



**Address by H.E. Leonid Kozhara,
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine,
at the United Nations Security Council
(New York, 7 May 2013)**

*Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am pleased and honored to address the UN Security Council today as Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

With a comprehensive approach to security and in view of its geographical scope stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the OSCE enjoys a unique position among all other regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Our Organization is a strong partner of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security in its area.

It is a great responsibility for me personally and for Ukraine to guide the OSCE towards implementing a shared vision of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community, as set forth in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration.

The year 2015 marks four decades since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. We strongly believe that this anniversary should serve as a catalyst for re-energizing the Organization.

The OSCE needs to retain the political momentum provided by the Astana Summit. **Helsinki+40 process**, initiated last year in Dublin, seems to be a promising framework for this.

Ukrainian Chairmanship will facilitate the Helsinki +40 dialogue focused on overcoming divergences and clarifying the role and goals of the OSCE in the modern security architecture.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As the OSCE Chairmanship Ukraine has set ambitious goals with a number of priorities across the three dimensions of security.

Within the **Politico-military Dimension**, we aim at updating and modernizing the OSCE politico-military instruments.

We remain strongly engaged with the **UN Friends of Mediation** and attach great importance to the updating of the confidence and security building measures. During our Chairmanship, the Organisation will continue to be actively engaged with the UN and we will facilitate the development of an OSCE mediation-support capacity.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship fully contributes to the continued efforts by the UN in promoting global security and peace. Progress in finding sustainable and long-term solution to the **protracted conflicts** in the OSCE area is on top of its agenda.

Ukraine is strongly determined to contribute to the **Transdnestrian settlement process**. We call for a constructive engagement by all participants of the 5+2 talks to move forward in solving existing social and economic problems and achieving a comprehensive political settlement.

We are convinced that direct dialogue between the political leadership of Chisinau and Tiraspol is crucial. We have been doing our utmost to promote and to facilitate it, encouraging both leaderships to engage constructively into the negotiation process.

Ukraine fully supports work within the framework of **the Geneva International Discussions** aimed at solving security and humanitarian issues in the area of conflict in Georgia. We highly appreciate the input of the UN into this process and welcome the existing level of co-ordination between the three co-chairing organizations.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship lends its full support to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in assisting the parties to find a peaceful solution to the **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**. During my visit to the South Caucasus in June I intend to support the call of the Co-Chairs for a more active engagement in the negotiations.

Developments in **South Eastern Europe** are in the focus for our Organization throughout the year.

The EU-led dialogue between **Belgrade and Pristina** has opened new prospects for normalization in this part of the region. The OSCE welcomes the Brussels agreement of 19 April. The leadership in Belgrade and Pristina are worth commending for their courage and vision in reaching it.

I welcome the continuation of this dialogue. Where possible, the OSCE will provide support in line with its mandate.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Conventional arms control, as well as **confidence and security building measures** constitute an important part of common efforts to strengthen peace and stability in the OSCE area.

As a strong advocate of **non-proliferation**, Ukraine together with Poland, Belarus and Kazakhstan introduced the draft of the updated 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. This work is expected to be finalized before the Kyiv OSCE Ministerial Council (5-6 December 2013).

Let me also draw your attention to two Memoranda of Understanding that were signed between the OSCE and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs: on developing a Partnership on Peace and Disarmament Initiatives and on promoting the Regional Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

We deem necessary to pay a particular attention to the OSCE response to the **transnational threats**. In this regard, we see particular merit in deepening co-operation with the Department of peacekeeping operations and the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes. A Joint Action Plan for 2013-2014 was recently signed with the latter.

Security, political and economic transitions in **Afghanistan** as well as withdrawal of international security forces in 2014 will continue to have security implications for the OSCE area. As the OSCE Chairmanship we proceed with further exploring areas that require enhanced interaction with Afghanistan and improved coordination with relevant international actors.

Exchanging military information and contacts, particularly in border areas close to Afghanistan, is of paramount importance. The OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe plays a major role in this field. It has trained more than a thousand border experts from thirty eight OSCE participating States and Partners, including almost four hundred Afghan border professionals.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

Within the **Economic and Environmental Dimension**, the core theme of the Ukrainian Chairmanship is increasing stability and security by improving the **environmental footprint of energy-related activities**.

We are also exploring how the OSCE could provide an added value and play a role in the development of the **new trade and transport corridors**. In both areas, we see great potential for building on existing co-operation with the UN.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship is convinced that our commitment to the **Human Dimension** of security is – and should remain – at the core of the concept of comprehensive security.

The **fight against trafficking in human beings** remains one of the key issues addressed by the OSCE under the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

We continue to pursue a comprehensive, human rights based approach to this global crime in close cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes, the UN Refugee Agency, the International Labour Organisation, the UN Children's Fund and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the OSCE-initiated Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, and on a bilateral basis under the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

In this respect the Chairmanship will organize an international conference on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in June in Kyiv.

Further priorities in this dimension include **strengthening freedom of media**. A Human Rights Seminar in Warsaw will address the topic of best practices for crafting legal frameworks to establish and safeguard free, independent and pluralistic media.

We will also strive to achieve progress in the areas of free movement of people, promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, freedom of association and assembly, inter-religious dialogue, in promoting freedom of religion or belief, as well as democratic elections and election observation.

Finally, we attach particular attention to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination through youth education. In this regard we plan to host this summer **the OSCE Youth Summit** in Crimea, Ukraine.

*Excellencies,
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Before I conclude, let me once again stress the value of OSCE-UN co-operation.

A number of our Chairmanship's priorities coincide with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Five Year Action Agenda. This is especially true regarding early warning and early action in preventing violent conflicts, building a safer and more secure world and supporting nations in transition.

The UN is the OSCE's principal partner organization. As security challenges continue to evolve, the nature of OSCE-UN cooperation has to become more pragmatic, effective and result-oriented.

We look forward to even closer co-operation with the United Nations and count on your full support in the months ahead.

I thank you.