

**TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

OPENING SESSION (OPEN)

1. Date: Thursday, 5 December 2019

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Closed: 10.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: FORMAL OPENING

The Chairperson formally opened the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

Agenda item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chairperson

The agenda for the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council was adopted and is annexed hereto (Annex 1).

Agenda item 3: ADDRESS BY THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, addressed the Meeting (MC.DEL/1/19). H.E. Mr. Peter Pellegrini, Prime Minister of Slovakia, was invited to address the Meeting.

1 Contains a correction to the translation of attachment 1 to the Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and Fifteenth Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (MC.DOC/2/19/Corr.1).

Agenda item 4: ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

H.E. Mr. George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
addressed the Meeting.

Agenda item 5: REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OSCE

H.E. Mr. Thomas Greminger, Secretary General of the OSCE, addressed the
Meeting (MC.GAL/6/19).

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 December 2019, at 11 a.m., in the plenary hall

FIRST PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Thursday, 5 December 2019

Opened: 11 a.m.
Closed: 1 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE
H.E. Mr. Lukáš Parížek, State Secretary and Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 6: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

Chairperson, Finland-European Union (MC.DEL/8/19), Austria (MC.DEL/12/19/Rev.1), Netherlands, Russian Federation (MC.DEL/4/19), Montenegro (MC.DEL/13/19), Norway (MC.DEL/44/19/Rev.1), Ireland, Ukraine (MC.DEL/2/19), Greece, Serbia (MC.DEL/22/19 OSCE+), Armenia (MC.DEL/6/19), Sweden, Monaco, Luxembourg, Poland (MC.DEL/25/19 OSCE+), Turkey (MC.DEL/41/19 OSCE+), Belgium (MC.DEL/52/19 OSCE+), United States of America (MC.DEL/10/19), Albania, Azerbaijan (MC.DEL/3/19 OSCE+), Andorra (MC.DEL/11/19/Rev.1 OSCE+), Malta (MC.DEL/32/19 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania (MC.DEL/50/19 OSCE+), North Macedonia (MC.DEL/34/19 OSCE+), Romania, Latvia, Slovenia (MC.DEL/46/19 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 December 2019, at 3 p.m., in the plenary hall

SECOND PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Thursday, 5 December 2019

Opened: 3.05 p.m.

Suspended: 3.10 p.m.

Resumed: 3.15 p.m.

Closed: 5.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Marina Sereni, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy
Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni, Permanent Representative of Italy to
the OSCE

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 6: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

Chairperson, France, Estonia, Bulgaria (MC.DEL/27/19 OSCE+), Moldova (MC.DEL/48/19 OSCE+), Tajikistan, Holy See (MC.DEL/5/19 OSCE+), Czech Republic (MC.DEL/39/19 OSCE+), Georgia (MC.DEL/53/19 OSCE+), Belarus (MC.DEL/14/19 OSCE+), Italy (MC.DEL/15/19), Portugal (MC.DEL/51/19), Spain (MC.DEL/9/19 OSCE+), Croatia (MC.DEL/49/19 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Kazakhstan (MC.DEL/42/19 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (MC.DEL/16/19 OSCE+), Switzerland (MC.DEL/19/19), Hungary, Canada, Uzbekistan, Germany (MC.DEL/28/19 OSCE+), Denmark, Turkmenistan, San Marino, Cyprus (MC.DEL/33/19 OSCE+), Liechtenstein (MC.DEL/7/19), Iceland (MC.DEL/21/19 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 6 December 2019, at 10 a.m., in the plenary hall

THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Friday, 6 December 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 11.15 a.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Gent Cakaj, Acting Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Albania

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 6: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

Chairperson, Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Japan (Partner for Co-operation), Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation), Israel (Partner for Co-operation), Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Thailand (Partner for Co-operation), Australia (Partner for Co-operation), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation), Jordan (Partner for Co-operation), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/17/19), Mongolia (MC.DEL/18/19 OSCE+)

Contribution: United Nations

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 6 December 2019, time to be announced,² in the plenary hall

2 The “time to be announced” was that of the closing session, see page 9 of the journal.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CONTINUED) (CLOSED)

1. Date: Thursday, 5 December 2019

Opened: 3.10 p.m.
Suspended: 3.15 p.m.
Resumed: 9.15 p.m. (Friday, 6 December 2019)
Closed: 10.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Radomir Boháč, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the OSCE

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 7: ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS AND DECISIONS

Chairperson

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (MC.DOC/1/19), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and Fifteenth Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (MC.DOC/2/19/Corr.1), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the document), Ukraine (also on behalf of the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the document)

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” Format (MC.DOC/3/19), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 1/19 (MC.DEC/1/19) on the OSCE Chairmanship in the years 2021 and 2022, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 2/19 (MC.DEC/2/19) on renaming the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 3/19 (MC.DEC/3/19) on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 8: CLOSING STATEMENTS BY PARTICIPATING STATES

Chairperson, Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (MC.DEL/61/19/Rev.2), Belarus (Annex 2), Norway (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 3), Finland (also on behalf of Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 4), Bulgaria (also on behalf of Albania, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 5), Russian Federation (Annex 6), United States of America (Annex 7), Ukraine (Annex 8)

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *The Bratislava Troika Declaration for People, Dialogue and Stability and the Troika Statement on the Crisis in and around Ukraine:* Chairperson (also on behalf of Albania and Italy) (MC.DEL/29/19 OSCE+)
- (b) *Human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE area:* Denmark (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 9)
- (c) *Security sector governance and reform:* Slovakia (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal,

Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 10)

- (d) *Potential impact of environmental challenges:* Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Switzerland, Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 11)
- (e) *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:* Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Switzerland and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 12)
- (f) *Proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (MC.DOC/1/06) with regard to the order of statements at the meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Council:* Slovenia (also on behalf of Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland) (Annex 13)
- (g) *Closing remarks:* Chairperson

The letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson-in-Office is annexed hereto (Annex 14).

The Chairperson formally declared the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Ministerial Council closed.

4. Next meeting:

3 and 4 December 2020, to be held in Tirana, Albania

CLOSING SESSION (OPEN)

1. Date: Friday, 6 December 2019

Opened: 1.30 p.m.
Closed: 1.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE (MC.DEL/26/19)
H.E. Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 10: FORMAL CLOSURE (STATEMENTS BY THE CURRENT AND INCOMING CHAIRPERSONS-IN-OFFICE)

Chairperson (Slovakia), Chairperson (Albania)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 6 December 2019, time to be announced,³ in the plenary hall

3 The “time to be announced” was that of the resumption of the third plenary session, see page 6 of the journal.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

First day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 2

**AGENDA FOR
THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Bratislava, 5 and 6 December 2019)

1. Formal opening
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
4. Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
5. Report by the Secretary General of the OSCE
6. Statements by heads of delegations
7. Adoption of Ministerial Council documents and decisions
8. Closing statements by participating States
9. Any other business
10. Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming Chairpersons-in-Office)



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to read out the joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.

The text of the joint statement is attached.

Thank you for your attention. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 2
Attachment

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**JOINT STATEMENT BY
THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN, THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA, THE REPUBLIC OF
BELARUS, THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, THE KYRGYZ
REPUBLIC, THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION, THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, THE REPUBLIC OF
TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF
UZBEKISTAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF
THE VICTORY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR AT THE
TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Bratislava, 5 and 6 December 2019

In 2020 we shall celebrate the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War – one of the most brutal and bloody conflicts in history, which claimed tens of millions of lives and caused terrible suffering to humanity.

Nazism was defeated thanks to the indestructible unity and solidarity of our peoples and the joint struggle of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. We remember all those who showed unprecedented courage at the front and on the home front and saved our civilization from destruction. We bow our heads in memory of the heroic deeds of the anti-fascist underground resistance, the victims of the death camps and the blockades of peaceful cities.

It is our solemn duty to preserve the historical truth. We regard as sacrilege any manifestations of disrespect for the monuments to the soldiers and commanders of the Red Army and desecration of the graves of those who gave their lives to liberate Europe from the Nazis. There is no justification for vandalism at such memorial sites. We urge all countries to honour the memory of the heroes and liberators and to tend the war graves.

We strongly condemn attempts to falsify the outcome of the Second World War. We are outraged at the endeavours by some countries to rehabilitate and glorify Nazi criminals and their supporters. We believe that there is a need for strict compliance with the judgments of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, which have no statute of limitations. Hushing up ethnic and religious hate crimes will inevitably lead the world to a new disaster.

We note the importance of the adoption at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution entitled “Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism

and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”.

History has demonstrated the danger of indulging nationalism, intolerance, discrimination, extremism and ethnic, racial and religious hatred. We recognize the significance of the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as an important international instrument.

We reaffirm our commitment to the idea of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. The heroic deeds of the victorious soldiers in the Second World War and their selfless sacrifice should be an eternal admonishment to future generations to strengthen peace on the basis of the principles of justice, equality and the indivisibility of security.



Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF BULGARIA, CANADA, THE CZECH
REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FINLAND, IRELAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA,
POLAND, ROMANIA, SWEDEN, UKRAINE, THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

We reaffirm our full support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Eleven years since the Russian military invasion of Georgia, we remain deeply concerned over the continued occupation of the territory of Georgia and underline the need for the peaceful resolution of the conflict based on full respect for the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and international law.

We call upon the Russian Federation to fulfil immediately its clear obligations under the European Union-mediated 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement, including the withdrawal of its forces to its positions prior to the outbreak of hostilities. We also call on Russia to reverse its recognition of the so-called independence of Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions. We do not recognize the legitimacy of the so-called elections held in Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions, nor do we acknowledge their outcome.

We are concerned by the intensified provocations by Russia and the regimes in Sokhumi and Tskhinvali, including the attempted expansion of the occupied area and the building of "posts" by the so-called security forces of South Ossetia region close to Chorchana village on territory controlled by the Georgian Government. We also remain concerned over the installation of barbed wire fences and other artificial barriers along the administrative boundary line in the villages of Atotsi and Gugutiantkari, and lengthy closures of so-called crossing points in Georgia's South Ossetia region. These actions have destabilized the situation on the ground and severely impacted the security, safety, well-being, and humanitarian conditions of people in conflict-affected areas. The recent death

of Margo Martiashvili from Akhagori district, who was deprived of the possibility to get prompt and adequate medical care, due to the closure of the so-called crossing points, is another tragic illustration of grave consequences of the continuing restrictions on the freedom of movement for the local population. We are gravely concerned by the detention of Georgian Mr. Vazha Gaprindashvili in the region of South Ossetia and call for his immediate release.

We are concerned by the detention of the EUMM (European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia) monitors on 24 October 2019 by representatives of the so-called security forces of the South Ossetia region, and assess any attempt to impede the work of the EUMM as a provocation against and blatant attempt to destabilize peace and security on the ground. We reaffirm our unwavering support to the EUMM, as the only international mission in Georgia with a mandate to monitor the implementation of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement and facilitate peace and security on the ground. We call upon the Russian Federation to allow the EUMM to implement its mandate unhindered and in full, including by enabling the EUMM's access to both the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia.

We concur with the statement of the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions of 28 August 2019, that the newly erected structures in the Gugutiantkari area hinder freedom of movement for people living there, prevent them from reaching their orchards and threaten access to irrigation water.

We reiterate our deep concerns over the increased Russian military exercises in, and militarization of, Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions.

We remain deeply concerned over the ethnic discrimination against Georgians residing in the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions and about human rights abuses, including those involving the reported use of torture, destruction of houses of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and undue restrictions on freedom of movement, residence and property. We support the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their origin in safety and dignity. We call on those in effective control to enable full and unhindered access by international and human rights organizations to Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

We are following closely the case of the death of Georgian citizen Irakli Kvaratskhelia in arbitrary detention at the Russian military base illegally deployed in the Abkhazia region.

We condemn the killings of the Georgian citizens Archil Tatumashvili, Giga Otkhazia, and Davit Basharuli, and urge the Russian Federation, as the State exercising effective control over the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, to remove any obstacles to bringing the perpetrators to justice. In this context, we reiterate our call for thorough investigation into these and other cases, and for justice to be ensured. We voice our support for Georgia's preventive steps aimed at the eradication of the sense of impunity and note the adoption of the Otkhazia-Tatumashvili List by the government of Georgia.

We support the Geneva International Discussions as a unique and important format to address the security, human rights, and humanitarian challenges stemming from the

unresolved conflict between Russia and Georgia. We note that the 50th session of the Geneva International Discussions is scheduled for later in December 2019. We regret the lack of progress on the core issues of the discussions, including on the non-use of force, establishing international security arrangements in Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions, and ensuring the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of IDPs and refugees in accordance with international law.

We express our support for the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs) and emphasize their important role in preventing the escalation of the conflict and in helping protect the safety and security of people on the ground. We express our great concern over the suspension of the Gali and Ergneti IPRMs and call upon the participants to resume the meetings without further delay or preconditions, and in full respect of the ground rules of the IPRMs. We welcome and echo the statement on 6 November of the Geneva International Discussions Co-Chairs calling for the immediate resumption of the IPRMs without preconditions. Technical and ad hoc meetings of the IPRMs serve a purpose, but are no substitute for regular IPRMs.

We welcome Georgia's compliance with the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement and Georgia's unilateral commitment not to use force, and call on the Russian Federation, as a party to the conflict, to reciprocate, affirm and implement the commitment not to use force against Georgia.

We note the Georgian government's policy of dialogue with the Russian Federation in order to de-escalate tensions with full respect for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We note the meeting between the Georgian and Russian Foreign Ministers held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly 74th Session at the initiative and through the mediation of the Swiss Confederation.

We reiterate our strong support for the peace initiative of the government of Georgia – “A Step to a Better Future” – aimed at improving the humanitarian and socio-economic conditions of people residing in Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions and fostering confidence-building among divided communities to the benefit of all people. In the interests of peace-building and economic prosperity, we urge all parties to engage to give it a chance.

We encourage the OSCE to work further with Georgia and other multilateral organizations to promote confidence-building measures on the ground. We also encourage Georgia to keep the Permanent Council informed of its progress in addressing developments on the ground and in further strengthening its democratic institutions and processes.

We encourage the OSCE's engagement in the process of finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Georgia. We regret the closure of the OSCE Mission to Georgia in 2009 and encourage the OSCE participating States to agree on the re-opening of the OSCE cross-dimensional mission in Georgia, with a monitoring capacity and the ability to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines. The re-opening of the mission would strengthen considerably the OSCE's engagement in the Geneva International Discussions and IPRMs, and in implementation of confidence-building measures.

The Group of Friends of Georgia will continue to raise awareness of the conflict and of developments on the ground, hold Russia accountable for its obligations, and advocate for the conflict's peaceful resolution.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CANADA,
CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA,
FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND,
ITALY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MONTENEGRO,
THE NETHERLANDS, NORTH MACEDONIA, NORWAY, POLAND,
PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN,
TURKEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the following participating States: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America as well as my own country, Finland.

We are mindful that our security environment in Europe has deteriorated in recent years. In an effort to reverse this negative trend, we are determined to contribute to rebuild trust and increase confidence among participating States, and enhance military transparency and predictability, the full implementation and modernization of the Vienna Document being in our view the most effective step to achieve this.

In this regard, we recall OSCE documents and commitments relevant to the Vienna Document implementation and modernization, notably FSC Decision No. 1/10 from 2010, the Astana Commemorative Declaration from 2010, and the Hamburg Declaration on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the OSCE framework for arms control in 2016.

We also recall initiatives on the modernization of the Vienna Document and, in particular the joint proposal FSC.DEL/213/19/Rev.1 dated 24 October 2019, supported by 33 participating States, an unprecedented, substantial and comprehensive contribution to the Vienna Document modernization process, and in this regard we welcome consideration of this joint proposal at the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation with the aim of reaching consensus at 57.

Having this proposal in mind, we recognize the strong support of OSCE participating States for modernization of the Vienna Document, in particular of its key elements which are focused on enhancing transparency and predictability, and reducing risk.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to the Vienna Document and its full implementation, and are determined to support constructively the process of its modernization with a view to achieving substantial progress towards updating the Vienna Document by the OSCE Ministerial Council in 2020 in Tirana.

Mr. Chairperson,

The participating States subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the journal of this ministerial meeting.

Thank you.



Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA (ALSO ON
BEHALF OF ALBANIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, CROATIA, THE
CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FRANCE, GERMANY,
GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, ITALY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA,
LUXEMBOURG, MONTENEGRO, THE NETHERLANDS,
NORTH MACEDONIA, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA,
SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, TURKEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the following participating States: Albania, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America as well as my own country, Bulgaria.

The Euro-Atlantic security environment has become less stable and predictable as a result of Russia's illegal and illegitimate attempted annexation of Crimea, which we do not and will not recognize, as well as by Russia's ongoing acts of aggression in eastern Ukraine and its unjustified use of military force near the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov, in the Black Sea, in late 2018. We reiterate our full support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters. We reiterate our call on Russia to cease all financial and military support to the illegal armed formations operating on Ukrainian territory, withdraw all Russian military equipment and personnel as well as to comply with its international commitments by ensuring unhindered access to Ukrainian ports in the Sea of Azov and allowing freedom of navigation in accordance with international law. We call on Russia to immediately release all remaining Ukrainian citizens who continue to be illegally detained. We welcome the completion of disengagement in Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote, and Petrivske and we encourage further steps in the right direction. We hope to see substantial progress towards resolution of the conflict in the Trilateral Contact Group and Normandy format discussions particularly at the occasion of the upcoming Normandy Four Summit on 9 December, in Paris. In this regard, we commend Ukraine's leadership for its commitment to the peaceful resolution of this conflict and call on Russia to act likewise.

Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation have made and should continue to make an essential contribution to achieving our security objectives and to ensuring strategic stability and our collective security. We are determined to preserve, strengthen, and modernize conventional arms control in Europe, based on key principles and commitments, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, refraining from the threat or use of force, reciprocity, transparency, and host nation consent.

Russia's ongoing selective implementation of the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Open Skies, and its long-standing non-implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, combined with its aggressive military posture, have undermined our security. We call on Russia to return to full implementation of and compliance with the letter and spirit of all of its international obligations and commitments, which is essential to rebuild military transparency and increase predictability in the Euro-Atlantic region.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the broad support for modernizing the Vienna Document and regret the fact that the ministerial draft declaration on the implementation and modernization of the Vienna Document 2011 was not adopted. We welcome adoption of the Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as well as the Commemorative Declaration of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the OSCE's Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and Fifteenth Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. We reiterate our call for the full implementation of these important documents in the current security environment.

Enhancing military transparency and confidence in the entire OSCE area is, and will remain, a top priority. OSCE participating States should continue to address effective risk reduction and incident prevention and increase military transparency. We also underline that the OSCE remains an important and inclusive platform for rebuilding trust and confidence through multilateral military dialogue amongst the 57 participating States. We consider that full implementation and modernization of the Vienna Document is the most critical step that OSCE participating States can take in that regard.

We, therefore, call on all the participating States to constructively engage in negotiations in the OSCE to modernize the Vienna Document. We welcome and endorse the unitary Vienna Document modernization proposal tabled by 32 countries on 23 October as a sound basis for such an ambitious negotiation. Achieving consensus on an updated Vienna Document would be a key step towards rebuilding transparency and increasing predictability in the Euro-Atlantic region. We hope that all participating States will join together to achieve substantial progress on an updated Vienna Document by the end of 2020.

As a legally binding instrument, the Treaty on Open Skies has contributed to increasing confidence and advanced co-operative security. We regret Russia's continued non-compliance with the Treaty and condemn Russia's denial of a flight segment under an agreed mission plan to overfly exercise "Tsentr 2019", which was in clear violation of the Treaty on Open Skies. We call on Russia to be open and transparent and act in a manner consistent with their Treaty obligations. We welcome the decision on the distribution of active quotas that enables flights to continue in 2020.

At the same time, we value the Structured Dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area as an opportunity to renew a meaningful exchange of ideas among all of the stakeholders to rebuild trust. We commend the Chairperson of the Informal Working Group, Ambassador Boender, and his team for the significant and valuable work done this year in the Structured Dialogue addressing risk reduction and threat perceptions. We actively support the continuation of the Structured Dialogue as a transparent, inclusive process owned and driven by the participating States, and without a predetermined outcome. We acknowledge that this is a long-term process, which will take more time. We encourage all participating States to engage constructively in these efforts in Vienna.

Mr. Chairperson, the participating States subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the journal of this ministerial meeting.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

First of all, I should like to express our gratitude to the Slovak Chairmanship for the comfortable environment created for the participants in the ministerial meeting. In view of the discussions on the entire OSCE agenda that took place during the preparatory work, the plenary meeting and on the margins of the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council, we may state that the event was productive to a certain extent.

The Russian delegation showed that it was completely ready for constructive co-operation based on a positive, unifying agenda. Our experts worked hard on all the drafts proposed by the Chairmanship and carefully reviewed other documents.

We brought eight Russian proposals to Bratislava. The attitude towards them was not in a spirit of collaboration. Most of them were brushed aside under contrived pretexts, although it is obvious that they had been blocked first and foremost because of their Russian origin, despite the attempts to convince us otherwise. We consider this approach short-sighted: substantive work within the OSCE is being sacrificed for the sake of ideology.

We regret that the attempt by several countries to impose a distorted vision of current political and legal realities and statements from bloc-based positions prevented the adoption of a general political declaration and a declaration on the OSCE's efforts to facilitate a settlement of the internal Ukrainian crisis.

They did not have enough political will to agree on the approval of a declaration by the 57 States on the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, even though the document was based on wording that had been agreed on in previous years. Some States have not only a short historical memory but also a selective one. This is regrettable and dangerous. By forgetting history and distorting it in favour of opportunistic interests of the moment, there is a risk of repeating the mistakes and tragedies of the past. Our position is reflected in detail in the joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of 11 States, which was read out by the representative of Belarus.

We welcome the statement in support of the Transdniestrian settlement in the “5+2” format. We trust that the implementation of the agreed confidence-building measures and the outlining of new reciprocal steps will facilitate a steady rapprochement between the banks of the Dniester. A joint statement by the heads of delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries in support of the process of a Nagorno-Karabakh settlement was adopted. We note the intention of the sides to continue negotiations and to take further steps to prepare the population for peace.

Two Ministerial Council declarations on the anniversaries of the adoption of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 as well as of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security have been agreed upon. While commending their content in general, we note that this seems to be the current limit of what can be achieved on the politico-military track.

The discussion about ways to restore trust and de-escalate tension is valuable in itself. We support the continuation of the Structured Dialogue with the involvement of military experts and without politicization of the process. We consider this an important confidence-building measure.

Stepping up co-operation in countering transnational challenges has lost none of its relevance, especially in view of the continuing terrorist threat in the world in general and in the OSCE area in particular. We need to raise the profile of the Organization in combating the spread of terrorist ideology, notably via the media, and make more effective use of the Security Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council in priority areas of counter-terrorism with the regular participation of experts from capitals. The Russian proposal on combating drug trafficking remains relevant.

We should also like to note that the inexplicable obsession of a couple of delegations with the “gender” topic has hampered the work to reach agreement on decisions that are not directly related to this issue.

The sabotage on the part of some delegations of the instruction issued at the 2014 Basel Ministerial Council regarding the adoption of declarations to protect Christians and Muslims is completely counter-productive. Against this background, their rhetoric about the need to strictly adhere to commitments that we have all signed up to appears hypocritical.

The balanced draft decisions on linguistic and educational rights of national minorities and free public access to information were roundly rejected. The same commitments that the Western countries once advocated so actively have now become inconvenient for them.

We supported the Bratislava Appeal of the Chairperson-in-Office. We agree with its key provisions: to focus on what unites us rather than what divides us, to show increased flexibility and willingness to compromise, and to strengthen interactive dialogue on the basis of equal rights. We shall continue to be guided by these principles in our work in the OSCE.

Next year will mark the 45th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 10th anniversary of the Astana Declaration. This is a good opportunity to reaffirm our adherence to the OSCE’s basic principles set out in those documents and to the task of

strengthening comprehensive and indivisible security. It is alarming, however, that this year several partners have not demonstrated the willingness to do so in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Charter for European Security and the Platform for Co-operative Security.

We wish Albania every success as the future Chairmanship.

Thank you for your attention.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I ask that you extend to Foreign Minister Lajčák our gratitude – I know I speak for many – in hosting this event. I appreciate Slovakia’s hospitality as host of this Ministerial Council and your delegation’s efforts to ensure that this meeting was a success. We also recognize the tireless work over the past year of Rado Boháč – Slovakia’s Permanent Representative to the OSCE. We fully support Albania as our next Chairmanship and welcome Sweden’s and Poland’s commitments to take on this serious responsibility in the future.

President Trump asked me to make clear the strong US commitment to defending and promoting the values and principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the OSCE Paris Charter. The United States understands the importance of the OSCE and the role that it plays in strengthening regional stability, advancing economic and environmental development, championing human rights, and promoting tolerance. That is why we have chosen to be the largest contributor both in budgets and personnel. We regret that a consensus could not be reached on a decision to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings despite all of our best efforts. We appreciate the strong support of our co-sponsors, Belarus and the Slovak Chairmanship.

We continue to have serious concerns about several participating States’ failure to implement their OSCE commitments. But let’s be clear: participating States do not share equal responsibility for the lack of progress in fulfilling the promise of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter. Rather, one State – Russia – bears primary responsibility. We see this in Russia’s ongoing aggression in Ukraine, the occupation of parts of Georgia, its continued military presence in both Georgia and Moldova, its human rights violations and abuses at home and abroad, and its increasingly sophisticated use of hybrid methods to undermine security and democratic systems in all three dimensions.

My colleagues and I had productive meetings at this Ministerial Council with civil society activists and NGO representatives. Their expertise strengthens the work that we do, and we must resist efforts that unduly restrict civil society participation in OSCE events.

My government welcomes agreement of all 57 on a Ministerial Council statement regarding the 5+2 talks on settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. We recall as well the need for fulfilment of OSCE Summit commitments regarding the withdrawal of Russian military forces from Moldova.

The United States was pleased to join the Friends of Georgia in expressing unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Unfortunately, it was not possible to reach consensus on a statement on the Russia-Georgia conflict. We would welcome discussion of opportunities for an increased OSCE role in bringing about a peaceful solution within the proper rules.

We also regret Russia blocking efforts to modernize the Vienna Document, as was previously stated in this meeting. For many years after the Helsinki Final Act was adopted, Russia was a staunch supporter of military transparency measures. The regrettable change in Russia's direction goes beyond what could be justified by any legitimate security concerns. Even this very night, when a consensus document had been negotiated to declare our solidarity with our Asian partners, Russia offered last minute changes that they knew would block adoption of that consensus declaration.

I look forward to the day that Russia ceases its obstructionism and allows this Organization to achieve its full potential, and joins the overwhelming number of participating States in efforts to ensure that our shared security and a peaceful future for the OSCE area becomes a reality.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,

As the Russian delegation requested to attach to the journal of the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava its statement delivered today to the closing session, I would like to make the following statement with the purpose of clarification and correction.

The representative of the Russian delegation, while referring to the title of one of the draft documents under consideration of the participating States, used the term of so-called “internal Ukrainian crisis”. In fact, this document was entitled “Draft declaration on the OSCE’s efforts towards peace in and around Ukraine”, as distributed under the reference number MC.DD/11/19/Rev.2 of 2 December 2019.

We thank the Slovak Chairmanship for preparing this draft, and we regret that its adoption was blocked by one single delegation, that is the Russian Federation. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of this Council’s meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 9(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK (ALSO ON
BEHALF OF ALBANIA, ANDORRA, ARMENIA, AUSTRIA,
AZERBAIJAN, BELGIUM, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,
BULGARIA, CANADA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE,
HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, LATVIA,
LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA,
MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONTENEGRO, THE NETHERLANDS,
NORTH MACEDONIA, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA,
SERBIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND,
UKRAINE, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the following 46 participating States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and my own country Denmark.

In 1989, a number of historic events – including the Baltic Way, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Velvet Revolution – contributed to shaping the OSCE area as we know it today. These events did not only bring democracy to millions. They also proved that a strong, pluralistic and vibrant civil society exercising their individual human rights and fundamental freedoms can be a catalyst for peaceful change, sometimes against incredible odds.

We have made great strides in advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms over the past 30 years. And yet, still today, we see that the fight is not over. Discrimination excludes too many from our societies. The space for civil society and independent media is rapidly shrinking. And threats and violence against human rights defenders are on the rise.

At the same time, the world has never been more interconnected, including through digital technologies. The impact of human rights violations and abuses in one part of our area can have serious repercussions in another. Human rights violations and abuses as well as restrictions on civil society can affect us all, no matter where we live. Respect for human rights within States is essential to lasting security among States.

Mr. Chairperson,

We will continue to speak out when human rights and fundamental freedoms are violated or abused. Whether it is human rights defenders facing reprisals for their selfless work, or persons being targeted for who they are, for whom they love or for what they believe or say. We will challenge stereotypes and prejudice, combat myths with facts, and speak out against discrimination and intolerance whenever and against whomever they occur.

Civil society is the conscience of our societies, a source of ideas, and a key component for an open and inclusive dialogue. This is a cornerstone of democracy. We are therefore committed to a world where people are free to associate and assemble, speak their minds, believe or not to believe and hold their governments to account without reprisals. We pay tribute to the individuals and civil society organizations who work tirelessly to defend our human rights commitments. They deserve our recognition, protection and support.

We commend the work of the OSCE autonomous institutions, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, for their efforts to promote and protect human rights, as essential contributors to comprehensive security and strong democracies. Their work, mandates and institutional independence are essential to the protection and advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We will continue to fight to ensure that the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments is at the forefront of our work in this Organization.

In closing, we also would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Slovak Chairmanship for its tireless efforts to strengthen the human dimension throughout the past year.

I would be grateful if you could attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 9(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVAKIA (ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, ANDORRA, ARMENIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CANADA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, KAZAKHSTAN, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, THE NETHERLANDS, NORTH MACEDONIA, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

This statement is delivered on behalf of the following participating States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and Slovakia

We acknowledge that security sector governance and reform (SSGR) is a crucial part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, based on existing principles and commitments and closely related to the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions. We share the view that security sector governance relates to the principles of good governance and how they apply to security provision, management, and oversight. Security sector governance means that the security sector is subject to the same standards of good governance as any other public sector, and that the security sector is to provide security to the State and its people in an accountable and effective way, within a framework of democratic civilian control, rule of law, respect for human rights, and the promotion of gender equality. SSGR promotes the need for a holistic approach to reform, which takes into account the interlinkages between various actors and components of the security sector and contributes significantly to overcoming structural barriers between the OSCE's institutions and dimensions. In today's world of complex and interdependent security challenges (such as corruption, violent extremism that leads to terrorism, transnational organized crime and trafficking in human beings), national security sectors need

to adapt to a dynamic and changing environment. An inclusive, accountable and democratically controlled security sector with full respect for human rights and the rule of law can promote confidence and trust between society and State and stability in the entire OSCE region.

As reflected in United Nations Security Council resolution 2151 (2014) on security sector reform, but also in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SSGR plays an important role in contributing to conflict prevention, peace and security. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE can make a significant contribution to these global initiatives. We believe, in partnerships with others, we should further build on the OSCE's comparative advantages that lie in its comprehensive and regional approach to security.

We acknowledge the OSCE has a long track record in supporting participating States in strengthening the governance of their security sectors and undertaking reforms in line with the Organization's commitments. We welcome the progress made over the last years towards a more coherent and co-ordinated OSCE approach. At the same time, we believe that more could be done by taking full advantage of our available tools and expertise. The OSCE could become more efficient in this sector by adopting the following measures: place greater emphasis on good governance, strengthen co-operation across all three dimensions of security, further integrate SSGR into the OSCE conflict cycle toolbox, make more efficient use of limited available resources, and enable increased co-ordination with other actors in this field.

We welcome the efforts of the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship towards a common understanding of SSGR in the context of the OSCE. In addition, we deem it important to continue regular discussions on SSGR, as an important step in acknowledging the role of the OSCE in this area.

We underscore that the following principles – all embedded in our existing commitments – should guide the OSCE's support to national SSGR processes:

- National ownership: support provided by the OSCE should be based on a request for assistance from that participating State and aligned with its national priorities for reform;
- Good and democratic security sector governance: the OSCE's support should foster democratic civilian control, the rule of law and full respect for human rights;
- The promotion of gender equality: an essential element is the full, equal and active involvement of women in SSGR and that women's participation in the security sector on a strategic and operational level is promoted;
- Holistic and inclusive: a cross-dimensional approach to SSGR support, based on the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, is required to take account of the holistic nature of national SSGR processes, while promoting the meaningful participation of all segments of society and the engagement of civil society;

- Responsive to the security needs of all people, including youth: SSGR support should take into consideration the needs of all segments of society and entail approaches that are gender-responsive and respect human rights. All support should be grounded in a thorough understanding of the context and based on a comprehensive needs assessment;
- Co-ordination and co-operation: OSCE activities should be co-ordinated with other actors at the local, national, regional and international level, building on its added value and comparative advantage.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 9(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of Finland, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States as well as North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Norway, Ukraine, Georgia, Andorra, Switzerland and Kazakhstan.

We bear in mind the ongoing discussions held in the framework of the Economic and Environmental and Security Committees under the Austrian, Italian and Slovak OSCE Chairmanships on the potential impact on security of environmental challenges.

We take note of the existing international legal and policy framework in support of combating transnational organized crime which damages the environment and we are convinced that the OSCE can be a useful platform for dialogue, sharing of best practices and experiences, and fostering co-operation among the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

We also recall the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Maastricht in 2003, and reiterating the determination of all the participating States to further strengthen co-operation aiming at reducing environment-related security risks, amongst each other and with other international and regional institutions and organizations working in the area of environment.

In this regard, we encourage the 2020 Albanian OSCE Chairmanship and the subsequent OSCE Chairmanships, assisted by the OSCE Secretariat, including through consultations with participating States and relevant international and regional organizations, to continue strengthening dialogue on the potential impact on security of environmental challenges, and to assess the OSCE's complementary role and future contributions in this field.

I would appreciate it if you could attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 12

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 9(e)

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of Finland, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States as well as North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Andorra and Switzerland.

Considering the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as a global and comprehensive agenda, we express our determination to strengthen our joint efforts for the benefit of our planet and people, including for the OSCE area.

We underline the importance of the call for accelerated action contained in the political declaration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that took place on 24 and 25 September 2019 and as adopted by the Heads of State or Government and reiterate the commitment of leaving no one behind which is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.

We recall the cross-cutting nature of the Sustainable Development Goals with a set of interlinked and indivisible goals and targets balancing the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

We recognize the role of the United Nations in facilitating durable partnerships between governments at all levels, and with all relevant stakeholders to fulfil the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda where applicable.

We also recognize the complementary role that the regional organizations can play for the effective and sound implementation of Sustainable Development Goals by creating synergies and stronger co-operation.

We underline the role of the OSCE, as the largest regional security organization, with its concept of comprehensive and co-operative security, toolbox, relevant expertise and knowledge on the ground, in assisting the 57 participating States in implementing the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

We underline the importance of Goal 16, as we are convinced that promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels are crucial conditions for regional security and co-operation. We underline the OSCE's valuable contribution – across its three dimensions – to the realization of Goal 16.

In conclusion, we recognize that time is running short, and renew our commitment to multilateralism and for the successful and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I would appreciate it if you could attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.



Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 9(f)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVENIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, AUSTRIA, BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA, CYPRUS, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ITALY,
KAZAKHSTAN, MALTA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, PORTUGAL,
SAN MARINO, SLOVAKIA, SPAIN AND SWITZERLAND)**

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered also on behalf of the following participating States: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland.

At the 2013 Ministerial Council in Kyiv, we all recognized the evolving nature of transnational threats in the OSCE region and beyond, as well as the need to provide collective responses, including by strengthening the co-operation with our OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation Groups. Since then, further transnational challenges have emerged, underscoring once again the interdependence between the security of the OSCE area and that of our Partners for Co-operation Groups.

We believe that, in order to frame a common response to such challenges, we need to deepen the political dialogue between OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation Groups in all possible venues, starting from the Ministerial Council, in line with the spirit of the Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation adopted in Madrid in 2007 (MC.DOC/1/07), the Basel Ministerial Council Declarations on Co-operation with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners (MC.DOC/9/14 and MC.DOC/10/14) and the recent Ministerial Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean adopted in Milan in 2018 (MC.DOC/4/18).

We therefore see merit in amending the OSCE Rules of Procedure in a way that will allow heads of delegations from Partners for Co-operation Groups to address the Ministerial Council following the heads of delegations of equal rank from participating States, as follows:

- Ministers or heads of delegations of equal rank from the participating States;

- Ministers or heads of delegations of equal rank from the Partners for Co-operation Groups;
- Deputy ministers or representatives of equal rank from the participating States;
- Deputy ministers or representatives of equal rank from the Partners for Co-operation Groups;
- All other heads of delegations from the participating States;
- All other heads of delegations from the Partners for Co-operation Groups.

We see this as a concrete signal of the political will to further engage with the Partners within the framework of the OSCE and enhance our political dialogue.

Such an amendment will also codify the current practice, introduced under the Swiss Chairmanship in 2014 and followed by all subsequent Chairmanships, of inviting participating States to address the Ministerial Council according to the rank of their head of delegation, with ministers or heads of delegations of equal rank taking precedence over other representatives.

We encourage other participating States to further consider such a proposal, with a view to reaching the necessary consensus for its adoption in the future.

Mr. Chairperson,

We remain committed to further strengthening our relationship with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation Groups to increase our ability to frame a collective response to the challenges of our time.

The participating States subscribing to this statement request that it be attached to the journal of this ministerial meeting.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC(26).JOUR/Corr.1
5–6 December 2019
Annex 14

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 9(g)

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF SLOVAKIA,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE OSCE**

As the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is my pleasure to inform you about the activities of the Forum in 2019.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted with the previous 2019 FSC Chairmanships, namely, Switzerland and Tajikistan. During 2019, the FSC Chairmanships worked in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum's annual work programme.

Several initiatives undertaken by participating States led to the adoption of five decisions, all designed to support the implementation of existing commitments.

The strategic discussions during the Security Dialogues indicated the FSC's importance as a platform for dialogue, addressing security issues of common interest and concern. Even though the situation in and around Ukraine remained the dominant topic of the discussions in the FSC, active discussions also took place on matters related to the following: subregional military and defence co-operation; normative and project-related aspects in the field of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA); implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540; the Vienna Document 2011 and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs); private military and security companies; and aspects of modern warfare. The three 2019 FSC Chairmanships actively stimulated discussions by organizing a total of 21 Security Dialogues.

With a view to promoting regional stability and comprehensive and co-operative security, the three 2019 FSC Chairmanships dedicated a total of five Security Dialogues to subregional military defence co-operation, which in geographical terms spanned the Visegrad Group, regional organizations in Central Asia, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. In particular, under the FSC Chairmanship of Switzerland, the Security Dialogues focused on regional co-operation aimed at promoting the "transparency and

confidence” approach. Tajikistan’s FSC Chairmanship saw discussion of politico-military aspects of border management and the challenges and opportunities of the regional approach in Central Asia, the role of the CSBMs in Central Asia, and synergies between regional organizations and the OSCE. The Security Dialogue on military co-operation of the Visegrad Group was organized by the FSC Chairmanship of the Czech Republic.

In accordance with the tasking stemming from OSCE documents as well as various FSC and Ministerial Council decisions on SALW and SCA, all three FSC Chairmanships conducted a range of related activities. Given the impressive implementation results of many project activities, the topic of SALW and SCA remained one of the most enduring and promising items on the FSC agenda, with five Security Dialogues and many informal meetings being dedicated to the subject during the year. The OSCE’s efforts were in particular focused on the review and updating of the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and on Conventional Ammunition, with a clear roadmap for this process being agreed before the end of 2019. Regrettably, the OSCE meeting to review the implementation of the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA – a firm commitment of all OSCE participating States, as decided at the 2017 Ministerial Council – was not implemented in 2019 on account of a lack of consensus on the agenda.

Another topic highlighted during the year was the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and, on its 15th anniversary, United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, to which one Security Dialogue was devoted under the FSC Chairmanship of Tajikistan and one under the FSC Chairmanship of the Czech Republic.

All three FSC Chairmanships co-operated closely with the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Permanent Council on cross-dimensional issues of relevance to both bodies in line with the OSCE’s concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. To this end, four joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council were held: two on the Structured Dialogue, one on security sector governance and reform, and one on lessons learned in the field of conflict resolution.

The 29th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) took place in March 2019 during the FSC Chairmanship of Switzerland. Led by Lithuania and Liechtenstein, it provided an opportunity to raise and discuss various issues related to the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs. The discussions at the AIAM resulted in a number of suggestions on how the current CSBMs could be implemented more effectively and improved in the future. Special attention was devoted to further revitalizing discussions on CSBMs in Working Group A. To this end, several suggestions were put forward to enhance the implementation of existing commitments, including ones related to points of contact in case of hazardous incidents of a military nature and to major weapons and equipment systems. Furthermore, in May 2019 the FSC Co-ordinator on the Vienna Document organized the “Expert-level workshop on the exchange of the major weapon and equipment systems data”. Additionally, in an effort to keep the Vienna Document adjusted to the current politico-military realities and technological developments, a Vienna Document Plus proposal, building on suggestions tabled earlier, was put forward by a group of 32 participating States.

The 8th Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was held in June 2019 under the Tajik FSC

Chairmanship. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for participating States to review the enforcement of the Code and to exchange views on ways of further improving its implementation. In May 2019, the Tajik FSC Chairperson participated in a seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security held in Cyprus and organized by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and Cyprus in accordance with FSC Decision No. 1/08, which saw the participating States engage in dialogue on the Code's most important principles and commitments. In October, the Czech FSC Chairperson participated in the commemorative symposium "From Budapest to Budapest (1994–2019)", which was organized jointly by the CPC and Hungary to exchange lessons learned from the past 25 years' work on the Code of Conduct.

The FSC also contributed to the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference within its mandate, providing inputs to relevant sessions and focusing on politico-military elements, including conventional arms control and CSBMs.

The year 2019 saw three Security Dialogues devoted to gender equality, on the following subjects: integrating gender perspectives in the politico-military dimension; the role of the military in implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1325; and enhancing the role of women in both conflict-related and peacetime operations, paving the way to the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, which will be commemorated in 2020.

To conclude, the Forum for Security and Co-operation has continued to serve as an important platform for dialogue and decisions in 2019, while at the same time providing participating States with a forum to discuss matters related to arms control and CSBMs, in the particular the Vienna Document 2011. A joint Vienna Document Plus proposal indicates that many participating States recognize the need for the modernization of the Vienna Document, indicating the importance of continuing the valuable efforts being made in Working Group A.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC.DOC/1/19
6 December 2019

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 7

COMMEMORATIVE DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, we, the ministers for foreign affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, wish to emphasize the Code of Conduct's value as a unique, norm-setting document.

We reaffirm the undiminished validity of the guiding principles and common values enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992 – embodying the responsibilities of the participating States towards one another and of their governments towards their people – and, similarly, the validity of other OSCE commitments.

We remain committed to the full, faithful and effective implementation of the Code of Conduct.

In this context, we will continue promoting the Code of Conduct, *inter alia*, by discussing and exchanging information on it in the Forum for Security Co-operation, organizing annual meetings on its implementation and regional seminars, and undertaking awareness-raising efforts.

We reconfirm that the knowledge, skills and experience of both women and men are essential to efforts aimed at furthering peace, security and stability in the OSCE region, including the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and we are committed to ensuring and promoting their equal opportunities and full and meaningful participation in that process.

We welcome the continuation of outreach efforts on the Code of Conduct for the benefit of the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation.

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 7

**COMMEMORATIVE DECLARATION ON THE
OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
OSCE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING NON-PROLIFERATION AND
FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540**

We, the ministers for foreign affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, are mindful of the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and related materials to international peace and security.

We recall United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and its successor resolutions, in particular resolutions 1977 (2011) and 2325 (2016), which called upon all States to take effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and recognized the need to enhance co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional, and regional levels in order to strengthen the global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security.

We reaffirm the OSCE commitments to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, contained, in particular, in the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation adopted in 1994 and updated in 2013, in the OSCE Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation adopted in 2009 as well as in Forum for Security Co-operation Decision No. 4/15 on the OSCE's role in support of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

We recall that the participating States should implement fully their obligations under the disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements to which they are party.

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, updated by the FSC in 2013, we recognize the continued relevance and undiminishing value of this document, which, *inter alia*, demonstrates the collective commitments of the participating States to address risks and challenges connected with weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related technologies and to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime and stresses the OSCE's contribution as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter to these efforts.

1 Contains a correction to the translation of attachment 1.

On the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) we recognize the progress achieved in its implementation in the OSCE area at the national and regional levels. At the same time much remains to be done, which necessitates continued and co-ordinated efforts of the international community. We welcome in this regard the OSCE's role in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 and subsequent resolutions by participating States in close co-ordination with the UNSC 1540 Committee to complement its efforts.

We reaffirm the readiness of the participating States and of the OSCE, as a regional organization under chapter VIII of the UN Charter, to take an active part in the 2020–2021 Comprehensive Review on the status of implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, *inter alia*, with a view to specify the OSCE's role in facilitating its future implementation.

We reaffirm that the participating States are committed to continue to address proliferation risks and challenges resolutely and effectively to ensure peace, security and stability in the OSCE area through full implementation of resolution 1540 and adherence to the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus on the OSCE Ministerial Council document adopted today ‘Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and Fifteenth Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540’, the delegation of the Russian Federation believes it necessary to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

With respect to the fourth paragraph of that Declaration (‘We recall that the participating States should implement fully their obligations under the disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements to which they are party’), the Russian Federation points out that it suspended operation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) in accordance with international law and that, consequently, the aforementioned paragraph no longer applies to the implementation of the CFE Treaty by the Russian Federation.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted document.”

1 Contains a correction to the translation.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Ukraine (also on behalf of the United Kingdom and the United States of America):

“Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine (also on behalf of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and Fifteenth Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, we would also recall the commitments contained in the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine’s accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons signed by the United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at the OSCE conference in Budapest, Hungary on 5 December 1994.

I request that this statement be attached to the declaration and the journal of the day.

Thank you.”



Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 7

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT
PROCESS IN THE “5+2” FORMAT**

The ministers for foreign affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:

1. Recall the past ministerial statements on the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format;
2. Reiterate their strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;
3. Underline the need to continue the result-oriented settlement process reaffirmed by the Hamburg, Vienna and Milan ministerial statements. In this regard, we call upon the Sides to continue to engage accordingly in the negotiation process under the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship;
4. Commend the Sides for further consolidating the achievements reached since the Vienna Ministerial meeting on priority issues and their commitment to achieve the full implementation of all agreements expressed in the protocols of the “5+2” meetings in Rome 2018, Vienna 2017 and Berlin 2016 thus contributing to building a solid basis for further advancing the settlement process;
5. Welcome the steps taken by the Sides this year for facilitating unimpeded travel of officials;
6. Encourage the Sides to develop joint proposals on further confidence-building measures;
7. Call upon the Sides to continue to work at all levels of the negotiation process in a rhythmical manner to achieve tangible progress on all three baskets of the agreed agenda for the negotiation process: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and

human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues;

8. Underline the importance of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format as the only mechanism to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable settlement, and reaffirm the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process;

9. Applaud the commitment, leadership and political will of the Sides which led to the resolution of a number of long-standing issues, as well as the unified and active approach by the mediators and observers in the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format in the course of their activities in 2019, including another meeting of the Bavaria conference on confidence-building measures;

10. Encourage the mediators and observers of the OSCE, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the European Union and the United States of America to continue to co-ordinate their efforts and to make full use of their collective potential to promote progress in achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transdnistrian conflict.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC.DEC/1/19
5 December 2019

Original: ENGLISH

First day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 1/19
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEARS 2021 AND 2022**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Sweden will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2021;

Decides that Poland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2022.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC.DEC/2/19
6 December 2019

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 2/19
RENAMING THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS
FOR CO-OPERATION AND THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE
MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides to rename the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to “OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group” and “OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group” respectively.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Bratislava 2019**

MC.DEC/3/19
6 December 2019

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
MC(26) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 3/19
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Tirana on 3 and 4 December 2020.