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**STATEMENT BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JEAN ASSELBORN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG,  
AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE  
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Stockholm, 2 and 3 December 2021

Madam Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen:

Luxembourg fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union.

It is a pleasure to be here in Stockholm, and I should like to start by congratulating the Chairperson-in-Office, Ann Linde, and her entire team for the outstanding work and commitment they have demonstrated throughout the past year.

Dear colleagues,

I am not going to repeat everything that was said yesterday evening, but I should like nevertheless to stress one aspect that I consider to be crucial: the need, or even the necessity, to continue to speak to one another, to exchange views, to discuss and to listen to one another. We cannot always be of the same opinion, but we must at least try to understand one another, to move forward and to find compromises, even on complex and complicated issues. If we lose this ability to listen to one another, we lose our ability to be diplomats.

By virtue of its co-operative, equal and indivisible approach to security, the OSCE remains a central pillar of European security. In order to be able to live up to this role, it must continue to function as an essential forum for dialogue. But there is also a need for the political will to re-establish this dialogue among participating States. To restore trust among participating States, unconditional and complete respect for commitments we have all subscribed to in the past is vital. I should like here to reiterate Luxembourg's full support for the three OSCE autonomous institutions, which assist us in this area.

While Luxembourg welcomes the adoption for the first time of a decision dealing with climate change, we regret that no agreement could be reached on any of the draft texts emanating from the first and third dimensions or from the Forum for Security Co-operation. I firmly believe that we need to ensure that the balance between the three dimensions is maintained. This also applies to the holding of the various OSCE meetings in the course of the year.

Madam Chairperson,

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, which my country continues to support financially, remains an indispensable actor in the management of the crisis and for informing us of what is happening on the ground. It is unacceptable for the Mission to be obstructed at times from carrying out its mandate by restrictions on its freedom of movement and attacks on its equipment.

Luxembourg strongly reiterates its support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. I hope that this Ministerial Council meeting in Stockholm will provide new impetus for resuming dialogue and will enable us to return to respect for the Minsk agreements.

I should also like to reaffirm our full support for the OSCE Minsk Group and its three Co-Chairs in reaching a negotiated, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The situation in Belarus also remains of great concern. I call on the Belarusian authorities to embark on constructive and inclusive dialogue and to implement the recommendations presented in the report by Professor Benedek. The orchestrated instrumentalization of human beings – of migrant groups wishing to reach the European Union – must cease immediately. It is criminal.

Before concluding, I should like to express the Grand Duchy's support for the incoming Polish Chairmanship, which is about to take over the reins of our Organization, and for North Macedonia, which will now be part of the Troika. I should also like to congratulate Finland, which will be assuming the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2025, the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. At the same time, I thank Estonia for its readiness to assume the Chairmanship in 2024 and regret that this readiness has so far not been favourably received by all of us sitting around this table.

Thank you for your attention.