

ASTANA COMMEMORATIVE DECLARATION

TOWARDS A SECURITY COMMUNITY

1. We, the Heads of State or Government of the 56 participating States of the OSCE, have assembled in Astana, eleven years after the last OSCE Summit in Istanbul, to recommit ourselves to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals. As we mark the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, we reaffirm the relevance of, and our commitment to, the principles on which this Organization is based. While we have made much progress, we also acknowledge that more must be done to ensure full respect for, and implementation of, these core principles and commitments that we have undertaken in the politico-military dimension, the economic and environmental dimension, and the human dimension, notably in the areas of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. We reaffirm our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Charter for European Security and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith. We reiterate our commitment to the concept, initiated in the Final Act, of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, which relates the maintenance of peace to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and links economic and environmental co-operation with peaceful inter-State relations.

3. The security of each participating State is inseparably linked to that of all others. Each participating State has an equal right to security. We reaffirm the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve. Each State also has the right to neutrality. Each participating State will respect the rights of all others in these regards. They will not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other States. Within the OSCE no State, group of States or organization can have any pre-eminent responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the OSCE area or can consider any part of the OSCE area as its sphere of influence. We will maintain only those military capabilities that are commensurate with our legitimate individual or collective security needs, taking into account obligations under

* Incorporates a correction to attachment 1 to the Declaration.

international law, as well as the legitimate security concerns of other States. We further reaffirm that all OSCE principles and commitments, without exception, apply equally to each participating State, and we emphasize that we are accountable to our citizens and responsible to each other for their full implementation. We regard these commitments as our common achievement, and therefore consider them to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States.

4. These norms, principles and commitments have enabled us to make progress in putting old confrontations behind us and in moving us closer to democracy, peace and unity throughout the OSCE area. They must continue to guide us in the 21st century as we work together to make the ambitious vision of Helsinki and Paris a reality for all our peoples. These and all other OSCE documents establish clear standards for the participating States in their treatment of each other and of all individuals within their territories. Resolved to build further upon this strong foundation, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthen security, trust and good-neighbourly relations among our States and peoples. In this respect we are convinced that the role of the OSCE remains crucial, and should be further enhanced. We will further work towards strengthening the OSCE's effectiveness and efficiency.

5. We recognize that the OSCE, as the most inclusive and comprehensive regional security organization in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area, continues to provide a unique forum, operating on the basis of consensus and the sovereign equality of States, for promoting open dialogue, preventing and settling conflicts, building mutual understanding and fostering co-operation. We stress the importance of the work carried out by the OSCE Secretariat, High Commissioner on National Minorities, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and Representative on Freedom of the Media, as well as the OSCE field operations, in accordance with their respective mandates, in assisting participating States with implementing their OSCE commitments. We are determined to intensify co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and encourage its efforts to promote security, democracy and prosperity throughout the OSCE area and within participating States and to increase confidence among participating States. We also acknowledge the Organization's significant role in establishing effective confidence- and security-building measures. We reaffirm our commitment to their full implementation and our determination to ensure that they continue to make a substantial contribution to our common and indivisible security.

6. The OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative approach to security, which addresses the human, economic and environmental, political and military dimensions of security as an integral whole, remains indispensable. Convinced that the inherent dignity of the individual is at the core of comprehensive security, we reiterate that human rights and fundamental freedoms are inalienable, and that their protection and promotion is our first responsibility. We reaffirm categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. We value the important role played by civil society and free media in helping us to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, including free and fair elections, and the rule of law.

7. Serious threats and challenges remain. Mistrust and divergent security perceptions must be overcome. Our commitments in the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions need to be fully implemented. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law must be safeguarded and strengthened. Greater

efforts must be made to promote freedom of religion or belief and to combat intolerance and discrimination. Mutually beneficial co-operation aimed at addressing the impact on our region's security of economic and environmental challenges must be further developed. Our energy security dialogue, including on agreed principles of our co-operation, must be enhanced. Increased efforts should be made to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter, as well as the Helsinki Final Act. New crises must be prevented. We pledge to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

8. Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized. We value the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation, and look forward to the updating of the Vienna Document 1999. We value the CFE Treaty's contribution to the creation of a stable and predictable environment for all OSCE participating States. We note that the CFE Treaty is not being implemented to its full capacity and the Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty (ACFE) has not entered into force. Recognizing intensified efforts to overcome the current impasse, we express our support for the ongoing consultations aiming at opening the way for negotiations in 2011.

9. At the same time, in today's complex and inter-connected world, we must achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings. Such threats can originate within or outside our region.

10. We recognize that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, notably in the Mediterranean and in Asia. We must therefore enhance the level of our interaction with our Partners for Co-operation. In particular, we underscore the need to contribute effectively, based on the capacity and national interest of each participating State, to collective international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan.

11. We welcome initiatives aimed at strengthening European security. Our security dialogue, enhanced by the Corfu Process, has helped to sharpen our focus on these and other challenges we face in all three dimensions. The time has now come to act, and we must define concrete and tangible goals in addressing these challenges. We are determined to work together to fully realize the vision of a comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security community throughout our shared OSCE area. This security community should be aimed at meeting the challenges of the 21st century and based on our full adherence to common OSCE norms, principles and commitments across all three dimensions. It should unite all OSCE participating States across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region, free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security. We will work to ensure that co-operation among our States, and among the relevant organizations and institutions of which they are members, will be guided by the principles of equality, partnership co-operation, inclusiveness and transparency. Drawing strength from our diversity, we resolve to achieve this overarching goal through sustained determination and common effort, acting within the OSCE and in other formats.

12. To this end, we task the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office with organizing a follow-up process within existing formats, taking into consideration ideas and proposals put forward by the participating States, including in the framework of the Corfu Process and in the preparation of the Astana Summit, and pledge to do all we can to assist the incoming Chairmanships-in-Office in developing a concrete action plan based on the work done by the Kazakhstan Chairmanship. Progress achieved will be reviewed at the next OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius on 6 and 7 December 2011.

13. We express our deep gratitude to Kazakhstan for hosting our meeting, and for the energy and vitality the country has brought to the challenging task of chairing the OSCE in 2010. We welcome Lithuania's Chairmanship of the Organization in 2011, Ireland's in 2012 and Ukraine's in 2013.

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**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 European Union:

“The delegation of Belgium gave the floor to the Head of the European Union delegation.

On the occasion of the adoption of the Summit Document, the European Union would like to make the following interpretative statement:

The European Union thanks the Kazakh Chairmanship-in-Office for its hard work and commitment throughout 2010, in particular in preparing and conducting the Summit.

We welcome the reaffirmation of the OSCE principles and commitments, as well as the intensified efforts concerning the CFE.

The European Union also welcomes the joint statement at the OSCE Astana Summit by the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries and the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The European Union has taken a constructive approach in the run up to the Summit. The Summit Document confirms our joint vision of a security community for the future. Regrettably, it has not been possible to agree yet on the comprehensive and concrete action plan we have called for in order for this vision to become reality.

We will continue to put forward proposals on the basis of the European Union’s four priorities, which are widely shared by OSCE participating States. These are:

- Improving capabilities for preventing, managing and resolving conflicts, and making progress on resolving the protracted conflicts;
- Strengthening conventional arms control including security- and confidence-building measures;
- Strengthening implementation of norms, principles and commitments, in particular in the human dimension, including full support for the work of the relevant OSCE institutions;

* Incorporates a correction to the text.

- Tackling transnational and emerging threats and challenges.

In addition, as regards Georgia, the European Union:

- Reaffirms its firm and consistent commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, in full respect of international law and the Helsinki Final Act;
- Reaffirms its continued support to international conflict resolution efforts, including the Geneva International Discussions, to stabilize the security situation and address the humanitarian and human rights issues on the ground, including full implementation of the 12 August 2008 agreement and subsequent arrangements;
- Reaffirms its support for the OSCE engagement in Georgia, including for the restoration of a meaningful OSCE presence;
- Recalls the importance of full international access to the entire territory of Georgia.

As regards the Republic of Moldova, the European Union:

- Reaffirms its commitment to the 5+2 settlement process as the only legitimate negotiating format;
- Calls for an immediate and unconditional resumption of the formal 5+2 negotiations with the aim to achieve a lasting political settlement on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova;
- Supports confidence- and security-building measures to promote transparency, stability and previously agreed military reductions consistent with OSCE goals, statements and commitments.

The European Union is eager to build on the momentum that our joint work here in Astana has generated. We have all pledged to work together to support the incoming Chairmanships in this ambitious task. While we regret that the Summit could not approve an action plan, we see that our future work can be energized by the ideas negotiated during the preparations for the Summit. We are committed to moving ahead starting next year to assist the Lithuanian Chairmanship, in our work in the appropriate decision-making bodies. The European Union is confident the Chairmanship will be fully supported by the OSCE Troika, Secretary General and the executive structures, to further build upon and realize the vision of a comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security community throughout our shared OSCE area.

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

The candidate countries Croatia¹, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ and Iceland², the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.”

1 Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.

**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 Canada:

“Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this interpretive statement on behalf of the Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Canada.

We congratulate Kazakhstan for doing its utmost this past year as Chair of the OSCE and in convening the Astana Summit, which is indeed historic.

Your efforts have helped build trust within our vast OSCE region. After many weeks of negotiations, the Astana Declaration is a modest first step towards a framework for action in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

While it reaffirms that we are still on the same page when it comes to our shared values, principles and OSCE commitments, Canada came to this Summit expecting more.

Canada regrets that OSCE participating States were not able to reach consensus over the important issue of protracted conflicts in order to secure a result-based Action Plan, which was our goal for the Summit, including enhancing the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan and on threats stemming from Afghanistan. This would have underscored the relevance of this Organization for tackling twenty-first century security challenges.

With the Astana Summit, you have managed to bring participating States closer than we have been in recent years in addressing pressing regional issues and conflicts; it is with regret that we realize that more time and efforts are needed.

As founding member of the OSCE, you can count on Canada's continued constructive engagement towards a forward looking road map for our Organization's future work, and especially in promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy throughout our region – issues for which our Organization is known and must remain in the forefront.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.

**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 Moldova:

“On the occasion of the adoption of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, the Republic of Moldova would like to make the following interpretative statement:

While the delegation of the Republic of Moldova joined consensus on the Astana Declaration, we stress that this Document is not fully consistent with the expectations from the first OSCE Summit in more than a decade. It is regrettable that, despite tremendous efforts on behalf of most delegations, we failed to produce neither a substantive political Declaration nor a forward-looking Action Plan. The adopted Document is far from perfect as it does not adequately address some of the core security concerns of my country and other participating States. However, lack of any document agreed at the Summit would have seriously damaged the credibility of our Organization.

At the same time, the credibility and relevance of the OSCE resides not only in the documents we adopt, but also in our capacity to implement previous commitments and properly address key challenges faced by participating States. Protracted conflicts, including the Transnistrian one, as well as the continuous stationing of foreign military forces on the territory of sovereign States without host nation consent, definitely should be among our top priorities.

In our negotiations on the language for the Action Plan, we believe that we were close to a reasonable compromise. Therefore, we should not waste the momentum generated by these efforts and continue to work in order to provide our Organization with a robust and comprehensive roadmap for the future. Our delegation stands ready to continue to engage actively and constructively towards achieving this goal.

To this end, we would like to reiterate the key elements that shape our approach:

- Immediate and unconditional resumption of the formal 5+2 negotiations with the aim to achieve a viable political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova;
- Further implementation of comprehensive confidence-building measures, including free movement of people, goods and services;

- Resumption and completion of the withdrawal of Russian military forces and munitions from Moldova in compliance with commitments undertaken at the Istanbul OSCE Summit;
- Transformation of the current peacekeeping arrangement into a multinational civilian mission under an appropriate international mandate.

In conclusion, we would like to commend the Kazakh Chairmanship-in-Office for organizing this Summit and we wish the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship success in this challenging endeavour.

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

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
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By the delegation of Romania:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In addition to the interpretative statement delivered by the European Union, which Romania fully supports, I would like to add the following:

Romania regrets that at the OSCE Astana Summit, credited as a summit for restoration of trust, the participating States failed to agree upon a substantial political document. While this document does not properly address some of the issues that are of particular concern for our common security, we have joined this commemorative declaration as a result of our strong adherence and respect to the OSCE values and principles, represented by the comprehensive concept of security.

The absence of an Action Plan outlining concrete measures that would accompany the fulfilment of a new security vision represents an important missed opportunity. We assess that the main unfulfilment of our meeting lies with the lack of progress on the resolution of the protracted conflicts confronting the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Throughout the preparations of this Summit, including within the Corfu Process, Romania advocated for the advancement of the resolution of the protracted conflicts based on an understanding that decisions previously undertaken require due implementation. It is still the case.

For Romania it was important that the declarative part of the Summit Document should have spelled out that the protracted conflicts continue to pose a serious threat to our common security, while the Action Plan – concrete measures to be taken in order to advance their resolution towards a final settlement. Despite impressive efforts displayed by a majority of participating States, we are far from meeting the objective of restoring trust and confidence.

The conflict in the Transnistrian separatist region of the Republic of Moldova continues to remain a security challenge for the OSCE region. Romania continues to support the immediate and unconditional resumption of the formal negotiations in the “5+2” format aiming at a just and lasting resolution that respects fully the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova.

Back at the 1999 OSCE Summit in Istanbul we had a far more generous backbone to build the resolution of the protracted conflicts than we have now. Our consequent failure for eight years by now to produce political declarations at ministerial levels testifies in fact to the lack of political will.

Romania reaffirms its adherence to the values and principles on which the activity of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is based and considers that solidarity from participating States should be equally employed in the implementation of its decisions not only in reaffirming them.

Mr. Chairperson, I would kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
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By the delegation of the Czech Republic:

“Mr. Chairperson,

We support the statement made by the European Union Presidency.

Heads of State and government and our ministers gathered here not only to commemorate the outstanding work of our predecessors accomplished thirty-five years ago in Helsinki and twenty years ago in Paris, the commemoration itself is not enough.

We regret that during the long process of the preparation of the final outcome document of this Summit, that started with the Corfu process almost two years ago, we failed to make more progress, namely to adopt the Declaration document with the Action Plan.

Together with our European Union partners we have made proposals to achieve substantive outcome at this Summit. The Action Plan should have defined the practical way to continue to restore trust and confidence among OSCE participating States. This opportunity was lost. So was the relevance of the OSCE.

We are convinced that to address the protracted conflicts is of utmost importance. Namely, it is necessary to restore the full territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, formally resume the 5 plus 2 talks on Moldova and make a progress on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. Where do we have better occasion to attempt to find a way forward than at the meeting of our heads of State and government. The conflicts have to be outlined as a priority area of work if the OSCE is to regain relevance and credibility.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship for their hospitality that we have been enjoying here in Astana.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”