

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MS. TALYA LADOR-FRESHER,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, OSCE AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA
A THE 22nd OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
(BELGRADE, 4 DECEMBER 2015)**

MR. CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE

EXCELLENCIES

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, I WISH TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA FOR ITS GENEROSITY IN HOSTING THIS YEAR'S MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE SERBIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TO HIS TEAM IN VIENNA ON THE EXCELLENT STEWARDSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION THIS YEAR, AND TO WISH OUR IN-COMING CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF GERMANY AND HIS TEAM IN VIENNA A MOST SUCCESSFUL 2016.

I ALSO WISH TO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, TO THE OSCE SECRETARIAT, AND TO THE GERMAN CHAIR OF THE CONTACT GROUP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS ON THIS YEAR'S ROBUST AGENDA WHICH EXPANDED THE SCOPE OF COOPERATION WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS.

ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE OSCE, AS REFLECTED IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AND TO THE GOAL OF A COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY POLICY REMAINS STEADFAST AND UNWAVERING. WE CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HISTORIC AND TIMELY DOCUMENT.

THE MOST DANGEROUS CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING TODAY ARE THE STRENGTHENING AND SAVAGERY OF NON-STATE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, FUNDAMENTAL ISLAMIC TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ISIS AND AL-QAEDA, AND THE PHENOMENA OF TERRORISTS ACTING ALONE OR IN SMALL CELLS.

WE ARE PROUD TO NOTE THAT ISRAEL – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OSCE, UNODC AND IN CONSULTATION WITH CTED - HOSTED THE SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “COUNTERING RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM LEADING TO TERRORISM: THE CHALLENGE OF TERRORISTS ACTING ALONE OR IN SMALL CELLS”. WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT OVER 100 REPRESENTATIVES FROM 42 COUNTRIES AND 10 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TOOK PART IN THIS SEMINAR..

IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THIS PHENOMENON, STATES MUST PROMOTE TOLERANCE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS, CULTURES AND RELIGIONS. ISRAEL WELCOMED THE OSCE CONFERENCE ON “BUILDING BRIDGES: PROMOTING DIALOGUE TO PREVENT RADICALIZATION AND EXTREMISM”.

I WISH TO CONGRATULATE THE SERBIAN CHAIR-IN-OFFICE, THE GERMAN CHAIR OF THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR

COOPERATION AND ESPECIALLY THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN ON THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE 2015 MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE. HOLDING THE CONFERENCE IN OUR REGION WAS A DEFINITIVE ACHIEVEMENT.

ISRAEL COMMENDS THE WORK OF ODIHR IN PROVIDING A MUCH NEEDED PLATFORM FOR A SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE AND SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICES .

WE APPLAUD THE TIRELESS WORK OF ODIHR IN COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM AND IN TEACHING THE LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST ACROSS THE OSCE REGION. WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE 2004 "BERLIN DECLARATION" AND WELCOME THE 2014 MINISTERIAL DECISION ON COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.

WHEN JEWISH LIFE IN EUROPE BECOMES INCREASINGLY THREATENED BY EXTREMISTS AND HATEMONGERS, WHEN JEWS ARE FORCED TO CONTEMPLATE THEIR FUTURES ON EUROPEAN SOIL, NO OTHER WAKE-UP CALL IS NEEDED TO REALIZE THE THREAT POSED TO THE SECURITY, STABILITY, FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY OF ALL PEOPLE ACROSS THE OSCE REGION.

IRAN REMAINS THE GREATEST THREAT TO STABILITY IN OUR REGION. THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IS BECOMING A REALITY, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S FOCUS SHOULD NOW BE DIRECTED AT ENSURING FULL ADHERENCE TO IRAN'S COMMITMENTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT. IRAN HAS A SOLID REPUTATION OF DECEPTION AND CONCEALMENT, WHILE VIOLATING CONSTANTLY UNSC RESOLUTIONS UNDER CHAPTER VII.

THEREFORE, A STRICT ENFORCEMENT AND THOROUGH VERIFICATION IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.

THE AYATOLLAH REGIME HAS INCREASED ITS NEGATIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION, AND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT TERRORIST GROUPS AND VICIOUS REGIMES, THROUGH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, ARMS TRANSFERS AND POLITICAL BACKING. SUPPORTING HEZBOLLAH, HAMAS AND THE ASSAD REGIME MUST BE STOPPED IN ORDER TO ENSURE STABILITY AND TO PREVENT IRANIAN HEGEMONY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL WILL NEVER GIVE UP THE HOPE FOR PEACE. WE CONTINUE TO SEEK AN HISTORIC PEACE WITH OUR PALESTINIAN NEIGHBORS. BUT WE ARE NOW, DESPITE OUR DESIRES AND EFFORTS FOR PEACE, IN THE MIDST OF A BLOODY CAMPAIGN, AN ASSAULT THAT SEEKS TO MURDER INNOCENT ISRAELIS WITH GUNS, KNIVES AND AXES.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ISRAEL'S OBJECTIVE TO ACHIEVE A PEACE FOUNDED ON SECURITY AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION ACHIEVED THROUGH A DIPLOMATIC PROCESS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS, A PROCESS LEADING TO A TWO-STATE SOLUTION FOR TWO PEOPLES.

FOR PEACE TO BE ACHIEVED, ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS MUST BE MET.

THE HOPE FOR PEACE IS ONE WE ALL SHARE. LET THE TEACHING OF THE TORAH

בקש שלום ורדפהו

"SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT"

GUIDE US IN 2016.

THANK YOU.