



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

MC.DEL/30/13/Rev.1
9 December 2013

ENGLISH only

Conference Services

At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Nikola Poposki made at the 20th Ministerial Council, Kyiv, 5-6 December 2013, is being distributed to all delegations.



Republic of Macedonia

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ADDRESS

By

H.E. NIKOLA POPOSKI

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia

at the

20th MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Kyiv, 5-6 December 2013

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

To begin with, I would like to express my gratitude to our hosts for the warm welcome and congratulate you on the successful organization of the 20th meeting of the Ministerial Council.

This jubilee is an indication how determined we are in pursuing the commitments and principles which our Founding Fathers compiled in the Helsinki Final Act almost 40 years ago. These values are still pertinent and we should redouble our efforts in further sophisticating them to reflect today's realities.

Being in Kyiv, I would like to congratulate the Chairmanship for putting together a balanced and compact set of decisions, tailored to strengthen our capacities to adequately respond to the collective multidimensional security threats. Bearing in mind the paradigm shift in international and security relations, the OSCE Concept of Comprehensive and Co-operative Security remains our "broadband" response to various security challenges ranging from 'hard,' environmental to human security.

The Republic of Macedonia remains a proponent of this approach. The three dimensions of OSCE are not mutually exclusive, but moreover reinforcing. They were central to the so-called 'Helsinki Process' and today preserve their importance within the 'Helsinki+40 process.' This process is of great significance for our organization's portfolio and strategic focus, but also vital for the indivisible and inclusive security community we strive to attain. Therefore, I would like to commend the consensus reached on the Declaration on Furthering the Helsinki +40 process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Macedonia has won a seat at the UN Human Rights Council. The opportunity to promote and safeguard human rights worldwide represents a recognition of our human rights portfolio and our commitment to effective multilateralism.

I will use this venue to call for further strengthening of OSCE human dimension *acquis* and hence constructive engagement in advancing our previous commitments. This process will add value to the comprehensive concept of security and more importantly revitalize OSCE's legitimacy and relevance.

On the second dimension, I would like to reaffirm that we need to pay a greater attention to economic and environmental phenomena. The institutionalization of the Economy and Environment Dimension Implementation Meeting should be regarded as an important achievement. Energy safety and security and efforts to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities are of great importance for our human security. As concluded on many occasions, in today's era of globalization, the nexus between the economic and environmental phenomena and conflict is hard to bypass.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Organization is known for and often praised for its abundant 'toolbox' of confidence and security building measures (CSBMs). Nonetheless, its operational capacity to act timely in warning and prevention of conflicts must be further streamlined. This process is indispensable for a prolific political-military course of action. We shall invest our will and energy to augment the process of modernisation of our CSBM toolbox, which may lead to greater military predictability and transparency. We should also not save any energy to further contribute to the gender mainstreaming in the security sector through implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The same goes on preventing weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapon proliferation. Updating the principles governing non-proliferation and the adoption of the decision on small arms and light weapons is a right move in that direction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OSCE must fit the purpose and be context-oriented should it pretend to be the buttress of our regional security architecture spreading from the Vancouver to Vladivostok (our much favoured phrase). To this end, I would like to add that it is particularly important for OSCE to engage proactively and preserve openness to other security settings and emerging democracies.

Mr. Chairman,

At the end, please allow me to reiterate that the Republic of Macedonia remains committed to OSCE values and principles. Thank you for organizing this extraordinary convention and let me wish the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships a fruitful mission.