

Statement by
H. E. Witold Waszczykowski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
22nd Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
(Belgrade, 3 December 2015)

1. Condolences to our American friends on the tragic shooting in California.
2. Congratulations to the Serbian colleagues for successful organizing of this event.
3. My comments are not going to be optimistic because the **overall security situation in Europe has not improved recently**. The basic norms and principles are still being violated as a consequence of the **ongoing aggression against Ukraine**. The flagrant violation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty coupled with illegitimate use of force still claim life of people in the conflict zone and fuel the tension in the whole region.
4. The scourge of **terrorism** has again targeted innocent civilians of the OSCE countries bringing additional fear and unpredictability to already unstable security situation on our region.
5. These challenges are of different nature and origin, however **they both manifest disdain for the international order** based on norms and principles worked out in the last decades.
6. Our first response to these threats and challenges should be **unequivocal and strict adherence to the basic OSCE principles and commitments**. This is our shield and a signpost. We shall reiterate at every occasion that we will not give up on our values, even, or especially, under attack or under the threat of use of force.
7. The main task ahead of us **should not be a high - level deliberation on new security architecture** or searching new norms and principles to satisfy the demands of those who contest current international order.
8. Our main task should be **a true commitment to finding ways how to ensure better implementation of the existing commitments** and how to discourage from breaking them. In other words, we should figure out how we can better protect our rules and principles and ensure their efficiency.
9. On more practical level, we should **reconfirm the relevance of the concept of comprehensive approach to security**. The political-military, economic and human dimensions have to remain key components of the OSCE, including respective independent institutions.
10. Preserving and strengthening our commitments regarding **human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and rule of law** is becoming more than ever relevant. All in all - they constitute a core element of the comprehensive security concept.
11. We need to reaffirm our human dimension commitments and ensure that the process of implementing them is to be transparent and verifiable. We also should improve the review of their implementation and secure adequate financial resources for the OSCE institutions.
12. Coming from Poland, the cradle of Solidarność, I should emphasise that **under no circumstances we should compromise the autonomy of the OSCE human dimension institutions** (ODIHR, RFoM and HCNM), which is key for enabling them to perform their functions in an impartial, objective and effective manner. They must receive adequate resources to fulfil their respective mandates. **The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**, which Poland has the honour to host annually in Warsaw, should remain a flagship OSCE Human Dimension event.

13. **Re-establishing confidence and military predictability** among the participating States is of paramount importance right now. The key is, however, implementation of all CSBMs instruments in a good faith. We should update and modernize the **Vienna Document**. One of practical examples of our contribution to this end is **Polish proposal** co-sponsored also by Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the UK aimed at strengthening cooperation mechanism **on hazardous incidents of a military nature** (paragraph 17 of the VD), tabled in late November in the FSC. It is now more relevant than ever. During our FSC Chairmanship next year we will make every effort to help moving this process forward.
14. **The OSCE should remain engaged and must act decisively in Ukraine** in facilitating conflict resolution, which will respect Ukrainian independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. This requires continued support of all sorts from the participating States: political, financial, in-kind, with human resources. We need to strengthen our efforts, because we cannot afford a semi-frozen conflict in the OSCE region.
15. **Poland** will continue its engagement on the ground on the highest possible level (currently 32 people in the SMM) and will lend full political support to the OSCE activity in and for Ukraine.
16. But our contributions are not enough. **OSCE must be allowed to carry out its tasks**. Security of the personnel, refrain from hostile acts towards SMM as well as unimpeded and full access of monitors to all places including Russia-Ukrainian border are indispensable elements of any effective action.
17. **On terrorism** - The recent horrific events in Paris and elsewhere should make us re-examine areas of possible value added of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism. **Poland supports efforts to strengthen police, border guards, judicial cooperation** which are crucial in the fight against terrorism, but also in combating other challenges, like organized crime, arms trafficking and irregular migration.
18. To sum-up: Last years have proven that the OSCE can be stronger, more effective, and can act in immediate and decisive manner. **The only limit is a political will of the Participating States**, and in some cases financial resources.
19. Thank the outgoing Serbian Chairmanship and wish all the best for Germany in 2016.