

MC.DEL/30/12  
6 December 2012

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

**STATEMENT BY MR. DIDIER BURKHALTER,  
AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE  
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Dublin, 6 December 2012

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

James Joyce, a native son of this city, wrote: “I am tomorrow, or some future day, what I establish today.”

Dublin appears particularly appropriate as a place for launching “today”, as he said, a process for outlining the future of our Organization. In that context, I should like to congratulate the Irish Chairmanship for the organization of this meeting, its preparation work and the warm welcome.

In 2014, Switzerland will assume the Chairmanship of an organization that is essential because, through its shared values and work in the field, it assures greater security for each of our countries and their citizens. The OSCE has made a unique contribution to security and European rapprochement. We are convinced that it will continue to do so.

Since the start of the CSCE, the States have assigned differing importance to the three dimensions. This tension is part and parcel of our Organization. Nevertheless, we have managed to establish common norms, principles and commitments, reaffirmed at the Astana Summit. The implementation of this *acquis* is an ongoing task.

We are looking forward to the launching of the Helsinki+40 process, which will offer a framework for the further development of the Organization.

In anticipation of the Swiss Chairmanship, we believe that the following elements, which will offer greater predictability and continuity in the Organization’s work, are important:

- Political support with clear mandates for future chairmanships;
- A long-term perspective with regular progress evaluation;
- A common vision subscribed to by both the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Switzerland would like the OSCE to have clear objectives and would therefore like to set some priorities.

First, we must be better prepared to meet the major challenges in the politico-military dimension. The weakening of the conventional arms control regime in Europe is a challenge for the OSCE. It is time to revive serious discussion on conventional arms control. To guarantee transparency in the military sphere, there is a need to revive and modernize confidence- and security-building measures. To that end, Switzerland calls for a redoubling of efforts to achieve a substantive modernization of the Vienna Document.

New risks are emerging at the same time: non-conventional threats and cyberattacks are transnational challenges that are both more complex and less tangible. The OSCE must include these threats in its strategies and develop and strengthen its capacity to respond to them.

Second, economic stability is an essential aspect of security. In this regard, good governance and combating corruption are vital. We must step up our activities in the economic and environmental dimension and look for a “trademark” there. The OSCE’s activities in this dimension in the recent past have played an important role as confidence- and security-building measures in the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Third, in the human dimension, States have undertaken a number of commitments with regard to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It is now important to implement these commitments and improve their monitoring. The institutions that contribute to this deserve sustained political and financial support. In that context, civil society can make an important contribution, as was demonstrated at the recent Parallel OSCE Civil Society Conference.

The OSCE must continue to promote democratic elections, and the Organization must remain united so as not to weaken its credibility.

Combating violence against journalists and the development of new technologies such as the Internet and social media also call for appropriate decisions. Human rights and fundamental freedoms also apply online.

In summary, three priorities for three dimensions:

- Politico-military security through better conventional arms control and combating of non-conventional dangers and cyberrisks;
- Search for a trademark in the second dimension;
- Complete implementation of commitments and improved monitoring in the human dimension.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

We look forward to working with Ukraine within the Troika, congratulate it on its Chairmanship in 2013 and assure it of our full support.

You have demonstrated your confidence in us by awarding us the Chairmanship of the Organization in 2014. We shall co-ordinate closely with Serbia, which will succeed us in 2015.

Although our country has no access to the sea, it has lots of rivers. We thus have a long tradition as bridge-builders. In foreign policy we also want to build bridges and shall endeavour to do so.

We are drawing up a joint work plan with Serbia that will ensure greater predictability and continuity in the Organization's work. In that regard, we suggest that chairmanships be decided in future three years in advance.

Our Organization has had a number of successes. In May this year it demonstrated its effectiveness by facilitating voting in Kosovo during the Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections, within a very tight deadline.

It has also admitted Mongolia as the 57th participating State, to which we extend a welcome.

Thank you.