ensure universal participation in national political and public life.

We support the commitment to gender equality, tolerance and opposition to all forms of discrimination, and also to countering transnational threats, including terrorism. Absolute priority must be given to preventing the radicalization of young persons: close co-operation among all participating States and Partners for Co-operation is essential in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, I should like to reaffirm San Marino's support for the OSCE structure and independent institutions, and for the Parliamentary Assembly and field missions, which make up the backbone of our Organization. At the national level, we appreciated the review of San Marino's electoral system set out in the ODIHR needs assessment mission report, based on a visit to San Marino last October on the day before the recent elections.

I extend my best wishes to the incoming Austrian Chairmanship and to the future Italian and Slovakian Chairmanships.