



Stockholm, 3 December 2021

“QUADRIGA” STATEMENT ON THE OSCE’S EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE WITH RESPECT TO UKRAINE

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Sweden, Poland, and North Macedonia, representing the previous, current, incoming, and future Chairpersons of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), remain deeply concerned about the conflict with respect to Ukraine, which constitute the most serious challenge to the European security order and a blatant example of violations of our commonly agreed principles and commitments and of international law.
2. Together with nearly all participating States, we would have preferred to see consensus emerge on a Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE’s efforts towards peace with respect to Ukraine. This could have served as an important impetus for the conflict settlement process. Unfortunately, it was impossible to achieve consensus on the text since one participating State did not engage in discussions on substance. We welcome the strong support expressed during the negotiations for the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.
3. We remain fully committed to upholding the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and the OSCE principles and commitments to which we have all agreed, in our efforts towards a peaceful and sustainable resolution of the conflict, in line with international law. We reaffirm the importance of achieving full and comprehensive implementation of the Minsk agreements in their entirety (the Protocol of 5 September 2014, the Memorandum of 19 September 2014, and the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk agreements of 12 February 2015).
4. The conflict is now in its eighth year. It is unacceptable that daily armed violence is allowed to continue, causing casualties and suffering among the civilian population in eastern Ukraine. We call for immediate adherence to the comprehensive, sustainable, and unlimited ceasefire in line with commitments, to prevent further casualties and build the confidence necessary for progress in other areas.
5. We are deeply concerned about ongoing tensions in the region and underline the importance of implementing confidence- and security-building measures to promote military stability, predictability, mutual trust, and transparency between participating States. In particular, we

stress the necessity to act in accordance with and to fulfil all commitments under the Vienna Document adopted by all participating States.

6. We recall the need to protect civilians, and that international humanitarian and human rights law must be respected. We emphasize the urgency of ensuring safe access, delivery, storage, and distribution of humanitarian assistance to those in need, on the basis of an international mechanism, as foreseen under the Package of Measures. We also stress the need to address the serious socio-economic implications of the conflict.
7. We underline the importance of protecting of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.
8. We are deeply concerned that the right to freedom of movement of hundreds of thousands of civilians has been significantly restricted with dire consequences for the human rights situation, for people-to-people contacts, and for access to basic services. Apart from the direct effects, the prolonged separation of communities negatively affects social cohesion and prospects for future reintegration. With all entry-exit checkpoints across the line of contact in government-controlled areas open, the opening of all corresponding checkpoints in non-government-controlled areas, including those near Zolote and Shchastia, is long overdue. Political considerations cannot continue to overshadow humanitarian needs. We call for all crossing points to be made fully operational on a daily basis, and for all restrictions on crossings to be lifted. Steps must be taken to ensure civilians can enjoy their human rights wherever they reside in Ukraine.
9. We regret that no mutual release and exchange of conflict-related detainees have taken place since April 2020. We call for the release and exchange of all hostages and unlawfully detained persons, based on the principle of "all for all", starting with "all identified for all identified" as foreseen in the Common Agreed Conclusions of the Normandy Four summit of 9 December 2019. We call for the international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, to be granted full and unconditional access to all detained persons.
10. We reiterate our full support for the efforts undertaken in the "Normandy format" and call on the sides to fully implement the Common Agreed Conclusions of the summit meeting held in Paris on 9 December 2019. We recall that the Minsk agreements continue to be the basis of the work of the Normandy format, whose member States are committed to their full implementation. It is our hope that we will see the continuation of the Normandy format efforts at the highest level to discuss the political and security conditions, inter alia for the organization of the local elections, as agreed in Paris.
11. We recognize the crucial role of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), consisting of the representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the OSCE, in facilitating the implementation of the Minsk agreements. We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Mikko Kinnunen as Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the TCG, and reiterate our support for him and for the co-ordinators of the working

groups. Lack of progress in the TCG and on the ground is not due to a lack of effort on their behalf, but because of a lack of political will. We strongly encourage constructive engagement where each issue is looked at on its own merits, beginning with the finalization and implementation of the decisions on the identified additional areas for demining and for disengagement of forces and hardware. We also call upon the sides to proceed with other aspects of the Common Agreed Conclusions of the Paris Normandy summit, regarding the immediate measures to stabilize the situation in the conflict area.

12. We welcome the strong continued support for the essential work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) expressed by participating States. The Mission contributes to reducing tensions and fostering peace, stability, and security, to monitoring and supporting the implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments, as well as facilitating the implementation of the Minsk Agreements. We express our sincere appreciation for the dedication shown by the brave women and men working for the Mission.
13. The SMM's unrestricted and unconditional access is essential to ensure effective monitoring and reporting on the security situation. We strongly reaffirm that the SMM is mandated to have safe and secure access throughout Ukraine, including across the line of contact and in non-government-controlled areas close to the international border. We stress that there can be no justification for any form of interference with the Mission's work and that the SMM must be provided with the necessary conditions to implement its mandate. We regret that the Mission has recently been increasingly constrained, overwhelmingly in non-government-controlled areas, including by unprecedented levels of signal interference with its unmanned aerial vehicles. We condemn any threat to the safety and security of the SMM staff and the targeting of SMM assets. These incidents should be prevented, and remedial action should be taken.
14. Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian state border remains essential to improve the security situation and find a sustainable political solution to the conflict. We call for enhanced transparency in the areas adjacent to the Ukrainian-Russian state border, through permanent monitoring and verification by the OSCE in line with the Minsk Protocol, until the reinstatement of full control of the State border by the Government of Ukraine throughout the conflict area as envisaged in the Package of Measures.
15. We deeply regret that no consensus could be reached on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk beyond 30 September 2021. We express our sincere gratitude to the women and men of the Observer Mission, which since its deployment in 2014 contributed to confidence-building and increased transparency on the Russian-Ukrainian border.
16. We welcome the SMM's plans to open Forward Patrol Bases in the non-government-controlled areas close to the border with the Russian Federation. This would significantly improve the Mission's capability to monitor the situation. We regret that the political and security context so far precluded their opening, and urge the necessary conditions be provided to make that possible.

17. Taking into account the particular impact of the conflict on women and girls, and the many contributions made by women to peace and security, we recognize the need to further implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda and to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all conflict resolution efforts.
18. We express our gratitude to the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and to the relevant OSCE executive structures, including the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media; as well as to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for their contributions to the efforts in addressing the conflict.
19. We underline the OSCE's valuable efforts regarding developments with respect to Ukraine, which demonstrate its added value as a regional arrangement for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.