

Second day of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting
MC(27) Journal, Agenda item 7

DECLARATION ON CO-OPERATION WITH THE OSCE ASIAN PARTNERS

1. We, the ministers for foreign affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the engaged participation of the Asian Partners for Co-operation in the OSCE. Considering that security in the OSCE area is strongly interlinked with that of the Asian region, we welcome that the partnership has been steadily strengthened over the years and note its demonstrated importance and efficiency. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the OSCE Asian Partnership for Co-operation, we renew our commitment to deepen and expand dialogue and co-operation, on the basis of the Ministerial Declaration on Co-operation with the Asian Partners (MC.DOC/10/14) and Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11, having in mind the interests and concerns shared by the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners.

2. We note with appreciation the active engagement of the Asian Partners in OSCE events and activities, including through high-level and expert representatives, as well as the generous contributions of Asian Partners to OSCE extrabudgetary projects. We encourage the Asian Partners to continue to make use of existing OSCE mechanisms, including the Partnership Fund. We take positive note of the continued high interest by the Asian Partners in the OSCE agenda, and we value the opportunity to strengthen our partnership through participation in the joint annual OSCE Asian Conferences, as well as other Asian Partner-promoted initiatives, which address topics covering the politico-military, the economic and environmental and the human dimensions of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. We call for a more proactive use by participating States and Partners for Co-operation of these events to promote an outcome-oriented dialogue. We further welcome the adaptability of the Republic of Korea to host the 2020 OSCE Asian Conference online due to the unprecedented, extraordinary and unpredictable circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. We are committed to advancing an open and frank exchange of information within the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group, which serves as the main forum for regular dialogue between OSCE participating States and Asian Partners for Co-operation. We welcome the Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/19 on renaming the Contact Group to OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group. We also welcome the decision by the 2020 OSCE Albanian Chairmanship to dedicate a Permanent Council meeting to reviewing our co-operation with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, and invite future Chairmanships to consider the possibility to continue this practice.

4. We reaffirm our readiness to share OSCE experience and best practices through various existing formats, and thereby further promote OSCE principles and commitments among the Asian Partners for Co-operation in all three dimensions, and further enhance their partnership with the OSCE and its participating States. We take note that initiatives by academia, non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society may provide additional channels to support and expand the existing dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

5. We reaffirm our long-term commitment to further strengthen the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan across all three dimensions of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, as expressed in the Ministerial Declaration on Co-operation with the Asian Partners (MC.DOC/10/14) and Ministerial Council Decisions No. 4/07 and No. 4/11. We call for continued efforts in implementing those decisions. We highlight the role the OSCE has played in supporting Afghanistan in combating transnational threats through border and customs management training, with a particular focus on countering terrorism, trafficking in drugs and illicit trafficking in cultural property. We affirm the importance of supporting efforts to ease barriers to trade between Afghanistan and its neighbours, which will boost economic growth in Afghanistan and the broader region. We take positive note of the continued and constant admission of Afghan students to the graduate programmes offered by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. We encourage leveraging partnerships with other relevant international organisations which promote regional co-operation, security and peace building in Afghanistan.

6. We encourage the Asian Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily adopt and implement OSCE principles and commitments across the OSCE's politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions, and invite future collaboration with the Asian Partners on related challenges that transcend international borders in the three dimensions.