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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Igor Lukšić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign  
Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro,**

**OSCE Ministerial Council, Kyiv, 5-6 December 2012**

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by expressing sincere gratitude to our Ukrainian hosts and congratulate them on skillful leadership throughout the year. I am confident that the efforts made on building consensus on a balanced and pragmatic set of proposed decisions and declarations reflecting all of the OSCE's three dimensions should bear fruit. Dynamic and result-oriented deliberations on a number of issues that took place, both in Vienna and here in Kyiv, prove this.

Montenegro is a staunch supporter of the OSCE and its comprehensive concept of security. It is a key forum which unites the states of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian community under one roof and develops close ties with the Mediterranean and Asian partners. Therefore, OSCE should remain a robust pillar of the region's security architecture.

And while all the participating states are dedicated to the OSCE's concept and its multi-dimensional approach, we are faced with uneven security conditions as well as diverse interests and perceptions of security threats and challenges throughout the OSCE area. Polarization is also visible in terms of different interpretations of values and commitments to which we have all agreed as our common foundation. As a reflection, there are shortfalls and setbacks in the implementation of OSCE commitments, which leads to the lack of mutual trust and cooperation. These shake our security and stability as does the vision of free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, which yet remains elusive.

This is why our full adherence to all the OSCE norms, principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all other OSCE documents that we jointly agreed upon and reaffirmed at the 2010 Astana Summit becomes even more relevant and needed today as does our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith.

We face a significant opportunity to further improve things as we approach the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Concurrently, the OSCE common acquis that have guided the Organization since its establishment should not be diluted, but rather strengthened and adapted to today's (security) environment marked by multi-polarity, dynamic changes, and great uncertainty.

Mr. Chairperson,

We all have interest in making progress on number of important issues across all dimensions of the OSCE in this Ministerial meeting.

If we give some fresh energy and political impetus, the Helsinki + 40 process has the potential to lead to a better equipped and better positioned OSCE to play its role in the changing security context. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of Ministerial declaration on furthering the Helsinki+40 process, which reconfirms our common determination from Dablin and demonstrates our support to the approach of the forthcoming Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships to bring the process forward, building on the work done this year.

The OSCE is well positioned to assist the transition process of Afghanistan in the context of 2014 and to contribute to the stability and prosperity in the Central Asia. We lend our strong support to the endorsement of the Ministerial Declaration on Afghanistan.

Likewise, Montenegro will continue to support the application of Libya to become an OSCE Mediterranean Partner for co-operation, as we believe that keeping focus on the Mediterranean remains vital given all the challenges.

On other cross-dimensional issues, adoption of the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings would help to address emerging trends and most pressing challenges.

Mr. Chairperson,

Montenegro strongly supports strengthening and modernizing conventional arms control and CSBMs, notably the Vienna Document. The endorsement of the Initial set of Cyber security CBMs, as well as the update of OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation leads to increased transparency, predictability and security among participating states.

Successful implementation of the Sub-Regional Arms Control under the Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords made an immense and distinct contribution to confidence and security-building in the Western Balkans and might be considered as a good example.

We look forward to continued work on SALW and SCA. Moreover, we encourage the endeavors aimed at the adoption of OSCE – Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Decisions on improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities and on protection of non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from natural and man-made disaster could bring added value to energy security and stability throughout the OSCE area.

Clear progress in the human dimension remains indispensable if the vision of a genuine security community isn't moving target. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security. It is the foundation on which the Montenegro is built upon. Chairmanship's proposals for Ministerial Council decisions follow this logic and we hope that it will be possible to build the consensus on the protection of journalists and on freedom of movement. We are looking forward to the adoption of the decisions on the freedom of religion or belief as well as on enhancing our efforts to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti.

Mr, Chairperson,

Montenegro highly values the work of the OSCE's field missions and autonomous institutions and cherishes long-standing partnership with the OSCE Mission. In the line with our national priorities and progress achieved on our path toward membership in the EU and NATO, Montenegro remains ready to play its part in implementing and strengthening the OSCE and its acquis.

I would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for extraordinary hospitality and work or, to put it clear, success achieved this year. I also wish successive Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships the best of success and commend them for clear vision and strong joint leadership.

Thank you for your attention.