

**Intervention by H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul,
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the 22nd OSCE Ministerial Council
4 December 2015**

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

1. First of all, I wish to express our sincere thanks to the Serbian Government for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation and for the excellent arrangement of this meeting. I would also like to express appreciation to Minister H.E. Ivica Dačić, and his team in preparing for this meeting.
2. Allow me also to join others in expressing our deepest condolences to the victims of the dreadful terrorist attack in Paris, the bombing in Ankara, the downing of Russian airplane in Sinai, as well as the recent mass shooting in California.
3. Thailand stands with the international community in condemning this heinous crime and in fighting the scourge of terrorism.
4. The incidents in the OSCE region and beyond have reminded us again that violent extremism and terrorism are among the most pressing security issues for countries around the world. I join many previous speakers in emphasizing that in order to fight terrorism we must respond with unity and close cooperation both regionally and internationally.
5. To tackle this problem, we must foster robust exchange of intelligence and effective law enforcement. In ASEAN, we have such cooperation through the ASEANAPOL, which helps complement bilateral arrangements. As the only ASEAN member country in the OSCE, we are willing to be the bridge between ASEAN and the OSCE.
6. At the same time, we also have to promote tolerance and interfaith dialogue and address the root causes because sanction and military means alone are not sufficient. Instead, promoting inclusiveness, mutual understanding and tolerance, and sustainable development must be part and parcel of the solution.
7. This is where the work of the OSCE in the human dimension can make a significant contribution and should be further strengthened. This is why Thailand intends to focus on the human dimension, as we host the OSCE-Asian Conference in Bangkok in June next year.

Excellencies,

8. This year has also been marked by many incidents involving irregular migration, which have led to protracted humanitarian crises in many parts of the world.
9. We believe that this issue can only be resolved through international burden-sharing and enhanced partnerships among the countries of origin, transit, and destination.
10. We are ready to share and exchange experiences and best practices in addressing this pressing issue with the OSCE and its member countries. Thailand hosted a Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean last May, and the 2nd Special Meeting is now being held in Bangkok.
11. The 2nd meeting aims to provide concrete actions to handle this issue such as the establishment of an informal mechanism on law enforcement to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks and a joint information campaign to deter further irregular movements. Several European partners and relevant international organizations have been invited to this Meeting.

Excellencies,

12. Since 1975, the achievements of the OSCE have greatly contributed to promoting peace and stability throughout Europe and in the world at large. Such achievements have been attributed to adherence to the principles in the Helsinki Final Act and the OSCE's work in the three dimensions.
13. The world is now facing more complex security threats, where multiple approaches are required to tackle these challenges. I agree with previous speakers before me, the spirit of the principles in Helsinki Final Act, together with the culture of dialogue and strengthening close cooperation will enable us to manage and address present and future security crises.
14. I am confident that the Helsinki+40 Process will help enhance the capacity of the OSCE in meeting the security challenges of the 21st century and further advance the OSCE's work towards a security community.
15. On this note, I wish to commend the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine who have undertaken this tremendous responsibility and are risking their lives under challenging conditions. In this regard, I also wish to echo the voices of many OSCE members that the work of the OSCE's field operations needs to be strengthened with sufficient financial and human resources to sustain stability in the region.

16. We stand ready to render our full support and cooperation to Germany and its vision for 2016 Chairmanship based on “dialogue, trust, and security.” As Germany takes on this high responsibility, we would like to wish Germany every success next year.
 17. In this regard, let me stress that Thailand is committed to contributing constructively to the work of the OSCE. And we are ready to host the 2016 OSCE-Asian Conference in June in Bangkok next year. We look forward to welcoming all OSCE participants in Thailand and to working together to chart the way forward in advancing peace, security and prosperity for our two regions.
 18. Thank you.
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