



Second day of the Twenty-First Meeting
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**DECLARATION ON THE
OSCE ROLE IN COUNTERING KIDNAPPING AND
HOSTAGE-TAKING COMMITTED BY TERRORIST GROUPS IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2133 (2014)**

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recalling the adoption of the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (2012), which highlights comprehensive operational principles and identifies the prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorism as one of the strategic focus areas of the OSCE's counter-terrorism role to guide future activities, and mindful of the OSCE Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (2012),

Recalling the instruments of the United Nations concerning the fight against terrorism and against kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999) and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979), and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 2133 (2014),

Reaffirming our commitment that all counter-terrorism efforts be conducted in compliance with the rule of law and with all obligations under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Strongly condemning incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions and expressing concern at the increase in such incidents, while underscoring that the payment of ransoms to terrorists funds future kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, creating more victims and perpetuating the problem,

Expressing our determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payment or political concessions,

Recognizing the need to further strengthen efforts to support victims and those affected by incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to give careful consideration to protecting the lives of hostages,

We call upon the participating States:

1. To prevent terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages;
2. To implement international instruments against terrorism, particularly UN Security Council resolution 2133 (2014), and to ensure that appropriate national legal frameworks are in place and in line with international standards;
3. To reach out to other States with the aim of enhancing the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2133 in order to make global efforts more effective;
4. To inform relevant employers and employees about the risks of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups in certain geographical areas and encourage them to take all necessary steps, in co-ordination with local authorities, in order to prevent such incidents;
5. To strengthen public-private partnerships, encouraging the business community to find common approaches for preventing and responding to kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups without the payment of ransoms;
6. To develop national programmes, as appropriate, for assistance to victims of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, notably hostages and their families;
7. To support capacity-building initiatives and facilitate exchanges among experts, for example by sharing good practices and preparing joint case studies, in order to support States in preventing and responding to future incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, to ensure that terrorists are brought to justice and held accountable, and to combat money-laundering and terrorist-financing networks, for example through tracking financial flows, while ensuring commitments to human rights and the rule of law are upheld;
8. To encourage close co-operation, communication, information sharing and networking among all relevant actors, such as through national contact points as appropriate, during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;
9. To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage with us in these efforts;

We call upon the OSCE executive structures:

10. To support, under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, relevant United Nations entities, as appropriate, in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2133 (2014);

11. To facilitate, in close co-ordination with partner organizations such as the United Nations and other relevant actors, a coherent approach and tailored national assistance, upon request, to take account of, *inter alia*, the set of good practices contained in the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists;
12. To continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, and particularly instruments and resolutions relevant to kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and, in this context, to actively contribute to the discussion on this issue;
13. To explore ways to facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices, initiatives taken, and information at the strategic, operational and tactical levels between crisis centres, intelligence agencies, law enforcement and criminal justice officials;
14. To continue the promotion of capacity-building for practitioners, in co-operation with other relevant international and regional organizations and multilateral counter-terrorism platforms; and to support networking opportunities for experts with a view to preventing, managing, investigating and prosecuting cases of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;
15. To encourage public-private dialogue and co-operation relevant to kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups.