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**STATEMENT BY
THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO AT THE EIGHTEENTH
MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Vilnius, 6 and 7 December 2011

I should like first of all to join the other speakers in thanking the Lithuanian Chairmanship for the quality of its work and the excellence of its welcome.

Throughout the year, Lithuania has fostered intensive and constructive dialogue, particularly through the “V to V” framework, which is so important just now in view of the outcome of the Astana Summit, which produced both stimuli and challenges.

Monaco unreservedly supported the vision of the future formulated in Astana of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, which is the distinguishing feature of the Organization.

In this precise regard, we fully support the accession of Mongolia as a fully fledged member of our Organization if possible next year.

Monaco welcomes the path taken by the OSCE to rationalize its activities. We appreciate this pragmatic approach with more field-oriented initiatives capable of producing substantive results.

My country also approves the efforts to concentrate the Organization’s resources on those areas where it provides uncontested added value: the field missions and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, whose activities we fully support.

We therefore call on the OSCE to continue and intensify this approach, which we regard as relevant particularly in the current international context.

In the first place, this is because the enduring financial crisis continues to place a strain on the budgets of the participating States and hence on their contributions to the budgets of international organizations.

Moreover, we do so because the OSCE’s consensus-based multilateral format has reached a crossroads and must find the means, if it is to survive politically, to demonstrate its effectiveness, for example in the resolution of the “frozen conflicts”.

In the same vein, Monaco approves the efforts by the OSCE to draw closer to other international organizations and, for obvious reasons, to our Mediterranean partners. In this regard, our Organization and its participating States must support the democratization process

in those countries whose populations aspire to the same values of freedom and democracy that we defend here.

Monaco, although a small European State, intends to participate fully in the work of the OSCE with regard both to the political processes and to supporting activities in the field.

We therefore attach great importance to the annual meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly that will be held in Monaco from 5 to 9 July 2012.

Speaking of the activities in the field supported by the OSCE, Monaco, in co-operation with other small participating States – Andorra, Liechtenstein and San Marino – has decided to take part in an initiative by Moldova to prevent trafficking in children without parental care. The protection of children and, more generally, vulnerable populations is an important focus of Monaco's humanitarian co-operation policy on the international level and we shall continue in this direction to the extent that the economic situation allows.

We therefore appreciate and fully support the work of Ms. Giannmarinaro, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, and we look forward to welcoming her next year in Monaco to maintain and, if possible, develop our highly satisfactory co-operation.

As our Prime Minister stated at the Astana Summit, Monaco will in the future study the possibility of participating in the OSCE programmes on environmental security.

Finally, we should like to assure the Irish Chairmanship of our support and welcome the idea of awarding the OSCE Chairmanship to Switzerland in 2014 and Serbia in 2015.