

ENGLISH only

By: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America

DRAFT DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE declare our strong and unwavering determination to uphold our Declaration from the 2010 Astana Summit reaffirming:

our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith,

that human rights and fundamental freedoms are inalienable, and that their protection and promotion is our first responsibility, and

that civil society and free media help us to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, including free and fair elections, and the rule of law.

Recalling in particular Helsinki Final Act Principle VII (on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms) and Principle X (on fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law) and our commitments in the Copenhagen Document (paragraphs 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 10, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4 and 24) relating to the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that:

human rights and fundamental freedoms do not change with new technologies and that they extend into the Digital Age,

in the OSCE region and across the globe individuals increasingly use new connective technologies to know and act upon their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

these new technologies facilitate the expression and dissemination of ideas and information by individuals, groups and organizations as well as their ability to create and maintain networks and associations, plan and conduct their peaceful activities and organize peaceful assemblies online and offline,

these new technologies thereby strengthen the capacity of individuals, acting alone or in community with others, actively to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the democratic development, modernization, prosperity and security of their own countries and the international community.

We therefore reaffirm:

our commitments to respect the exercise by individuals, including members of groups and organizations, of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through new technologies such as the Internet, mobile networks and social media tools.

*) Redistribution due to change of distribution status