

Address

ENGLISH only

by

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**Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies, dear colleagues,**

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be here today, at the kind invitation of the Lithuanian Chairmanship in Office of the OSCE.

I would like to add Romania's thanks to our hosts, in particular Minister Audronius Azubalis and his able team, for their ambitious yet realistic leadership of our Organization and for their tireless efforts to advance solutions that can meet consensus. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Secretary General and the Secretariat for their tremendous work.

Romania fully subscribes to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union this morning. Let me highlight, in my national capacity, some additional issues.

To achieve the goal of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, we must strengthen our **respect for, and implementation of, the principles and commitments we jointly assumed. Romania is a strong supporter of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security** and we see value in the ongoing process aiming at the enhancement of the Organization's capacity to generate confidence - whether we speak of building, sharing or consolidating it.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The **resolution of protracted conflicts** remains a core business of the OSCE and must be at the very top of our political agenda. Our message has to be loud and clear: status-quo is completely unacceptable; we have to redouble our efforts to resolve them within existing formats of negotiation.

We commend the focus that was placed by the Lithuanian CiO on conflicts, as well as the work of the CiO Special Representative for Protracted Conflicts.

The OSCE Astana Summit last year in December failed to agree upon a substantial political document and missed the opportunity to fulfill the new

security vision due to the lack of progress on the resolution of the protracted conflicts confronting the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh region. These protracted conflicts remain security challenges for the OSCE region, so we consider that the political momentum aiming at resolving them has to be built based on the reaffirmation of all OSCE values and principles as stipulated in the Astana Commemorative Declaration.

The **resolution of the Transnistrian conflict** remains a major priority for Romania. The stationing of foreign military forces on the territory of Republic of Moldova contradicts the host nation principle and the package of commitments, undertaken during the Istanbul Summit in 1999. In this respect, my country continues to call for the resumption and completion without delay of the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territory of Republic of Moldova. We commend the Lithuanian Chairmanship for its efforts during this year that resulted into increased dynamics of the negotiation process for the resolution of this protracted conflict. A few days ago we witnessed an important event, after 6 years, formal negotiations in the framework of the “5+2” format were reconvened. It is high - time to refocus on our common strategic objective and on concrete steps to its fulfillment - a lasting solution based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and fully respecting the norms and principles of public international law.

We look forward to a process of genuine engagement of all actors that would lead to tangible outcomes during the Irish Chairmanship.

Regarding the **conflict in Georgia**, we reiterate our firm support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. Efforts in the Geneva Discussions should be intensified. There is strong need for unhindered access for humanitarian organisations and for the European Union Monitoring Mission to the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. At the same time, a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia would be beneficial for the civilian population.

On the **conflict regarding Nagorno - Karabakh**, unfortunately, we did not witness a breakthrough, even if the Minsk Group made serious and commendable efforts. We urge parties to engage more constructively in discussions with the view to making progress.

On a related note, a central landmark of our security agenda is the **need for a new, multidimensional approach of the conflict cycle, from early warning to prevention and early action, crisis management, mediation and post-conflict rehabilitation.**

We consider that **increasing the capacity of the OSCE to act decisively in all phases of the conflict cycle is a major deliverable for Vilnius.** We must take decisive steps to enrich the toolbox of our Organization and keep it at the forefront of international efforts to deal with security challenges in our

area. This process is long overdue and much needed as recent crises in the OSCE area have shown.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The CFE regime, the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Open Skies are the core of our common approach to security in the field of arms control and confidence-building. As these instruments are complementary, their full implementation and strengthening, as appropriate, will substantially contribute to a better security climate based on mutual trust and co-operation, improved military transparency and predictability.

Romania reaffirms its full commitment to the **CFE Treaty** with all its elements – a legally-binding instrument having strategic importance for the European security. Romania is committed to **preserving, strengthening and modernizing arms control in Europe** and is ready to return to negotiations, should all States Parties be prepared to address all key principles that remain integral part and give strength to any arms control regime in Europe, including host nation consent and transparency.

From this perspective, we would like to welcome the **reissuing of Vienna Document 2011**, as a first step towards a more strategic update of the document in 2012 and beyond. Although the updating negotiations in 2011 did not set a high standard, they remain important in themselves, because they marked the launching of a process, which should continue beyond Vilnius, with a refreshed impetus.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The OSCE has always been visionary in the field of **human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law**. Our commitments in the Human Dimension are among our most outstanding achievements. They deserve to be renewed and consolidated, as we can notice many shortcomings in their implementation and a certain degree of reluctance in accepting new responsibilities in the field.

The **digital era** has changed our world and opened new avenues for the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Now is the time for the OSCE to embrace and safeguard these positive changes. Let us be an inspiration, once again, to the wider international community and the civil society by adopting the first wide-ranging set of international commitments regarding freedom of expression and pluralism in the digital media. **Violence and threats against journalists** are attacks on the very being of our democracies. We must uproot this phenomenon and reflect our firm commitment in this respect in the framework of the OSCE.

We believe it is important also to thoroughly pursue the **implementation of our commitments in the fields of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, rights of persons belonging to national minorities, Roma and Sinti. Elections observation** remains the domain where the OSCE needs to keep the high standards it has set for itself, especially given the pressure it has come under lately.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As for the **Second Dimension**, we attach significant importance to the **potential of the economic and environment activities in building confidence**. We believe that this area should be further explored in the activity of our Organization. On **energy security**, we should build upon the commitment by our Heads of State and Government in Astana. Relevant added value while avoiding duplication of efforts with other organizations may be an outcome of our collective efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania fully supports a higher profile for OSCE in tackling **transnational threats**.

We are confident that the enhanced coordination at the level of the Secretariat will provide the framework for channelling the existing instruments and future new and revised mandates, with the view of a more inclusive, holistic approach. In this broad effort, the OSCE needs to further develop the cooperation with other international and regional organizations, NGOs and academic institutions.

In our view, Afghanistan can serve as a case study both in terms of how intertwined the different categories of threats are and how interdependent the European security and the security in Afghanistan are. At the same time, Afghanistan can be a test case for the OSCE capacity to rise to the level of challenges it faces. We strongly back the renewed political impulse to further develop the OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, also in the second and third dimension, taking into account the lessons learned in the process, as part of the broad international effort and in coordination with all international and regional actors, under the UN auspices and under Afghan leadership.

Another valuable input of the OSCE, could be provided through efficient and tailor-made assistance. This assistance is to be forwarded to our **Mediterranean partners** in their quest for democracy and dignity, upon request and making full use of OSCE expertise and know - how, in accordance with the given mandates. Vilnius has the possibility to be a milestone in this process.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before concluding, looking beyond Vilnius, I would like to wish every success to the incoming 2012 Irish OSCE Chairmanship.

Thank you.