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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
TO THE UN, OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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**Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the
International Organizations in Vienna, at the 78th Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security
Co-operation and the Permanent Council
Vienna, 15 July 2020**

Chairpersons, Colleagues,

I would like to thank Co-Chairs for highlighting this topic and to add a few remarks from our national perspective additionally to the EU statement. Due to unconventional nature of hybrid threats and modern warfare joint FSC-PC meetings are the right forum for discussion.

Slovenia is taking commitments to enhance national resilience and preparedness against hybrid threats very seriously, as also Mr Ruehle said it was important. We have taken important steps to raise awareness and increase cooperation among relevant national and regional actors, as well as international organisations to counter hybrid threats.

Our Resolution on the National Security Strategy puts hybrid and information-cyber threats on the top of risks and challenges in the international security environment. Hybrid threats pose a particular challenge, as their negative impact has increased dramatically due to the development and use of new technologies and the coordinated action of different state or non-state actors.

In a highly interdependent modern international security environment no country can ensure its national security completely independently. Slovenia is aware of the danger of new challenges, which is why we have joined the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats in Helsinki last year. In addition, Slovenia has been systemically addressing the issue of disinformation particularly by raising the awareness of public employees and the general public as to the danger it poses.

Mr. Chairperson,

We strongly believe that the OSCE is the right framework and has the suitable tools for addressing hybrid threats as well as modern warfare. It plays an important role in increasing resilience to these challenges, particularly owing to its comprehensive approach to security. Disinformation and propaganda campaigns originated from state or non-state actors are trying to undermine our democracies.

Through dialogue, promoting greater openness and other CBMs we will be able to deepen our understanding of hybrid threats, benefit from the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among us, proactively contribute to the joint efforts and possibly reflect relevant findings in our documents, like the Vienna Document. The process can truly work only if there is engagement from all sides.

In closing, let me reiterate that in our view the OSCE has enormous potential regarding all above mentioned challenges due to its holistic approach to security and in terms of confidence and security building measures, therefore we firmly believe that hybrid threats should remain on our agenda also in the future.

Thank you for your attention.