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Delegation of Belgium

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR DIDIER NAGANT DE DEUXCHAISNES,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM TO THE
OSCE, AT THE 1000th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR
SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

9 February 2022

Millennium plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation

Mr. Chairperson, Belgium fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. I should like nevertheless to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

The year 2022 is an anniversary year for the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). Not only do we have the honour today of participating in the 1000th meeting of the Forum, but also later this year, in September, under the Belgian Chairmanship, we will celebrate the FSC's 30th anniversary.

As previous speakers have stated, today's commemorative event is taking place in a worrying context of heightened international tensions. We therefore believe that it is not only timely but also essential to consider where we are coming from, where we are at the moment and in which direction we want our politico-military dialogue to develop in the future.

When we look back on the progress we have made, we can see that the Forum has shown the undeniable power of dialogue, which has produced our Organization's arms control *acquis*, has resulted in many specific actions on the ground throughout our region, particularly in the field of small arms and light weapons, and has made possible important discussions in the various Security Dialogues, during which we have shared our concerns and exchanged information with a view to increasing transparency and communicating best practices.

Without minimizing the value of the progress already made, we must nevertheless acknowledge that the world around us is changing. In the face of the new challenges, we must intensify our relations with one another, increase mutual trust and reflect critically on our existing instruments so as to enhance their effectiveness in the changing context that we are experiencing. We cannot ignore the subjects of growing importance on a global scale in the politico-military dimension, such as the emergence of new technologies, climate change and gender-related issues. The work of the FSC does not take place in a vacuum but on the contrary contributes towards the OSCE's idea of comprehensive security.

Looking to the future, we firmly believe that the only way of accomplishing these aims is to continue using the methodology that has proved itself to this day, namely frank and open dialogue with a view to

increasing mutual understanding. It is only through committed dialogue that we will be able together to foster the emergence of a security environment capable of responding to the challenges we face and adapted to the changes that await us.

You can rest assured that Belgium will do its utmost to contribute to this task.