

Second day of the Twenty-First Meeting
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MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON CO-OPERATION WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the engaged participation of the Asian Partners for Co-operation in the OSCE, noting that, over the years, the partnership has been steadily strengthened and its importance and efficiency demonstrated. We renew our commitment to deepen and expand the dialogue and co-operation with the Asian Partners, on the basis of Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11, and call on the Partners to continue voluntarily implementing OSCE commitments.
2. We note with appreciation the generous contribution of Asian Partners to OSCE extrabudgetary projects and relevant OSCE activities, *inter alia* the support from Japan, Australia, the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Thailand for the establishment of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. We encourage the Asian Partners to continue to make use of existing OSCE mechanisms, including the Partnership Fund.
3. We remain committed to an open and frank exchange of information within the Contact Group with the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation, which serves as the main forum for regular dialogue between the OSCE participating States and Asian Partners for Co-operation within the work of the organization. We take note with appreciation of the practice of holding regular OSCE conferences in the Partners for Co-operation and call for a more proactive use by participating States and Partners for Co-operation of those events to intensify the dialogue. In that context, we note a growing interest among the Asian Partners for Co-operation in deepening their understanding of the OSCE's expertise in such areas as combating transnational threats, confidence and security-building measures, empowerment and inclusion of women in the political and economic spheres as well as providing equal opportunities for women and men to contribute to peace processes, and we reaffirm our readiness to continue to share OSCE's best practices through the various existing formats.
4. We reaffirm our long term commitment to further strengthen the OSCE's engagement across the three dimensions with Afghanistan pursuant to the request of the government of Afghanistan, as expressed in Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 4/07 and 4/11. We commend the progress achieved so far and call for continued implementation of those decisions beyond 2014, *inter alia* on border co-operation between the OSCE participating States and Afghanistan on bilateral and multilateral levels. We welcome the holding of elections in Afghanistan in 2014 and the formation of the Government of National Unity. We note with satisfaction the deployment of ODIHR election support teams to the Afghan

elections in recent years and encourage the Afghan Government to make good use of the recommendations made.

5. We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and our firm rejection of the identification of terrorism with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion. We reiterate our resolve to combat it, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and is incompatible with the fundamental values and principles shared by the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation alike. We welcome dialogue on the efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and develop and implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, in full implementation of UNSCR 2170 and 2178, and in particular foreign terrorist fighters identified therein, to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, as well as to ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made directly or indirectly available to fund terrorist activities. We reiterate our commitment to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls of issuance identity papers and travel documents. We welcome the opportunity to address the topic of the fight against terrorism during the Twenty-First Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

6. The Helsinki+40 process provides an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue with the Asian Partners for Co-operation. We encourage the Asian Partners for Co-operation to contribute actively to the Helsinki+40 process on the issues which are relevant to the Partners, and especially to consider additional options for further enhancing the OSCE's relations with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

7. We take note that initiatives by academia, non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society may provide additional channels to support and expand the existing dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation.