



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT OF NORWAY ON PRIORITIES IN DUBLIN

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Reinforced Permanent Council, Vienna
16th November, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I support the priorities outlined by Director Gunnar Wiegand on behalf of the European Union. Let me however make a few points on issues that we regard as particularly important.

Firstly, we would like to see a decision on Helsinki+40. We agree with those who argue that the decision should not be too detailed, but it should at the same time include enough substance to give our organization direction and the next chairs clear guidance for their work the coming three years. The decision must also reflect the comprehensive approach of the OSCE, which to us implies that the language on all three dimensions should be forward-looking. It must reflect that we will continue to develop our policies and commitments across the board. Language that would indicate a hierarchy between the dimensions must be avoided.

I would also like to stress that we attach great importance to preserving the autonomy and the integrity of the institutions. They, together with our field missions, give the OSCE operational capacity.

Secondly, and more specifically on the draft proposals currently under discussion:

We regret the slow progress in developing our commitments in the political-military area and in the first dimension. Fundamental issues for the security and stability in the OSCE area should unite us, rather than divide us.

The proposed second dimension text on good governance has our full support. Adoption of this text would confirm that we understand basic prerequisites for stability and economic progress.

Mr. Chairman, we strongly believe that there must be a clarification from the Ministers in Dublin that freedom of the media also includes digital media and new technology. Our commitments in this field must reflect the fundamental changes taking place in communication and information sharing.

Mr. Chairman, our discussions on the Council yesterday illustrated the importance we all attach to combatting racism and xenophobia. We therefore hope that we will reach agreement on the chair's draft proposal on this topic. I must however underline that our fight against racism and xenophobia cannot be fought by restricting the freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

Mr. Chairman,

We co-sponsor the text on freedom of assembly and association. I would also like to state that we are ready to accept the draft proposal on freedom of movement, tabled by the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Finally, we call for the adoption of the cross-dimensional draft decision on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 tabled by Finland, Turkey and Austria. We fully support all listed goals and objectives in the proposed Action Plan.

Mr. Chairman, you can count on my country's support in your efforts to make the Dublin Ministerial a success.

Thank you.