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**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the OSCE and other International Organizations in
Vienna**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Slavica Milačić, Permanent Representative of
Montenegro at the OSCE Permanent Council Nr 970
Vienna, 7 November, 2013**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, let me thank the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier for his complete and thoughtful report on the MONDEM Donors' Conference held on 1 November in Podgorica under the auspicious of the Government of Montenegro, OSCE and UNDP. We are grateful to the Secretary General for his personal commitment and continued contribution to the strengthening the Montenegro-OSCE partnership as illustrated by his support in promoting the Montenegro Demilitarization program, known as MONDEM.

The Donor's Conference aimed at rising funding for the completion of the third phase of MONDEM programme projects of SALW and Conventional Ammunition Demilitarization and Reconstruction of Montenegro's largest military ammunition depot "Brezovik" was opened by Defense Minister of Montenegro Milica Pejanović – Djurisic and addressed by the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and Permanent Representative of UNDP in Montenegro Rastislav Vrbenski.

The MONDEM programme is further evidence of Montenegro's strong commitment to the OSCE concept of comprehensive and cooperative security, highlighted Minister of Defense Milica Pejanović – Djurisic in her opening remarks. It also represents a success story for both, Montenegro and the OSCE.

Secretary General Lamberto Zannier reaffirmed the OSCE's continuing commitment to the Programme, calling it "one of the best examples of government and international co-operation to date".

The Permanent Representative of UNDP in Montenegro Rastislav Vrbenski also stressed that MONDEM program proved to be a good model for the implementation of large and complex programmes and an example of successful cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and international organizations.

Established in 2006, soon after the renewal of Montenegro's independence, the MONDEM Programme, as indicated in the report of Secretary General, has led so far to the destruction of 3,300 tons of heavy weapons, 120 tons of toxic hazardous mélange oxidizer and rocket fuel, as well as 1,493 tones of unstable and surplus ammunition. Through this programme, as well as other complementary projects, the most part of our surpluses of dangerous substances have

been reduced – specifically by 64%. As rightly stated, the MONDEM Programme has brought, under the same umbrella, activities that have helped eliminate a constant threat of explosion from unstable ammunition stores and from poisoning by toxic materials that could leak into the environment, thus making not only Montenegro but the whole region safer.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to use this opportunity to reiterate the appreciation of the Government of Montenegro to Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lichtenstein, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, European Union and other partners that have so far made their generous contribution to the implementation of the Programme. We are pleased that the Contributors' Club is persistently growing, recognizing the value and importance of the MONDEM Programme in increasing security and stability not only of Montenegro but of the region as a whole. However, in order to ensure the MONDEM programme is successfully brought to an end, it is essential to provide necessary funds for continuation of planned activities in 3rd phase of this Program. Therefore, the further support to this well tailored and well managed project would be highly appreciated.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, allow me to express our readiness to share the knowledge and lessons learned with all partners by actively contributing to the OSCE programs of the similar nature. I am confident that our experiences in managing the MONDEM projects, upgrading standards for stockpile management, as well as procedures and techniques for demilitarization of armament and ammunition, may be useful for the implementation of similar projects.

At the end, I would like to inform you that website of MONDEM program is published on the Montenegrin language and it can be found on the address www.mondem.me. The translation of the website to English is ongoing and should be finished very soon. The website is valuable database of information and statistical data of this project.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson