

Madrid Youth Declaration

We, young people from the OSCE participating States and partners for Cooperation, gathered in Madrid on the occasion of the First Youth Forum, convened by the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship,

Are mindful, similarly to the previous generation of our shared history and of the elements common to our traditions and values,

Recognize as they did the indivisibility of security in Europe as well as our mutual interest in the development of co-operation throughout Europe and with our partners for Cooperation,

As the new generation looking forward into the future, we declare our commitment to upholding the vision of those who made possible the disappearance of past dividing lines, that separated generations before us.

Remain convinced that there is an added value, that youth participation and youth dimension can bring to the OSCE in order to achieve the goals and purposes of the Organization,

Reaffirm our dedication to uphold and promote the values and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, notably the Ten Principles of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, which have evolved in our time, which constitute the OSCE Acquis,

In particular, devote to contribute towards making democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms the cornerstones of our societies,

Emphasise that new environmental challenges of global importance can be a security threat, demanding attention and meeting them can be a strong tool for co-operation.

Deem that all three Dimensions of the OSCE remain equally important in order to foster prosperity, stability and well-being within the OSCE region, and on that basis reassert the need to deepen our cooperation in politico-military affairs, economic and environmental matters and human dimension issues,

Particularly, as a result of our discussions in the relevant working groups, we have developed recommendations in the following areas:

- a. International co-operation in the fight against terrorism and support to victims of terrorism.
- b. The role of young people in conflict prevention
- c. Good use and distribution of natural resources

- d. Environment and security: new ways of cooperation
- e. Promotion of mutual knowledge and understanding between cultures and religions
- f. The role of young people in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

These are to be found in the annex part of the Declaration.

General Follow-up

Appreciating the initiative from the Spanish Chairmanship to bring the youth issues to the attention of the OSCE

We, the Participants of the OSCE Youth Forum, call out for the Spanish chairmanship to:

- Present this document to the Madrid Ministerial Council,
- Pass over to the Finnish Chairmanship the idea of embracing the opinions of the Youth, and bringing it to the attention of higher decision making instances.

We believe that the OSCE participating States will:

- Consider this document containing the perspectives of the Youth in their decision making processes,
- Continue the tradition of OSCE Youth Gatherings on an annual basis,
- Further support Youth initiatives by organizing events such as seminars or workshops on specific topics such environmental issues, human rights, youth co-operation development, on local or regional basis,
- Be informed about the ideas of the Youth, by regular reports of the Chairman in Office,
- Consider the inclusion of youth representatives as observers in recommendatory meetings of experts, such as the Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meetings and the Preparatory Conferences to the Economic and Environmental Forum, within the framework of OSCE.

Madrid Youth Declaration Annex

As a result of our discussions in the relevant working groups, we have reached recommendations in the following areas:

International co-operation in the fight against terrorism and support to victims of terrorism.

Terrorism of whatever nature, committed by whatever group or for whatever motive, whether it be ideological, religious or separatist, has no justification and is a criminal act.

We support the expansion of education initiatives at all levels to combat extremism and intolerance and promote peace. We encourage local level training and workshop programs using creative methods to foster intercultural interactions and build community solidarity. We urge the expansion of exchange programs to facilitate cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect for students and for others who would benefit from it. We acknowledge social inclusion as a primary method to overcome the misunderstanding, disenfranchisement, and marginalization that may lead to intolerance and acts of terrorism.

We believe that media should play an important role in countering terrorism, including by promoting positive role models for youth. Concerned about the propagation of violence and stereotypes in all forms of media, we recognize the importance of education in interpreting media messages in a just and fair manner. Finally, we urge creation of new for a through the internet and other means of communication to promote mutual understanding and tolerance.

We believe that solidarity with victims of terrorism is an important part in the fight against terrorism

The role of young people in conflict prevention

OSCE has to be more effective in preventing and resolving existing and potential conflicts in its own geographical area. This needs to be done on the basis of international law in particular with respect to human rights and democracy. There is a strong need to employ effective confidence-building measures in the OSCE sphere in order the organization not only to facilitate the resolution and prevention of any conflict between its member states or to act just as a mediator, but also to enhance the technique of arbitration. To this end, there must be encouragement of youth mobility and creation of common platforms that would contribute facilitating the inter-governmental working

groups' negotiations. This is significant for the harmonization of interests to build trust and support mutual communication. Soon the institutionalization of these channels, will help the people in the OSCE to overcome prejudices and decrease tensions as well as to enhance prosperity and democracy both in and beyond of the OSCE region.

Good use and distribution of natural resources

Aware that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential, requirements for, sustainable development and also noting that environmental damage and degradation often threatens livelihoods and can cause or aggravate tensions.

We recognize the insecure or inequitable rights to control or access resources, lack of transparent governance, insufficient political will and cooperation and deprivation of the rule of law as challenges to good natural resources governance and, thus, the sustainable use of these resources.

We acknowledge that potential solutions to the aforementioned include enhancing transparency and accountability measures, strengthening cooperation, technology transfer, sharing of knowledge and information as well as adopting relevant legislation when it may contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law, and create the adequate enforcement and implementation mechanisms.

We also recognize that good environment related information and education is essential to achieve good natural resources governance and to empower civil society to adequately contribute to policymaking processes and sustainable development activities, stressing hereby the importance of including youth organizations. In that sense we recommend promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production, effective voluntary business and consumer actions to enhance sustainable consumption and production.

Environment and security: new ways of cooperation

We strongly consider that more attention should be paid to environmental education in schools and universities. Additionally, the link between academic research on environmental security issues and policy-making should be strengthened, for instance through environmental early warning and scenario building,

The OSCE should support international youth projects such as local environmental training for youth, summer camps, cross-border cooperation

projects, contests among students on environmental project ideas, as well as an allocated budget within international aid agencies to realise any other ideas brought forward by youth organisations. Moreover, the OSCE could stimulate a debate on making UNEP an organisation dealing centrally with all environmental issues in the UN system. Furthermore, a Special Rapporteur on environmental security, who reports to the Permanent Council, could be appointed by the OSCE.

Transparency in the trade and extraction of raw materials and natural resources must be promoted by the OSCE, notably in conflict zones. OSCE should moreover undertake environment and security assessments in the Arctic and Mediterranean and foster a culture of cooperation. Last, but not least, public and youth participation in environmental decision making should be strongly encouraged.

Promotion of mutual knowledge and understanding between cultures and religions

To support Youth for Alliance of Civilizations Movement as a central tool to fulfilling the UN Alliance of Civilization's call for establishment of its youth platform aimed at overcoming prejudices, misperceptions and bridging the cultural divides in this regard to promote the Movement at the forthcoming Madrid Annual Forum of the AoC. To set up policies and action –oriented programs in order to : ensure plurality of media and cultural diversity; promote academic discussion on historical disputes and revision of educational curricula for providing balanced views of critical inter-cultural issues; enlarge the youth exchange programs and to simplify visa issuing procedures for youth programs to engage deeply the whole OSCE domain and neighboring countries; to ensure effectiveness of CBMs through their relevance to issues at the core of the conflicts.

The role of young people in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The importance of universal Human Rights and the fundamental freedoms of people cannot be underestimated in regards to the achievement of peace, security and development in the participating States. Insufficient access to information and lack of civic and political participation are among the root causes of intolerance and discrimination. In order to undertake sustainable actions against these concerns the OSCE together with the participating States should frequently use its opportunities for public debate and consultations with civil society organizations on human rights issues.

Although youth are 50% of the world's population their Human Rights are often disregarded and violated as they are grossly underrepresented in different decision- and policy-making bodies. We urge for the acknowledgement of the

necessity of youth participation and the competence of youth organizations in their respective fields. The OSCE needs to apply a youth perspective in all its undertakings and develop a Youth Policy with an Action Plan to address these concerns. There should also be created opportunities for youth participation in the activities of OSCE, its institutions and field operations, in addition to regular dialogue with the youth organizations. Special considerations should be paid to the rights, security and integration of migrants, regardless of their status. It is crucial that the OSCE participating States take actions against religious and ethnic discrimination by putting in effect the proper legal framework as well as using awareness raising educational tools on different levels.