

MC.DEL/7/15
3 December 2015

ENGLISH
Original: ITALIAN

**STATEMENT BY MR. PASQUALE VALENTINI,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO, AT THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Belgrade, 3 and 4 December 2015

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,

At the outset, I should like to thank the Government of Serbia for its generous hospitality in beautiful Belgrade. I also congratulate the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE on its excellent work.

It is difficult if not impossible to speak here today without having in mind and at heart the recent terrorist acts, a sign of an escalation in terrorism characterized by brutal acts of violence, which continue predominantly to affect innocent people going about their daily business, attacks intentionally aimed at provoking insecurity and fear among our citizens and at challenging the principles and achievements of civilization that are fundamental to the coexistence of peoples and nations.

The Parliament of the Republic of San Marino, moved by horror and outrage and bolstered by a strong tradition of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, has responded emphatically to this provocation by mobilizing all its political forces and unanimously adopting an agenda that recognizes that the seriousness of the events, exposing the vulnerability of the Western world to the transnational threat of terrorism, is a powerful indication of the need for a change in the attitude of the entire international community.

Heartfelt thoughts for the victims and their families and communities and feelings of compassion for people and institutions cannot suffice if the international community cannot act in a united and well-coordinated fashion with a determination to show an effective and positive response to the culture of hatred and violence that terrorism rides on and fosters. For the same reason, this firmness and determination must shape the agenda for our work, both in content and approach, forcing us fully to acknowledge certain priorities.

The response to the brutal violence of terrorism, which has all the characteristics of a “declaration of war”, cannot be a reactive military action, equal and opposite to the suffering experienced. War is never the solution, because security is not built with weapons but with the education of people towards a culture of welcome, solidarity and tolerance. If the response were unavoidably to involve the possibility of military action, this should not occur without the full involvement of the international organizations, within which all possible and

conceivable attempts made first of all to arrive at negotiated solutions in which the common interest of preventing the escalation and spread of acts of war and the abuse of power over entire populations, with the consequent loss of human life, prevails over national interests or the logic of opposing blocs.

With the same concern, namely to attain the full involvement of the international community, we must carefully consider, taking account of all the factors in play, what scenarios military action might entail so that, apart from the inevitable consequences of armed interventions in terms of destruction and loss of life, it does not result in serious political instability and more violence, with the dire consequences this would have for entire populations.

It is appropriate to wonder to what extent the increase in the flow of migrants in the OSCE area, with the barely acceptable human, social and economic consequences that this produces, might be the product of the conflicts which the West has also fuelled without giving sufficient consideration to the outcomes of those actions and without seeking any cohesiveness beyond national interests. The participation and highly relevant work of the OSCE should also be highlighted as an indication of the importance of the involvement of international organizations in the conflict cycle.

In the same way, the crisis in Ukraine represents a great opportunity for the OSCE to demonstrate its flexibility, promptness, relevance and effectiveness as a mediator and de-escalator. San Marino has followed the development of this crisis very closely and continues to support the work of the Trilateral Contact Group. This experience could now prove to be a useful point of departure for re-establishing and increasing mutual trust, and returning to the quest for honest and direct dialogue aimed at peace and stability.

To attain these objectives, it is essential to assist the OSCE in continuously updating its mechanisms and instruments, and promoting the non-proliferation and co-operation regimes, so as to improve the security dialogue. It is also important that our countries engage in the fight against corruption and in the promotion of good governance to ensure full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, while at the same time seeking to eliminate all forms of discrimination, to promote dialogue and tolerance of all religions, and to support the OSCE in its work to completely abolish the death penalty and the use of torture.

Mr. Chairperson,

With this awareness and this hope, San Marino reiterates its support for the OSCE and its independent institutions, the Parliamentary Assembly and the field missions, which constitute the backbone of our Organization.

In conclusion, we offer our support and our best wishes for the future German and Austrian Chairmanships.