

20<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council  
Kiev, Ukraine, December 5-6, 2013

Statement by

**H.E. Ambassador Tomislav Leko**  
**Head of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to commence by joining others and congratulate you and the Ukrainian government for a remarkable Chairmanship tenure and steadfast efforts to enforcing our Organization.

The OSCE remains a unique and unprecedented organization of a wide-ranging set of commitments, with its strong institutions and a broad network of the field operations being its landmark, thus contributing to our comprehensive security and stability.

Bosnia and Herzegovina confirms its commitments to the OSCE, enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all the other documents to which we have agreed. The realities of 1975 and 1990 may have changed, but our principles and objectives remain relevant and needed in today's security environment. These make possible that people in our realm live together in peace and prosperity.

Today, more than ever, effective multilateralism is a must, and the work of the OSCE is as important as it was Helsinki Final Act, almost 40 years ago. Approaching its fortieth anniversary in 2015, we highly value the diligent manners with which the Ukrainian Chairmanship helped us advancing toward the Helsinki +40 goals. With the adoption of the Declaration on furthering the Helsinki+40 process we have confirmed our dedication to reshaping our Organization to be fit for the challenges ahead of us, up to 2015 and beyond. We underline our full adherence to the ongoing process and avail our readiness to support the incoming Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships in taking the process to its success.

Mr. Chairman,

Bosnia and Herzegovina continues in its efforts on Euro-Atlantic path towards EU and NATO membership.

Recently, we have conducted the census, first since 1991 – a complex and comprehensive project, being of great significance, both politically and socio-economically.

Also, significant progress is achieved in the destruction of weapons and ammunitions surpluses, as well as the improvement of storage conditions. Through the Project for Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SECUP), where Bosnia and Herzegovina requested assistance, in accordance with the OSCE Document

on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, in order to improve the security and physical condition of the BiH Armed Forces storage sites. In this vein, it is also notable to mention our active participation in Open Skies Treaty and improved compliance with the OSCE Code of Conduct.

Mentioning Bosnia and Herzegovina's reform processes, it is noteworthy to underpin the significance that OSCE, through its field mission, continues to play. This refers to the development of institutions and capacities across a broad spectrum of issues, such as education, elections, security sector reform, return of the refugees, the strengthening of democratic institutions, human rights, justice and law reform and enhancing the capacities of local governance including good governance.

Further to the ongoing processes, Bosnia and Herzegovina pays special attention to improving regional relations. We see the merit in invigorated activities in literally all areas, with the focus on economics. We believe that the ongoing projects in energy and infrastructure sectors could be the drivers of prosperity.

One of the kingpins of regional cooperation is a successful enforcement of Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement, where Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia, have shown a proactive and responsible approach. The planned transfer of the ownership from the C-i-O's Personal Representative for Article IV to the State Parties of Agreement illustrates the success of that process, showing that even the most complex issues can be resolved through good will and cooperation.

This year's landmark Agreement between Belgrade and Prishtina and the recent successful implementation of the local elections is another building block of the regional stability.

Given the focus to further improving regional cooperation at institutional levels, Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the appointment of C-i-O's Special representative for the Western Balkans for 2014 and 2015, during Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships.

Protracted conflicts – those that have a tendency to become “frozen” –continue to be ongoing threats to the stability and security in the OSCE region. In many of those situations, we can concur with colleagues who state that “the status quo is neither acceptable nor sustainable”, as these conflicts simply go on for too long.

Therefore, we call on all parties involved to redouble efforts to find peacefully negotiated solutions for these long lasting conflicts.

As we are all aware, 2014 marks a pivotal year in Afghanistan's transition, and Afghanistan itself is not only a partner for cooperation, but a country of utmost geo-political importance. The OSCE is well positioned among regional international organizations to assist Afghanistan to successfully navigate the challenges ahead and consolidate the democratic and security gains of the past decade.

While year ago, we unanimously welcomed the membership of Mongolia as the 57<sup>th</sup> participating state, we should also equally consider the application of Libya for partnership country status. What is necessary at this time is an increased engagement with Libya, as it is undergoing critical and substantial transformation processes that will affect the entire region, as well as the OSCE area.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE has, over the years, established an impressive set of commitments in all three dimensions. The pressing issue of the day, however, is the implementation of existing commitments - even if we do not renew them.

The implementation of OSCE commitments in individual participating States is not quite in line with what we have collectively agreed over the years. We are noting with concern the periodical signals defining the participating states (PS) to those “West” and “East” of Vienna. This “déjà vu” is a potentially detrimental behavior and does not contribute to the cohesion of this Organization.

Looking at our past efforts, at the two previous ministerial meetings, we support adoption of the decisions, covering all three dimensions, proposed for this Ministerial. Full implementation of the existing commitments of the OSCE, in all three dimensions will make our societies more secure and, accordingly, more peaceful and more prosperous.

At the same time, we should seize the opportunity to further revitalize and strengthen the Security Dimension. One of the ways would be to concentrate on modernization of the Vienna Document, in order to reflect modern military realities in Europe with a view to increasing military stability, predictability and transparency, thus providing Switzerland and Serbia with a firm basis for their work in 2014 and 2015.

Innovation and courage will be necessary in the future. We are confident that, on our journey, we will encounter brave new ideas and more confidence both in implementing existing commitments, as well as facing new challenges across all OSCE dimensions.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me end by congratulating you and your team for your leadership and commending well organized conference and warm hospitality.

At the same time, we are looking forward to the forthcoming Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships and wish them all success in the next two years.

I thank you.