

## SECOND DAY OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

### THIRD PLENARY SESSION

1. Date: Friday, 9 December 2016  
  
Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Closed: 11.05 a.m.
  
2. Chairperson: Ambassador Michael Linhart, Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs of Austria  
Mr. Thomas Lenk, Representative of the 2016 OSCE Chairmanship
  
3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:  
  
Agenda item 6: STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, FOLLOWED BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)  
  
Chairperson (Austria), Japan (Partner for Co-operation), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation), Australia (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/32/16), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation), Israel (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/49/16), Thailand (Partner for Co-operation), Jordan (Partner for Co-operation), Chairperson (Germany)  
  
Contribution by: United Nations
  
4. Next meeting:  
  
Friday, 9 December 2016, 12 noon, in the plenary hall

## FOURTH PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Friday, 9 December 2016  
  
Opened: 3.10 p.m.  
Closed: 3.40 p.m.
  
2. Chairperson: H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE
  
3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 7: ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS  
AND DECISIONS

Chairperson (Germany)

The Chairperson (Germany) announced that Decision No. 1/16 (MC.DEC/1/16) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the text of which is appended to this journal, had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 23 March 2016 through a silence procedure.

The Chairperson (Germany) announced that Decision No. 2/16 (MC.DEC/2/16) on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018, the text of which is appended to this journal, had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 27 July 2016 through a silence procedure.

**Document adopted:** The Ministerial Council adopted the Declaration on Strengthening OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism (MC.DOC/1/16), the text of which is appended to this journal.

**Document adopted:** The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” Format (MC.DOC/2/16), the text of which is appended to this journal.

**Document adopted:** The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Declaration on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (MC.DOC/3/16), the text of which is appended to this journal.

**Document adopted:** The Ministerial Council adopted “From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control” (MC.DOC/4/16), the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the declaration), Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the declaration)

**Decision:** The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 3/16 (MC.DEC/3/16) on the OSCE's role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Turkey (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), United States of America (also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Canada, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Ukraine) (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision), Chairperson, Switzerland (interpretative statement, see attachment 4 to the decision)

**Decision:** The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 4/16 (MC.DEC/4/16) on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Ukraine (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Armenia (interpretative statement, see attachment 3 to the decision)

**Decision:** The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 5/16 (MC.DEC/5/16) on OSCE efforts related to reducing the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, the text of which is appended to this journal.

**Decision:** The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 6/16 (MC.DEC/6/16) on enhancing the use of advance passenger information, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Holy See (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

**Decision:** The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 7/16 (MC.DEC/7/16) on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2019, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Slovakia (MC.DEL/56/16 OSCE+)

**Decision:** The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 8/16 (MC.DEC/8/16) on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Conventional arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in the OSCE area:* Albania (also on behalf of Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands,

Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 1)

- (b) *Lack of consensus on the draft Ministerial Council decision on promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities:* Finland (Annex 2)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 9 December 2016, at 3.45 p.m., in the plenary hall

## CLOSING SESSION

1. Date: Friday, 9 December 2016  
  
Opened: 3.45 p.m.  
Closed: 5.10 p.m.
  
2. Chairperson: H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE  
Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Chairperson of the Permanent Council
  
3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 9: FORMAL CLOSURE (STATEMENTS BY THE CURRENT AND INCOMING CHAIRPERSONS-IN-OFFICE)

Chairperson (Germany) (MC.DEL/42/16), Austria (MC.DEL/51/16 OSCE+), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 3), Switzerland (MC.DEL/62/16 OSCE+), Norway (also on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (MC.DEL/41/16/Rev.1), Lithuania (also on behalf of Canada, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (MC.DEL/48/16 OSCE+), United States of America (Annex 4), Slovakia (also on behalf of Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (MC.DEL/52/16), Canada (Annex 5), Ukraine (Annex 6), Belarus, Russian Federation (Annex 7), Azerbaijan (Annex 8)

The letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson-in-Office is annexed hereto (Annex 9).

The Chairperson formally declared the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Ministerial Council closed.

4. Next meeting:

7 and 8 December 2017, to be held in Vienna, Austria



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Hamburg 2016**

MC(23).JOUR/2  
9 December 2016  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA  
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CANADA,  
CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA,  
FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, ITALY,  
LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MONTENEGRO, THE  
NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA,  
SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, TURKEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

This statement is delivered on behalf of the following participating States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America as well as my own country, Albania.

Mr. Chairperson,

Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation continue to play an important role in the achievement of our security objectives. Both the success and failure of these efforts can have a direct impact on our security environment. We welcome the decisions by the Ministerial Council to adopt the Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control and the Declaration on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

We remain committed to conventional arms control as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security. Full implementation and compliance with these commitments is essential to rebuild trust and confidence in the Euro-Atlantic region. Russia's unilateral military activity in and around Ukraine continues to undermine peace, security, and stability across the region, and its selective implementation of the Vienna Document and Open Skies Treaty and long-standing non-implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty have eroded the positive contributions of these arms control instruments. We call on Russia to fully adhere to its commitments. We are determined to preserve, strengthen, and modernize conventional arms control in Europe, based on key principles and commitments, including

respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, reciprocity, transparency, and host nation consent.

We underscore the importance of modernizing the Vienna Document to ensure its continued relevance in the evolving security environment, including through its substantive update. We welcome the wealth of concrete proposals aimed, *inter alia*, at strengthening its risk reduction mechanisms, enhancing military transparency, preventing military incidents and rendering verification more effective. Reciprocal military transparency and risk reduction has the potential to improve stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. In this context, we call on Russia to constructively engage in the ongoing discussions in the OSCE to modernize the Vienna Document, to help close the loopholes that reduce military transparency.

Mr. Chairperson,

The participating States subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the journal of this ministerial meeting.

Thank you.





**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Hamburg 2016**

MC(23).JOUR/2  
9 December 2016  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8(b)

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND**

Mr. Minister,

Finland deeply regrets that the OSCE participating States were not able to agree on the draft decision on promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities. As stated by our Head of Delegation, Secretary of State, Mr. Peter Stenlund yesterday, the OSCE commitments on this topic date back to 25 years ago. It would have been high time to make further progress and pay respect to this important issue also within the OSCE, which in this regard clearly lags behind other regional and international organizations and actors.

As you, distinguished colleagues, are well aware, the rights of persons with disabilities is one of the top priorities for Finland. The topic has not only received special attention in the Human Dimension Committee under the Finnish Chairmanship, but also through a number of discussions and events in various fora within the Organization. The message from all participants, in particular the civil society experts, has been clear: we need to move into further action. Therefore, I hope that colleagues will refrain from politicizing the issue so that we can make progress.

It is our joint responsibility to respond to this need here at the OSCE. The work will continue.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Hamburg 2016**

MC(23).JOUR/2  
9 December 2016  
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 9

**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of Slovakia, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

We want to start with expressing our deep gratitude to the German Chairmanship for the hospitality we have enjoyed here in Hamburg. Minister Steinmeier, we would like to thank you and your excellent team for the tremendous work you have put into preparing and hosting this Ministerial Council, and for your tireless efforts in taking us through difficult discussions, this week and throughout this year.

For a third year, the Ministerial Council takes place against the bleak backdrop of the crisis in and around Ukraine. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and destabilization of eastern Ukraine continues to violate the principles and commitments, as enshrined notably in the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter, constituting the basis of the European security order. Respect for the fundamental principles and commitments must be restored. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which we will not recognize. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

We hoped and worked for consensus on a ministerial declaration on OSCE action addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine and regret consensus was not possible. We recall that only Russia refused to join consensus on the last draft tabled by the Chairmanship.

We reaffirm our strong support for the OSCE's role in the crisis in and around Ukraine. We commend the OSCE's essential and multifaceted contribution to facilitating the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. We reiterate our support for the essential role of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) in advancing the full implementation of the Minsk agreements and call for full, safe and unhindered SMM access throughout Ukraine, including ensuring the safety and security for monitors and their equipment. We call on all sides to work effectively and in good spirit to fully implement the Minsk agreements to ensure a sustainable political solution in line with OSCE principles and commitments. Restoring respect for these fundamental principles is crucial. We underline Russia's responsibility in this regard. The re-establishment of full Ukrainian control of the Ukrainian-Russian State border is crucial.

The resolution of the protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, in Georgia and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a top priority for the European Union. We call on all parties to show the political will necessary to make progress in resolving them in 2017. We reiterate our strong support for the Geneva International Discussions, the negotiations within the “5+2” format and the mediation of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group. In this context we welcome today’s ministerial statement confirming our commitment to advance efforts in reaching a settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. In addition, commitments regarding the withdrawal of Russian military forces should be honoured. We welcome the joint statement by the Heads of Delegations of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries. We regret that it was not possible to adopt a statement on the conflict in Georgia.

Throughout the year we supported the Chairmanship’s efforts to strengthen the OSCE capabilities across the conflict cycle. While we regret that no consensus could be reached on a decision on this important topic, we welcome the Chairmanship’s report as a strong basis to continue work to this effect.

We are pleased to have found consensus on a decision on migration, even if we would have liked to see a stronger, more substantial text. This sends a strong signal about the importance we attach to addressing the large movements of migrants and refugees and of the complementary role we see for the OSCE in the global efforts led by the UN. We are deeply indebted to Ambassador Claude Wild for his tremendous and tireless efforts to forge difficult compromises and find language that could find consensus. We also recognize the important issue of protecting the rights of internally displaced persons, also in light of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of September 2016 that recognizes the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders and the possibility that such persons might seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants.

Instruments of military transparency to reduce risks and increase predictability, play an important role in fostering confidence and stability. In this context, we welcome the agreement on the Ministerial Council declaration celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Lisbon Framework for Arms Control and reaffirming the enduring goals and values of this inspiring document, although we would have wished to see a stronger outcome, as well as the agreement on the Ministerial Council declaration on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition assistance projects, an important area of OSCE’s contribution to the stability and security in the OSCE region. We remain committed to the full implementation of the existing commitments in the politico-military area, including the Vienna Document, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Furthermore, given the changes in the security environment as well as technological developments in the military sphere our work on the modernization of our politico-military instruments in the framework of the OSCE must continue.

This year’s numerous and heinous terrorist attacks, in the OSCE area and worldwide, prompted ministers to once again speak out strongly against the continued threat posed by terrorism and to express solidarity. We welcome that the adopted declaration emphasizes our commitment to work with civil society in preventing and countering terrorism and to protect human rights as this will make our efforts more effective. Ministers also provided a clear mandate to enhance the use of advance passenger information systems across the OSCE, which should concretely contribute to preventing the movement of terrorists. The OSCE has

played a pioneering role in adopting and implementing confidence-building measures to address security of and in the use of information and communication technologies. The ministerial decision rightly endorses these efforts and provides a welcome push to continue to address the cyber challenges we all face.

The signal sent from the parallel civil society conference, this year again, on the ongoing or even increasing restrictions on civil society and crackdown in human rights and fundamental freedoms in parts of the OSCE region is loud and clear. Our OSCE commitments are more relevant than ever and we call on all participating States to live up to them and reverse existing violations. We will continue to work on strengthening respect for fundamental freedoms and to advance the implementation of our commitments in this regard. Despite some progress made, we deeply regret that we were not able to adopt any of the eight decisions tabled in the third dimension. We believe that work on priority areas needs to continue in the upcoming years.

With the decision on good governance and connectivity we have taken a step forward in our commitment to combatting corruption and promoting transparent and accountable governance and to advancing trade and transport links in our region. We believe this decision provides a solid foundation for our work under the Austrian Chairmanship next year.

The European Union stresses its strong support for the OSCE autonomous institutions, the OSCE field missions and the Secretariat. We reiterate our deep appreciation for the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities and our unwavering support for their strong and flexible mandates. Their ability to carry out these mandates must be preserved.

We welcome the planned activities announced by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and are looking forward to a fruitful co-operation.

The OSCE's southern region – the Mediterranean – should remain a priority in 2017. We appreciate the Austrian Chairmanship's efforts throughout the year on common interests and challenges, including the situation in Libya, which represents a major risk to security in the Mediterranean region and the OSCE area as a whole. We look forward to working with the Italian upcoming chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group. The OSCE Mediterranean Conference in October this year has confirmed the relevance of youth in the security context. We are convinced that a youth perspective is essential particularly when dealing with issues such as preventing radicalization, and migration. We cannot waste the great potential of youth in the creation of democratic and inclusive societies.

We greatly appreciate Austria's readiness to assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE at this critical point in time. Minister Kurz, we look forward to working with you and your able team during your Chairmanship and we wish you every success. You can count on our full support.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Hamburg 2016**

MC(23).JOUR/2  
9 December 2016  
Annex 4

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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 9

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me begin by thanking the German Chairmanship, obviously, the Chairperson-in-Office, but also those who do the work throughout the year that has fuelled the German Chairmanship – the team in Vienna, in Berlin, and now the expanded team of many here in Hamburg. Thank you for doing such able work on behalf of all of us.

Thank you also to all of the security personnel who have kept us safe this week and to the people of Hamburg who have put up with the disturbances of having motorcades going through their town over the last few days.

Thank you to the Secretariat for the help in organizing these meetings throughout the year and this meeting, of course, as well. And thank you to the institutions for the inspiration and contributions that you make to our work. I'd like to offer five points in closing out this Hamburg ministerial meeting:

First, this was a political meeting of ministers, and as we might expect in a political meeting about European and Eurasian security in December 2016, the top item on the agenda remained what we call in this forum “the crisis in and around Ukraine.” In fact, my delegation counted among the ministers’ statements 53 mentions of Russia’s attempted annexation of Crimea or Russian aggression against Ukraine – or both – over the ministers’ statements.

The continuing crisis precipitated by Russian aggression against Ukraine overshadows our collective efforts to enhance European security and represents a risk to security, including the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, far beyond Ukraine’s borders. Despite several agreements in Minsk to stop the fighting, reports by the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) reveal a highly volatile ongoing level of violence, with a clear trend of provocation by combined Russian-separatist forces in the Donbas, as recorded by the SMM’s cameras on the contact line.

For progress on the political aspects of the Minsk agreements to be achieved, a comprehensive ceasefire must be secured, and Russia must, at last, uphold its responsibilities in this regard. As the fighting enters its third winter, it’s the people of Ukraine who are forced

to pay the highest price. The SMM has counted hundreds of civilian casualties this year alone. To ease the suffering, Russia and its separatists must reciprocate Ukrainian actions to open crossing points on the contact line and ensure at-risk communities have uninterrupted access to water, electricity, and humanitarian provisions.

We express our hope that prisoners and detainees will be released before the end of the year on the basis of the all-for-all principle, in keeping with the commitments made in the Minsk agreements. We call on all parties to comply fully with the Minsk agreements, including upholding the ceasefire, withdrawing proscribed weapons, making progress on disengagement and providing the SMM full and unfettered access to all parts of Ukraine – particularly the territory controlled by combined Russian-separatist forces.

Russian authorities commit serious abuses in occupied Crimea against the Crimean Tatar population and others who have opposed the occupation, and we reiterate that Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia ends its occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea and returns this territory to Ukraine. We join our European and other partners in restating that our sanctions against Russia for its aggression in eastern Ukraine will remain until Russia fully implements its commitments under the Minsk agreements.

The second point I'd like to make, colleagues, is yesterday we heard from the Russian Foreign Minister calling for a change in the tone of our debates. This is bullying dressed up as politesse. Our debates are fervent not because we want them to be, but because the damage done to European security by Russian actions is so severe. Russia would like to persuade you that our calls for Russia to reverse its destructive actions are the problem, rather than the actions themselves. Don't fall for it. Russia would like to silence you by persuading you that good manners demand that you refrain from criticizing Russia's blatant violations of our trust and Russia's gross failures to uphold its OSCE commitments. Don't fall for it. Strong, justified statements aren't the cause of our current challenges, and nice words won't repair the damage that Russia has done. Russian action must be the starting point.

It's also worth noting that even as the head of the Russian delegation counsels what they call "mutual respect," we've seen a stunning display of disrespectful bad faith throughout the negotiations here at Hamburg and in the lead-up to the ministerial. The German Chairmanship worked tirelessly and produced high-quality draft decisions that would have advanced our work and strengthened our Organization.

Let me remind you of just a few of them that died on a Russian sword: the Ukraine declaration, where Russia was the only participating State to block consensus despite significant concessions by Ukraine and others on specific language. Russia was totally isolated. The decision on strengthening the capabilities of the OSCE in addressing the conflict cycle, where Russia attempted to use the text to advance its efforts to fundamentally remake the nature of the OSCE.

The decision on the definition of anti-Semitism, where Russia proposed to radically alter this text – which had received wide support – and as a result, we missed an opportunity to provide participating States a much-needed tool to fight anti-Semitism in all its many forms. Obviously, the definition remains available to all of us and to OSCE institutions to use in our work going forward.

The decision on torture, which was blocked at the last minute today after two years of tireless work. This will not stop us from raising specific cases, like the case of Mr. Ildar Dadin, which we raised in the Permanent Council just a few weeks ago. The decision on combating hate crimes – Russia insisted on language on neo-Nazism and Nuremburg knowing that others disagree with the political manner in which Russia wields these terms. The decision on Roma and Sinti – Russia bracketed nearly the entire text and refused to engage, claiming an inability to get instructions despite the large size of its delegation.

And I join my Finnish colleague in expressing regret that Russia blocked the decision on persons with disabilities because it couldn't get a reference to the Paralympics in this text. And I think it's important for all of us to acknowledge – I would guess that nobody around this table has any problem with the Paralympics, indeed, many of our countries invest a great deal in supporting this valiant effort. But what we refused to do was to allow the Russian Federation to instrumentalize a text that should have applied to tens of millions of people across the OSCE region to use it for its own propaganda to cover the State-sponsored doping efforts that led to the suspension of its Paralympic team. And it is a strange coincidence that just today a report comes out that more than 1,000 athletes were involved in the State-sponsored doping programme of the Russian Federation. And the leader of this report said, "it's impossible to know how deep and how far back this conspiracy theory goes. For years, international sports competitions have unknowingly been hijacked by the Russians." So let's remember why that decision failed, because we refuse to allow Russia to use it for its own propaganda.

On each of these, the Russian Federation was, if not the only, then a determinant obstacle to consensus. In negotiations, Russia routinely inserted amendments it knew were unacceptable to many others with the sole purpose of obstruction or scoring political points. They refused to offer rationales for removing quality content, or offered rationales that were illogical and unserious. And even on the very few decisions on which Russia joined the rest of us in consensus, it only did so after significantly weakening the texts, removing much of their content and thereby throwing out much of what could have been the basis for the kind of co-operation that at other times the Russian Federation claims to want.

Obviously, this is regrettable, but not new. But there's a risk here that we allow Russian behaviour to change the way we all interact at the OSCE. When a delegation consistently fails to show good faith, we not only lose respect for them, but we start to accept that kind of engagement as normal. But this is not normal. And we should remember to hold each other accountable. That is, after all, a central component of mutual respect. And so, my delegation, in line with a respectful mode of engagement, is clear – we hold Russia accountable for its failure to engage in good faith, and for the destructive approach it has taken to the work in this Organization, as we do for its violations of international law and its failures to uphold its OSCE commitments domestically and internationally.

Third, we share many of the views of the European Union on a number of issues, including the urgency of making progress on resolving the protracted conflicts. We remain committed to confidence- and security-building measures and conventional arms control, and we are ready to work on the much-needed modernization of the Vienna Document and to engage in dialogue on key issues in the political-military dimension.



Fourth, colleagues, I want to say something about the lack of decisions at this ministerial in the human dimension, which several others have mentioned. The United States shares the deep regret of many around this hall that we were not able to agree on a single decision in the human dimension. This is obviously a missed opportunity, for there is urgent work to do in the human dimension. As Secretary Kerry made clear yesterday, the United States is deeply concerned by the crackdown on independent voices and backsliding on democracy and rule of law in too many places. As Secretary Kerry said, “let me be clear: bigotry, repression, and the silencing of dissent cannot become the new normal for any of us. Every chip away at the fundamentals of freedom is actually an ugly building block in the road to tyranny. And the fact is that we all need to be aware of the danger of authoritarian populism.”

But colleagues, even though there were no decisions in the human dimension, we should remember that the OSCE *acquis* contains a great wealth of commitments by participating States. And there’s plenty of progress to be made by diligently assessing implementation of this *acquis*, calling attention to gaps and working in good faith to do better. That is what we know that people across the OSCE area count on us to do, whether they are in Central Asia, or Central Europe, or the South Caucasus, or elsewhere. That is what the participants in the parallel civil society conference called on us to do.

There is good work to do together, and none of us needs consensus to start doing it – only courage.

Fifth: today is International Anti-Corruption Day. Tomorrow, as we heard from our Norwegian colleague is International Human Rights Day, and the culmination of this year’s Orange the World campaign to counter violence against women, which is why a number of us wear orange today. These days, these campaigns are meant to draw affirmative attention to our urgent work on behalf of human dignity. In a number of places around the world, violence and instability remind us of the consequences of failing to do so.

The failures of participating States to implement their OSCE commitments do not make the fundamental truth underlying the OSCE concept of comprehensive security any less true. States with governments that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, that foster shared prosperity through openness and good governance, that respect the rules of the international system, including the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their neighbours, are States that are more stable, more resilient, and more innovative – that are better partners and better able to provide a stronger future for their people.

So as Foreign Minister Steinmeier urged us, let us remember the visionary wisdom of Helsinki, and let us let it guide us going forward.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 9

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Ministerial Council just adopted eight substantive decisions. Canada had hoped for decisions on important topics in the human dimension, notably on freedom of expression, gender, combating hate crimes and adopting a non-legally binding definition of antisemitism.

For us, the protection of human rights and the promotion of respect for diversity must remain at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. As Minister Dion said yesterday, in a period when the winds of mistrust, fear and even xenophobia are blowing over our region, we must remain faithful to these shared principles.

Despite the inability to adopt these decisions, we are convinced that the well-established OSCE commitments and principles we have all agreed on must continue to guide our collective action, and we salute the contribution made by our OSCE autonomous institutions in this regard. Their work is essential and we regret that the leadership of two of those institutions remains in doubt.

Mr. Chairperson,

One of the fundamental principles of the OSCE is respect for territorial integrity, and we reiterate that we oppose recent attempts to redefine European borders by force. We regret that consensus was blocked by one participating State on declarations on the crisis in and around Ukraine and on Georgia, both of which must remain at the very top of our Organization's agenda.

We take this opportunity to express our strong support for the OSCE's essential contribution to ensuring a sustainable political solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine, in line with OSCE principles and commitments including by facilitating the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. We salute once again the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and reiterate our full support for their work in support of peace and stability. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its recognized borders, as well as the fact that Canada does not and will not recognize the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which remains an integral part of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, my delegation thanks you and the entire team of the 2016 OSCE Chairmanship for your efforts throughout the year and for your warm hospitality in Hamburg. Canada looks forward to working closely with Austria as it takes over the Chairmanship of our Organization in 2017 and to meeting in Vienna next year.

I would ask that this statement be reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Hamburg 2016**

MC(23).JOUR/2  
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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 9

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,  
Excellencies,

The delegation of Ukraine would like to start by expressing gratitude to the German hosts, personally to Federal Minister F.-W. Steinmeier, for the warm hospitality in Hamburg, and by commending the dedicated work of the Chairmanship team, both in Vienna and in Berlin, throughout this year.

The Hamburg ministerial clearly indicated the difficulties of promoting dialogue against the backdrop of gross violations of the OSCE principles and commitments, eroding European security. Our efforts to rebuild trust and to restore security continue to be impeded by actions of the Russian Federation, maintaining its course of undermining the very foundation of the rules-based order by its aggression, ambitions of domination and the use of force to this end.

The last draft Ministerial Council declaration on the crisis in and around Ukraine, tabled by the Chairmanship, was acceptable for all participating States, except Russia. Russia again failed to recommit to the fundamentals of security and of this Organization, starting from the Helsinki Decalogue of Principles. At the same time the discussions at this Ministerial Council registered, in particular, the resolute support to the peaceful resolution of the crisis on the basis of full respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, condemnation and non-recognition of the attempted annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by Russia, the need to comprehensively address complex challenges, associated with the illegal occupation of Ukraine's Crimea. Addressing the serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the occupied peninsula, including by seeking unimpeded access there of the OSCE and other international organizations, must remain in the focus of our efforts.

We reiterate our support to the activities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and OSCE's facilitating efforts in the Trilateral Contact Group, which also comprises Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Ukraine is fully committed to implementation of the Minsk agreements in good faith as a basis for sustainable peaceful resolution. Just as was done at this Ministerial Council in Hamburg, it is important to continue focused efforts aimed at stimulating the Russian Federation to abide fully by the Minsk agreements as a signatory of these documents, thus allowing restoration of peace in Donbas, as well as of

Ukraine's sovereignty over its territory. Resolving the problem of the uncontrolled section of the border between Ukraine and Russia, enhancing the international security presence on the ground remain among priority tasks on the peace track.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a country suffering from exported terrorist activities, we welcome and have contributed to agreement on strengthening OSCE efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

We also welcome the adoption of the document on confidence-building measures to enhance cybersecurity. We contributed to reaching consensus on the decision on the OSCE's role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees. Pursuing a holistic approach in addressing interrelated elements of forced displacement of people, it is necessary to use the OSCE platform for elaborating a comprehensive OSCE response addressing the protection of rights of internally displaced persons.

Consensus was ultimately reached on a decision in the second dimension which constitutes an important part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security. Our co-operation in this dimension must be geared up to full respect for all OSCE principles and commitments.

We commend the efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship aimed at building consensus on the draft decisions in the human dimension. We are very disappointed that again no decisions were adopted this year in the third dimension, including on such critically important issues as freedom of expression and countering propaganda.

It is essential that the incoming Austrian Chairmanship duly addresses the current threats to security in the OSCE region, emanating from the gross breach by one participating State of the Helsinki Decalogue, and places the issue of ensuring strict adherence to the OSCE principles and commitments at the top of the OSCE agenda in 2017.

We wish our Austrian colleagues every success at the helm of the OSCE and are ready to closely co-operate with the incoming Chairmanship across the OSCE mandate.

The delegation of Ukraine kindly requests that this statement be attached to the journal of this council's meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Hamburg 2016**

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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Esteemed colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to thank the German OSCE Chairmanship, the Chairperson-in-Office, Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, personally and the Hamburg city authorities for their hospitality and the commendable organization of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting.

We believe that the number of decisions is not a measure for judging the success of a Ministerial Council meeting. The Hamburg meeting has confirmed the OSCE's role as the leading pan-European forum for political dialogue.

We are pleased that we have managed to openly discuss the worrying situation in the politico-military sphere. Constructive discussion is particularly called for in view of NATO's policy of moving its military infrastructure closer to Russia's borders, which is undermining stability. We hope that the launch of structured dialogue on security challenges set out in the declaration adopted today "From Lisbon to Hamburg" will help to restore trust and advance our common goal – building a community of equal and indivisible security. We welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on small arms and light weapons.

We regret that the politicized position of a number of countries has prevented the adoption of a document on the OSCE's contribution to resolving the conflict in eastern Ukraine. We note that during the Ministerial Council meeting none of the ministers have called into question the Minsk agreements, the work of the Trilateral Contact Group, the Normandy format or the role of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. We hope that the authorities in Kyiv will finally be able to proceed with responsible implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures, above all its political aspects – the special status of Donbas, constitutional reform and an amnesty.

We regret that differences on regional issues have prevented the adoption of a general political declaration. However, we believe that there has been a frank exchange of views on conflicts. We welcome the document on the Transdniestrian settlement and the statement by the Troika of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh

conflict. Although it proved impossible to agree on a decision on the Geneva Discussions on Security in the Trans-Caucasus, we trust that work in this format will continue. Reaching agreements on the non-use of force between Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia is a matter of priority.

We do not wish to dramatize the absence of a decision on the crisis-response role of the OSCE. The most important thing is that this year the Chairmanship has succeeded in taking stock of the OSCE's capabilities in this area and confirmed that our Organization has sufficient crisis-response tools. We believe that the way to improve the effectiveness of the OSCE is through the elaboration of a Charter and rules for the work of the executive structures.

We are pleased at the adoption of important documents on countering terrorism – on OSCE efforts to combat terrorism and on the exchange of airline passenger information. These documents confirm the OSCE's role in global counter-terrorism efforts. The approval at the Ministerial Council of new confidence-building measures in the use of information and communication technologies demonstrates the OSCE's capacity for dealing with incidents concerning information security.

Mr. Chairperson,

The decision agreed upon by the ministers on economic connectivity is a logical continuation of the German Chairmanship's efforts. We hope that the development of this topic next year will enable us to unlock the OSCE's potential in terms of harmonizing integration processes.

We support the dialogue launched in the OSCE on migration. The Ministerial Council decision agreed upon is an important practical step in the OSCE's contribution to overcoming the migration crisis in Europe. We trust that our Organization will be able to find an effective niche for itself in the international efforts in this area.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Unfortunately, the Ministerial Council meeting has confirmed that the human dimension is one of the most problematic areas and requires radical reform. When we set off for Hamburg, we were hoping for the adoption of a number of important decisions, but no agreement was reached. We trust that the future Austrian Chairmanship will structure its work in this dimension on a pragmatic basis and with account taken of the interests of all the participating States.

The inability of the OSCE to respond adequately to the rise in discrimination and religious intolerance is a cause of great disappointment. For the second year in a row, the adoption of declarations on combating intolerance and discrimination against Christians and Muslims is being obstructed. We hope that in 2017 it will prove possible to carry out the Basel Ministerial Council's instructions and elaborate such declarations.

We are convinced that combating anti-Semitism, anti-Christian sentiment and Islamophobia should be addressed comprehensively and on an equal basis. We supported the Chairmanship's initiative regarding the use at the OSCE of the working definition of

anti-Semitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. We did so in spite of the fact that a number of respected Jewish organizations in Russia called for further refinement of this definition. For reasons we do not understand, some delegations were unwilling for the OSCE to take this definition as a basis for working towards a global consensus on this issue together with the United Nations and other multilateral organizations.

We attach great significance to combating hate crimes, aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism. We regret that the decision on this question was not adopted. The refusal of a number of delegations to include in the text reference to the rulings of the Nuremberg Tribunal, particularly in its 70th anniversary year, is puzzling.

Also striking is the cynicism of some OSCE States that talk loudly about the rights of persons with disabilities but refuse to grant them equal opportunities to take part in sporting events, including the Paralympic Games.

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like once again to repeat that the number of decisions is not a measure for judging the success of a Ministerial Council meeting. The meeting in Hamburg has confirmed the high demand for the OSCE as a platform for dialogue and an instrument for restoring trust and bringing our States closer together. We hope that this function of the OSCE will be strengthened and wish Austria every success in chairing the OSCE in 2017.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.





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Ministerial Council  
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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan thanks the German Chairmanship for the excellent organization of the meeting of the Ministerial Council and wishes every success to the incoming Austrian Chairmanship.

The discussions we held for the last two days demonstrated that unresolved armed conflicts that resulted in large-scale displacement of people are among the most acute problems requiring urgent actions by the OSCE participating States. It is the view of the overwhelming majority that internal displacement, which occurred due to violations of OSCE principles and commitments, shall be placed high on OSCE agenda.

The majority of the participating States stressed the need to address the root causes of internal displacement with a view to facilitating the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), in safety and dignity and their reintegration into places of origin without discrimination, and in accordance with the relevant OSCE commitments.

I regret that lack of consensus due to the position of one delegation prevented proper reflection of protection of the rights of IDPs in the decision adopted by the Ministerial Council. In this regard, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan along with other participating States will continue to use the OSCE platform for elaborating a comprehensive response addressing the protection of the rights of IDPs.

We urge the participating State, which prevents consideration of the issue of protection of the rights of IDPs, to become a part of the solution of these problems, rather than remaining to be a part of the problem.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
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**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE FEDERAL  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GERMANY, CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL  
COUNCIL OF THE OSCE**

As the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is a pleasure for me to inform you about the activities of the Forum in 2016.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted with the previous 2016 FSC Chairmanships of the Netherlands and Poland. During 2016, the Chairmanships worked in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum's annual work programme.

Even though the situation in and around Ukraine remained the dominant topic of the discussions in the FSC, several initiatives put forward by participating States led to the adoption of five decisions which were designed to support the implementation of existing commitments and their further development. In particular, the FSC adopted a decision to extend the assistance mechanisms outlined in the Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, the participating States decided to allow the publication on the OSCE website of certain information they exchange on anti-personnel landmines, conventional arms transfers and small arms and light weapons.

The strategic discussions during the Security Dialogues emphasized the FSC's importance as a platform for addressing and discussing security issues. Specifically, an active dialogue took place on matters related to topical European security issues, including, *inter alia*, arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, UN Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000) and subregional military and defence co-operation. All three FSC 2016 Chairmanships actively stimulated discussions by organizing a total of nineteen Security Dialogues.

It is worth noting that the issue of arms control and CSBMs was accorded particular importance during the tenure of the three FSC Chairmanships, which was highlighted through a number of activities in 2016.

On the basis of paragraph 15.7 of the Vienna Document 2011, the Netherlands organized a High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar (on 16 and 17 February). This event provided a much needed opportunity to facilitate military-to-military contacts and to examine recent developments in participating States' military doctrines. The Netherlands also co-chaired a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on "European security".

Poland dedicated a Security Dialogue to the topic of "Conventional arms control and CSBMs". Furthermore, under the Chairmanship of Poland, the FSC contributed to the Annual Security Review Conference (from 28 to 30 June). The discussions during working session II: "Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures: problems and prospects" highlighted that the FSC can play a key role in promoting co-operative responses to current and future challenges.

Under the Chairmanship of Portugal, the FSC devoted a Security Dialogue to the issue of "Changes in the role of the military forces – practical and military doctrinal implications". Moreover, a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council was dedicated to "Revisiting the 1996 OSCE Framework for Arms Control". The meeting showed that arms control, including disarmament and confidence- and security-building, remains integral to the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security.

Beyond the regular discussions on arms control and on modernizing and updating the Vienna Document, several participating States published a number of food-for-thought papers and proposals for Vienna Document Plus decisions as provided for in paragraph 151 of the Vienna Document 2011. The FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document organized during 2016 several informal meetings to discuss certain aspects of updating the Vienna Document and on the reissuance of the Vienna Document. A special meeting of the FSC was held in accordance with paragraph 152 of the Vienna Document 2011, although it did not result in the reissuance of the Vienna Document due to a lack of consensus.

In conclusion, the FSC has continued in 2016 to provide an important platform for participating States to discuss matters related to arms control and CSBMs in general and the Vienna Document in particular. The large number of proposals for Vienna Document Plus decisions indicates that many participating States see a potential and necessity for further developing the Vienna Document and for continuing sustained efforts in that regard.



**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

## **DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING OSCE EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COUNTER TERRORISM**

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, condemn in the strongest possible terms all terrorist attacks that occurred across the OSCE area, neighbouring regions, and worldwide, in particular in 2016. We reaffirm our solidarity with victims of terrorism and emphasize the need to promote international solidarity in support of them and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect. We offer heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to the people and governments that have been targeted.
2. We condemn unequivocally and express outrage at the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians, numerous atrocities, persecutions of individuals and communities, *inter alia* on the basis of their religion or belief, by terrorist organizations, in particular by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Levant, also known as DAESH (ISIL/DAESH), Al-Qaida, ANF/Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.
3. We reaffirm that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any act of terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable regardless of its motivations, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization.
4. We underscore the central role of the United Nations in preventing and countering terrorism, and strongly reaffirm our commitment to take the measures needed to protect everyone within our jurisdictions against terrorist acts and the need for all actions to be conducted in compliance with the UN Charter, and all other applicable obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In accordance with these documents, we underscore the importance of our commitments under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also take note of the relevant good practices documents adopted by the Global Counterterrorism Forum.
5. We recall all relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of preventing and countering terrorism under the previous Chairmanships. We also take note of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and encourage OSCE participating States to consider becoming a Party to the Convention and to its Additional Protocol.

6. We stress that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), while respecting their obligations under international law, in particular human rights and fundamental freedoms. We strongly reaffirm our determination and commitment to remain united in preventing and countering terrorism, through increased international solidarity and co-operation and a sustained and comprehensive approach at all relevant levels, involving the active participation and co-operation of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations. We recognize that participating States should take measures, consistent with their OSCE commitments, and while ensuring national ownership, to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism. In this context, we recognize the need to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists, including public justification of terrorism, incitement and recruitment, and call on the participating States to act co-operatively to develop the most effective responses to this threat, in compliance with international law, including international human rights law.

7. We welcome the work done by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and stress that all participating States shall take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism and refrain from any form of financial support, in particular through engagement in favour of terrorist organizations in direct or indirect trade in natural resources, such as oil and oil products, in weapons, ammunition and spare parts, in cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific and religious importance. We also underscore the importance of co-operation among OSCE participating States to prevent and counter the recruitment of members of terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters. We will further reduce the threat of terrorism by preventing cross-border movement of persons, weapons, funds connected to the terrorist activities, in line with OSCE commitments.

8. We reaffirm that those who participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating terrorist acts must be held accountable and brought to justice on the basis of the principle *extradite or prosecute*, in compliance with the obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic legislation. We reiterate our determination and commitment to co-operate fully in preventing and countering terrorism, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in compliance with obligations under international law. We call on States to co-operate in efforts to address the threat posed by terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters and returnees, by *inter alia* developing and implementing, after prosecution, rehabilitation and re-integration strategies.

9. We emphasize the key importance of information-sharing, especially in the areas of foreign terrorist fighters, stolen and lost travel documents, firearms, and looted or stolen cultural property, such as antiquities and encourage all States to make full use of available multilateral and bilateral mechanisms and data exchange systems.

10. We stress the importance of co-operation among OSCE participating States, including by involving where appropriate, civil society, to prevent and counter terrorism. We also underscore the important role that civil society, in particular youth, families, women, victims of terrorism, religious, cultural and education leaders, as well as the media and the private sector can play in preventing VERLT, *inter alia* by countering terrorist and violent extremism messaging and offering alternatives to these narratives, including on the Internet, social and

other media. We encourage political leaders and public figures including from civil society and religious leaders to speak out strongly and promptly against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

11. We take positive note of the continued implementation of the “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism (#United CVE) campaign” and we recall that the UN General Assembly took note of the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations suggesting that States consider its relevant recommendations when developing, where appropriate, and as applicable in their domestic context, national and regional plans of action for preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

12. We welcome the activities pursued by the OSCE executive structures, including the OSCE institutions, within existing mandates and available resources, in support of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of preventing and countering terrorism, in line with the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security.

13. We invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to join us in affirming this declaration.



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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE  
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT  
PROCESS IN THE “5+2” FORMAT**

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:
2. Recall the past Ministerial Statements on the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format,
3. Reiterate their strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;
4. Underline the need to advance the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format as the only mechanism to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable resolution of the conflict and the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process;
5. Call upon the sides to engage constructively and regularly in outcome-based meetings of the “5+2” format with fully empowered Political Representatives to achieve tangible progress on all three baskets of the agreed agenda for the negotiation process: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues;
6. Welcome the resumption of negotiations in the “5+2” format with a substantial meeting in Berlin on 2 and 3 June 2016 and the signature by all parties of the Berlin Protocol, output-oriented steps, to the benefit of the population on both banks, in accordance with the internationally agreed parameters as referred to in paragraph 3;
7. Urge the sides to ensure the continuity and increase the effectiveness of the process on a regular basis at the level of expert (working) groups and Political Representatives to further advance the settlement process and to implement the remaining provisions contained in the Berlin Protocol;

8. Call upon the sides to engage, under the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, in the negotiation process within the existing negotiating formats and in accordance with the internationally agreed parameters as referred to in paragraph 3;
9. Applaud the unified and active approach by the mediators and observers in the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format in the course of their activities in 2016;
10. Encourage the mediators and observers of the OSCE, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the European Union and the United States of America to continue co-ordinating their efforts and to make full use of their collective potential to promote progress in achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transdnestrian conflict.





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**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON  
OSCE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SMALL ARMS  
AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL  
AMMUNITION**

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,
2. Mindful of the security and safety risks and threats related to stockpiles of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA),
3. Concerned at the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and conventional ammunition,
4. Determined to contribute to the prevention and reduction of the risks and threats related to stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition, including through co-operation, information sharing and assistance,
5. Determined, notably, to prevent, combat and eradicate the use of SALW and conventional ammunition for terrorism and transnational organized crime,
6. Welcoming the broad range of OSCE assistance in the field of SALW and SCA,
7. Recognizing the value of OSCE practical assistance in addressing security risks and safety factors related to stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition, including liquid rocket fuel components, explosive materials and detonating devices in surplus in some States in the OSCE area and adjacent regions,
8. Reiterating the relevant provisions of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and related FSC decisions including Decision No. 2/16 on enabling the provision of assistance to OSCE Partners for Co-operation using procedures outlined in the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition,
9. Recalling that the preferred method for the disposal of SALW and SCA is destruction,

10. Recognizing the contribution of such OSCE projects to the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the pursuit of relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals,
11. Underline our resolve to jointly address these risks by making full use of OSCE mechanisms to elaborate and implement related assistance projects,
12. Note in this respect the valuable contribution of OSCE assistance under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA related to the improvement of physical security, stockpile management, risk awareness-raising and destruction of surplus SALW and SCA,
13. Welcome the progress achieved so far in developing and implementing OSCE projects, which have resulted in the destruction of more than 50,000 small arms and light weapons and 18,000 tonnes of conventional ammunition, in upgrades of safety and security at 95 storage sites, and in the enhancement of stockpile management capacity,
14. Recognize the importance of voluntary assistance, and welcome contributions made by participating States to OSCE projects on SALW and SCA, which in the period 2005–2016 have amounted to over 25 million euros, in addition to contributions in kind,
15. Acknowledge the valuable contributions of the recipient participating States to the successful implementation of the assistance projects,
16. Taking note of the efforts of the OSCE executive structures for SALW/SCA project management, including through the related OSCE trust fund repository programmes, encourage them to continue to promote co-ordination and assessment of progress with the view to enhancing synergies and avoiding duplication and call upon them to further assist participating States in implementing projects in an efficient and transparent manner, in accordance with the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA and relevant FSC decisions,
17. Invite participating States to continue providing extrabudgetary contributions to support FSC assistance projects on SALW and SCA, either for a specific project or by providing resources and technical expertise to the OSCE's comprehensive programme on SALW and SCA;
18. Encourage continued discussions on topical security issues related to SALW and SCA projects, including within the FSC Security Dialogue meetings and consider holding periodic SALW and SCA conferences. These would, *inter alia*, assess the implementation of ongoing OSCE projects on SALW/SCA, whilst ensuring cost efficiency through combining, where appropriate, other related assessment meetings and Security Dialogues;
19. Invite participating States to exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, to address the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and conventional ammunition on women and children as well as creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes with regard to the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA;

20. Invite participating States to consider, on a voluntary basis and in co-operation with other international organizations and institutions, providing technical, financial and consultative assistance for projects on SALW and SCA in response to requests from OSCE Partners for Co-operation and in accordance with FSC Decision No. 2/16;
21. Invite OSCE Partners for Co-operation to consider opportunities to jointly engage with the OSCE participating States on mitigating risks arising from the presence and destabilizing accumulations of SALW and SCA.



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**FROM LISBON TO HAMBURG:  
DECLARATION ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
OSCE FRAMEWORK FOR ARMS CONTROL**

1. This year we mark the twentieth anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control. Mindful of the enduring value of this document, we, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 57 participating States of the OSCE, underline the importance of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) for advancing comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security in the OSCE area,
2. Arms control, including disarmament and confidence- and security-building, is integral to the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security. We value open and meaningful dialogue on these issues, notwithstanding diverging assessments of the challenges we are currently facing. We welcome steps to further develop military-to-military contacts amongst participating States, including the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar of February 2016,
3. Today, in Hamburg, we commit ourselves to exploring, *inter alia*, how the negative developments concerning the conventional arms control and CSBM architecture in Europe can be reversed. Together, we will work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating conventional arms control and CSBMs in Europe. The strong commitment of the OSCE participating States to full implementation and further development of arms control agreements is essential for enhancing military and political stability within the OSCE area,
4. At the same time, we recognize the interrelation between CSBMs and conventional arms control, and the wider politico-military context. We welcome launching of a structured dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area to foster a greater understanding on these issues that could serve as a common solid basis for a way forward.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

On the occasion of the adoption of the Hamburg Ministerial Council Declaration, ‘From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control,’ the United States of America would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

We note that the Declaration ‘welcomes steps to further develop military-to-military contacts amongst participating States,’ but does not commit any nation or group of nations to undertake any particular activity or engagement.

For the United States, military-to-military contacts in the context of this Declaration incorporate a wide range of activities, to include multilateral dialogue and engagement through the OSCE, such as the 2016 High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, which we strongly supported. In this regard, the OSCE can provide for dialogue in an environment where routine or low-level military to military engagement may not be possible.

The United States faces statutory limitations on our bilateral military-to-military co-operation with the Russian Federation, per section 1233 of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act.

We note that the United States Congress, recognizing the special and protected role that arms control plays, has provided an exemption for military-to-military activity in support of arms control implementation. In this regard, we encourage all participating States to fully implement the spirit and the letter of all conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

MC.DOC/4/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment 2

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus on the OSCE Ministerial Council document adopted today ‘From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control’, the delegation of the Russian Federation believes it necessary to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

1. With respect to paragraph 1 of the Declaration, the Russian Federation notes that the purpose of the Framework is, among other things, to contribute to the further development of the OSCE area as an indivisible common security space. It also recognizes the close interrelation of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) with the principle of the indivisibility of security; an integral part of the latter is the need to ensure that no participating State, organization or grouping strengthens its security at the expense of the security of others.
  
2. With respect to paragraph 3 of the Declaration, the Russian Federation notes that it suspended operation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) in accordance with international law and, consequently, the provision of the Framework referred to in the Declaration on ‘commitment (...) to full implementation (...) of arms control agreements’ no longer applies to the implementation of the CFE Treaty by the Russian Federation. As for the prospect of developing CSBMs under the Vienna Document, the Russian Federation confirms the need to create the conditions that would make this possible.

I request that this statement be attached to the document adopted.”



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/1/16  
23 March 2016

Original: ENGLISH

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**DECISION No. 1/16  
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE  
OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Considering that according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/13, the term of the current Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, expired on 10 March 2016,

Taking note of the fact that no consensus could be reached to appoint a new Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides:

1. To extend, as an exceptional measure, the mandate of Ms. Dunja Mijatović as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media for a period of one year until 10 March 2017;
2. To ask the Permanent Council to remain seized with the matter with the aim to reach consensus on a new Representative on Freedom of the Media by the end of the year 2016;
3. To recommend to the Chairmanship to reopen the selection procedure in due time.

MC.DEC/1/16  
23 March 2016  
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

The delegation of the Netherlands, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

“In connection with the decision of the Ministerial Council on the extension of the mandate of Ms. Dunja Mijatović as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement under the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure, and we request this statement to be attached to the decision.

The European Union considers the autonomous institutions to be key OSCE assets. We stand firmly with the Representative on Freedom of the Media as an institution and fully support its mandate and the excellent work of the current office holder, Ms. Dunja Mijatović.

The European Union thanks the Chairmanship-in-Office for its tireless efforts to appoint a Representative on Freedom of the Media before the mandate of Ms. Dunja Mijatović ends. Nine participating States nominated candidates for this position, including seven from the European Union, offering participating States a wide range of capable candidates to choose from. Despite the best efforts of the Chairmanship-in-Office to build consensus, they were all rejected by one participating State, the Russian Federation. We have heard so far no credible explanation from the Russian Federation as to why none of the nine candidates would be acceptable. Participating States must now show the strongest sense of responsibility and ownership, to find a new representative in a process that must be planned and managed carefully in order to be successful. The current situation must therefore be analysed carefully.

In this situation, a prolongation of the mandate of the current representative is a reasonable way to ensure the continued functioning of the office. We have called for a substantial and meaningful extension as an exceptional measure that would allow the representative and the institution to fulfil its mandate in a meaningful way. We interpret this decision as a commitment by all participating States to ensure the further proper functioning of the institution until a successor has been appointed, if consensus has not been reached by the end of the year.”



The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

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1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

MC.DEC/1/16  
23 March 2016  
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Canada:

“Mr. Chairperson,

Canada wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović.

Canada would like to thank the Serbian and German Chairmanships for the efforts they deployed throughout the selection process of a new Representative. We note with regret that the Russian Federation was not in a position to support any of the proposed nine candidates, including the one around which consensus appeared to coalesce in the last stage of the process. This led to an unfortunate stalemate and does not bode well for the ability of the Organization to attract strong, qualified candidates. This is detrimental to all of us, and we hope that we will not face a similar situation again.

In this context, and keeping in mind the importance of this autonomous institution and the mandate given to the Representative on Freedom of the Media by the participating States, we welcome the adoption of the decision to extend the mandate of the current Representative.

Canada would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Dunja Mijatović for having accepted this extension and to assure her of our co-operation and support going forward.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision and reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

MC.DEC/1/16  
23 March 2016  
Attachment 3

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“In joining the consensus on the Permanent Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media by one year, until 10 March 2017, we should like to make the following statement.

The Russian Federation takes the position that extending the authority of the present OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media for a seventh year is an exceptional case brought about by the need to maintain the continuous and effective operation of this important OSCE institution. We expect Ms. Dunja Mijatović to make steadfast efforts to ensure the Office’s effective and impartial work in accordance with the current mandate. We urge her to continue to promote the freedom, independence and pluralism of the media, the unhindered work of journalists throughout the OSCE area, the protection of their rights, the safety of journalists in conditions of armed conflict, and also to combat incitement to hatred.

In order to avoid difficulties and time pressure when selecting a new OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, we urge the German OSCE Chairmanship to start shortlisting candidates in good time, so as to complete all competitive interviews with applicants by the end of 2016.

We trust that in accordance with paragraph 9 of the mandate ‘the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will be an eminent international personality with long-standing relevant experience from whom an impartial performance of the function would be expected.’

I request that this statement be appended to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/1/16  
23 March 2016  
Attachment 4

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Switzerland:

“Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland wishes to make the following interpretative statement, according to paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Switzerland welcomes the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, through a silence procedure. We reiterate our full support to the institution and the mandate of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. We join consensus on this decision for two reasons: first, because we have great respect for Dunja Mijatović and the way she accomplishes this difficult task and second, because we cannot allow having a vacancy in this important institution of the OSCE.

At the same time, we want to express our discontent about the failure to reach consensus on a successor for Ms. Mijatović in time. Functioning independent institutions are of paramount importance to the OSCE in order to transform words into action and turn commitment into reality. Switzerland is thus extremely worried by repeated attempts to delegitimize the work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and more specifically by the lack of constructive engagement of some delegations in the selection process on the appointment of the next holder of the mandate.

In closing, Switzerland would like to thank the German Chairmanship, as well as the Serbian Chairmanship last year, for their efforts in trying to find a successor for Ms. Mijatović and to reach consensus on this important issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I would kindly ask that this statement is attached to the Ministerial Council decision and the journal of the day.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the United States would like to make the following interpretive statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

We very much appreciate the efforts of the German Chairmanship in guiding the selection process for the next Representative on Freedom of the Media, after the Serbian Chairmanship launched it last year.

This decision was necessitated by the failure of one participating State to constructively engage in the process of identifying the next Representative on Freedom of the Media. Many hundreds of hours were invested into a transparent, thorough, open process which produced a clear candidate around whom consensus should be built. Yet because of the obstructionism of a participating State, we were unable to complete the process and nominate a successor to Ms. Mijatović.

There is no substantial reason for this obstructionism, which unfortunately sends a negative message to other delegations and the institution of the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media is a highly visible and effective independent institution of the OSCE, and we should ensure continuous, strong leadership of that institution.

The United States has the utmost respect for the institution, and its current leader, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, and thus we are grateful for the generosity and flexibility of the current Representative in agreeing to extend her mandate for an additional year, as we seek to complete the task of identifying a replacement.

The decision adopted today calls for our engagement to identify a successor by the end of this year. It also foresees – if we cannot nominate someone by the end of 2016 – asking for Ms. Mijatović’s forbearance once again to serve for another substantial extension beyond March 2017.

Some are fond of calling for ‘mutual respect’ when speaking around this table. The best way to demonstrate and earn mutual respect in the months ahead is to move forward in good faith to do what is foreseen in this decision.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I ask that this statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.”



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/2/16  
27 July 2016

Original: ENGLISH

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**DECISION No. 2/16  
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2018**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Italy will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018.

MC.DEC/2/16  
27 July 2016  
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

“Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Azerbaijan welcomed the decision of the Government of the Italian Republic to chair the OSCE in 2018 and views this as a demonstration of Italy’s willingness to contribute to realization of the mission of the Organization to enhance peace and security in its area based on Principles Guiding Inter-State Relations enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

We took note of the position of Italy as incoming Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE in 2018 with regard to resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. As a candidate for this responsible post, Italy held consultations with Azerbaijan and pledged to consult with Azerbaijan on matters related to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. We expect implementation of these commitments.

Italy committed to support the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, OSCE decisions and documents, in particular on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders, as it was endorsed in the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic.

The statement we just heard runs counter to the commitments and understandings reached at bilateral level. Azerbaijan will support the efforts of incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanship on peaceful resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in accordance with the relevant provisions of the above-mentioned joint declaration.

We ask this statement be attached to the journal of the day and the decision adopted.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



MC.DEC/2/16  
27 July 2016  
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Armenia:

“The Republic of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure and asks to attach it to the ministerial decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018.

The Republic of Armenia supported assumption of Chairmanship of the OSCE by Italy in 2018 with an understanding that Italy throughout its Chairmanship will fully adhere to the OSCE commitments in regard to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through extending full support to the efforts of the agreed format of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at negotiated and peaceful solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, particularly those pertaining to the non-use of force, territorial integrity, and equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

In this regard the delegation of Armenia took note of the statement delivered by the Italian delegation, which also confirmed the supportive position of Italy with regard to the latest agreements on strengthening the capacities of the Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and creating of an OSCE mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and the Armenian-Azerbaijani State border.”



**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 3/16  
OSCE'S ROLE IN THE GOVERNANCE  
OF LARGE MOVEMENTS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that the benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly and regular migration are substantial and often underestimated, whilst noting that irregular migration in large movements often presents complex challenges, and recognizing the substantial economic and social contribution that migrants and refugees can make for inclusive growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations,

Commending efforts made since 2015 by the Serbian and German OSCE Chairmanships to address issues related to the governance of these movements more effectively in the OSCE,

Acknowledging the many specific activities linked to migration and refugees already undertaken by OSCE executive structures, within existing mandates, as well as by participating States, based on existing OSCE commitments, relevant United Nations documents and national policies,

Building on in-depth discussions conducted at the OSCE, especially during the hearings of the Informal Working Group Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows in spring 2016 and during a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council held on 20 July 2016,

1. Acknowledges the work of the Informal Working Group Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows and the output discussed at the special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council of 20 July 2016;
2. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, within existing mandates and available resources, to continue their work on the issue of migration, including by reinforcing activities leading to the exchange of best practices and enhancing dialogue and co-operation with Partners for Co-operation, in a manner that complements the activities undertaken by other relevant international organizations and agencies;

3. Encourages participating States also to use the OSCE platform, including appropriate OSCE working bodies, to continue addressing migration-related issues where the OSCE has developed its expertise, and improve dialogue on migration-related matters with regard to developing possible effective measures and common approaches to address them.

MC.DEC/3/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Turkey:

“In connection with the Ministerial Council decision just adopted on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees, the Republic of Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Turkey joined consensus on this text. We did so in order to pay tribute to the value of the significant work done at the OSCE throughout the year on this important issue.

As the country hosting the highest number of refugees and asylum seekers not only in the OSCE but in the entire world, we regret that the only text which could achieve consensus is lacking considerably in substance, and does not reflect such key notions as ‘solidarity’, ‘compassion’, ‘empathy’ and ‘dignity’ which govern our approach to the question.

Regardless of our sad inability to adopt a text more worthy of both the matter and our collective efforts pertaining thereto, Turkey will continue to address this humanitarian issue in the exemplary manner it has done until now.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day and to the decision in question.”

MC.DEC/3/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision just adopted on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States believes that this phenomenon is truly a multi-dimensional, cross-cutting challenge that will affect security throughout the OSCE for the foreseeable future. As we have made clear throughout our negotiations, we would like to have seen a stronger decision adopted by the Ministerial Council today.

Many of the OSCE executive structures and field missions are already active, within their mandates, on humane migration management and combatting trafficking in human beings.

We believe the Conflict Prevention Centre and OSCE field missions should intensify their migration-related work, including through joint regional activities with other international organizations, as well as monitoring and early warning.

The Secretary General should engage with participating States to recruit secondees to work on migration-related projects, reprioritize to have staff dedicated to co-ordinating migration-related activities, and create a network of migration focal points.

The OSCE, and in particular the ODIHR, can assist participating States with the integration of migrants and refugees.

As recommended in the report by the chairperson of the Informal Working Group on Migration and Refugee Flows, OSCE executive structures should, within their respective mandates, mainstream the issue of migration into the larger OSCE agenda, assist with sharing of best practices, strengthen co-operation and co-ordination among themselves, increase outreach to OSCE Partners for Co-operation as well as to civil society, and contribute to capacity-building efforts to improve governance of large movements of migrants and refugees.

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings should increase engagement in the protection of victims of trafficking in the context of refugees and migration. We would note, however, that we do not support any alteration of her mandate to encompass human smuggling.

The United States strongly urges the incoming Austrian Chairperson-in-Office to appoint a Personal Representative on this issue, in order to strengthen coherence across the OSCE and increase engagement with Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, and civil society.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the decision we have just adopted and also included in the journal of the day.”

MC.DEC/3/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America (also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Canada, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Ukraine):

“In connection with the adoption of the ministerial decision on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees, we would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The delegations of Azerbaijan, Canada, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United States are pleased that consensus has been reached on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees. We are concerned, however, that this decision does not address the important issue of protecting the rights of internally displaced persons.

We call on OSCE participating States, in parallel to actions being taken to address large movements of migrants and refugees, also to use the OSCE as a platform for elaborating a comprehensive OSCE response addressing the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons.

We also acknowledge language in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by consensus at the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016, which reads:

‘We recognize the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders and the possibility that such persons might seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants. We note the need for reflection on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and to prevent and reduce such displacement.’

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/3/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment 4

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Switzerland:

“Switzerland makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure and asks that it be attached to this Ministerial Decision.

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland welcomes the adoption of a ministerial decision on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees.

Switzerland however regrets that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, was not able to find consensus among its participating States to refer to the phenomenon of forced movement of people in its entirety, covering both large movements of internally displaced persons and large movements of migrants and refugees, as has been referred to by the Member States of the United Nations when they adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of 19 September 2016.

I kindly ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day as well as to the decision in question.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.”





**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 4/16  
STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND  
PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the relevance of, and our full respect for all OSCE norms, principles and commitments related to our co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension, and bearing in mind the comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments on combating corruption, in particular the relevant provisions of the Charter for European Security adopted in 1999 at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/04 on combating corruption adopted in Sofia in 2004, the Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism adopted in Dublin in 2012, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 on prevention of corruption adopted in Basel in 2014,

Reaffirming the commitments related to transportation and trade facilitation in the OSCE area, in particular those contained in the Helsinki Final Act adopted in 1975, the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe adopted in 1990, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept adopted in Ljubljana in 2005, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on future transport dialogue in the OSCE adopted in Brussels in 2006, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/11 on strengthening transport dialogue in the OSCE adopted in Vilnius in 2011, and other relevant OSCE documents,

Recognizing that good governance, transparency and accountability are essential conditions for economic growth, trade, investment and sustainable development, thereby contributing to stability, security and respect for human rights in the OSCE area,

Recognizing that corruption and lack of good governance are potential sources of political tension that undermine the stability and security of participating States,

Acknowledging that good governance, rule of law, the prevention of and fight against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism; sound regulatory frameworks,

including adequate protection for whistle-blowers; a public sector based on integrity, openness, transparency and accountability as well as good corporate governance based on efficient management, proper auditing, accountability and adherence to and respect for laws, rules and regulations, business ethics and codes of conduct established in close consultation with business and civil society are critical components for promoting a positive business and investment climate in the OSCE area,

Welcoming the fact that almost all participating States have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards fulfilling the commitments deriving from the Convention,

Recognizing the importance of the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation",

Affirming that transparent management of public resources by strong and well-functioning institutions, a professional and effective civil service as well as sound budgetary and public procurement processes are major components of good governance,

Recognizing the importance of the active participation of the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, civil society and media, in preventing and combating corruption and promoting a sound business and investment climate,

Recognizing that regional and subregional integration processes and agreements can give an important impulse to trade and economic development in the OSCE area and the OSCE participating States,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting, where appropriate, regional and subregional economic co-operation,

Recalling the UNECE transport agreements and conventions for the OSCE's work in the field of transport and trade facilitation,

Underlining that promoting connectivity through transport and trade facilitation is an important part of our economic co-operation,

Reaffirming that our economic co-operation should be based on solidarity, transparency, equal and non-discriminatory partnership, mutual accountability, and full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States, and that, if action in the economic field has a negative impact on other participating States, we will seek to minimize this, in line with our international obligations,

Calling upon participating States to promote free and secure movement of persons, goods, services and investments across borders, in conformity with relevant legal frameworks, international law and OSCE commitments,

Reaffirming the commitments of OSCE participating States to assist each other to increase the integration of their economies into the international economic and financial system, above all through early accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO),

Underlining the importance of the 2014 WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets as well as the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015, including the role that good governance, among other factors, plays in their implementation,

Recognizing the importance of the public and private sectors' full adherence to labour, social, and environmental standards and its contribution to good governance and sustainable development,

Welcoming the substantial discussions held in the framework of the 24th Economic and Environmental Forum and of the thematic Economic and Environmental Committee meetings held in 2016,

Welcoming the discussions held at the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on "Connectivity for Commerce and Investment" held in Berlin on 18 and 19 May 2016 and taking note of the outcome document "Conference Outcome – Chair's Perception",

Reaffirming the existing OSCE commitments in the field of good governance, stressing our determination to fight trafficking in human beings in all its forms, and recognizing the role that transparency and accountability in public procurement processes can play in preventing and combating human trafficking and labour exploitation,

**Strengthening good governance, promoting transparency and improving the business climate**

1. Encourages participating States to accede to, ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and to exchange information and best practices on the UNCAC Second Review Cycle process, as laid out in UNCAC;
2. Encourages participating States to, where appropriate, implement and adhere to other relevant international standards, such as those prescribed by the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation", and to contribute to intensifying the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the business community in their implementation, as laid out in these international instruments;
3. Encourages participating States to promote the exchange of best practices among all relevant stakeholders that contribute to good public and corporate governance, the promotion of transparency, and the prevention and combating of corruption, also in the sphere of the environment;
4. Calls upon participating States to further promote integrity, accountability and cost-effectiveness in public procurement processes, also by ensuring that private interests are not unduly influencing decisions at relevant levels of government, and to ensure adequate transparency requirements for companies participating in public tenders;

5. Calls upon participating States to facilitate access to appropriate government information by increasing the accountability of the public sector and by stimulating public participation through e-governance;

6. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, to contribute to enhancing co-operation between participating States, the private sector and civil society and to actively involve the private sector and civil society in their activities on strengthening good governance, promoting transparency and improving the business and investment climate;

### **Promoting connectivity through transport and trade facilitation**

7. Recognizes that connectivity through transport and trade facilitation, including through measures at different levels of government, can enhance economic co-operation that is mutually beneficial and contribute to good-neighbourly relations, confidence-building and trust in the OSCE area;

8. Calls upon participating States to further promote transparency, integrity and the fight against corruption in customs, cross-border operations and infrastructure development, including by improving border-crossing procedures and processes;

9. Encourages participating States to enhance co-operation between landlocked, transit and non-landlocked countries for the benefit of regional economic development, thereby contributing to the creation of a conducive environment for promoting connectivity within the OSCE area;

10. Encourages participating States to promote policies and initiatives reducing the environmental footprint of transport and its impact on climate change;

11. Encourages participating States that are members of the WTO to sign and ratify the 2014 WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and to support its full implementation;

12. Invites participating States to implement additional trade facilitation measures, aimed at making customs, administrative and regulatory processes more predictable, transparent and accountable, including by harmonizing, simplifying and streamlining norms and procedures without weakening current standards, by strengthening cross-border and regional co-operation of relevant authorities including customs, and by strengthening dialogue and co-operation between relevant government authorities and the private sector;

13. Encourages participating States to further pursue, where appropriate, opportunities for mutually beneficial regional and sub-regional economic co-operation, including through promoting dialogue and co-operation among participating States and with relevant international and regional organizations, including WTO;

14. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, in co-operation with relevant international organizations, to support participating States, upon their request, in the development of trade facilitation measures with a view to strengthening good governance, promoting border-crossing facilitation and fostering business interaction;

**Strengthening good governance through adherence to labour, social, and environmental standards**

15. Encourages participating States to facilitate secure transportation and trade while preventing illicit trafficking in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and agreements to which the OSCE participating States are parties, and to increase efforts aimed at overcoming challenges such as labour exploitation and poorly regulated and inspected worksites;
16. Invites participating States to strive for better application of internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards within the UN, ILO, and where appropriate OECD;
17. Encourages participating States to promote, in co-operation with the private sector, sustainable consumption and production patterns based on internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards;
18. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their existing mandates and available resources, to support participating States in exchanging best practices on raising awareness of the relevance of internationally recognized labour, social and environmental standards, and on strengthening good governance and promoting transparency in public procurement processes;

**Strengthening public-private partnerships in the fight against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism**

19. Encourages participating States to facilitate co-operation among law enforcement, the judiciary and financial intelligence units and other relevant actors as well as between the public and the private sector and civil society, including media, in combating corruption, money laundering and other financial crime;
20. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, to facilitate dialogue and co-operation among governments, private sector and civil society in order to support good governance efforts, including combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and in order to address impediments to economic growth and sustainable development;
21. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

MC.DEC/4/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision just adopted on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity, the United States would like to make the following interpretive statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the adoption of this decision. We would, however, like to express our disappointment that the Russian Federation would not accept more robust language on the importance of combatting human trafficking and ensuring that our supply chains – including for government procurement – are accountable and that our policies towards them prevent and combat human trafficking and labour exploitation.

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to combat human trafficking, and also asked the OSCE Secretary General to ensure that OSCE’s own procurement supply chains do not contribute to human trafficking or labour exploitation.

The United States looks forward to the Austrian Chairmanship addressing this as a priority issue throughout 2017.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the decision we have just adopted and also included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

MC.DEC/4/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of the ministerial decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity, the delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following interpretative statement in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The delegation of Ukraine joined consensus on the ministerial decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity.

We did so in the recognition that the economic and environmental dimension is an important part in the OSCE concept of comprehensive security linking co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension to peaceful inter-State relations. Such co-operation necessitates that all OSCE principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, be implemented fully and in good faith. We expect that the work of OSCE Chairmanships will continue to be underpinned, including on this decision, by ensuring adherence to the core OSCE principles and commitments and the imperative of correction of existing glaring violations.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/4/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Armenia:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure.

We welcome adoption of the ministerial decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity.

Armenia attaches importance to their promotion as important factors for enhancing trust and confidence-building, narrowing divisions and building bridges across dividing lines, including in the situation of application of unilateral coercive measures.

We welcome that concept of connectivity will build upon and reinforce the principles of our economic co-operation, that of solidarity, transparency, non-discriminatory partnership, mutual accountability and full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States, as well as minimizing negative impact of actions in the economic field on other participating States.

The decision clearly refers to the OSCE principles, norms and commitments related to the economic and environmental co-operation. Thus it reaffirms the commitment of refraining from any act of economic coercion. We hope that the implementation of the decision will assist participating States which apply acts of economic coercion particularly through closing transport links and borders to reconsider their current practices.

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia requests that this statement be attached to the decision and registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”





**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 5/16**  
**OSCE EFFORTS RELATED TO REDUCING THE RISKS OF**  
**CONFLICT STEMMING FROM THE USE OF INFORMATION AND**  
**COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

The Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Reaffirming that efforts by OSCE participating States to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies will be consistent with: international law, including, *inter alia*, the UN Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Helsinki Final Act; and their responsibilities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/237, and stressing the relevance to OSCE efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies of the 2010, 2013 and 2015 reports of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security,

Emphasizing the importance of OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies to complement existing global, regional and subregional efforts in this field;

Emphasizing the importance of communication at all levels of authority to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 1039 of 26 April 2012, which established the OSCE framework for the development of CBMs designed to enhance inter-State co-operation, transparency, predictability, and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation, and conflict that might stem from the use of information and communication technologies, and welcoming the work of the informal working group established pursuant to Permanent Council Decision No. 1039,

Building upon Permanent Council Decision No. 1106 of 3 December 2013 on an initial set of OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies,

1. Endorses the adoption of Permanent Council Decision No. 1202 of 10 March 2016 on OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies;
2. Stresses the importance of implementing existing OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies and developing additional confidence-building measures in line with the Considerations set out in Permanent Council Decision No. 1202;
3. Welcomes the participating States' activities in the implementation of the existing OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and notes in this respect the importance of continuously updating national contact points to facilitate pertinent communication and dialogue;
4. Encourages all participating States to contribute to the implementation of the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies;
5. Recognizes the importance of effective information exchange among participating States related to the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies and, *inter alia*, of ensuring rapid communication at technical and policy levels of authority, and of elaborating procedures for holding consultations in order to reduce the risks of misperception and of possible emergence of political or military tensions or conflict that may stem from the use of information and communication technologies;
6. Intends to explore, within the cross-dimensional, informal working group established pursuant to Permanent Council Decision No. 1039 under the auspices of the Security Committee, ways of strengthening the work of the OSCE as a practical platform for constructive and efficient implementation, and the possible development of further confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies;
7. Invites participating States to make concrete proposals to this end by 30 June 2017;
8. Encourages relevant OSCE executive structures to assist participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and to enhance pertinent national capabilities and processes, within available resources;
9. Welcomes the work undertaken by the 2016 OSCE German Chairmanship aimed at identifying how OSCE efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies can be made more effective and can be intensified to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communication technologies environment in line with relevant OSCE commitments;
10. Underscores that further OSCE activities to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, including those of relevant OSCE executive structures, should build on existing OSCE efforts, be in line with respective

mandates and OSCE commitments, complement efforts by the United Nations, international and other regional fora, and be organized within available resources;

11. Invites the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to enhance dialogue on efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies.



**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 6/16**  
**ENHANCING THE USE OF ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION**

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Reiterating the need to combat terrorism, which constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Recalling the obligation in UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) to prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups, in accordance with applicable international law, by, *inter alia*, effective border controls, and to intensify and accelerate the exchange of operational information, in accordance with domestic and international law regarding actions or movements of terrorists and terrorist networks, including foreign terrorist fighters, especially with their States of residence or nationality, through bilateral or multilateral mechanisms,

Reiterating the Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) (MC.DOC/5/14), which commits OSCE participating States to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters through effective border controls and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents, to exchange information in this regard, and to implement Ministerial Council Decisions No. 7/03, No. 4/04, No. 6/06 and No. 11/09 on travel document security while fully respecting the obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law and international refugee law, including to ensure that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts,

Declaring our intention to detect and prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters in full compliance with UN Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2309 (2016), which call upon all States to “require that airlines operating in their territories provide advance passenger information to the appropriate national authorities in order to detect the departure from their territories, or attempted entry into or transit through their territories, by means of civil aircraft, of individuals designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 2253 (2015)” and resolution 2178 (2014), which further “calls upon Member States to report any such departure from their territories, or such

attempted entry into or transit through their territories, of such individuals to the Committee, as well as sharing this information with the State of residence or nationality, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law and international obligations.”

Stressing that UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) also “calls upon Member States to improve international, regional, and subregional co-operation, if appropriate through bilateral agreements, to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters from and through their territories, including through increased sharing of information for the purpose of identifying foreign terrorist fighters”,

Taking note of the Memorandum of Understanding between IATA and the OSCE Secretariat signed in Geneva on 14 October 2016 to intensify co-operation and support international efforts for enhancing aviation security and preventing the travel of foreign terrorist fighters,

Decide that OSCE participating States commit to:

1. Establish national advance passenger information (API) systems in accordance with the provisions contained in ICAO’s Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention) and aligned with the WCO/IATA/ICAO Guidelines on Advance Passenger Information (API), including those on privacy and data protection, in order to effectively collect passenger and/or crew data from airlines operating in their territories;
2. Consider establishing at the national level an interactive system to exchange API data (iAPI) in order to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters in line with UN Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2309 (2016);
3. Adhere to ICAO Document 9082 “ICAO’s Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services” in the context of establishing an API system, recognizing that States are responsible for ensuring the implementation of adequate security measures at airports;
4. Collaborate with all relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of national-level API systems, and consider establishing one authority to receive, on behalf of all other authorities, all forms of passenger data through one single window data entry point;
5. Increase the added value of API data by seeking to establish automated cross-checking of this data against relevant national, regional and international watch lists, in particular Interpol databases and UN Sanctions Lists;
6. Provide assistance to support other requesting participating States in establishing an API system;

We task the OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates and available resources, with:

7. Supporting global efforts in raising awareness of the requirements of UN Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2309 (2016) on advance passenger information and by determining the technical assistance needs of requesting participating States, as well as identifying potential donor assistance for capacity-building;

8. Supporting requesting participating States in the establishment of API systems, in co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations.

MC.DEC/6/16  
9 December 2016  
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Holy See:

“Mr. Chairperson,

The Holy See wishes to recall that its participation in the OSCE has always been, and continues to be, in accordance with its possibilities, its special character and the nature of its mission. Therefore, the Holy See, while joining the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on enhancing the use of advance passenger information, in conformity with its special nature and particular mission, wishes to make the following interpretative statement, under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The Holy See, not being a Member State, but a Permanent Observer State at the United Nations (see UN General Assembly resolution A/58/314), is not legally bound to comply with the Security Council resolutions. It does, however, voluntarily observe those decisions concerning the fight against terrorism.

Since there are no airports or airlines operating in the State of the Vatican City, the Holy See deems that this decision is not applicable to its specific circumstances.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and annexed to the journal of the meeting under this item.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Hamburg 2016**

MC.DEC/7/16  
9 December 2016

Original: ENGLISH

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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 7/16  
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2019**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Slovakia will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2019.





**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Hamburg 2016**

MC.DEC/8/16  
9 December 2016

Original: ENGLISH

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**Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting**  
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 8/16  
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OSCE  
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Vienna on 7 and 8 December 2017.