



PROGRAMME OF THE POLISH OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

OSCE

POLAND 2022



It is an honour and a privilege to assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE for 2022.

History always brings us back to the indisputable universal values of freedom, solidarity, responsibility and the indivisibility of security. An awareness of the interdependence between security on the one hand and human rights, democracy and the rule of law on the other was the inspiring principle of the Helsinki Final Act.

This document laid the foundations for co-operation and dialogue that transcended the confrontations of the Cold War. It created a bridge that led to a new institutional level – the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Since then, the fundamental principles of the OSCE have not lost their significance.

In the almost 50 years since the Helsinki Final Act, an impressive network of interlinked political and military commitments has arisen under the OSCE framework. Therefore, it serves as a reminder that it is worth giving up particular interests for the sake of common goods

such as sustainable peace, stability and democracy. The OSCE is about rebuilding the culture of dialogue in the spirit of compromise as the most effective method of solving crises. We have the necessary toolbox to improve the security environment, de-escalate tensions and at least try to rebuild basic trust and confidence. Genuine dialogue among the participating States must be based on the principles of international law and a strong commitment to existing OSCE instruments and tools.

We will strive to encourage discussions on the new strategic challenges of our time when the lines between war and peace are becoming increasingly blurred. If only for this reason, these challenges are looming ever larger in the risk assessments of participating States. We want to mobilise the good will of all our partners – with no exceptions.

During our Chairmanship, Poland will spare no effort in trying to live up to the expectations and ideals that guide the OSCE – preventing and resolving conflicts, fostering dialogue, building trust and transparency in security matters, and promoting human rights and civil society. Poland will always and invariably stand on the side of international law and protecting the most vulnerable.

Zbigniew Rau

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
OSCE 2022 Chairman-in-Office

Supporting the OSCE's conflict resolution formats and processes, with special attention to promoting comprehensive assistance to conflict-affected populations

Making progress towards peaceful resolution of **conflicts in the OSCE area** in line with OSCE principles and commitments will be at the top of our agenda. Bringing real improvements to the lives of people in conflict-affected zones will be one of our main objectives.

The Polish OSCE Chairmanship is ready to act as an **honest broker and mediator** between participating States, including through the active involvement of special and personal representatives of the Chairman-in-Office. We will also take advantage of the knowledge and expertise of field missions, which are crucial to the OSCE's smooth functioning.

The conflict in and around **Ukraine** remains a pressing challenge for European security. Poland will seek to contribute to the diplomatic efforts of the Normandy Format and the Trilateral Contact Group, in compliance with the Minsk Agreements, and with full respect for the sovereignty,

territorial integrity and unity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. A strong presence of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, along with full respect for its mandate, is pivotal in this respect.

The OSCE remains a suitable forum to foster regional dialogue and has unique instruments to de-escalate tensions. The Polish OSCE Chairmanship will offer its full support for **the OSCE Minsk Group** and its Co-Chairs in their endeavour to reach a comprehensive and peaceful conflict resolution. It would considerably improve security, stability, and prosperity in the entire region.

The **Geneva International Discussions** play a fundamental role in facilitating a peaceful and sustainable resolution of the conflict in Georgia. Poland's OSCE Chairmanship will spare no effort to advance this process, always keeping in mind its impact on the affected population.

In the same vein, we will support progress in the **Transnistrian Settlement Process** through stronger dialogue and confidence-building measures.

Arms control and Confidence and Security-Building Measures are indispensable to our common security. Ensuring compliance with and strengthening existing arms control instruments remain essential to restore political and military stability within the OSCE area. This includes the full implementation and modernisation of the Vienna Document.

We see the OSCE's role in tackling hybrid threats, fostering dialogue on military transparency and risk reduction. The Forum for Security Co-operation and the Structured Dialogue are appropriate places to advance discussions in this regard. We will continue implementing the **Women, Peace and Security agenda** within the Organization. Equal participation and full involvement of women in peace and security constitute an indispensable element of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

The rapid evolution of the **cyber space** exposes us to new threats and challenges, which can only be tackled successfully through increased international co-operation. To achieve high national levels of resilience, Poland will promote and universalise OSCE best practices in this respect, through campaigns to raise social awareness, promote cyber education and build cyber social resilience.

Terrorism and violent extremism continue to pose major threats to security, stability and peace in the OSCE area. Holistic and well-funded counterterrorism measures are needed to protect our citizens from these perils. The Polish OSCE Chairmanship intends to continue efforts aimed at strengthening the Organization's toolbox in this area.

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Responding to post-COVID challenges in the OSCE through effective multilateralism

As stated in the Helsinki Final Act, effective **economic co-operation is crucial in the pursuit of peace and security** in the OSCE region and beyond. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has painfully exposed the vulnerability and fragility of our economies. At the same time, it has shown their high degree of interdependency.

Our common goal remains to ensure a **sustainable recovery and continued modernisation of our economies**. Co-ordinated global actions, multilateral co-operation and solidarity are fundamental in this respect.

The Polish OSCE Chairmanship will stimulate discussions on effective **ways to mitigate the pandemic's effects**. Our ambition is to look past the COVID horizon and reflect on how to build back better so that our economies become more resilient and better equipped to face future challenges.

Sharing experience and best practices in promoting employment and competitiveness; boosting innovation and new technologies; enhancing efficient energy solutions and sustainable use of natural resources with the view to **greening the economy** are all crucial steps toward this objective. Climate change also needs to be taken into account, since it multiplies existing challenges and increasingly affects our economy, security and stability.

Following up on the work of the previous OSCE Chairs, we wish to continue discussions of **good governance, anti-corruption and women's economic empowerment**, including in the broader context of recovery.

The fast **digital transformation** of many spheres of public life during the ongoing pandemic raises new questions about the opportunities and challenges posed by this development.

Digital transformation affects the politico-military, economic, environmental, and human rights-related aspects of security. The Polish OSCE Chairmanship will encourage further debate on the digital era's new challenges.

We see considerable potential for co-operation with international governmental and non-governmental organizations. It is our intention to explore opportunities for advancing the OSCE's relations and practical co-operation with international partners, including within existing frameworks, to bolster comprehensive security in the OSCE region. **Effective multilateralism** is the best way to achieve this goal.

The security of the OSCE area is tightly linked to neighbouring regions. Following the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership Chairmanship, Poland will further seek to promote constructive dialogue with the **Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation**. In addition, to boost political engagement with OSCE activities, we will continue to endorse inter-parliamentary dialogue and the fundamental contribution of the **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**.

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Fully utilising the OSCE's potential by working in a spirit of co-operation to implement our shared commitments

The Polish OSCE Chairmanship will spare no effort to **assist participating States in fostering dialogue** while guarding the Organization's principles and commitments. Upholding the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, which combines political and economic security with human rights and democracy, will be at the very centre of our actions.

Against this backdrop, we will be paying special attention to **effectively implementing the broad range of OSCE commitments**, including in the Human Dimension. Lasting security can be achieved only with respect for human rights and well-functioning democratic institutions.

Poland's Chairmanship will facilitate discussions on human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region. We will put special emphasis on **freedom of religion or belief** which is closely interlinked with security as it is understood in the OSCE. These

two objectives complement and reinforce each other and Poland will be committed to advancing them.

Our efforts will be guided by a **human-centred perspective** which seeks to improve the conditions of the weakest and most vulnerable. Building upon our experience in other international fora, the Polish Chair will be paying special attention to the **situation of children and people with disabilities** who, along with other vulnerable groups, require our support and protection.

To ensure inclusiveness, Poland will enhance and promote broad **participation of youth** in OSCE events. We will devote our efforts to including the views of young people in discussions at different levels and in different formats within the OSCE, and to facilitating organization of youth-led or youth-related activities during OSCE events.

We will support the independent mandates of all **OSCE autonomous institutions**: the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media. We will closely work together to promote tools that ensure the full implementation of our joint commitments made at OSCE fora.

We will seek **co-operation with civil society organizations** as we acknowledge their role in helping participating States fulfil OSCE commitments and ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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