

MC.DEL/30/17
8 December 2017

ENGLISH only

Vienna, 8 December 2017

The “Quadriga” Declaration - OSCE Vienna Ministerial Council 2017

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of Germany, Austria, Italy and Slovakia, representing the previous, current and incoming Chairmanships of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) are concerned by developments within the OSCE area that have deepened mistrust, increased tensions, caused conflict and instability within and between States.
2. Serious challenges in the OSCE area include fundamental breaches of the OSCE’s principles and commitments, armed conflicts, in particular the crisis in and around Ukraine, protracted conflicts, terrorism, violent extremism, transnational threats, violations of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, cyber threats, challenges arising from large movements of refugees and migrants, deteriorating economic and social integration. Responses require effective multilateral co-operation. Therefore, we need to rebuild trust and improve good neighbourly relations.
3. We reiterate our commitment to the concept of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, guided by the principles of equal partnership, solidarity and transparency. We remain inspired by the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community as outlined in the Astana Commemorative Declaration.
4. OSCE principles and commitments, in particular those enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, form the basis of our common security. We deplore grave breaches of the Helsinki principles. We reaffirm our commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the OSCE area. The role of civil society is essential in this regard.
5. We are most concerned about the crisis in and around Ukraine and its wider impact on security and co-operation in Europe. We emphasize the importance of the full and swift implementation of the Minsk agreements. We commend the diplomatic efforts of the Normandy format; we recognize the vital role of the Trilateral Contact Group; and we express our strong support for the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine. We reaffirm that the SMM is mandated to have safe and secure access throughout Ukraine.

6. We stress the role of the OSCE as a vital instrument for preventing and resolving armed conflicts. In particular, the OSCE continues to address the conflict in Georgia and contributes to facilitating negotiations and reducing tensions concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We commend the recent progress on the Transdniestrian settlement process, and we welcome today's OSCE Ministerial Statement.

7. We reaffirm the need for a strong commitment by OSCE participating States to the full implementation and further development of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures to enhance military and political stability within the OSCE area.

8. We believe dialogue to be essential to enhancing security and co-operation. In this light, we support the ongoing Structured Dialogue and are committed, building on the work done, to continuing this process.

9. We are resolved to strengthen our efforts to counter terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, while consistently upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

10. We will continue to enhance sustainable growth within the OSCE area by promoting the objective of economic connectivity and encouraging environmental co-operation.

11. We stress the value of effective co-operation with our Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-Operation.

12. We welcome the new leadership team of the OSCE executive structures and support efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization. We believe that a stronger sense of ownership and shared responsibility will enhance the spirit of co-operation, promoting better relations among OSCE states and ensuring conditions in which people can live in peace.