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Statement of Hungary
at the 20th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
as delivered by H.E. Zsolt Németh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Kyiv, 5 December 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, I would like to thank Foreign Minister Kozhara for Ukraine's excellent leadership over the past year and for the warm hospitality we enjoy here in Kyiv.

Hungary subscribes to the statement delivered by Ms. Helga Schmid, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service. These days the Ukraine is facing particular challenges related also to OSCE principles, in particular freedom of expression and of assembly. I take note of Mr Kozhara's yesterday statement, the joint statement of the opposition, and I encourage both the government and the opposition to enter into dialogue with a view to find a peaceful political solution in line with the NATO declaration. Violence, committed especially by the State, must be investigated. As a friend and neighbour of Ukraine I recall that the possibility of continuation of negotiations with the EU remains open. My personal impression yesterday on Maidan square was that commitment to Europe is striking on behalf of the Ukrainian people. No one has the right to question the right of any country to decide about its orientation, affiliation and future. Finally, no further negligence! The West, including financial institutions must pay double attention to this country in a post-Vilnius situation.

Building a **security community** as defined in the **Astana Commemorative Declaration** remains our common goal. We have to strengthen our organization, reconfirm our long-standing commitments, improve our dialogue and rebuild trust among ourselves, and reconcile old historic grievances. The **Helsinki+40 process**, launched in Dublin a year ago, will help us face together the different challenges present in **all three dimensions of security**.

Responding to the new transnational security challenges remains high on the agenda of the Organisation. In this context, we particularly welcome the Confidence Building Measures adopted in the field of **cyber security**. We also attach great importance to an increased engagement with **Afghanistan**, in view of the new security situation to emerge after 2014.

An effective **arms control** regime, including disarmament and confidence- and security building, remains an essential element of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture. We hope that this Ministerial Council will help overcome the decade-long impasse. Hungary looks forward to engaging constructively in a substantial update of the Vienna Document.

As one of the co-depositaries of the **Open Skies Treaty**, Hungary remains committed to its full implementation, and thus welcomes the return of the Open Skies Consultative



Commission to its regular work. Last August, we were also pleased to witness the **1000th observation flight** under the Treaty.

Mr. Chairperson,

The **protection and promotion of minority rights** is an overriding principle for the Hungarian Government.

We attach particular importance to the institution of the **High Commissioner on National Minorities**, and stand ready to work together with the newly appointed High Commissioner. Congratulations to Ms. Astrid Thors! In our view, while becoming an integral part of their home State, national minorities serve as bridges between nations and this way can effectively contribute to the better understanding between peoples, and also to the economic and cultural enrichment of whole regions. We are convinced that the approach, which is a daily routine in many Western European countries, in relation to historical national minorities, respecting and co-operating with the communities' autonomous structures is the model to be followed wherever multi-ethnicity prevails. Language is a key-factor to autonomy.

It is our firm conviction that improving the situation of Roma is not only a challenge but also an opportunity to **Europe**. We see our Roma communities as a hidden reserve of human capital and culture for Europe. We must lead the Roma population back to the labor market and provide them with a perspective of sustainable work opportunities and full participation in the mainstream society.

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the deportation of the Hungarian Jews, the Hungarian Government declared **2014** a ***Holocaust Memorial Year***, focusing on education and Holocaust remembrance. The 2014 Memorial Year will pay tribute to the suffering of the victims of the Roma Holocaust, as well. The Hungarian Government regards it an honour that the UNESCO has undertaken to be chief patron of the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Year.

Let me also mention the ***International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's recent unanimous decision*** on Hungary's presidency of the organization in **2015**, that we consider as a recognition of and a further inspiration for the on-going governmental efforts aiming at combatting anti-Semitism, extremism and hatred, domestically and internationally as well.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, let me reiterate our strong support for the Ukrainian Chairmanship in their endeavor to prepare meaningful decisions for this Council Meeting, leading us closer to achieving our common objectives. We also look forward to working with Switzerland and our southern neighbor, Serbia during the years of 2014 and 2015.