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**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. AURELIA FRICK, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF  
LIECHTENSTEIN, AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING  
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Vienna, 7 December 2017

Mr. Chairperson,  
Esteemed colleagues,

Austrian diplomacy stands for dialogue and bridge-building. With great skill, the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship has used both in the interests of our Organization. In the past year, the political environment for the OSCE's work has become no less difficult.

We are obliged to note that the OSCE norms and principles are being flouted again and again. Instability, armed conflicts, particularly the crisis in and around Ukraine, human rights violations and terrorism are all serious developments that need to be overcome.

The OSCE can make a contribution to mastering many of these challenges. The OSCE principles and commitments form the basis for this, and the OSCE institutions provide the instruments. It is up to us to exploit the OSCE's potential. We regard it as an achievement that the four leading positions in the OSCE have been successfully filled, thereby ensuring the functioning of our Organization.

Without trust and the political will, however, our instruments are blunt. In an organization based on consensus, every individual participating State has a special responsibility. We very much regret the fact that this instrument often leads not to unity but more and more frequently to blockade.

Liechtenstein welcomes the successful launch of the Structured Dialogue. During the year we have obtained a better understanding of the military challenges and security risks in the OSCE area. We see this as an important first step towards confidence-building. Next year we hope to be able to develop a common understanding of the most important threat perceptions and to take a step towards adapting our shared instruments. We believe that discussion next year should include confidence- and security-building measures, modernization of the Vienna Document, and revitalization of conventional arms control.

Liechtenstein regrets the further deterioration of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The ongoing conflict causes destruction, growing hatred between population groups and unacceptable suffering for the civilian population. I am convinced that an improvement in the

humanitarian situation would also help to defuse the conflict itself. I thank the Austrian Chairmanship for making this a priority. Liechtenstein has and will continue to make its contribution.

We welcome the progress in the Transdniestrian settlement process.

Mr. Chairperson,

It gives me pleasure to be in Vienna and I should like to thank Austria for its warm hospitality.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.