

Second day of the Twenty-First Meeting
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DECLARATION ON CO-OPERATION WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, recognize that recent and ongoing international developments provide ample evidence that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, including the Mediterranean as a whole, as already acknowledged in the Helsinki Final Act and reaffirmed in the 2010 Astana Declaration. The fortieth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act will also mark the fortieth anniversary of the recognition in 1975 of the Mediterranean dimension and its relevance for security and stability in Europe.
2. We note that the changes unfolding in the Mediterranean region reflect a profound and complex process that may have enormous consequences for security and human rights in the OSCE region and beyond. We also note that these changes open up opportunities for development and co-operation and also increase the range of diverse and complex challenges, many of which are transnational in nature.
3. In this context, we reaffirm our strong belief in the relevance and the value of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, and in the need to further strengthen and tailor the existing dialogue to address common challenges such as terrorism, illicit traffic in narcotics, organized crime, money-laundering, trafficking in human beings, illegal migration, gender equality, energy security, environment and security, and other issues, in a manner consistent with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.
4. We also call for strengthened dialogue and co-operation with Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation with regard to ensuring the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, preventing intolerance, xenophobia, violence and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief, including against Christians, Muslims, Jews and members of other religions, as well as against non-believers, promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue, combating intolerance and discrimination against individuals or religious or belief communities, and promoting respect and protection for places of worship and religious sites, religious monuments, cemeteries and shrines, against vandalism and destruction.
5. We welcome the twentieth anniversary of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, which serves as the main forum for regular dialogue between the OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation within the work of the organization and should be more proactively used. We consider that having this dialogue is of

value in itself and must be an essential part of our relations with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

6. We reaffirm the OSCE's readiness, through its executive structures, as well as through the activities of its Parliamentary Assembly, within their respective mandates and available resources, in line with established procedures and when so requested, to support the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by them, as stated in Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 on Partners for Co-operation.

7. In this regard, we welcome the wide range of concrete and results-oriented co-operation initiated between the OSCE Secretariat and the Mediterranean Partners, across all three dimensions of security and we call for their continuation and potential expansion and diversification, if necessary and within available resources.

8. We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and our firm rejection of the identification of terrorism with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion. We reiterate our resolve to combat it, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and is incompatible with the fundamental values and principles shared by the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation alike. We welcome the dialogue on the efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and develop and implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, in full implementation of UNSCR 2170 and 2178, and in particular foreign terrorist fighters identified therein, to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, as well as to ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made directly or indirectly available to fund the terrorist activities. We reiterate our commitment to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls of issuance identity papers and travel documents. We welcome the opportunity to address the topic of the fight against terrorism during the Twenty-First Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

9. We encourage the Mediterranean Partners to voluntarily make concrete and greater use of existing opportunities for further co-operation, and to continue to make the best use, where appropriate, of the OSCE principles, norms and commitments, as well as its relevant tools.

10. The Helsinki+40 process provides an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. We encourage the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to contribute actively to the Helsinki+40 process on the issues which are relevant to the Partners, and especially to consider additional options for further enhancing the OSCE's relations with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

11. We take note of the initiatives by academia, non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society, which provide additional channels to support and expand the existing dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

12. We stress the importance of OSCE co-ordination and co-operation with other relevant international organizations in accordance with the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security and in the spirit of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership.