



DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE OSCE

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Closing Statement of the FSC Chairperson

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Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel honored and delighted to be walking in these shoes today - and this is not because my and the responsibilities of the Macedonian team will be alleviated, as our distinguished friends from Lichtenstein will take over the FSC steering board - but because today we are marking a historical date. Today, we are closing yet another chapter of the FSC's trilogies. Thus far, we have commenced and closed twenty. The 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Forum is a reason for celebration, but concurrently a remarkable legacy.

20 years after, the Forum for Security Cooperation stands as a cornerstone where different perceptions and understandings of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security policies are institutionalized, channeled and vigorously debated. We are all aware that topics deriving from such policies may not be the easiest ones. However, agreeing or disagreeing on burning issues while discussing them vividly is much better than taking a passive stance and not talk at all in order not to rock the boat. Similarly enough, the same goes for the decisions we strive to adopt and deliver. We draft the general wording and then dismantle it in different particles, like "Vienna Document," "arms control" or "illicit trafficking and transfer" to name a few. Very short and crisp, you would agree, however equally complex and significant. Then, we reflect and oppose our national or regional interests aiming at the magic word - consensus. However, sometimes this appears not to be the case. Even when we are not able to make a consensual decision, we should bear in mind that such processes derail, but concurrently re-rail us towards new hopes, horizons and perspectives. I would call this

a “Food for Thought” process - and serving such food on strategic politico-military aspects of security in the OSCE region is a way of predicting and steering our Organization’s general course of action. Exchanging views and information, providing transparency, sharing expertise and keep on debating – that’s where we have been and that’s where we going. Reflecting on the past 20 years of FSC - moving ahead, we did and we will encounter bumps on the road and forks in the road, yet I am truly convinced that the direction we have taken is the right one.

Dear Friends,

I would like to take a u-turn, go back to September this year and remind you on the priorities of the Macedonian FSC Chairmanship. As we picked up where our dear colleagues from Latvia and Kyrgyzstan left off, our aim was to further the Security Dialogues significant to our Organization. Within the Forum, we discussed extensively on the importance of consistent implementation of UNSCR 1540. Following the range of debates on this topic, I would like to commend the OSCE efforts in assisting respective countries drafting their NAPs and call all relevant actors to pursue with the national implementation.

We have also debated upon the UNSCR 1325 and the role of gender in peace and security. This is an important, yet a missing aspect in few OSCE documents, which I believe should be given greater impetus in the future.

Likewise, we touched upon the International Small Arms Control Standards. Today’s challenges, which include trafficking in SALW, inter alia, are continuing to threaten our societies and our common security. Thus, we support the further implementation on SALW-related policies. We must stay focused and further our efforts to address these threats accordingly.

Reflecting on our Chairmanship’s course, I believe we spent lengthy hours in debating the prospects related to the Vienna document. To that end, I would like to express my pleasure that we managed to adopt the Vienna Document Plus decision No 9/12 on Prior Notification of Major Military Activities, which is a CSBM in itself. I would like to thank you all for your constructive approach to this important

document that boosts the much-needed transparency. “Greater transparency is better than less transparency,” it was wisely stated by our distinguished British colleague, and as it appears as one of the pillars of our Organization we should strive for its further openness. At the same time, we should aim to modernize some of the OSCE toolbox mechanisms to respond adequately to the new security context.

Last but not least, I am pleased that our Forum’s contribution to the Helsinki +40 process and I would like to use this opportunity to commend the Irish Chairmanship and its able team, whom we collaborated greatly with, for the demonstrated leadership in steering this process. Helsinki +40 is of great significance for our organization’s portfolio and strategic focus, but concurrently, for our joint security landscape. Constructing wide-ranging, future-oriented and indivisible security architecture, pillared on collaboration and inclusiveness is an inevitable milestone that we all strive to attain.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coming back to September... as a Chairmanship we kicked off modestly without any ambition to re-invent the wheel, but to give further impetus to the constructive and bona fide debate. I tend to believe ended rather successful in this mission.

I would like to express my gratitude to my team who worked tirelessly and relentlessly to serve as a catalyst between the fifty-six (now fifty-seven) of us. They spent countless hours in informal meetings, being non-biased and not taking sides in order to convert diverging interests and perspectives into integral one. I would like to congratulate to their will, enthusiasm and beliefs.

I would also like to thank Kyrgyzstan for the successful kicking off the first part of this year trilogy. Naturally, I will not forget to thank our esteemed FSC coordinators, FSC Support Section and the Conference services that were always there to facilitate and provide support to all our endeavors. My sincerest gratitude goes to our Troika Fellows (Latvia and Lichtenstein) for their immense support and demonstrated interest and ownership of the overall process. Also, I would like to welcome the incoming Troika member – Lithuania on board and wish the incoming FSC

Chairmanship of Lichtenstein every success in their mission. We, as Troika member, we stand ready and on your disposal to contribute to it.

At the end, as we are handing over the Chairmanship, I would like to reiterate that despite the existing challenges and different perspectives, as in our case, future Chairmanships will not need the whip, let alone the life ring in order to preserve the envisaged course towards the desired destination – security community, a yurt for all.