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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Andreas Papadakis
Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic to the OSCE

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Plenary Session II

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Thank you Mr Chairman

While aligning with the EU statement, we wish to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Terrorism is a global challenge that no country can tackle on its own. It is a challenge of complex and constantly evolving nature. Our approach should be increasingly co-operative and continuously evolving, in the OSCE area and beyond.

Greece remains a firm ally in the international mobilization to tackle terrorism in all its aspects while standing by those who defend human rights, the rule of law and religious freedom, and respect International Law.

The recently concluded 4th review of the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy underlined the need for further cooperation among all member states in addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, the overall prevention of terrorism, countering violent extremism and addressing the nexus of development and security.

Much still needs to be done in terms of multilateral coordination and local implementation.

We join others in expressing deep concern over the growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters as described in UNSCR 2178. Tackling this threat requires the development of a comprehensive approach that would include legislative reforms, administrative measures, enhanced cooperation of judicial and investigative authorities, as well as countering both the financing of terrorism and violent extremism leading to terrorism.

The OSCE, with its comprehensive concept of security, multidimensional approach and institutional set-up is particularly well-placed to serve as a platform to launch region-specific initiatives that complement global objectives.

Greece is particularly concerned about developments in the Mediterranean and the wider Middle East. It is our immediate neighborhood and a region gravely affected by the proliferation of terrorist and other organized crime networks, including those facilitating illegal migration. We strongly support the OSCE's engagement for cooperation with our Mediterranean Partners. In this vein, we welcome the outcome of the recent Mediterranean Conference in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized by the Serbian Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

Finally, I wish to thank the Swiss Chairmanship for organizing today's thematic session with the participation of our Partners for Co-operation and look forward to our fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention