

**Statement**  
**by**  
**H.E. Mr. Ivan Naydenov,**  
**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria**  
**At the 19<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council**  
**6 – 7 December, Dublin**

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to convey my sincere gratitude to our host H.E. Eamon Gilmore, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, and his team for their hard work and constructive leadership of the OSCE throughout the year. Bulgaria remains committed to the central goals of the Organisation, and applauds the efforts of the Irish Chairmanship to promote and advance the OSCE's work in 2012.

Let me also welcome Mongolia as the 57<sup>th</sup> OSCE participating State. We see it as a clear signal that Mongolia is committed to the shared values and principles of the Organisation, namely - democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law, as well as for its political will to support our common efforts towards building peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space.

Bulgaria fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union to which I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This has been another difficult year for all of us, marked by global economic downturn, social unrest in many parts of the world and continued conflicts in the immediate neighbourhood of Europe. This has been a difficult year for the OSCE too. As we closed last year Ministerial in Vilnius with a degree of mistrust and divisions, that we used to consider belonging to the irreversible past, in 2012 we have been confronted once again with the challenge of searching for a common ground and confidence rebuilt.

Bulgaria has always regarded the OSCE as a broad platform for reconciliation, bridging differences and building security through shared goals and commitments. More than ever we need now this Organisation living up to its role. In Astana we have tasked ourselves with the ambitious task to upgrade the OSCE into a security community and create a common space of peace and democracy from Vancouver to Vladivostok without dividing lines and threat to use force.

We expect that here, in Dublin, we would be able to make a step in this direction.

We see the adoption of a relevant document on launching the **Helsinki+40 Process** as the key deliverable of our meeting that would provide guidelines for the way ahead, ensure the consolidation of the OSCE acquis and set the frame for improving the efficiency of the Organization to address the challenges of the evolving security environment.

**Preserving the autonomy of the OSCE institutions and giving more prominent role to civil society and academia** in the OSCE activities should be part of this process.

In our view the adoption of a **Political declaration** of Dublin would reinforce the important political message of such a decision and would prove our relevance and adequate approach in addressing the major security concerns in the OSCE area.

With regard to **protracted conflicts**, we consider that they remain among the greatest threats to security and stability in the OSCE. We reiterate the necessity to pursue our efforts in a cooperative manner, including by using all existing mechanisms to achieve tangible progress in their settlement.

Another important issue is to keep **the Balance across the three dimensions of the OSCE** and to preserve the notion of **Comprehensiveness** of our approach to security. This implies the adoption of respective decisions in all the three dimensions – may be not many, but substantial enough to allow for advancing the activities of the Organisation under the next Chairmanship.

We remain committed to all constructive efforts to restore the confidence among participating States in the **Politico-Military Dimension**. The interlocking and mutually reinforcing network of treaties, agreements, norms and commitments should be kept abreast of the threats and challenges that we all face together. We, therefore, need frank, open and result-oriented deliberations on how to **revitalize, update and modernize Arms control and CSBMs Regimes** as one of the pillars of our security community. Further **substantial up-date and modernization of the Vienna Document** is important to reflect the current military and security realities in Europe, thus bringing to increased military transparency, predictability and stability in the region.

**The Economic and Environmental Dimension** is an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security, bridging in a way a number of other aspects of the OSCE activities such as good governance, transparency, rule of law, combating corruption, money laundering and financing terrorism. We fully support the adoption of a document on good governance that would provide impetus to further work and pinpoint our understanding of the basic preconditions for stability and economic progress. As we face economic and environmental challenges to security in the entire OSCE area, we need to revisit our 2003 Maastricht Strategy and consider steps to strengthen our collective response on the basis of the value-added role of the OSCE.

Our commitments in the **Human dimension**, including the rule of law and democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, media freedom, freedom of assembly and association, tolerance and non-discrimination - are among the major OSCE achievements. Their reaffirmation and full implementation are essential to creating a security community. We look forward to adopting a meaningful decision that strengthens and extends our commitments to freedom of expression, media freedom and safety of journalists. We commend the Irish OSCE Chairmanship for holding the Conference on Internet Freedom in Dublin in June 2012 and share the opinion that the in-depth discussions at the forum contributed to a better understanding of the content of existing OSCE commitments regarding the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of media, and their relevance to the Internet and other contemporary connective technologies.

Enhancing the OSCE co-operation with **Mediterranean and Asian Partners** is becoming increasingly important for our joint security. In the new strategic and political context in the Mediterranean area and the considerable impact of the Arab Spring, the OSCE should remain vocal about its readiness to assist its Partners for cooperation in handling democratic transition. Success of our efforts depends on priorities and ownership by the partner countries. The endeavours of the southern Mediterranean countries to bring economic and political stability to their societies should be supported. The OSCE has the potential to contribute to the stability of the region with assistance in democracy building, as well as through co-operation in addressing transnational threats to security.

Security challenges stemming from **Afghanistan** and the post-2014 transition, and their implications for the OSCE area deserve special attention and calls for more targeted engagement by the Organisation in capacity-building, border security, policing, good governance and cross-border co-operation between the Central Asian states and Afghanistan. Close interaction among regional and international actors involved in the region is vital.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me thank once again the Irish Chairmanship for its warm hospitality and dedication to achieve progress in all OSCE dimensions, as well as to wish success to Ukraine as the next Chair of our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.