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**Address by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
for European Issues, Mr. Ivo Šrámek,
at the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
(Belgrade, 3 - 4 December 2015)**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me thank the Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office for hosting this year's Ministerial Council and for all the efforts throughout the year.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act this year, we cannot stress enough the importance of this fundamental document. The linkage between security and stability and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms within states becomes more evident than ever. The current crisis of European security is not a result of flawed principles or rules. They should not be renegotiated, but enforced.

Against the backdrop of the crisis, the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security has proven its enduring relevance. At the same time, the crisis demonstrated the value of OSCE's capacities and assets, such as the field missions and autonomous institutions whose mandate we fully support. The Czech Republic has actively backed the OSCE's role in facilitating de-escalation of the conflict in and around Ukraine, be it through the deployment of currently 18 monitors to the Special Monitoring Mission or our financial contributions. The Minsk agreements must be fully implemented and any solution to the crisis must be based on full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

We can only be successful in our goal to strengthen the OSCE and make it more effective, if we build upon its foundations and acquis in all three dimensions. While discussing European security and recent challenges, as migration flows and terrorism, we cannot shy away from crucial issues, such as achieving tangible progress in resolution of the protracted conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, fulfillment of our existing arms control obligations, including a review of the Vienna Document, and implementation of our human dimension commitments. In this regard, we are worried by the reports we received on human rights situation in the illegally annexed Crimea.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I underline my hope that the participating States will find genuine political will to abide by our commitments in good faith and that acts that contravene the fundamental OSCE principles are reversed.

Mr. Chairman, I thank once again your country for your warm hospitality and I wish every success to the incoming German Chairmanship. Thank you.