

MC.DEL/38/13
6 December 2013

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARIA-PIA KOTHBAUER,
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF
LIECHTENSTEIN, AT THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Kyiv, 5 and 6 December 2013

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Liechtenstein is deeply moved by the death of Nelson Mandela and deeply impressed by his fascinating personality and his impressive life and legacy. We offer our condolences to his family and the people of South Africa.

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Liechtenstein I thank our host country, Ukraine, for its generous hospitality and the perfect organization of the 20th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, Ms. Aurelia Frick, regrets that she is unable to participate in the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv as the Liechtenstein Parliament is currently in session.

Throughout the year, the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE has endeavoured to lay balanced, realistic and ambitious foundations for the Kyiv Ministerial Council. The documents we have before us reflect this notable commitment on the part of Ukraine and the consensus that is currently possible.

The OSCE has not fully succeeded in its role of promoting security and stability in the OSCE area and serving as a forum for dialogue. At their last Summit Meeting in Astana, the Heads of State or Government reaffirmed the OSCE's principles and commitments and set us the task of revitalizing and modernizing them. This has been only partially possible so far.

At the Dublin Ministerial Council, the OSCE provided itself with a future-oriented instrument in the form of the Helsinki+40 process.

Mr. Chairperson,

Liechtenstein does not belong to any security alliance. It is for this reason that the OSCE, as the largest regional security organization in the world, is of continuing importance for us. It was also against this background that Liechtenstein assumed the Chairmanship of

the Forum for Security Co-operation at the beginning of this year. With the aim of giving fresh impetus to the Forum's work and promoting transparency and confidence between the participating States, we placed an emphasis on the holding of high-quality Security Dialogues. Updating the Vienna Document and dialogue on arms control were of particular concern to us in this respect.

We welcome the fact that it has proved possible to place confidence-building measures in the field of cybersecurity on the OSCE's agenda.

Mr. Chairperson,

The human dimension remains a core area of the OSCE for Liechtenstein. The country holding the Chairmanship has a special role to play not only in the development of the programme of work but also by setting an example, especially when it comes to observing fundamental freedoms such as the right to freedom of expression on such essential questions as the future direction to be taken by one's own country. In view of the Ministerial Council decisions before us, we hope that in the future too substantial steps will be possible in the human dimension in terms of the modernization and further development of the *acquis*.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last month Liechtenstein was elected to the UN-Women Executive Board. In our work we shall focus on the situation of women in armed conflicts. For years Liechtenstein has been advocating the implementation and further development of the women, peace and security agenda on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. In this connection, Liechtenstein has devoted attention to the representation of women in political decision-making bodies and in peace and mediation processes. In 2012, for example, a conference was held in Liechtenstein on promoting the political participation of women in Afghanistan, with the involvement of leading Afghan women politicians and activists. In this context, Liechtenstein welcomes the fact that a joint OSCE declaration on Afghanistan is to be adopted at our Ministerial Council.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE can do a great deal if only we allow it to. The Helsinki+40 process and the well-thought-out and innovative programme of work of the incoming OSCE Chairmanships, Switzerland and Serbia, are ideal for giving the OSCE fresh impetus in finding a solution to existing problems and in working towards our common goal of a European security community.

Liechtenstein thanks Switzerland for its willingness to take the helm for a second time during this important phase for the OSCE and wishes it every success in doing so.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.