

**Second day of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting**  
MC(27) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECLARATION ON  
STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION IN COUNTERING  
TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, recall the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), which marks its twentieth anniversary this year, and its protocols thereto.
2. We recall further all relevant OSCE documents adopted on transnational organized crime, in particular Ministerial Council Decisions No. 3/05 on combatting transnational organized crime and No. 5/06 on organized crime, and we reiterate the commitments and role of the OSCE expressed in these documents.
3. We reiterate our grave concern about the negative effects of transnational organized crime on stability and security, including the exploitation of globalized economies and open societies, the undermining of democratic values and governance and the threatening of the safety and security of citizens, directly or indirectly, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms.
4. We reaffirm participating States' primary role in combatting transnational organized crime and underscore that it can best be fought by ensuring respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and by upholding the rule of law, and emphasise the key role played by an effective, trusted, professional, independent and accountable criminal justice system in upholding public safety and security.
5. We acknowledge the central role of the United Nations in countering transnational organized crime, as well as the importance of the work done by relevant international organizations. We reaffirm that the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security complements global efforts to counter the complex threat of transnational organized crime.
6. We underline that countering transnational organized crime, and its root causes, requires effective and democratic institutions accountable to citizens, criminal justice systems based on the rule of law, and the application of a holistic, comprehensive and coherent approach, in order to prevent and reduce opportunities for organized criminal groups to operate in, or infiltrate the fabric of, our societies, licit economies, and institutions, or to benefit from the proceeds of their crimes.

7. We recall the relevant international tools and mechanisms available to assist participating States in undertaking self-assessments and, where necessary, enhancing their criminal justice systems.
8. We recognize that transnational organized crime can have a differential impact on diverse groups within society. We encourage co-operation between all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in order to help build resilient communities, and to develop comprehensive responses to, and preventive measures against, transnational organized crime which take into account the needs, concerns and interests of all groups within society, protect the victims of crime and provide them access to appropriate remedies, while promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the efforts to counter transnational organized crime.
9. We underline the importance of strengthening national co-ordination and international co-operation in countering transnational organized crime, including, where appropriate, through direct contact and engagement between relevant authorities, and by exchange of information and best practices, as well as by using the tools provided by the OSCE, the UNODC, and other relevant international organizations.
10. We recommit to maintaining the countering of transnational organized crime among the priorities of the OSCE by enhancing implementation of the respective international obligations and the OSCE's existing commitments. We reaffirm the tasking of the relevant OSCE executive structures to brief the participating States regularly on OSCE activities related to the implementation of existing OSCE commitments to address transnational organized crime, and encourage continued discussions on this topic among participating States.
11. We invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to join us in affirming this declaration.