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OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, 10 - 21 September 2018

EU statement – Working Session 18: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work)

Madam Moderator,

I would like to begin by making the following recommendations:

- While we welcome the adoption of the 2018 OSCE Unified Budget on 15 February this year, this was still overdue. We stress that the timely adoption of the OSCE Unified Budget is imperative to ensure that the executive structures of the organisation are able to prepare, plan and carry out their activities in an efficient and effective manner. The ongoing difficulties in agreeing appropriate scales of contribution to ensure smooth and equitable financing of the organisation's activities is of concern. We welcome the Italian Chairmanship's dedicated efforts to address this issue.
- Participating States should avail themselves of the services offered by the OSCE executive structures, in enhancing the implementation of commitments, including by facilitating visits and monitoring missions. EU Member States have benefited from such assistance on a range of issues, and we will continue to do so. In this context, the ACMF visit to the OSCE institutions in June 2018 is to be commended as providing an invaluable opportunity for the ACMF to further familiarise itself with the work of the OSCE institutions, whose work to uphold our core values is so important.
- Executive structures should continue to coordinate closely with each other and as well as with other relevant international and regional organisations, such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe, in order to learn from one another's experiences and to exchange best practice with a view to avoiding duplication and to maximising the impact of activities, including project work.



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- For similar reasons, the executive structures should also continue to develop close cooperation with civil society when designing projects and activities to ensure increased participation of civil society in the implementation phase. There may be scope for 'pathfinder' projects to illustrate a particular issue and set an example.
- Executive structures should continue to improve the monitoring and evaluation of their projects, from conception through to completion, including by prioritising the use of key performance indicators and implementing results-based management best practice.

Madam Moderator,

The EU values highly the work of the OSCE in the Human Dimension. There are clear linkages between the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the maintenance of an indivisible, comprehensive and co-operative OSCE security community. There can be no lasting security without respect for human rights and rule of law. The EU is concerned that recent developments in some parts of the OSCE region do not demonstrate full respect for fundamental freedoms, including media freedom. Indeed there is an argument for saying that support for the implementation of human dimension commitments in parts of the OSCE region has regressed in the very recent past. It is essential that the 57 participating States recommit to implementing the commitments, to which each one of us has voluntarily agreed. Our common commitment is essential in fostering an open and constructive dialogue to ensuring their implementation throughout the region.

The EU is unswerving in its resolve to promote a safe and enabling environment for civil society. We stand firmly behind the mandates of ODIHR, RFoM and HCNM and the work of these autonomous institutions. Their work, through a wide variety of projects and other activities, is integral to underpinning democracy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms throughout the OSCE region. The EU recognises and welcomes the indispensable role played by ODIHR in monitoring elections and supporting human rights defenders, as evidenced throughout the past year. Through the office of the RFOM, the increasing challenges faced by modern media are highlighted, as the Office continues to bring to public awareness the shortcomings and failures among the participating States regarding the implementation of our



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media freedom commitments. The HCNM's endeavours to embed the protection of national minority rights as an integral element of good governance is as essential as its vital role in deescalating and addressing inter-ethnic tension throughout the region.

Madam Moderator,

Project work remains an important way for OSCE Executive Structures to engage with participating States and to assist us in implementing our commonly agreed commitments. In particular we would like to underscore the invaluable work of the OSCE Executive Structures in response to the crisis in and around Ukraine which includes the strengthening of dialogue among civil society and key government stakeholders on human dimension issues. The Project Coordinator's Office in Ukraine also continues to provide assistance to the Ukrainian authorities in seeking to foster democratic reforms. We recall that confidence building is part of the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and that its unarmed civilian monitors continue to carry out their duties in an exemplary manner under very difficult circumstances. To be fully effective, the SMM must be ensured safe, secure and unimpeded access throughout Ukraine.

In conclusion, the EU wishes to underline the significant role played by the Human Dimension Committee (HDC) since 2017 under the very able Chairmanship of Ambassador Sian MacLeod of the United Kingdom. The HDC has amplified OSCE dialogue in areas such as freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, the upholding of commitments on torture, women's participation in public and political life, freedom of assembly and association and, the role of society in combating hate crime. At the HDC this year EU Member States are among those who have provided concrete examples of how they have turned OSCE recommendations into concrete action. We encourage all participating States to consider providing such voluntary reports.

Thank you.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.



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* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.