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**STATEMENT BY MS. GEMMA CANO,
DIRECTOR FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND CO-OPERATION,
PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA, AT THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Kyiv, December 2013

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I should like to thank Minister Leonid Kozhara and his team for their constructive leadership and efforts to promote a culture of dialogue between the States assembled here and for the cordial welcome and hospitality in Kyiv.

The annual meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council offers us an opportunity to review the progress made in the course of the year and to reach consensus on decisions that will guide our activities to promote peace and security in the region. We should not forget, however, that these decisions should be transformed into effective programme activities leading to an improvement in the living conditions of the citizens in our countries. Only in this way will we be able to guarantee sustainable growth, and hence prosperity and inclusion, while giving meaning to the words democracy and human rights.

We hope that we will be able to make progress here today in building a security community as agreed upon in the Astana Commemorative Declaration. In that context, the Helsinki+40 process is a suitable platform for developing a strategic and co-ordinated work programme for the short and medium term aimed at the establishment of such a community and strengthening the Organization to enable it to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century in a more effective manner. A decision to that effect would give continuity to the process and serve as a guide for the forthcoming Chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia with a view to achieving specific results by 2015.

While it is important to be ambitious in deciding what we wish to achieve, we should not lose our sense of proportion or forget the road we have travelled or the background circumstances, in particular with regard to the frozen conflicts and the specific issues dealt with in the three dimensions. We therefore congratulate the Chairmanship for the draft decisions presented, which cover the various priorities of the participating States in a balanced and realistic fashion.

We support the existing formats for negotiating the settlement of the conflicts in the OSCE area, in which creativity and dialogue are essential for building confidence between

the parties. The conflicts run counter to the values of peace, security and human rights. It is vital to find a fair balance between diplomatic solutions and compliance with the rule of law.

Andorra has no armed forces and does not belong to any security alliance. We therefore welcome the efforts by the Forum for Security Co-operation to promote dialogue on arms control, non-proliferation and confidence- and security-building measures with a view to achieving transparency and predictability, and hence stability and security, in the OSCE area.

Having said that, we can guarantee human dignity, justice and progress in our societies only through respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. For that reason, the full application of the commitments undertaken in the human dimension is a vital component in the building of a security community.

I should like to add that human rights education is essential for combating intolerance, fostering equality of opportunity and social cohesion. Human rights education is one of our priorities and was our guiding principle during Andorra's chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers from November 2012 until May 2013.

The creation of pluralistic and democratic societies calls for the integration of the most vulnerable groups, the active participation of civil society and the safeguarding of fundamental freedoms. We therefore urge the independent institutions within the OSCE to continue to monitor respect of these freedoms and hope that decisions will be adopted at this meeting that will help guarantee the security of journalists and the promotion of freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

As for the economic and environmental dimension, we support effective action to give it a strategic direction. As a country largely dependent on tourism receiving eight million visitors a year, we welcome any initiative aimed at establishing a link between the environment and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

The challenges to security today are cross-cutting and complex, as can be seen, for example, in the fight against trafficking in human beings, which is itself linked to corruption and delinquency. The adoption of an Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings should enable us to move forward from a broader action base. We also welcome the decision to combat cybercrime, another transnational challenge.

At the same time, the OSCE's comprehensive, indivisible and co-operative approach to security will not be complete unless we establish a direct link between security in the OSCE area itself and in the surrounding areas. It is therefore necessary to improve dialogue and mutual assistance with our Partners for Co-operation, particularly Afghanistan, where the OSCE could offer its experience and expertise in the three dimensions. In recent years, for example, my country has contributed to various training and empowerment projects in that country.

We also welcome the desire of any State to join the OSCE as a Partner for Co-operation in the understanding that this desire for partnership reflects the country's interest in sharing the OSCE's norms, principles and commitments.

Before concluding, I should like to offer my best wishes on behalf of the Andorran Government to Switzerland as the incoming OSCE Chairmanship and to assure it of the full co-operation of my country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.