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**STATEMENT BY MR. PASQUALE VALENTINI,  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO, AT THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING  
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Basel, 4 and 5 December 2014

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,

First of all, I should like to thank the Government of the Swiss Confederation for the generous hospitality it has offered us in the beautiful city of Basel. I should also like to congratulate the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE for its excellent work in the course of the year, which has not been easy on account of the critical situation on our continent and in the world as a whole.

In Europe, unfortunately, a number of conflict situations persist, some of which have been going on for a long time and which our Organization has been endeavouring to resolve for many years. Nor can we ignore the fact that on the southern shore of the Mediterranean there are States, some of which are represented here, that are experiencing either directly or indirectly the tragic reality of war and violence, which has given rise to the desperate migration of thousands of people every day towards Europe in search of a safe haven, a journey of hope that too often ends in death.

One situation that has been causing concern and apprehension for over a year is the crisis in Ukraine, not only because of the number of victims it has resulted in but also because it represents a serious threat to peace and security in the entire OSCE region, calling into question the basic principles of security and co-operation, such as sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We thank the Swiss Chairmanship and the Secretary General for their considerable efforts to deal with the crisis and reaffirm our support for the OSCE Monitoring Mission as a useful and impartial means of providing information and of monitoring the conflict situation.

San Marino also supports the work of the Trilateral Contact Group and urges the parties to abide by the Minsk Protocol while respecting international law regarding humanitarian aid and monitoring by international organizations. It also appeals to all of the parties to respect the ceasefire and to co-operate in the interests of peace.

The crisis in Ukraine, like other crisis and conflict situations on our continent, demonstrates how important it is to step up de-escalation and mediation measures at our

disposal and, above all, to seek to build or restore mutual confidence. The instruments available to the Organization and the effectiveness of the OSCE's activities depend on the willingness and mutual co-operation shown by us, the participating States.

On the eve of the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act we must step up our efforts beyond national or partisan interests for the common good of peace and security within Europe, this vast continent of which we are all part.

In the spirit of the Helsinki Accords, reaffirmed and renewed in the light of the changes that have taken place since the end of the Cold War, we should encourage the mobilization again of all States to seek a new balance to strengthen and accompany this sensitive historical passage, paying increasing attention to respect for human rights and more widespread democratization.

Mr. Chairperson,

The limited time at my disposal prevents me from speaking in greater detail about these issues and broaching other ones of importance to our Organization, but I should like to emphasize the universal nature of the challenges that face us and hence the fact that only through universal mobilization based on dialogue and negotiation with the instruments that international organizations have at their disposal will it be possible to offer the elements of security and stability that are desired by all peoples.

I should like to make brief mention of the interesting initiative by the Swiss Chairmanship of elaborating a Youth Action Plan, a plan of action drafted by the 57 young "ambassadors" representing our countries, who are presenting their recommendations here for helping to develop a youth strategy within the OSCE.

This contribution should not be ignored but considered attentively and implemented, enabling these young people to inject new energy and hope for the future.

In conclusion, I should like to reaffirm San Marino's gratitude to the Swiss Chairmanship and assure the future Chairmanships of its support, starting with Serbia in 2015 and then Germany and Austria, and wish them all every success in their work.