

OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension **COMMITMENTS**

Reference Manual 2018

OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension

COMMITMENTS

Reference Manual 2018

FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

The publication is the updated version of the Reference Manual of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Commitments, published in 2014.

It contains the text of all Economic and Environmental Dimension related documents adopted at Summit and Ministerial Council levels, as well as relevant Permanent Council decisions.

The compilation is organized according to major meetings of the OSCE policy-making bodies. Section I contains documents from the Summit Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States. Section II contains all the decisions adopted by the Ministerial Council. Section III contains decisions adopted by the Permanent Council.

Printed copies of decisions, journals and other documents referred to in this manual can be obtained in the six official languages of the OSCE (English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish) upon request from the OSCE Meetings Support and Documents Distribution Unit and the OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague. Many of the documents as well as this publication are also available on the OSCE website.

We hope delegations will find this Reference Manual a useful tool during their deliberations, and welcome any comments, remarks or recommendations that would help to improve this Economic and Environmental Dimension reference series.



Ambassador Vuk Žugić

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**SECTION III
PERMANENT
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CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE – FINAL ACT

HELSINKI, 1 AUGUST 1975

[...]

CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS, OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The participating States,

Convinced that their efforts to develop co-operation in the fields of trade, industry, science and technology, the environment and other areas of economic activity contribute to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

Recognizing that co-operation in these fields would promote economic and social progress and the improvement of the conditions of life,

Aware of the diversity of their economic and social systems,

Reaffirming their will to intensify such co-operation between one another, irrespective of their systems,

Recognizing that such co-operation, with due regard for the different levels of economic development, can be developed, on the basis of equality and mutual satisfaction of the partners, and of reciprocity permitting, as a whole, an equitable distribution of advantages and obligations of comparable scale, with respect for bilateral and multilateral agreements,

Taking into account the interests of the developing countries throughout the world, including those among the participating countries as long as they are developing from the economic point of view; reaffirming their will to co-operate for the achievement of the aims and objectives established by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations in the pertinent documents concerning development, it being understood that each participating State maintains the positions it has taken on them; giving special attention to the least developed countries,

Convinced that the growing world-wide economic interdependence calls for increasing common and effective efforts towards the solution of major world economic problems such as food, energy, commodities, monetary and financial problems, and therefore emphasizes the need for promoting stable and equitable international economic relations, thus contributing to the continuous and diversified economic development of all countries,

Having taken into account the work already undertaken by relevant international organizations and wishing to take advantage of the possibilities offered by these organizations, in particular by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, for giving effect to the provisions of the final documents of the Conference,

Considering that the guidelines and concrete recommendations contained in the following texts are aimed at promoting further development of their mutual economic relations, and convinced that their co-operation in this field should take place in full respect for the principles guiding relations among participating States as set forth in the relevant document,

Have adopted the following:

1. COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES

General provisions

The participating States,

Conscious of the growing role of international trade as one of the most important factors in economic growth and social progress,

Recognizing that trade represents an essential sector of their co-operation, and bearing in mind that the provisions contained in the above preamble apply in particular to this sector,

Considering that the volume and structure of trade among the participating States do not in all cases correspond to the possibilities created by the current level of their economic, scientific and technological development,

are resolved to promote, on the basis of the modalities of their economic co-operation, the expansion of their mutual trade in goods and services, and to ensure conditions favourable to such development;

recognize the beneficial effects which can result for the development of trade from the application of most favoured nation treatment;

will encourage the expansion of trade on as broad a multilateral basis as possible' thereby endeavouring to utilize the various economic and commercial possibilities;

recognize the importance of bilateral and multilateral intergovernmental and other agreements for the long-term development of trade;

note the importance of monetary and financial questions for the development of international trade, and will endeavour to deal with them with a view to contributing to the continuous expansion of trade;

will endeavour to reduce or progressively eliminate all kinds of obstacles to the development of trade;

will foster a steady growth of trade while avoiding as far as possible abrupt fluctuations in their trade;

consider that their trade in various products should be conducted in such a way as not to cause or threaten to cause serious injury - and should the situation arise, market disruption - in domestic markets for these products and in particular to the detriment of domestic producers of like or directly competitive products; as regards the concept of market disruption, it is understood that it should not be invoked in a way inconsistent with the relevant provisions of their international agreements; if they resort to safeguard measures, they will do so in conformity with their commitments in this field arising from international agreements to which they are parties and will take account of the interests of the parties directly concerned;

will give due attention to measures for the promotion of trade and the diversification of its structure;

note that the growth and diversification of trade would contribute to widening the possibilities of choice of products;

consider it appropriate to create favourable conditions for the participation of firms, organizations and enterprises in the development of trade.

Business contacts and facilities

The participating States,

Conscious, of the importance of the contribution which an improvement of business contacts, and the accompanying growth of confidence in business relationships, could make to the development of commercial and economic relations,

will take measures further to improve conditions for the expansion of contacts between representatives of official bodies, of the different organizations, enterprises, firms and banks concerned with foreign trade, in particular, where useful, between sellers and users of products and services, for the purpose of studying commercial possibilities, concluding contracts, ensuring their implementation and providing after-sales services;

will encourage organizations, enterprises and firms concerned with foreign trade to take measures to accelerate the conduct of business negotiations;

will further take measures aimed at improving working conditions of representatives of foreign organizations, enterprises, firms and banks concerned with external trade, particularly as follows:

- by providing the necessary information, including information on legislation and procedures relating to the establishment and operation of permanent representation by the above mentioned bodies;
- by examining as favourably as possible requests for the establishment of permanent representation and of offices for this purpose, including, where appropriate, the opening of joint offices by two or more firms;
- by encouraging the provision, on conditions as favourable as possible and equal for all representatives of the above/mentioned bodies, of hotel accommodation, means of communication, and of other facilities normally required by them, as well as of suitable business and residential premises for purposes of permanent representation;

recognize the importance of such measures to encourage greater participation by small and medium sized firms in trade between participating States.

Economic and commercial information

The participating States,

Conscious of the growing role of economic and commercial information in the development of international trade,

Considering that economic information should be of such a nature as to allow adequate market analysis and to permit the preparation of medium and long term forecasts, thus contributing to the establishment of a continuing flow of trade and a better utilization of commercial possibilities,

Expressing their readiness to improve the quality and increase the quantity and supply of economic and relevant administrative information,

Considering that the value of statistical information on the international level depends to a considerable extent on the possibility of its comparability,

will promote the publication and dissemination of economic and commercial information at regular intervals and as quickly as possible, in particular:

statistics concerning production, national income, budget, consumption and productivity;

- foreign trade statistics drawn up on the basis of comparable classification including breakdown by product with indication of volume and value, as well as country of origin or destination;
- laws and regulations concerning foreign trade;
- information allowing forecasts of development of the economy to assist in trade promotion, for example, information on the general orientation of national economic plans and programmes;
- other information to help businessmen in commercial contacts, for example, periodic directories, lists, and where possible, organizational charts of firms and organizations concerned with foreign trade;

will in addition to the above encourage the development of the exchange of economic and commercial information through, where appropriate, joint commissions for economic, scientific and technical co-operation, national and joint chambers of commerce, and other suitable bodies;

will support a study, in the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, of the possibilities of creating a multilateral system of notification of laws and regulations concerning foreign trade and changes therein;

will encourage international work on the harmonization of statistical nomenclatures, notably in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Marketing

The participating States,

Recognizing the importance of adapting production to the requirements of foreign markets in order to ensure the expansion of international trade,

Conscious of the need of exporters to be as fully familiar as possible with and take account of the requirements of potential users,

will encourage organizations, enterprises and firms concerned with foreign trade to develop further the knowledge and techniques required for effective marketing;

will encourage the improvement of conditions for the implementation of measures to promote trade and to satisfy the needs of users in respect of imported products, in particular through market research and advertising measures as well as, where useful, the establishment of supply facilities, the furnishing of spare parts, the functioning of after sales services, and the training of the necessary local technical personnel;

will encourage international co-operation in the field of trade promotion, including marketing, and the work undertaken on these subjects within the international bodies, in particular the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

2. INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION AND PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST

Industrial co-operation

Considering that industrial co-operation, being motivated by economic considerations, can

- create lasting ties thus strengthening long-term overall economic co-operation,
- contribute to economic growth as well as to the expansion and diversification of international trade and to a wider utilization of modern technology,
- lead to the mutually advantageous utilization of economic complementarities through better use of all factors of production, and
- accelerate the industrial development of all those who take part in such co-operation,

propose to encourage the development of industrial co-operation between the competent organizations, enterprises and firms of their countries;

consider that industrial co-operation may be facilitated by means of intergovernmental and other bilateral and multilateral agreements between the interested parties;

note that in promoting industrial co-operation they should bear in mind the economic structures and the development levels of their countries;

note that industrial co-operation is implemented by means of contracts concluded between competent organizations, enterprises and firms on the basis of economic considerations;

express their willingness to promote measures designed to create favourable conditions for industrial co-operation;

recognize that industrial co-operation covers a number of forms of economic relations going beyond the framework of conventional trade, and that in concluding contracts on industrial co-operation the partners will determine jointly the appropriate forms and conditions of co-operation, taking into account their mutual interests and capabilities;

recognize further that, if it is in their mutual interest, concrete forms such as the following may be useful for the development of industrial co-operation: joint production and sale, specialization in production and sale, construction, adaptation and modernization of industrial plants, co-operation for the setting up of complete industrial installations with a view to thus obtaining part of the resultant products, mixed companies, exchanges of <<know-how>>, of technical information, of patents and of licences, and joint industrial research within the framework of specific co-operation projects;

recognize that new forms of industrial co-operation can be applied with a view to meeting specific needs;

note the importance of economic, commercial, technical and administrative information such as to ensure the development of industrial co-operation;

Consider it desirable:

- to improve the quality and the quantity of information relevant to industrial co-operation, in particular the laws and regulations, including those relating to foreign exchange, general orientation of national economic plans and programmes as well as programme priorities and economic conditions of the market; and
- to disseminate as quickly as possible published documentation thereon;

will encourage all forms of exchange of information and communication of experience relevant to industrial co-operation, including through contacts between potential partners and, where appropriate, through joint commissions for economic, industrial, scientific and technical co-operation, national and joint chambers of commerce, and other suitable bodies;

consider it desirable, with a view to expanding industrial co-operation, to encourage the exploration of co-operation possibilities and the implementation of co-operation projects and will take measures to this end, *inter alia*, by facilitating and increasing all forms of business contacts between competent organizations, enterprises and firms and between their respective qualified personnel;

note that the provisions adopted by the Conference relating to business contacts in the economic and commercial fields also apply to foreign organizations, enterprises and firms engaged in industrial co-operation, taking into account the specific conditions of this co-operation, and will endeavour to ensure, in particular, the existence of appropriate working conditions for personnel engaged in the implementation of co-operation projects;

consider it desirable that proposals for industrial co-operation projects should be sufficiently specific and should contain the necessary economic and technical data, in particular preliminary estimates of the cost of the project. information on the form of co-operation envisaged, and market possibilities, to enable potential partners to proceed with initial studies and to arrive at decisions in the shortest possible time;

will encourage the parties concerned with industrial co-operation to take measures to accelerate the conduct of negotiations for the conclusion of co-operation contracts,

recommend further the continued examination - for example within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - of means of improving the provision of information to those concerned on general conditions of industrial co-operation and guidance on the preparation of contracts in this field;

consider it desirable to further improve conditions for the implementation of industrial co-operation projects, in particular with respect to:

- the protection of the interests of the partners in industrial co-operation projects, including the legal protection of the various kinds of property involved;

- the consideration, in ways that are compatible with their economic systems, of the needs and possibilities of industrial co-operation within the framework of economic policy and particularly in national economic plans and programmes;

consider it desirable that the partners, when concluding industrial co-operation contracts, should devote due attention to provisions concerning the extension of the necessary mutual assistance and the provision of the necessary information during the implementation of these contracts, in particular with a view to attaining the required technical level and quality of the products resulting from such co-operation;

recognize the usefulness of an increased participation of small and medium sized firms in industrial co-operation projects.

Projects of common interest

The participating States,

Considering that their economic potential and their natural resources permit, through common efforts, long-term co-operation in the implementation, including at the regional or sub-regional level, of major that these may contribute to the speeding-up of the economic development of the countries participating therein,

Considering it desirable that the competent organizations, enterprises and firms of all countries should be given the possibility of indicating their interest in participating in such projects, and, in case of agreement, of taking part in their implementation,

Noting that the provisions adopted by the Conference relating to industrial co-operation are also applicable to projects of common interest,

regard it as necessary to encourage, where appropriate, the investigation by competent and interested organizations, enterprises and firms of the possibilities for the carrying out of projects of common interest in the fields of energy resources and of the exploitation of raw materials, as well as of transport and communications;

regard it as desirable that organizations, enterprises and firms exploring the possibilities of taking part in projects of common interest exchange with their potential partners, through the appropriate channels, the requisite economic, legal, financial and technical information pertaining to these projects;

consider that the fields of energy resources, in particular, petroleum, natural gas and coal, and the extraction and processing of mineral raw materials, in particular, iron ore and bauxite, are suitable ones for strengthening long-term economic co-operation and for the development of trade which could result;

consider that possibilities for projects of common interest with a view to longterm economic co-operation also exist in the following fields:

- exchanges of electrical energy within Europe with a view to utilizing the capacity of the electrical power stations as rationally as possible;
- co-operation in research for new sources of energy and, in particular, in the field of nuclear energy;
- development of road networks and co-operation aimed at establishing a coherent navigable network in Europe;
- co-operation in research and the perfecting of equipment for multimodal transport operations and for the handling of containers;
- recommend that the States interested in projects of common interest should consider under what conditions it would be possible to establish them, and if they so desire, create the necessary conditions for their actual implementation.

3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION

Harmonization of standards

The participating States,

Recognizing the development of international harmonization of standards and technical regulations and of international co-operation in the field of certification as an important means of eliminating technical obstacles to international trade and industrial co-operation, thereby facilitating their development and increasing productivity,

reaffirm their interest to achieve the widest possible international harmonization of standards and technical regulations,

express their readiness to promote international agreements and other appropriate arrangements on acceptance of certificates of conformity with standards and technical regulations;

consider it desirable to increase international co-operation on standardization, in particular by supporting the activities of intergovernmental and other appropriate organizations in this field.

Arbitration

The participating States,

Considering that the prompt and equitable settlement of disputes which may arise from commercial transactions relating to goods and services and contracts for industrial co-operation would contribute to expanding and facilitating trade and co-operation,

Considering that arbitration is an appropriate means of settling such disputes,

recommend, where appropriate, to organizations, enterprises and firms in their countries, to include arbitration clauses in commercial contracts and industrial co-operation contracts, or in special agreements;

recommend that the provisions on arbitration should provide for arbitration under a mutually acceptable set of arbitration rules, and permit arbitration in a third country, taking into account existing intergovernmental and other agreements in this field.

Specific bilateral arrangements

The participating States,

Conscious of the need to facilitate trade and to promote the application of new forms of industrial co-operation,

will consider favourably the conclusion, in appropriate cases, of specific bilateral agreements concerning various problems of mutual interest in the fields of commercial exchanges and industrial co-operation, in particular with a view to avoiding double taxation and to facilitating the transfer of profits and the return of the value of the assets invested.

4. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The participating States,

Convinced that scientific and technological co-operation constitutes an important contribution to the strengthening of security and co-operation among them, in that it assists the effective solution of problems of common interest and the improvement of the conditions of human life,

Considering that in developing such co-operation, it is important to promote the sharing of information and experience, facilitating the study and transfer of scientific and technological achievements, as well as the access to such achievements on a mutually advantageous basis and in fields of co-operation agreed between interested parties,

Considering that it is for the potential partners, i.e. the competent organizations, institutions, enterprises, scientists and technologists of the participating States to determine the opportunities for mutually beneficial co-operation and to develop its details,

Affirming that such co-operation can be developed and implemented bilaterally and multilaterally at the governmental and non-governmental levels, for example, through intergovernmental and other agreements, international programmes, cooperative projects and commercial channels, while utilizing also various forms of contacts, including direct and individual contacts,

Aware of the need to take measures further to improve scientific and technological co-operation between them,

Possibilities for improving co-operation

Recognize that possibilities exist for further improving scientific and technological co-operation, and to this end, express their intention to remove obstacles to such co-operation, in particular through:

- the improvement of opportunities for the exchange and dissemination of scientific and technological information among the parties interested in scientific and technological research and co-operation including information related to the organization and implementation of such co-operation;

- the expeditious implementation and improvement in organization, including programmes, of international visits of scientists and specialists in connexion with exchanges, conferences and co-operation;
- the wider use of commercial channels and activities for applied scientific and technological research and for the transfer of achievements obtained in this field while providing information on and protection of intellectual and industrial property rights;

Fields of co-operation

Consider that possibilities to expand co-operation exist within the areas given below as examples, noting that it is for potential partners in the participating countries to identify and develop projects and arrangements of mutual interest and benefit:

Agriculture

Research into new methods and technologies for increasing the productivity of crop cultivation and animal husbandry; the application of chemistry to agriculture; the design, construction and utilization of agricultural machinery; technologies of irrigation and other agricultural land improvement works;

Energy

New technologies of production, transport and distribution of energy aimed at improving the use of existing fuels and sources of hydroenergy, as well as research in the field of new energy sources, including nuclear, solar and geothermal energy;

New technologies, rational use of resources

Research on new technologies and equipment designed in particular to reduce energy consumption and to minimize or eliminate waste;

Transport technology

Research on the means of transport and the technology applied to the development and operation of international, national and urban transport networks including container transport as well as transport safety;

Physics

Study of problems in high energy physics and plasma physics; research in the field of theoretical and experimental nuclear physics;

Chemistry

Research on problems in electrochemistry and the chemistry of polymers, of natural products, and of metals and alloys, as well as the development of improved chemical technology, especially materials processing; practical application of the latest achievements of chemistry to industry, construction and other sectors of the economy;

Meteorology and hydrology

Meteorological and hydrological research, including methods of collection, evaluation and transmission of data and their utilization for weather forecasting and hydrology forecasting;

Oceanography

Oceanographic research, including the study of air/sea interactions;

Seismological research

Study and forecasting of earthquakes and associated geological changes; development and research of technology of seism-resisting constructions;

Research on glaciology, permafrost and problems of life under conditions of cold

Research on glaciology and permafrost; transportation and construction technologies; human adaptation to climatic extremes and changes in the living conditions of indigenous populations;

Computer, communication and information technologies

Development of computers as well as of telecommunications and information systems; technology associated with computers and telecommunications, including their use for management systems, for production processes, for automation, for the study of economic problems, in scientific research and for the collection, processing and dissemination of information;

Space research

Space exploration and the study of the earth's natural resources and the natural environment by remote sensing in particular with the assistance of satellites and rocket-probes;

Medicine and public health

Research on cardiovascular, tumour and virus diseases, molecular biology, neurophysiology; development and testing of new drugs; study of contemporary problems of pediatrics, gerontology and the organization and techniques of medical services;

Environmental research

Research on specific scientific and technological problems related to human environment.

Forms and methods of co-operation

Express their view that scientific and technological co-operation should, in particular, employ the following forms and methods:

- exchange and circulation of books, periodicals and other scientific and technological publications and papers among interested organizations, scientific and technological institutions, enterprises and scientists and technologists, as well as participation in international programmes for the abstracting and indexing of publications;
- exchanges and visits as well as other direct contacts and communications among scientists and technologists, on the basis of mutual agreement and other arrangements, for such purposes as consultations, lecturing and conducting research, including the use of laboratories, scientific libraries, and other documentation centres in connexion therewith;
- holding of international and national conferences, symposia, seminars, courses and other meetings of a scientific and technological character, which would include the participation of foreign scientists and technologists;
- joint preparation and implementation of programmes and projects of mutual interest on the basis of consultation and agreement among all parties concerned, including, where possible and appropriate, exchanges of experience and research results, and correlation of research programmes, between scientific and technological research institutions and organizations;

- use of commercial channels and methods for identifying and transferring technological and scientific developments, including the conclusion of mutually beneficial co-operation arrangements between firms and enterprises in fields agreed upon between them and for carrying out, where appropriate, joint research and development programmes and projects;

consider it desirable that periodic exchanges of views and information take place on scientific policy, in particular on general problems of orientation and administration of research and the question of a better use of large-scale scientific and experimental equipment on a co-operative basis;

recommend that, in developing co-operation in the field of science and technology, full use be made of existing practices of bilateral and multilateral co-operation, including that of a regional or sub-regional character, together with the forms and methods of co-operation described in this document;

recommend further that more effective utilization be made of the possibilities and capabilities of existing international organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental, concerned with science and technology, for improving exchanges of information and experience, as well as for developing other forms of co-operation in fields of common interest, for example:

- in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, study of possibilities for expanding multilateral co-operation, taking into account models for projects and research used in various international organizations; and for sponsoring conferences, symposia, and study and working groups such as those which would bring together younger scientists and technologists with eminent specialists in their field;
- through their participation in particular international scientific and technological co-operation programmes, including those of UNESCO and other international organizations, pursuit of continuing progress towards the objectives of such programmes, notably those of UNISIST with particular respect to information policy guidance, technical advice, information contributions and data processing.

5. ENVIRONMENT

The participating States,

Affirming that the protection and improvement of the environment, as well as the protection of nature and the rational utilization of its resources in the interests of present and future generations, is one of the tasks of major importance to the well-being of peoples and the economic development of all countries and that many environmental problems, particularly in Europe, can be solved effectively only through close international co-operation,

Acknowledging that each of the participating States, in accordance with the principles of international law, ought to ensure, in a spirit of co-operation, that activities carried out on its territory do not cause degradation of the environment in another State or in areas lying beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Considering that the success of any environmental policy presupposes that all population groups and social forces, aware of their responsibilities, help to protect and improve the environment, which necessitates continued and thorough educative action, particularly with regard to youth,

Affirming that experience has shown that economic development and technological progress must be compatible with the protection of the environment and the preservation of historical and cultural values; that damage to the environment is best avoided by preventive measures; and that the ecological balance must be preserved in the exploitation and management of natural resources,

Aims of co-operation

Agree to the following aims of co-operation, in particular:

- to study, with a view to their solution, those environmental problems which, by their nature, are of a multilateral, bilateral, regional or sub-regional dimension; as well as to encourage the development of an interdisciplinary approach to environmental problems;
- to increase the effectiveness of national and international measures for the protection of the environment, by the comparison and, if appropriate, the harmonization of methods of gathering and analyzing facts, by improving the knowledge of pollution phenomena and rational utilization of natural resources, by the exchange of information, by the harmonization of definitions and the adoption, as far as possible, of a common terminology in the field of the environment;

- to take the necessary measures to bring environmental policies closer together and, where appropriate and possible, to harmonize them;
- to encourage, where possible and appropriate, national and international efforts by their interested organizations, enterprises and firms in the development, production and improvement of equipment designed for monitoring, protecting and enhancing the environment.

Fields of co-operation

To attain these aims, the participating States will make use of every suitable opportunity to co-operate in the field of environment and, in particular, within the areas described below as examples:

Control of air pollution

Desulphurization of fossil fuels and exhaust gases, pollution control of heavy metals, particles, aerosols, nitrogen oxides, in particular those emitted by transport, power stations, and other industrial plants; systems and methods of observation and control of air pollution and its effects, including long-range transport of air pollutants;

Water pollution control and fresh water utilization

Prevention and control of water pollution, in particular of transboundary rivers and international lakes; techniques for the improvement of the quality of water and further development of ways and means for industrial and municipal sewage effluent purification; methods of assessment of fresh water resources and the improvement of their utilization, in particular by developing methods of production which are less polluting and lead to less consumption of fresh water;

Protection of the marine environment

Protection of the marine environment of participating States, and especially the Mediterranean Sea, from pollutants emanating from land-based sources and those from ships and other vessels, notably the harmful substances listed in Annexes I and II to the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by the Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters; problems of maintaining marine ecological balances and food chains, in particular such problems as may arise from the exploration and exploitation of biological and mineral resources of the seas and the sea-bed;

Land utilization and soils

Problems associated with more effective use of lands, including land amelioration, reclamation and recultivation; control of soil pollution, water and air erosion, as well as other forms of soil degradation; maintaining and increasing the productivity of soils with due regard for the possible negative effects of the application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides;

Nature conservation and nature reserves

Protection of nature and nature reserves; conservation and maintenance of existing genetic resources, especially rare animal and plant species; conservation of natural ecological systems; establishment of nature reserves and other protected landscapes and areas, including their use for research, tourism, recreation and other purposes;

Improvement of environmental conditions in areas of human settlement

Environmental conditions associated with transport, housing, working areas, urban development and planning, water supply and sewage disposal systems; assessment of harmful effects of noise, and noise control methods; collection, treatment and utilization of wastes, including the recovery and recycling of materials; research on substitutes for non-biodegradable substances;

Fundamental research, monitoring, forecasting and assessment of environmental changes

Study of changes in climate, landscapes and ecological balances under the impact of both natural factors and human activities; forecasting of possible genetic changes in flora and fauna as a result of environmental pollution; harmonization of statistical data, development of scientific concepts and systems of monitoring networks, standardized methods of observation, measurement and assessment of changes in the biosphere; assessment of the effects of environmental pollution levels and degradation of the environment upon human health; study and development of criteria and standards for various environmental pollutants and regulation regarding production and use of various products;

Legal and administrative measures

Legal and administrative measures for the protection of the environment including procedures for establishing environmental impact assessments.

Forms and methods of co-operation

The participating States declare that problems relating to the protection and improvement of the environment will be solved on both a bilateral and a multilateral, including regional and sub-regional, basis, making full use of existing pattern and forms of co-operation. They will develop co-operation in the field of the environment in particular by taking into consideration the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment, relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Prague symposium on environmental problems.

The participating States are resolved that co-operation in the field of the environment will be implemented in particular through:

- exchanges of scientific and technical information, documentation and research results, including information on the means of determining the possible effects on the environment of technical and economic activities;
- organization of conferences, symposia and meetings of experts;
- exchanges of scientists, specialists and trainees;
- joint preparation and implementation of programmes and projects for the study and solution of various problems of environmental protection,
- harmonization, where appropriate and necessary, of environmental protection standards and norms, in particular with the object of avoiding possible difficulties in trade which may arise from efforts to resolve ecological problems of production processes and which relate to the achievement of certain environmental qualities in manufactured products,
- consultations on various aspects of environmental protection, as agreed upon among countries concerned, especially in connexion with problems which could have international consequences.

The participating States will further develop such co-operation by:

- promoting the progressive development, codification and implementation of international law as one means of preserving and enhancing the human environment, including principles and practices, as accepted by them, relating to pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of their States affecting other countries and regions;
- supporting and promoting the implementation of relevant international Conventions to which they are parties, in particular those designed to prevent and combat marine and fresh water pollution, recommending States to ratify Conventions which have already been signed, as well as considering possibilities of accepting other appropriate Conventions to which they are not parties at present;
- advocating the inclusion, where appropriate and possible, of the various areas of co-operation into the programmes of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, supporting such co-operation within the framework of the Commission and of the United Nations Environment Programme, and taking into account the work of other competent international organizations of which they are members;
- making wider use, in all types of co-operation, of information already available from national and international sources, including internationally agreed criteria, and utilizing the possibilities and capabilities of various competent international organizations.

The participating States agree on the following recommendations on specific measures:

- to develop through international co-operation an extensive programme for the monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transport of air pollutants, starting with sulphur dioxide and with possible extension to other pollutants, and to this end to take into account basic elements of a co-operation programme which were identified by the experts who met in Oslo in December 1974 at the invitation of the Norwegian Institute of Air Research;
- to advocate that within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe a study be carried out of procedures and relevant experience relating to the activities of Governments in developing the capabilities of their countries to predict adequately environmental consequences of economic activities and technological development.

6. CO-OPERATION IN OTHER AREAS

Development of transport

The participating States,

Considering that the improvement of the conditions of transport constitutes one of the factors essential to the development of co-operation among them,

Considering that it is necessary to encourage the development of transport and the solution of existing problems by employing appropriate national and international means,

Taking into account the work being carried out on these subjects by existing international organizations, especially by the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

note that the speed of technical progress in the various fields of transport makes desirable a development of co-operation and an increase in exchanges of information among them;

declare themselves in favour of a simplification and a harmonization of administrative formalities in the field of international transport, in particular at frontiers;

consider it desirable to promote, while allowing for their particular national circumstances in this sector, the harmonization of administrative and technical provisions concerning safety in road, rail, river, air and sea transport;

express their intention to encourage the development of international inland transport of passengers and goods as well as the possibilities of adequate participation in such transport on the basis of reciprocal advantage;

declare themselves in favour, with due respect for their rights and international commitments, of the elimination of disparities arising from the legal provisions applied to traffic on inland waterways which are subject to international conventions and, in particular, of the disparity in the application of those provisions; and to this end invite the member States of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, of the Danube Commission and of other bodies to develop the work and studies now being carried out, in particular within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;

express their willingness, with a view to improving international rail transport and with due respect for their rights and international commitments, to work towards the elimination of

difficulties arising from disparities in existing international legal provisions governing the reciprocal railway transport of passengers and goods between their territories;

express the desire for intensification of the work being carried out by existing international organizations in the field of transport, especially that of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and express their intention to contribute thereto by their efforts;

consider that examination by the participating States of the possibility of their accession to the different conventions or to membership of international organizations specializing in transport matters, as well as their efforts to implement conventions when ratified, could contribute to the strengthening of their co-operation in this field.

Promotion of tourism

The participating States,

Aware of the contribution made by international tourism to the development of mutual understanding among peoples, to increased knowledge of other countries' achievements in various fields, as well as to economic, social and cultural progress,

Recognizing the interrelationship between the development of tourism and measures taken in other areas of economic activity,

express their intention to encourage increased tourism on both an individual and group basis in particular by:

- encouraging the improvement of the tourist infrastructure and co-operation in this field;
- encouraging the carrying out of joint tourist projects including technical co-operation, particularly where this is suggested by territorial proximity and the convergence of tourist interests;
- encouraging the exchange of information, including relevant laws and regulations, studies, data and documentation relating to tourism, and by improving statistics with a view to facilitating their comparability;

- dealing in a positive spirit with questions connected with the allocation of financial means for tourist travel abroad, having regard to their economic possibilities, as well as with those connected with the formalities required for such travel, taking into account other provisions on tourism adopted by the Conference;
- facilitating the activities of foreign travel agencies and passenger transport companies in the promotion of international tourism;
- encouraging tourism outside the high season;
- examining the possibilities of exchanging specialists and students in the field of tourism, with a view to improving their qualifications;
- promoting conferences and symposia on the planning and development of tourism;

consider it desirable to carry out in the appropriate international framework, and with the co operation of the relevant national bodies, detailed studies on tourism, in particular:

- a comparative study on the status and activities of travel agencies as well as on ways and means of achieving better co-operation among them;
- a study of the problems raised by the seasonal concentration of vacations, with the ultimate objective of encouraging tourism outside peak periods;
- studies of the problems arising in areas where tourism has injured the environment;

consider also that interested parties might wish to study the following questions:

- uniformity of hotel classification; and
- tourist routes comprising two or more countries;

will endeavour, where possible, to ensure that the development of tourism does not injure the environment and the artistic, historic and cultural heritage in their respective countries;

will pursue their co-operation in the field of tourism bilaterally and multilaterally with a view to attaining the above objectives.

Economic and social aspects of migrant labour

The participating States,

Considering that the movements of migrant workers in Europe have reached substantial proportions, and that they constitute an important economic, social and human factor for host countries as well as for countries of origin,

Recognizing that workers' migrations have also given rise to a number of economic, social, human and other problems in both the receiving countries and the countries of origin,

Taking due account of the activities of the competent international organizations, more particularly the International Labour Organisation, in this area,

are of the opinion that the problems arising bilaterally from the migration of workers in Europe as well as between the participating States should be dealt with by the parties directly concerned, in order to resolve these problems in their mutual interest, in the light of the concern of each State involved to take due account of the requirements resulting from its socio-economic situation, having regard to the obligation of each State to comply with the bilateral and multilateral agreements to which it is party, and with the following aims in view:

to encourage the efforts of the countries of origin directed towards increasing the possibilities of employment for their nationals in their own territories, in particular by developing economic co-operation appropriate for this purpose and suitable for the host countries and the countries of origin concerned;

to ensure, through collaboration between the host country and the country of origin, the conditions under which the orderly movement of workers might take place, while at the same time protecting their personal and social welfare and, if appropriate;

to organize the recruitment of migrant workers and the provision of elementary language and vocational training;

to ensure equality of rights between migrant workers and nationals of the host countries with regard to conditions of employment and work and to social security, and to endeavour to ensure that migrant workers may enjoy satisfactory living conditions, especially housing conditions;

to endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, that migrant workers may enjoy the same opportunities as nationals of the host countries of finding other suitable employment in the event of unemployment;

to regard with favour the provision of vocational training to migrant workers and, as far as possible, free instruction in the language of the host country, in the framework of their employment;

to confirm the right of migrant workers to receive, as far as possible, regular information in their own language, covering both their country of origin and the host country;

to ensure that the children of migrant workers established in the host country have access to the education usually given there, under the same conditions as the children of that country and, furthermore, to permit them to receive supplementary education in their own language, national culture, history and geography;

to bear in mind that migrant workers, particularly those who have acquired qualifications, can by returning to their countries after a certain period of time help to remedy any deficiency of skilled labour in their country of origin;

to facilitate, as far as possible, the reuniting of migrant workers with their families;

to regard with favour the efforts of the countries of origin to attract the savings of migrant workers, with a view to increasing, within the framework of their economic development, appropriate opportunities for employment, thereby facilitating the reintegration of these workers on their return home.

Training of personnel

The participating States,

Conscious of the importance of the training and advanced training of professional staff and technicians for the economic development of every country,

declare themselves willing to encourage co-operation in this field notably by promoting exchange of information on the subject of institutions, programmes and methods of training and advanced training open to professional staff and technicians in the various sectors of economic activity and especially in those of management, public planning, agriculture and commercial and banking techniques;

consider that it is desirable to develop, under mutually acceptable conditions, exchanges of professional staff and technicians, particularly through training activities, of which it would be left to the competent and interested bodies in the participating States to discuss the modalities - duration, financing, education and qualification levels of potential participants;

declare themselves in favour of examining, through appropriate channels, the possibilities of cooperating on the organization and carrying out of vocational training on the job, more particularly in professions involving modern techniques.

[...]

CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE MADRID MEETING 1980 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE, HELD ON THE BASIS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT RELATING TO THE FOLLOW UP TO THE CONFERENCE

MADRID, 6 SEPTEMBER 1983

[...]

CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS, OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The participating States consider that the implementation of all provisions of the Final Act and full respect for the principles guiding relations among them set out therein are an essential basis for the development of co-operation among them in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment. At the same time they reaffirm their conviction that co-operation in these fields contributes to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole. In this spirit they reiterate their resolve to pursue and intensify such co-operation between one another, irrespective of their economic and social systems.

The participating States confirm their interest in promoting adequate, favourable conditions in order further to develop trade and industrial co-operation among them, in particular by fully implementing all provisions of the second chapter of the Final Act, so as to make greater use of the possibilities created by their economic, scientific and technical potential. In this context and taking into consideration the efforts already made unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally in order to overcome all kinds of obstacles to trade, they reaffirm their intention to make further efforts aimed at reducing or progressively eliminating all kinds of obstacles to the development of trade.

Taking account of the activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) already carried out in the field of all kinds of obstacles to trade, they recommend that further work on this subject be directed in particular towards identifying these obstacles and examining them with a view to finding means for their reduction or progressive elimination, in order to contribute to harmonious development of their economic relations.

On the basis of the provisions of the Final Act concerning business contacts and facilities the participating States declare their intention to make efforts to enable business negotiations and activities to be carried out more efficiently and expeditiously and further to create conditions facilitating closer contacts between representatives and experts of seller firms on the one hand and buyer as well as user firms on the other at all stages of transaction.

They will also further other forms of operational contacts between sellers and users such as the holding of technical symposia and demonstrations and after-sales training or requalification courses for technical staff of user firms and organizations.

They also agree to take measures further to develop and improve facilities and working conditions for representatives of foreign firms and organizations on their territory, including telecommunications facilities for representatives of such firms and organizations, as well as to develop these and other amenities for temporarily resident staff including particularly site personnel. They will endeavour further to take measures to speed up as far as possible procedures for the registration of foreign firms' representations and offices as well as for granting entry visas to business representatives.

The participating States declare their intention to ensure the regular publication and dissemination, as rapidly as possible, of economic and commercial information compiled in such a way as to facilitate the appreciation of market opportunities and thus to contribute effectively to the process of developing international trade and industrial co-operation.

To this end and in order to make further progress in achieving the aims laid down in the relevant provisions of the Final Act they intend to intensify their efforts to improve the comparability, comprehensiveness and clarity of their economic and commercial statistics, in particular by adopting where necessary the following measures: by accompanying their economic and trade statistics by adequately defined summary indices based wherever possible on constant values; by publishing their interim statistics whenever technically possible at least on a quarterly basis; by publishing their statistical compilations in sufficient detail to achieve the aims referred to above, in particular by using for their foreign trade statistics a product breakdown permitting the identification of particular products for purposes of market analysis; by striving to have their economic and trade statistics no less comprehensive than those previously published by the State concerned.

They further express their willingness to co-operate towards the early completion of work in the appropriate United Nations bodies on the harmonization and alignment of statistical nomenclatures.

The participating States further recognize the usefulness of making economic and commercial information existing in other participating States readily available to enterprises and firms in their countries through appropriate channels.

The participating States, conscious of the need further to improve the conditions conducive to a more efficient functioning of institutions and firms acting in the field of marketing, will promote a more active exchange of knowledge and techniques required for effective marketing, and will encourage more intensive relations among such institutions and firms. They agree to make full use of the possibilities offered by the ECE to further their co-operation in this field.

The participating States note the increasing frequency in their economic relations of compensation transactions in all their forms. They recognize that a useful role can be played by such transactions, concluded on a mutually acceptable basis. At the same time they recognize that problems can be created by the linkage in such transactions between purchases and sales.

Taking account of the studies of the ECE already carried out in this field, they recommend that further work on this subject be directed in particular towards identifying such problems and examining ways of solving them in order to contribute to a harmonious development of their economic relations.

The participating States recognize that the expansion of industrial co-operation, on the basis of their mutual interest and motivated by economic considerations, can contribute to the further development and diversification of their economic relations and to a wider utilization of modern technology.

They note the useful role bilateral agreements on economic, industrial and technical co-operation, including where appropriate, those of a long-term nature can play. They also express their willingness to promote favourable conditions for the development of industrial co-operation among competent organizations, enterprises and firms. To this end and with a view to facilitating the identification of new possibilities for industrial co-operation projects they recognize the desirability of further developing and improving the conditions for business activities and the exchange of economic and commercial information among competent organizations, enterprises and firms including small and medium-sized enterprises.

They also note that, if it is in the mutual interest of potential partners, new forms of industrial co-operation can be envisaged, including those with organizations, institutions and firms of third countries.

They recommend that the ECE pursue and continue to pay particular attention to its activities in the field of industrial co-operation, *inter alia* by further directing its efforts towards examining ways of promoting favourable conditions for the development of co-operation in this field, including the organization of symposia and seminars.

The participating States declare their readiness to continue their efforts aiming at a wider participation by small and medium-size enterprises in trade and industrial co-operation. Aware of the problems particularly affecting such enterprises, the participating States will endeavour further to improve the conditions dealt with in the preceding paragraphs in order to facilitate the operations of these enterprises in the above-mentioned fields. The participating States further recommend that the ECE develop its special studies pertaining to these problems.

The participating States recognize the increasing importance of co-operation in the field of energy, *inter alia* that of a long-term nature, on both a bilateral and multilateral basis.

Welcoming the results so far achieved through such endeavours and in particular the work carried out by the ECE they express their support for continuing the co-operation pursued by the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy aiming at the fulfilment of all parts of their mandate.

The participating States reaffirm their interest in reducing and preventing technical barriers to trade and welcome the increased co-operation in this field, *inter alia* the work of the Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies in the ECE. They will encourage the conclusion of international certification arrangements covering where appropriate the mutual acceptance of certification systems providing mutually satisfactory guarantees.

The participating States recommend that appropriate action be taken in order to facilitate the use and enlarge the scope of arbitration as an instrument for settling disputes in international trade and industrial co-operation. They recommend in particular the application of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards of 1958 as well as a wider recourse to the arbitration rules elaborated by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. They also advocate that parties should, on the basis of the provisions of the Final Act, be allowed freedom in the choice of arbitrators and the place of arbitration, including the choice of arbitrators and the place of arbitration in a third country.

The participating States recognize the important role of scientific and technical progress in the economic and social development of all countries in particular those which are developing from an economic point of view. Taking into account the objectives which

countries or institutions concerned pursue in their bilateral and multilateral relations they underline the importance of further developing, on the basis of reciprocal advantage and on the basis of mutual agreement and other arrangements, the forms and methods of co-operation in the field of science and technology provided for in the Final Act, for instance international programmes and co-operative projects, while utilizing also various forms of contacts, including direct and individual contacts among scientists and specialists as well as contacts and communications among interested organizations, scientific and technological institutions and enterprises.

In this context they recognize the value of an improved exchange and dissemination of information concerning scientific and technical developments as a means of facilitating, on the basis of mutual advantage, the study and the transfer of, as well as access to scientific and technical achievements in fields of co-operation agreed between interested parties.

The participating States recommend that in the field of science and technology the ECE should give due attention, through appropriate ways and means, to the elaboration of studies and practical projects for the development of co-operation among member countries.

Furthermore, the participating States, aware of the relevant part of the Report of the "Scientific Forum", agree to encourage the development of scientific co-operation in the field of agriculture at bilateral, multilateral and sub-regional levels, with the aim, *inter alia*, of improving livestock and plant breeding and ensuring optimum use and conservation of water resources. To this end, they will promote further co-operation among research institutions and centres in their countries, through the exchange of information, the joint implementation of research programmes, the organization of meetings among scientists and specialists, and other methods.

The participating States invite the ECE and other competent international organizations to support the implementation of these activities and to examine the possibilities of providing a wider exchange of scientific and technological information in the field of agriculture.

The participating States welcome with satisfaction the important steps taken to strengthen co-operation within the framework of the ECE in the field of the environment, including the High-Level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment (13-16 November 1979). Taking due account of work undertaken or envisaged in other competent international organizations, they recommend the continuation of efforts in this field, including, *inter alia*.

- giving priority to the effective implementation of the provisions of the Resolution on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution adopted at the High-Level Meeting,

- the early ratification of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution signed at the High-Level Meeting,
- implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Declaration on Low and Non-Waste Technology and Reutilization and Recycling of Wastes,
- implementation of Decision B and C of the thirty-fifth session of the ECE concerning the Declaration of Policy on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, including transboundary pollution,
- support in carrying out the programme of work of the ECE concerning the protection of the environment, including, *inter alia*, the work under way in the field of the protection of flora and fauna.

In the context of the provisions of the Final Act concerning migrant labour in Europe, the participating States note that recent developments in the world economy have affected the situation of migrant workers. In this connection, the participating States express their wish that host countries and countries of origin, guided by a spirit of mutual interest and co-operation, intensify their contacts with a view to improving further the general situation of migrant workers and their families, *inter alia* the protection of their human rights including their economic, social and cultural rights while taking particularly into account the special problems of second generation migrants. They will also endeavour to provide or promote, where reasonable demand exists, adequate teaching of the language and culture of the countries of origin.

The participating States recommend that, among other measures for facilitating the social and economic reintegration of returning migrant labour, the payment of pensions as acquired or established under the social security system to which such workers have been admitted in the host country should be ensured by appropriate legislative means or reciprocal agreements.

The participating States further recognize the importance for their economic development of promoting the exchange of information and experience on training for management staff. To this end they recommend the organization, in an appropriate existing framework and with the help of interested organizations such as, for example, the ECE and the international Labour Organisation, of a symposium of persons responsible for services and institutions specializing in management training for administrations and enterprises with a view to exchanging information on training problems and methods, comparing experiences and encouraging the development of relations among the centres concerned.

The participating States welcome the valuable contribution made by the ECE to the multilateral implementation of the provisions of the Final Act pertaining to co-operation in the fields of economics, of science and technology and of the environment. Aware of the potential of the ECE for intensifying co-operation in these fields, they recommend the fullest use of the existing mechanisms and resources in order to continue and consolidate the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Act in the interest of its member countries, including those within the ECE region which are developing from an economic point of view.

The participating States, bearing in mind their will expressed in the provisions of the Final Act, reiterate the determination of each of them to promote stable and equitable international economic relations in the mutual interest of all States and, in this spirit, to participate equitably in promoting and strengthening economic co-operation with the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them. They also note the usefulness, *inter alia*, of identifying and executing, in co-operation with developing countries, concrete projects, with a view to contributing to economic development in these countries.

They also declare their readiness to contribute to common efforts towards the establishment of a new international economic order and the implementation of the Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, as adopted. They recognize the importance of the launching of mutually beneficial and adequately prepared global negotiations relating to international economic co-operation for development.

[...]

**CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE VIENNA MEETING 1986
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE
CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE,
HELD ON THE BASIS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT
RELATING TO THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONFERENCE**

VIENNA, 15 JANUARY 1989

[...]

**CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS, OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY AND OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The participating States reaffirm their willingness to further their co-operation in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment, and to promote stable and equitable international economic relations in the interest of all States. They express their readiness to intensify the dialogue in the competent fora with a view to facilitating appropriate solutions for key interrelated economic issues such as money, finance, debt and trade. In this connection, they stress the importance of policies aimed at promoting structural adjustments, stimulating the growth of national economies and creating an international economic environment conducive to development.

The participating States recognize the important role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in fostering regional economic co-operation and in contributing to the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and subsequent CSCE documents. They express their readiness to make further use of the existing framework, resources and experience of the ECE in areas which are of significance for the implementation of recommendations of the CSCE.

Trade and industrial co-operation

- (1) In order to make better use of their economic potential, and to foster the expansion of their commercial exchanges, the participating States will make further efforts to promote favourable conditions for trade and industrial co-operation, taking into account all the relevant provisions of the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document.

- (2) The participating States recognize the importance of favourable business conditions for the development of trade between them. They will facilitate direct contacts between business people, potential buyers and end-users, including on-site contacts relevant to the business intended or being transacted. They will take measures to improve working conditions for business people, regarding, among other things, accreditation, accommodation, communications, and recruitment and management of personnel. They will also take measures to avoid unjustifiable delays in visa procedures and customs clearance. Further, they recognize the opportunities offered by trade fairs and exhibitions for developing commercial contacts and achieving concrete business results.
- (3) The participating States will continue their efforts further to reduce or progressively eliminate obstacles of all kinds to trade, thus contributing to the expansion and diversification of their commercial relations. They express their support for the work done in this field in appropriate international fora.
- (4) The participating States will encourage forms of trade compatible with the efficient conduct of international business relations and will also encourage business partners to decide independently upon their trading patterns. As to compensation transactions in all their forms, they recommend that proposals of this kind be addressed at the beginning of negotiations and, when agreed upon, dealt with in a flexible way, especially regarding the choice of products. In this connection, the special concerns of small and medium-sized enterprises should be taken into account. The participating States recognize the valuable role of the ECE in dealing with questions related to compensation transactions.
- (5) The participating States recognize that, within their respective economies, increased autonomy for enterprises can help achieve a better response to market needs and thus contribute to the development of trade and co-operation among them.
- (6) In order to facilitate the identification of market opportunities, the participating States will further promote the publication and availability of comprehensive, comparable and timely economic and commercial information. They will publish up-to-date macroeconomic information and statistics, and envisage making balance of payment figures available. They will also provide the United Nations trade databank, COMTRADE, with detailed data in a format relevant to the efficient conduct of foreign trade. They will encourage co-operation between their statistical services and within the framework of the ECE in order, inter alia, to facilitate the identification of disparities in foreign trade statistics and to improve the international comparability of such statistics. Furthermore, they consider it useful to increase the

publication and exchange of statistics on such topics as demography, public health, agriculture, the environment and energy.

- (7) Noting the growing importance of services in their mutual economic relations, the participating States will examine, in appropriate bodies, developments in this area and prospects for improved access to the services market.
- (8) Affirming the importance of industrial co-operation in their long-term economic relations, the participating States will promote measures designed to create favourable conditions for the development of such co-operation. They will therefore examine, within the competent fora, the improvement of the legal, administrative and economic framework for industrial co-operation. Furthermore, they will encourage contacts between potential partners, develop exchanges of appropriate information and promote the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in industrial co-operation.
- (9) The participating States recognize that productive, competitive and profit-earning joint ventures can play a role in mutually beneficial industrial co-operation. They will improve the legal, administrative and financial conditions for investment in, and operation of, joint ventures. They will also promote the exchange of all information relevant to the establishment of joint ventures, including all necessary technical information, as well as information on management, labour conditions, accounting and taxation, repatriation of profits and the protection of investments, production conditions and access to domestic supplies and markets.
- (10) The participating States stress the importance of their standardization policies and practices, and of related activities, for the facilitation of international trade, especially regarding products subject to compulsory certification. Accordingly, they will consider mutual recognition of their national testing and certification procedures and practices, and promote co-operation among relevant national bodies and within international organizations including the ECE.
- (11) The participating States recognize the growing importance of effective marketing in the development of trade and industrial co-operation, in the production and promotion of new products and in meeting the needs of the consumer. Given the growth of marketing opportunities, they will seek to improve the conditions for firms and organizations engaging in research into domestic or foreign markets and in other marketing activities.

- (12) The participating States affirm the usefulness for all enterprises, and especially for small and medium-sized ones, of flexible and mutually agreed arbitration provisions for ensuring the equitable settlement of disputes in international trade and industrial co-operation. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document, they attach particular importance to freedom in the choice of arbitrators, including the presiding arbitrator, and of the country of arbitration. They recommend that consideration be given to the adoption of the Model Law on international commercial arbitration of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). In addition, they recognize the value of agreements on co-operation in the field of commercial arbitration between Chambers of Commerce and other arbitration bodies.
- (13) The participating States agree to convene a Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe. This Conference will take place in Bonn from 19 March to 11 April 1990. The aim of the Conference is to provide new impulses for economic relations between participating States, in particular by improving business conditions for commercial exchanges and industrial co-operation and by considering new possibilities for, and ways of, economic co-operation. The Conference will be attended by representatives of the participating States and of the business community. The agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities are set out in Annex V. The next Follow-up Meeting, to be held in Helsinki, commencing on 24 March 1992, will assess the results achieved at the Conference.

Science and technology

- (14) The participating States emphasize the important role of science and technology in their overall economic and social development, bearing in mind particularly those sciences and technologies which are of direct relevance to improving the quality of life.
- (15) Recognizing the importance of scientific and technological co-operation, the participating States will develop further mutually advantageous co-operation in the fields already set forth in the Final Act, and will examine possibilities for co-operation in new areas of growing importance and common interest. Furthermore, they express their intention to improve conditions for such co-operation by fostering the exchange of information on, and experience with, scientific and technological achievements, having in mind especially the interests of the countries of the region which are developing from the economic point of view.

- (16) The participating States also reaffirm the role of general intergovernmental agreements as well as of bilateral agreements involving universities, scientific and technological institutions and industry, in developing mutually beneficial exchanges. Underlining the importance of freedom of communication and exchange of views for progress in science and technology, they will promote and support direct and individual contacts between scientists, specialists and interested business people. Recapping the conclusions reached at the Hamburg Scientific Forum, they will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, which represent one of the foundations for a significant improvement in international scientific co-operation at all levels. They will also endeavour to create conditions enabling interested partners to develop appropriate joint research programmes and projects on the basis of reciprocity and mutual advantage and, when appropriate, on a commercial basis.
- (17) Given the depletion of natural resources, including non-renewable sources of energy, the participating States will promote co-operation in the rational use of such resources, and in the use of alternative sources of energy, including thermonuclear fusion.
- (18) Taking note of the progress made in, and the new opportunities offered by, research and development in biotechnology, the participating States consider it desirable to enhance the exchange of information on laws and regulations relating to the safety aspects of genetic engineering. They will therefore facilitate consultation and exchange of information on safety guidelines. In this context, they emphasize the importance of ethical principles when dealing with genetic engineering and its application.
- (19) The participating States will develop their co-operation in medical and related sciences by intensifying research and the exchange of information on drug abuse and on new or increasingly widespread diseases. They will co-operate in particular in combating the spread of AIDS, taking into account the Global AIDS Strategy of the World Health Organization (WHO). They will also co-operate in research concerning the long-term consequences of radiation.
- (20) The participating States recognize the importance of scientific research, of environmentally sound technologies and, in particular, of improved international co-operation in these fields, for the monitoring, prevention and reduction of pollution. They will therefore promote, *inter alia* within the relevant international fora, exchange of information on, and experience with, these technologies. In this respect they will also promote, on a commercial basis, exchanges in the fields of pollution-abatement technologies, technologies and products with less or no

emission of ozone-depleting substances, processing and combustion techniques, new methods of waste treatment including recycling and disposal, and low- and non-waste technologies.

- (21) The participating States will exchange appropriate information in specific fields of engineering industries and automation. They will do this on the basis of mutual advantage for potential partners, who will decide independently on the areas of co-operation and with due respect for bilateral and multilateral agreements. To this end they will, *inter alia* develop statistics in fields of engineering industries of commercial importance.
- (22) In the context of their scientific and technological co-operation, the participating States will consider the possibility of encouraging the development and use of alternatives to animal experimentation, including for product testing.
- (23) In the important field of nuclear energy, the participating States recognize that, while individual States should assume full responsibility for the safety of their own nuclear facilities, nuclear safety requires closer international co-operation, especially within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). They note that it is essential to maintain the highest possible safety standards in the management and operation of nuclear facilities. They therefore support the work done within the IAEA in developing basic safety principles, and urge all States to use the revised Nuclear Safety Standards-NUSS codes as a basis for regulating nuclear safety practices. They also recall the need further to improve the efficiency of the existing system of nuclear liability.

Environment

- (24) Recognizing the need for preventive action, the participating States will strengthen their co-operation and intensify efforts aimed at protecting and improving the environment, bearing in mind the need to maintain and restore the ecological balance in air, water and soil. They will do this by, *inter alia* developing their internal legislation and their international commitments, and by applying the best available means, taking into account levels of developments as well as economic and technical constraints. They underline the importance of the Regional Strategy for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources in ECE Member Countries Covering the Period up to the Year 2000 and Beyond. They welcome, and will take due account of, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as well as the work already undertaken within the competent international

fora, in particular within the framework of the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (hereafter called “the Convention”).

- (25) The participating States are convinced of the need for timely and effective reductions of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes. They call upon Contracting Parties and Signatories to the Convention to become parties to the Protocol on the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent. They recommend that further steps to reduce sulphur emissions, in line with the objectives of the Protocol, be taken by those States which are not parties to the Protocol, and that those States where this goal is already accomplished continue to control their emissions. Recalling that the said Protocol provides for reductions of sulphur emissions at the latest by 1993, they will work within the framework of the Convention for the elaboration at an early date of an arrangement for further reductions of sulphur emissions beyond the level established by the Protocol.
- (26) The participating States consider that control and reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions, or their transboundary fluxes, deserve high priority in their pollution abatement programmes. They welcome the elaboration and adoption of the Protocol on Control of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions.
- (27) Furthermore, they recognize the need to develop, within the framework of the Convention, arrangements to reduce emissions of other relevant air pollutants such as hydrocarbons and those producing photochemical oxidants. They will strengthen their co-operation accordingly, including by collecting and processing the necessary information.
- (28) The participating States agree to strengthen and develop the co-operative programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), *inter alia* through extending and improving the system of monitoring stations, providing EMEP with the necessary information regarding emissions of pollutants, further developing comparable methods of measurement, and expanding coverage to include other relevant air pollutants, in particular nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and photochemical oxidants. They also recommend that those countries which have not yet done so should become parties to the Protocol on the Long-Term Financing of EMEP.
- (29) The participating States will make every effort to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Further, they will

foster national action and international co-operation on the control and reduction of the emission of ozone-depleting substances.

- (30) The participating States agree that further national and international research efforts should be made regarding the global warming phenomenon, and the role played therein by emissions of carbon dioxide and trace gases, in order to provide a scientific basis for mitigative action.
- (31) In order to protect and improve freshwater resources and to reduce significantly the pollution of seas and coastal areas, transboundary watercourses and international lakes from all sources of pollution, the participating States will develop and intensify national efforts as well as bilateral and multilateral co-operation. They recommend the elaboration of a framework convention or specific conventions to improve the protection of transboundary watercourses and international lakes. They will reduce significantly discharges of toxic, persistent and potentially hazardous substances. Furthermore they will devote special attention to the development of appropriate alternatives to sea disposal in order to decrease progressively and substantially the dumping of harmful wastes and the incineration of noxious liquid wastes at sea, with a view to the early termination of such methods.
- (32) The participating States recognize the need to improve international co-operation on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. Taking into account the valuable work done in other international fora, they will encourage the elaboration of international agreements, including a global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.
- (33) The participating States will seek closer co-operation and greater exchange of information on the problems associated with potentially hazardous chemical including assessment of the risks to health and the environment. They will explore possibilities for closer harmonization of their legislation and regulations on the handling of these chemicals.
- (34) The participating States will strengthen international co-operation on natural resources and flora and fauna. They will promote early accession to, and effective implementation of, relevant agreements. They will also develop further effective measures to combat soil degradation and to protect flora, fauna and their habitats on the basis of the Declaration on this subject adopted by the ECE. They will intensify their exchanges of views and experience on ways and means of achieving a more rational use of natural resources.

- (35) The participating States acknowledge the importance of the contribution of persons and organizations dedicated to the protection and improvement of the environment, and will allow them to express their concerns. They will promote greater public awareness and understanding of environmental issues and will co-operate in the field of environmental education, *inter alia* through exchanges of experience and results of research studies, development of educational programmes and ecological training.
- (36) The participating States will cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally with a view to improving and co-ordinating their arrangements for prevention, early warning, exchange of information and mutual assistance in cases of industrial accidents likely to cause transboundary damage to the environment. They will also initiate the examination of key elements related to the transboundary character of industrial accidents, such as clean-up, restoration and liability.
- (37) The participating States agree to convene a Meeting on the protection of the environment. This Meeting will take place in Sofia from 16 October to 3 November 1989. The aim of the Meeting is to elaborate recommendations on principles and guidelines for further measures and co-operation in new and important areas of environmental protection. The agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities are set out in Annex VI. The next Follow-up Meeting, to be held in Helsinki, commencing on 24 March 1992, will assess the results achieved at the Meeting.

Co-operation in other areas

- (38) The participating States recognize the important role of transport in economic and social development and the overall consequences of increased activity in the transport sector, including problems related to the environment. They will therefore encourage the elaboration of measures for achieving an economically more efficient transport system, taking into account the relative merits of different modes of transport and their potential effects on human health, safety and the environment. In this connection they will, through bilateral and multilateral means, give particular attention to questions concerning multimodal transport networks, combined transport, transit routes and the simplification of transport formalities and, in particular, of transport documents. They also welcome the work done by the ECE in this context.
- (39) The participating States underline the economic importance of tourism and its contribution to the mutual understanding of peoples. They therefore favour

the development of co-operation in this field and will facilitate normal contacts between tourists and the local population. To this end they will endeavour to improve the infrastructure for tourism, *inter alia* by diversifying accommodation and by developing facilities for low-budget and youth tourism, including small-scale private accommodation. They will also consider in a positive spirit the progressive phasing out, for foreign tourists, of minimum exchange requirements where they apply, allow the reconversion of legally acquired local currency, and, furthermore, encourage non-discriminatory pricing for all foreign tourists irrespective of their nationality. They will also reduce arrival and departure procedures to the necessary minimum. The participating States will create conditions conducive to the establishment of joint projects in the field of tourism, including joint ventures and personnel training programmes.

- (40) The participating States emphasize the need for effective implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document relating to migrant workers and their families in Europe. They invite host countries and countries of origin to make efforts to improve further the economic, social, cultural and other conditions of life for migrant workers and their families legally residing in the host countries. They recommend that host countries and countries of origin should promote their bilateral co-operation in relevant fields with a view to facilitating the reintegration of migrant workers and their families returning to their country of origin.
- (41) The participating States will, in accordance with their relevant commitments undertaken in the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document, consider favourably applications for family reunification as well as family contacts and visits involving migrant workers from other participating States legally residing in the host countries.
- (42) The participating States will ensure that migrant workers from other participating States, and their families, can freely enjoy and maintain their national culture and have access to the culture of the host country.
- (43) Aiming at ensuring effective equality of opportunity between the children of migrant workers and the children of their own nationals regarding access to all forms and levels of education, the participating States affirm their readiness to take measures needed for the better use and improvement of educational opportunities. Furthermore, they will encourage or facilitate, where reasonable demand exists, supplementary teaching in their mother tongue for the children of migrant workers.

- (44) The participating States recognize that issues of migrant workers have their human dimension.
- (45) The participating States acknowledge that the impact of economic and technological change is being acutely felt in the work place. They underline their readiness to encourage co-operation in the field of vocational training policy through increased exchange of information and experience, with the aim of enhancing the educational standards, professional knowledge, skills and adaptability of personnel involved in industry and commerce.
- (46) The participating States recognize the importance of facilitating the integration of young people into professional life. They will therefore continue their efforts to ensure the necessary conditions for the education and vocational training of young people and to promote youth employment opportunities in various sectors of the economy. They will continue their efforts to create conditions for developing the level of scientific and cultural knowledge of their citizens, especially young people, and for facilitating their access to achievements in the areas of natural and social sciences, as well as culture.

REPORT ON CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

SOFIA 1989/VIENNA 1990

The representatives of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy -European Community, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia,

Conscious of the new situation and of the development of security, stability and co-operation in Europe, and in the context of preparing a Summit Meeting in Paris,

Having taken into account document CSCE/SEM.36/Rev.1 of the Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment and Journal No.2/Rev.1 of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe,

Have adopted the attached Report on Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting on the Protection of the Environment of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Vienna, 5 November 1990

Report on Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting on the Protection of the Environment of the Conference on Security and Co-Operation in Europe

In accordance with the mandate of the Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting of the representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Meeting on the Protection of the Environment took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 16 October to 3 November 1989.

During the formal opening of the Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, the participants were welcomed by H.E. Mr. Todor Zhivkov, President of the State Council of

the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Opening statements were made by representatives of the participating States. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) made contributions to the Meeting.

The Meeting reviewed the work already done, or currently under way, in the fields of prevention and control of the transboundary effects of industrial accidents, management of potentially hazardous chemicals, and pollution of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, and examined possibilities for further measures and co-operation, including improved exchange of information.

A general debate in the Plenary included an exchange of views on items 4 and 5 of the Agenda and on other relevant provisions of the Vienna Concluding Document.

Subsidiary Working Body I dealt with the legal, administrative and practical aspects of issues such as liability and restoration, systems of alert, assistance upon request, preventive measures, information flows and consultations.

Subsidiary Working Body II dealt with the scientific, technical and technological aspects of issues such as preventive measures, risk assessment, assessment of damage, clean-up, measurement and monitoring.

The participating States are aware of the opportunities, as they became apparent during the Meeting, for increased co-operation in the CSCE process, with regard to the protection of the environment. They reaffirm their will to strengthen their co-operation and intensify efforts aimed at protecting and improving the environment, bearing in mind the need to maintain and restore the ecological balance in air, water and soil. They also recall their commitment in the Vienna Concluding Document to acknowledge the importance of the contribution of persons and organizations dedicated to the protection and improvement of the environment, and to allow them to express their concerns. They reiterate their willingness to promote greater public awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

The participating States reaffirm their respect for the right of individuals, groups and organizations concerned with environmental issues to express freely their views, to associate with others, to peacefully assemble, as well as to obtain, publish and distribute information on these issues, without legal and administrative impediments inconsistent with the CSCE provisions. These individuals, groups and organizations have the right to participate in public debates on environmental issues, as well as to establish and maintain direct and independent contacts at national and international level.

The participating States will also encourage education and instruction on environmental protection, promote the reproduction, circulation and exchange of information and data, as well as of audio-visual and printed material, on environmental issues, and encourage public access to such information, data and material.

The participating States will also stimulate exchange of information and environmental data, and foster scientific and technological co-operation in order to prevent and reduce pollution.

On the basis of the discussions held during the Meeting, the participating States recommend:

- that the ECE elaborate an international convention, code of practice or other appropriate legal instruments on the prevention and control of the transboundary effects of industrial accidents;
- the development of international exchange of information and the co-ordination of efforts in order to achieve closer harmonization concerning the management of hazardous chemicals;
- that the ECE elaborate a framework convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes;
- the implementation of the above recommendations as soon as possible, bearing in mind that the results will be evaluated by the next Follow-up Meeting of the CSE, to be held in Helsinki in 1992.

These recommendations are developed in parts I, II and III below:

I. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

The participating States recognize the importance of developing and applying commonly agreed policies and strategies for appropriate arrangements for the prevention of, and response to, industrial accidents, their consequences and their transboundary impact on man and the environment.

They give special emphasis to the reduction of the risk of accidents, thereby reducing or preventing their adverse transboundary effects; to increasing preparedness for controlling and coping with emergencies in a transboundary context; and to the examination of key elements for clean-up, restoration and liability.

They stress the importance of international co-operation, recognize the value of existing bilateral and multilateral agreements and take into account the work already done or currently under way by various international organizations, in particular the Process for Responding to Technological Accidents (APELL) developed by UNEP and the Code of Conduct on Accidental Pollution of Transboundary Inland Waters of the ECE and the work done by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and by the European Community (EC).

As a common objective they recognize the importance of establishing regional or sub-regional mechanisms for response, assistance and exchange of information in environmental emergencies. They emphasize the need for effective measures with a view to:

- limiting the frequency and severity of accidents caused by all industrial activities through better measures of prevention; -preventing adverse effects from accidents through better land-use planning, and
- mitigating the consequences of accidents by developing adequate emergency plans.

In order to achieve these goals the participating States recommend:

- that the ECE elaborate an international convention, code of practice or other appropriate legal instrument which should be based essentially upon the objectives and principles mentioned below, avoiding redundancy and duplication of efforts and building upon work already under way in international organizations, and taking into account work achieved or in progress in other international fora, without prejudice to any existing or future bilateral or multilateral agreements, with due regard to the legislation and practices of participating States, recognizing that such legal instruments should provide for a high level of protection and safety, and develop, *inter alia*, a precise definition of the industrial activities to be covered;
- that the development of all appropriate measures of prevention, preparedness and response shall recognize the combined responsibilities of industry and competent authorities. In meeting them;

(i) full responsibility for safe industrial operation and for taking all appropriate measures to prevent accidents rests with the operator of the installation. This means that, *inter alia*, the operator must implement the most appropriate technologies and measures to prevent accidents including on-site emergency planning, ensure appropriate training facilities and managerial structures, to assess risks and provide the public authorities with the necessary information on their assessment;

(ii) the public authorities will, with due regard to national legislation and practices, take some combination of, amongst others, the following measures: setting safety objectives on the basis of a risk evaluation of the installation; applying a licensing system to certain installations; ensuring that, under land-use policies, a safe distance between the installation and the surrounding population is preserved; preparing off-site emergency plans;

- that consultation and exchange of information on the prevention and control of industrial accidents and their transboundary effects be facilitated, inter alia, by:

(i) notifying each other of their initial points of contact for industrial accidents covering, as appropriate, regional and local authorities;

(ii) establishing early warning systems and co-ordination on a bilateral and multilateral basis in order to ensure immediate notification, to the competent authorities of the State likely to be affected, of the type and extent of an accident, and of its possible effects on man and the environment;

- that the potentially affected public be given adequate information, inter alia, on risks, safety measures, correct behaviour and protection measures and, whenever possible and appropriate, the opportunity to participate, by providing their views and concerns when decisions are being made by public authorities on prevention, preparedness and emergency planning;
- the development of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for, and conditions of, mutual assistance, co-operation and co-ordination including emergency response for the implementation of measures to control the effects of industrial accidents including inter alia, as appropriate, provision for privileges, immunities and facilities for the expeditious performance of assistance functions;
- the enhancement of scientific and technological co-operation, including the exchange of information on best available technologies, for improved environmental protection, industrial safety and emergency response, including criteria for the monitoring and assessment of transboundary damage, and the promotion of research into less dangerous processes in order to limit environmental hazards;
- co-operation for the further development of on-site and off-site training;
- that the “polluter-pays” principle be applied to physical and juridical persons;

- the consideration of further appropriate ways and means of elaborating principles and guidelines on the nature and scope of liability;
- that disputes be settled peacefully in accordance with procedures to be established in conformity with international law.

II. MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

The participating States agree on the need to facilitate international exchange of information and co-operation on chemicals. They recognize the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment as well as the efforts to facilitate international trade of chemicals. They are also aware of the significance of international agreements and instruments with regard to the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, and to export notification on banned or severely restricted chemicals.

They will build upon the work of international organizations related to hazardous chemicals, in particular the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), the UNEP International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC), the ECE and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and support the further development of their work. They will take into account the chemicals programmes of the EC, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and the OECD.

In order to strengthen legal and institutional arrangements for the management of chemicals, at least the following elements will be taken into account by the participating States:

- for the prevention of danger to man and the environment, procedures enabling the identification of hazardous properties of chemicals, in particular toxicological and ecotoxicological properties;
- a system for the classification and labelling of chemicals which may involve hazard to man or the environment;
- a notification procedure providing for the mandatory screening of new chemical substances for any hazardous properties;
- systematic investigation of chemicals already on the market, on the basis of priority criteria established with regard to the quantities produced, the suspected hazards, and the utilization of the substances concerned. This investigation would be most productively accomplished through co-operation between the countries involved;

- a comprehensive system for the control of hazardous chemicals, taking into account the risk of exposure, including substitution by non-hazardous or less hazardous chemicals, and, if necessary, limitation or prohibition of their use;
- procedures to facilitate the international exchange of information on chemicals;
- procedures for the proper storage of chemicals to ensure the safety of man and the environment, including questions of location in order to minimize transboundary effects;
- further training in the field of toxicology and ecotoxicology and other relevant disciplines, including an exchange of educational programmes.

International organizations with relevant experience and on-going programmes will be invited to assist participating countries in implementing the above tasks and to coordinate efforts in a step-by-step approach to achieve closer harmonization of legislation and existing practices with regard to chemicals on the basis of the most advanced systems of protection and management. The approach could contain inter alia the following elements:

- early and regular exchange of information on relevant national infrastructures, new legislation and regulations, scientific findings, monitoring and assessment procedures, etc.;
- harmonization of methods for chemicals testing and good laboratory practice to facilitate the mutual acceptance of data, and establishment of a minimum set of data for the assessment of chemicals;
- harmonization of classification and labelling systems for hazardous chemicals, especially for the purpose of facilitating the development of international trade and the protection of transit and importing countries;
- criteria for the selection of chemicals for further assessment and management, taking into account inter alia the production volume, the suspected hazard and the utilization of chemicals;
- harmonization of notification procedures for new chemical substances, including identification of toxicological and ecotoxicological properties;
- recommendations for the substitution of hazardous chemicals by non-dangerous or less hazardous chemicals.

III. POLLUTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

The participating States agree on the need to define principles for a sustainable use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes as well as to elaborate arrangements to protect them from pollution. For this aim the participating States recommend that the ECE elaborate a framework convention, whereby existing bilateral and multilateral agreements on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, as well as ongoing activities and completed work in other fora, such as the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the United Nations International Law Commission, should be taken into account. Such a framework convention should contain, in particular, the following elements:

Basic principles, such as:

- Pollution of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, contributing also to the pollution of seas, will be prevented or reduced with the aim of sustainable management, conservation of water resources and environmental protection.
- Effective prevention and pollution control measures will be applied at the source wherever possible.
- Regular consultations on issues of mutual interest and implementation of pollution abatement measures will be promoted.
- Warning and alarm systems and contingency plans will be introduced.
- With the aim of prevention, environmental impact assessment and other means of assessment will be developed, adopted and subsequently implemented.
- Water quality will be monitored and assessed and discharges of pollutants will be registered; methods of analysis, monitoring and assessment, including registration of discharges, will be harmonized.
- For transboundary watercourses and international lakes, parties will establish emission limits based, to the extent possible, on the best available technologies specifically applicable to individual sectors or industries or to specific substances; for municipal waste water, at least biological treatment will be introduced; use of no-waste and low-waste technologies will be promoted.

- Parties will apply water quality objectives; the ecosystems approach will be promoted.
- Discharges will be subject to prior licensing by the competent authority; the approved discharges must be monitored and controlled.
- General water management policies covering transboundary waters including ecological and other impacts of water construction works and water regulation will be implemented.
- The “polluter-pays” principle will be applied to physical and juridical persons.
- Responsibility and liability issues will be examined.
- Disputes will be settled peacefully in accordance with procedures to be established in conformity with international law.
- Scientific and technological information -including best available technologies -will be exchanged where necessary to achieve the goals of the framework convention in accordance with national laws, regulations and practice.
- A reporting system concerning the implementation of the framework convention will be established.

Principles related to commissions and to other forms of co-operation

The States bordering transboundary watercourses and international lakes will conclude, where they do not yet exist, specific agreements on the establishment of bilateral or multilateral commissions or other forms of co-operation where appropriate. Their tasks to be described in the framework convention will be inter alia without prejudice to comparable existing agreements, the following:

- to carry out investigations on the components of the catchment areas of the water bodies concerned and to identify priority uses of waters;
- to carry out joint measuring programmes concerning water quality and quantity;
- to draw up inventories and exchange information on significant discharges;

- to set emission limits for waste water and evaluate the effectiveness of control programmes;
- to set water quality objectives; to introduce the minimum obligation of maintaining at least the existing water quality;
- to develop concerted action programmes for the reduction of pollution loads discharged both from point-sources (municipal; industrial) and from diffuse sources (particularly agriculture);
- to establish alarm and warning procedures;
- to provide for consultations on existing and planned uses of water that are likely to have significant adverse transboundary effects, including water construction works and water regulation;
- to promote co-operation on the exchange of information and on the exchange of best available technologies in accordance with national laws, regulations and practice as well as to encourage co-operation in scientific research programmes.

In cases where a coastal State is directly and significantly affected by pollution from transboundary watercourses, the riparian States can, if they all so agree, invite that coastal State to be involved in the activities of the commission or, where appropriate, in other forms of co-operation.

States are encouraged to enter such specific agreements (e.g. the Danube, the Elbe) parallel to the elaboration of a framework convention.

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The representatives of the participating States express their profound gratitude to the people and Government of Bulgaria for the excellent organization of the Sofia Meeting and the warm hospitality extended to the delegations which participated in the Meeting.

Sofia, 3 November 1989

DOCUMENT OF THE BONN CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE CONVENED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE VIENNA MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

BONN, 11 APRIL 1990

The representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia met in Bonn from 19 March to 11 April 1990, in accordance with the provisions relating to the Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe contained in the Concluding Document of the Vienna Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE. Delegations included members of the business community.

The Conference was opened and closed by the Minister of Economics of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The President, the Chancellor and the Deputy Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany addressed the Conference.

At the opening and concluding plenary meetings statements were made by delegates of the participating States, among them Prime Ministers, Vice Prime Ministers, Ministers, State Secretaries and the Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities. Contributions were made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

The participating States welcome the fact that members of the business community gave the Conference the benefit of their practical experience, thus contributing to its success.

Having in mind the aim of the Conference to provide new impulses for economic relations between participating States, in particular by improving business conditions for commercial exchanges and industrial co-operation and by considering new possibilities for, and ways of, economic co-operation;

Meeting at a time of profound and rapid change,

The participating States,

Confirm their intention to shape a new order of peace, stability and prosperity in Europe based on the comprehensive and balanced concept set out in the Helsinki Final Act and the subsequent documents of the CSCE, and resolve to respect all the principles of the Final Act and to implement all the provisions of the CSCE documents;

Reaffirm the fundamental role of the CSCE in the future of Europe;

Recognize that democratic institutions and economic freedom foster economic and social progress;

Share the common objectives of sustainable economic growth, a rising standard of living, an improved quality of life, expanding employment, efficient use of economic resources, and protection of the environment;

Believe that co-operation in the field of economics, science and technology and the environment is an essential element in their overall relations, and that it should become even more prominent in the future;

Resolve to work together to expand their co-operation in that field and to enhance the growth of their economies;

Believe that the success of their co-operation will depend in large measure on prevailing political and economic conditions;

Stress the importance of the political and economic reforms taking place, and of a supportive international economic environment, recognize the particular economic interests and concerns of countries as they achieve a market economy, and acknowledge other difficulties, such as indebtedness, which are to be dealt with in the competent fora;

Consider that the process of economic reform and structural adjustment, with increased reliance on market forces, will enhance economic performance, improve efficiency of the public sector, respond better to the needs and wishes of consumers, improve the conditions for closer co-operation and contribute to a more open world trading system;

Believe that increased integration of all participating countries into the international economic and financial system, in accordance with the internationally recognized rules and involving the acceptance of disciplines as well as benefits, will also facilitate economic co-operation;

Value the important roles of existing multilateral economic institutions and mechanisms;

Consider that increased emphasis on economic co-operation within the CSCE process should take into account the interests of participating States that are developing from an economic point of view and should not detract from development co-operation with, including assistance to, developing countries;

Recognize that the performance of market-based economies relies primarily on the freedom of individual enterprise and the consequent economic growth;

Believe that economic freedom for the individual includes the right freely to own, buy, sell and otherwise utilize property;

Confirm that, while governments provide the overall framework for economic activity, business partners make their own decisions;

Consider that the progressive convergence of economic policies among the participating States opens new long-term perspectives for the strengthening of their economic relations. Accordingly the participating States, Recognizing the relationship between political pluralism and market economies, and being committed to the principles concerning:

- Multiparty democracy based on free, periodic and genuine elections;
- The rule of law and equal protection under the law for all, based on respect for human rights and effective, accessible and just legal systems;
- Economic activity that accordingly upholds human dignity and is free from forced labour, discrimination against workers on grounds of race, sex, language, political opinion or religion, or denial of the rights of workers freely to establish or join independent trade unions;

Will endeavour to achieve or maintain the following:

- Fiscal and monetary policies that promote balanced, sustainable economic growth and enhance the ability of markets to function efficiently;

- International and domestic policies aimed at expanding the free flow of trade, capital, investment and repatriation of profits in convertible currencies;
- Free and competitive market economies where prices are based on supply and demand;
- Policies that promote social justice and improve living and working conditions;
- Environmentally sustainable economic growth and development;
- Full recognition and protection of all types of property including private property, and the right of citizens to own and use them, as well as intellectual property rights;
- The right to prompt, just and effective compensation in the event private property is taken for public use;
- Direct contact between customers and suppliers in order to facilitate the exchange of goods and services among companies -whether private or state-owned -and individuals in both domestic and international markets,

Have come to the following conclusions:

A. Development and diversification of economic relations

1. The participating States wish to create favourable conditions for a harmonious development and diversification of their economic relations based on internationally agreed rules and practices. They therefore agree to improve business conditions, facilities and practices for each other's firms in their respective markets, based on freedom of establishment. They agree to permit and encourage direct contacts between businessmen at all levels of commerce and stages of industry and end-users. To that end they will, in accordance with their relevant commitments undertaken in the CSCE process, facilitate the prompt entry, stay and free movement of businessmen in their territory; the participating States will facilitate, on a non-discriminatory basis, the establishment and operation of business offices and firms in their territory, including the renting and purchasing of commercial premises and housing, the acquisition of equipment and transport facilities, access to telecommunications, utilities and social services, the carrying out of audits as well as the unhindered recruitment of local staff required by firms. They encourage direct contacts between representatives of commercial and business organizations and economic institutions. The participating States stress that expeditious process/treatment of goods and persons at international borders

stimulates international trade and they will therefore make their borders more open for that purpose. They also stress the importance of trade facilitation and electronic data interchange for their trade relations.

2. The participating States resolve to publish and make available comprehensive, comparable and timely economic, commercial and demographic information as a basis for economic research, co-operation and efficient conduct of business relations. To that effect they will provide the United Nations Trade Data Bank (COMTRADE) with up-to-date trade figures to at least the three-digit level of the United Nations product classification (SITC-Rev.2). They will also publish detailed, comparable and up-to-date data on balance of payments and gross national product statistics on at least an annual basis as a step towards their integration in international economic activities. They stress the need for national statistics and accounting systems to conform with international standards.
3. The participating States will, in order to facilitate and promote economic co-operation, undertake comprehensive co-operation between their respective statistical services in the bilateral and multilateral context. The priority areas for such co-operation are the statistics on external trade, capital movements, employment, transport, foreign tourism, environment, energy and other raw materials such as forestry and mineral products and industrial production in addition to other major components of national production and national income accounting. The object of this co-operation is to exchange detailed and complete information on relevant statistical elements available and the techniques and methodology employed, and to correlate statistical data with the aim of achieving comparability of such statistics among participating States. In view of this aim, the participating States welcome a further development of the work of relevant organizations, notable the ECE, regarding statistics.
4. The participating States recognize the particular importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in their economic co-operation. These enterprises will benefit particularly from improvements in the business environment and the strengthening of market forces. Participating States will therefore pay special attention to the creation of a competitive business environment conducive to the development of SMEs. To that end they will endeavour to provide the appropriate economic, legal, banking and fiscal conditions that take account of the specific requirements of SMEs. They will strengthen information channels and networks and encourage dialogue and the exchange of expertise between the interested parties, including public authorities, representatives of business and other public and private agencies providing services to business.

5. The participating States are prepared, insofar as the appropriate conditions exist, to provide support for the SME sector by promoting: business co-operation networks, which facilitate the search for business partners; access to information services, including publications and databanks; management and expert training and information on availability of technical know-how and innovations.
6. The participating States confirm the importance they attach to marketing and product promotion as a means of developing trade and industrial and economic co-operation among themselves. They will therefore encourage trade promotion activities including advertising, consulting, factoring and other business services, and the organization of seminars, fairs and exhibitions. They favour the conduct of market research and other marketing activities by both domestic and foreign firms on their respective territories.
7. The participating States recognize the importance, for the economic process, of the development of the human potential. They therefore recognize the value of co-operation in training programmes for managers and specialists in marketing, product promotion and other fields. Insofar as the appropriate conditions exist, such programmes will be held both in host countries and in countries of origin, and under the aegis of vocational training establishments or of companies either in the context of industrial co-operation projects or within ad hoc programmes. They express the view that the operation of relevant bodies, e.g. the European Training Foundation, can contribute to improved co-operation in this field.

B. Industrial co-operation

1. The participating States note that the economic, fiscal, legal and social infrastructure and the political conditions in their countries determine the extent to which the various forms of industrial co-operation including joint ventures and other means of direct foreign investment can be envisaged. Each participating State will assess its possibilities and interests with a view to creating favourable conditions for industrial co-operation. They are aware that such co-operation, based on freedom of establishment and non-discriminatory treatment of different types of ownership including private property, will have a positive influence on managerial and technical know-how, the extent of investments, the quality of production, the exchange and application of technology and marketing opportunities.
2. The participating States recognize the importance of protecting industrial, commercial and intellectual property rights for their co-operation in both trade-and research-related aspects. They will ensure adequate and effective protection and

enforcement of industrial, commercial and intellectual property rights, including by fully observing international commitments, and will encourage appropriate arrangements among themselves. They will provide natural and legal persons of other States with guarantees of these rights, including non-discriminatory procedures for their acquisition and access to their courts and appropriate administrative bodies.

3. Among the conditions for the development of industrial co-operation the participating States emphasize the need for market-oriented and stable economic policies, an appropriate and reliable legal and administrative framework, consisting of such elements as: fiscal, competition, bankruptcy, and insolvency legislation; company laws; arbitration procedures (taking due account of the UNCITRAL model law and other relevant arrangements); protection of industrial and intellectual property rights; investment protection in national legislation as well as in the framework of multilateral and bilateral agreements; free transfer of capital and profits in foreign currency; accounting systems; a free flow of economic data and market information; business facilities; and entrepreneurial autonomy.
4. Possible forms of industrial co-operation, such as co-production, specialization, subcontracting, licensing agreements, joint ventures and other forms of investment, will be decided by firms according to the conditions existing and the nature and the objectives of the co-operation.
5. The participating States recognize the importance of comprehensive information on all legal provisions of host countries for foreign investment, joint ventures and other forms of co-operation, including those concerning foreign staff. They encourage host countries to make this information readily and widely available in an up-to-date form.
6. The participating States are prepared, insofar as the appropriate conditions exist, to foster a favourable climate for investment and the different forms of industrial co-operation, on a non-discriminatory basis, notably by concluding further agreements on avoidance of double taxation and bilateral and multilateral arrangements for investment promotion and protection, with particular reference to the transfer of profits and repatriation of invested capital. In this respect the establishment of measures to support economic development through investment (e.g. industrial parks developed by the host country, tax policies and practical assistance) may be of interest. They encourage a greater exchange of information on industrial co-operation opportunities for interested parties by such means as the holding of business weeks. The participating States agree on the importance

of standardization and certification in improving their economic relations; to this end they envisage mutual exchange of information, greater co-operation within existing multilateral organizations and, where appropriate, technical assistance.

C. Co-operation in specific areas

1. The participating States, while acknowledging the role of governments in creating favourable framework conditions, recognize that the initiative of the enterprises directly concerned is of paramount importance in bringing about co-operation in the specific areas covered by this chapter.
2. The participating States consider that they should extend and deepen their co-operation in the field of energy and raw material saving techniques. To that end they favour the marketing of energy conservation and raw material saving technologies and will promote increased energy efficiency. The participating States will also co-operate bilaterally and multilaterally in the field of hydrocarbon technologies, solid fuels and renewable energies and processes for the separation of waste components and their recycling and upgrading. They will also co-operate, e.g. through the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the field of nuclear energy and of the safety of nuclear installations in accordance with their energy policies.
3. The participating States are prepared to exchange information on energy and raw material saving techniques and, insofar as the appropriate conditions exist, to co-operate in the establishment, operation and utilization of European databases in the field of energy, to undertake joint projects to measure energy-combustion-related environmental pollution, to enhance energy efficiency by means of substitution of energy products and to promote professional training in energy-saving techniques.
4. The participating States note the increasing importance of environmental issues in the context of their economic co-operation. They recognize that it is vital to ensure the environmental sustainability of economic development. They acknowledge the significance of international economic co-operation aimed at securing a more efficient use of energy and raw materials. They will also endeavour to strengthen co-operation in the field of environmentally sound technology.
5. At the Sofia CSCE Meeting on the environment, the participating States agreed on the enhancement of scientific and technological co-operation, including the exchange of information on best available technologies for improved environmental protection, industrial safety and emergency response. The participating States

consider that among the areas for co-operation are pollution monitoring, major technological hazard and accident prevention, assessment of chemicals, treatment and disposal of toxic and dangerous waste, as well as prevention and reduction of air and water pollution, especially that of transboundary pollution caused by energy production, conversion and consumption. The participating States recognize the importance of the ECE and UNEP for the promotion of co-operation in the field of the environment.

6. The participating States are prepared, insofar as the appropriate conditions exist, to take the necessary steps in order to stimulate the exchange of know-how, to promote the wider adoption of environmentally sound technologies and to create demonstration projects in the field of environment. Subsequent co-operation in environmental technology should, in principle, be carried out on a commercial basis. Governments should encourage the application of such technology and set adequate emission standards and promote public awareness. The participating States would welcome improved arrangements for gathering and disseminating information on cleaner technologies. They note the important role which information networks for environmental technology transfer could play in promoting the development and application of environmental forecasting techniques and the exchange of information on the best technology available for preventing damage to the environment, the possibilities of overcoming hazards due to accidents in industrial works and the rational use of natural resources without disturbing the ecological balance. In this context they recognize the valuable contributions of global and regional organizations such as UNEP, ECE and the European Environment Agency.
7. With a view to improving the quality of life the participating States attach priority to techniques designed to promote the health and safety of their populations. They intend to co-operate in assessing the impact of environmental stress on the population by exchanging relevant data on the effects of environmental pollution. They also consider it important to create the conditions enabling the various elements which contribute to an improved quality of life to be developed.
8. The participating States affirm the importance of co-operation in agro-industry and food processing, including natural food production, and welcome increased commercial relations in this field. They will facilitate joint research, training and exchange of know-how as well as the promotion of contacts between potential partners, especially small and medium-sized enterprises.

9. The participating States welcome efforts to promote co-operation among business enterprises producing machinery for the production of consumer goods as a means of responding to the needs of consumers. They stress the importance of increasing co-operation in the consumer goods sector and will encourage greater access to potential consumers of products. In this context, they note that conversion from military to consumer production may give rise to new business opportunities.
10. The participating States recognize that effective town planning can help to redress urban problems causing a substantial deterioration in the quality of life by striking a balance between economic development and environmental protection as well as ensuring the possibility of citizens to freely take part in economic, political, social and cultural life. They will promote closer co-operation, and encourage the exchange of information on town planning, including infrastructure (e.g. transport), housing construction, protection of monuments and restoration of the architectural heritage. They will also encourage the exchange of information on, and new approaches to, the economic adaptation of structurally weak regions and the alleviation of environmental damage in urban areas.

D. Monetary and financial aspects

1. The participating States consider that the introduction of undistorted internal pricing is essential to economic reform and a necessary step to currency convertibility. They recognize that both are important for economic development and for increased economic co-operation. They agree that progress towards full convertibility and efficient allocation of resources requires a functioning price mechanism which reflects market-determined and undistorted domestic costs, consumer preferences and international prices. The participating States affirm that currency convertibility forges an efficient link between domestic and foreign price systems capable of transmitting adequate price signals for the allocation of resources inside and outside the country, reflecting international competitiveness. Special attention will thus have to be given to the appropriate level of exchange rates in terms of market-determined prices and other convertible currencies. The success of currency convertibility depends largely on the timely and coherent implementation of measures aimed at developing a market economy which should be underpinned by sound fiscal and monetary policies.
2. The participating States are prepared, insofar as the appropriate conditions exist, to co-operate in establishing conditions for an efficient price mechanism and for progress towards convertibility. This could involve fields such as reform of the banking system, introducing a money market, reform of the investment

laws, transformation of public enterprises, taxation, structural adjustment policy, organization of a labour and capital market as well as a foreign exchange market and setting up of the legal framework for introducing convertibility. It could also embrace the establishment of statistics which are essential for creating and maintaining stable monetary and financial conditions and for guiding economic policy.

3. The participating States acknowledge that a market-oriented financial system facilitates the expansion of economic co-operation and that financial instruments play an important role in that context. While, in the period of transition to a market economy, public financial support to well-defined projects can serve as a multiplier in the framework of economic reforms, such intervention should not distort the emerging market mechanisms. The participating States agree that capital from private sources will progressively become the principal source of external finance.
4. The participating States look forward to the successful conclusion of negotiations to establish the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). They are prepared, insofar as the appropriate conditions exist, to co-operate through the EBRD and other multilateral financial institutions. Furthermore, they agree to foster a favourable climate for investment, notably by bilateral and multilateral arrangements for investment promotion and protection. They also agree to facilitate the provision of technical advice and expert training in improving management skills and setting up market-based financial mechanisms and credit rating systems.

* * *

In view of the profound and rapid changes taking place in Europe, and wishing to maintain the valuable momentum built up at the present Conference, the participating States are of the opinion that further ways to strengthen their co-operation in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment should be considered. They suggest that the next follow-up meeting or any other main CSCE meeting at the appropriate level examines the possibilities for expanding and intensifying economic co-operation, including through meetings within the CSCE aimed at periodic review of progress and providing new impulses for economic relations among participating States.

Furthermore, the participating States recognize the increasing importance of the different existing international economic institutions in promoting economic co-operation in their fields of competence. In this respect they see a need for discussion of the specificities and longer-term issues of economic changes and reforms in the participating States and related

problems of co-operation among them and to share experiences. To this end, they invite the ECE, in view of its annual session, to develop practical measures in priority areas. They invite the OECD to consider hosting meetings of experts from the CSCE participating States and OECD member States to promote the process of economic reform. They recommend that the objective of such undertakings is full integration of the reforming countries into the international economic system. They also consider it important that the expertise and experience of the ICC be fully utilized. The participating States suggest co-ordination among the different existing international economic institutions to avoid duplication and to ensure the maximum effectiveness of their work.

As set out in the Concluding Document of the CSCE Vienna Meeting, the Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe has been attended by representatives of the participating States and of the business community. The informal discussions held in the course of the Conference have led to comments and suggestions by representatives of the business community. A summary of these comments and suggestions is to be found in the Journal of the day.

The representatives of the participating States express their profound gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the excellent organization of the Conference and the warm hospitality extended to the delegations which participated in the Conference.

Bonn, 11 April 1990

CHARTER OF PARIS FOR A NEW EUROPE

PARIS, 21 NOVEMBER 1990

A NEW ERA OF DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND UNITY

We, the Heads of State or Government of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, have assembled in Paris at a time of profound change and historic expectations. The era of confrontation and division of Europe has ended. We declare that henceforth our relations will be founded on respect and co-operation.

Europe is liberating itself from the legacy of the past. The courage of men and women, the strength of the will of the peoples and the power of the ideas of the Helsinki Final Act have opened a new era of democracy, peace and unity in Europe.

Ours is a time for fulfilling the hopes and expectations our peoples have cherished for decades: steadfast commitment to democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms; prosperity through economic liberty and social justice; and equal security for all our countries.

The Ten Principles of the Final Act will guide us towards this ambitious future, just as they have lighted our way towards better relations for the past fifteen years. Full implementation of all CSCE commitments must form the basis for the initiatives we are now taking to enable our nations to live in accordance with their aspirations.

Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law

We undertake to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations. In this endeavour, we will abide by the following:

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government. Respect for them is an essential safeguard against an over-mighty State. Their observance and full exercise are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace.

Democratic government is based on the will of the people, expressed regularly through free and fair elections. Democracy has as its foundation respect for the human person and the rule of law. Democracy is the best safeguard of freedom of expression, tolerance of all groups of society, and equality of opportunity for each person.

Democracy, with its representative and pluralist character, entails accountability to the electorate, the obligation of public authorities to comply with the law and justice administered impartially. No one will be above the law.

We affirm that, without discrimination,

every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief,

freedom of expression,
freedom of association and peaceful assembly,
freedom of movement;

no one will be:

subject to arbitrary arrest or detention,
subject to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

everyone also has the right :

to know and act upon his rights,
to participate in free and fair elections,
to fair and public trial if charged with an offence,
to own property alone or in association and to exercise individual enterprise,
to enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights.

We affirm that the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities will be protected and that persons belonging to national minorities have the right freely to express, preserve and develop that identity without any discrimination and in full equality before the law.

We will ensure that everyone will enjoy recourse to effective remedies, national or international, against any violation of his rights.

Full respect for these precepts is the bedrock on which we will seek to construct the new Europe.

Our States will co-operate and support each other with the aim of making democratic gains irreversible.

Economic Liberty and Responsibility

Economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are indispensable for prosperity.

The free will of the individual, exercised in democracy and protected by the rule of law, forms the necessary basis for successful economic and social development. We will promote economic activity which respects and upholds human dignity.

Freedom and political pluralism are necessary elements in our common objective of developing market economies towards sustainable economic growth, prosperity, social justice, expanding employment and efficient use of economic resources. The success of the transition to market economy by countries making efforts to this effect is important and in the interest of us all. It will enable us to share a higher level of prosperity which is our common objective. We will co-operate to this end.

Preservation of the environment is a shared responsibility of all our nations. While supporting national and regional efforts in this field, we must also look to the pressing need for joint action on a wider scale.

Friendly Relations among Participating States

Now that a new era is dawning in Europe, we are determined to expand and strengthen friendly relations and co-operation among the States of Europe, the United States of America and Canada, and to promote friendship among our peoples.

To uphold and promote democracy, peace and unity in Europe, we solemnly pledge our full commitment to the Ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act. We affirm the continuing validity of the Ten Principles and our determination to put them into practice. All the Principles apply equally and unreservedly, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others. They form the basis for our relations.

In accordance with our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, we renew our pledge to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or from acting in any other manner inconsistent with the principles or purposes of those documents. We recall that non-compliance with obligations under the Charter of the United Nations constitutes a violation of international law.

We reaffirm our commitment to settle disputes by peaceful means. We decide to develop mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts among the participating States.

With the ending of the division of Europe, we will strive for a new quality in our security relations while fully respecting each other's freedom of choice in that respect. Security is indivisible and the security of every participating State is inseparably linked to that of all the others. We therefore pledge to co-operate in strengthening confidence and security among us and in promoting arms control and disarmament.

We welcome the Joint Declaration of Twenty-Two States on the improvement of their relations.

Our relations will rest on our common adherence to democratic values and to human rights and fundamental freedoms. We are convinced that in order to strengthen peace and security among our States, the advancement of democracy, and respect for and effective exercise of human rights, are indispensable. We reaffirm the equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant norms of international law, including those relating to territorial integrity of States.

We are determined to enhance political consultation and to widen co-operation to solve economic, social, environmental, cultural and humanitarian problems. This common resolve and our growing interdependence will help to overcome the mistrust of decades, to increase stability and to build a united Europe.

We want Europe to be a source of peace, open to dialogue and to co-operation with other countries, welcoming exchanges and involved in the search for common responses to the challenges of the future.

Security

Friendly relations among us will benefit from the consolidation of democracy and improved security.

We welcome the signature of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe by twenty-two participating States, which will lead to lower levels of armed forces. We endorse the adoption of a substantial new set of Confidence- and Security-building Measures which will lead to increased transparency and confidence among all participating States. These are important steps towards enhanced stability and security in Europe.

The unprecedented reduction in armed forces resulting from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, together with new approaches to security and co-operation within the CSCE process, will lead to a new perception of security in Europe and a new dimension in our relations. In this context we fully recognize the freedom of States to choose their own security arrangements.

Unity

Europe whole and free is calling for a new beginning. We invite our peoples to join in this great endeavour.

We note with great satisfaction the Treaty on the Final Settlement with respect to Germany signed in Moscow on 12 September 1990 and sincerely welcome the fact that the German people have united to become one State in accordance with the principles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and in full accord with their neighbours. The establishment of the national unity of Germany is an important contribution to a just and lasting order of peace for a united, democratic Europe aware of its responsibility for stability, peace and co-operation.

The participation of both North American and European States is a fundamental characteristic of the CSCE; it underlies its past achievements and is essential to the future of the CSCE process. An abiding adherence to shared values and our common heritage are the ties which bind us together. With all the rich diversity of our nations, we are united in our commitment to expand our co-operation in all fields. The challenges confronting us can only be met by common action, co-operation and solidarity.

The CSCE and the World

The destiny of our nations is linked to that of all other nations. We support fully the United Nations and the enhancement of its role in promoting international peace, security and justice. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations as enshrined in the Charter and condemn all violations of these principles. We recognize with satisfaction the growing role of the United Nations in world affairs and its increasing effectiveness, fostered by the improvement in relations among our States.

Aware of the dire needs of a great part of the world, we commit ourselves to solidarity with all other countries. Therefore, we issue a call from Paris today to all the nations of the world. We stand ready to join with any and all States in common efforts to protect and advance the community of fundamental human values.

GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE

Proceeding from our firm commitment to the full implementation of all CSCE principles and provisions, we now resolve to give a new impetus to a balanced and comprehensive development of our co-operation in order to address the needs and aspirations of our peoples.

Human Dimension

We declare our respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms to be irrevocable. We will fully implement and build upon the provisions relating to the human dimension of the CSCE.

Proceeding from the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension, we will cooperate to strengthen democratic institutions and to promote the application of the rule of law. To that end, we decide to convene a seminar of experts in Oslo from 4 to 15 November 1991.

Determined to foster the rich contribution of national minorities to the life of our societies, we undertake further to improve their situation. We reaffirm our deep conviction that friendly relations among our peoples, as well as peace, justice, stability and democracy, require that the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities be protected and conditions for the promotion of that identity be created. We declare that questions related to national minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in a democratic political framework. We further acknowledge that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities must be fully respected as part of universal human rights. Being aware of the urgent need for increased co-operation on, as well as better protection of, national minorities, we decide to convene a meeting of experts on national minorities to be held in Geneva from 1 to 19 July 1991.

We express our determination to combat all forms of racial and ethnic hatred, antisemitism, xenophobia and discrimination against anyone as well as persecution on religious and ideological grounds.

In accordance with our CSCE commitments, we stress that free movement and contacts among our citizens as well as the free flow of information and ideas are crucial for the maintenance and development of free societies and flourishing cultures. We welcome increased tourism and visits among our countries.

The human dimension mechanism has proved its usefulness, and we are consequently determined to expand it to include new procedures involving, inter alia, the services of

experts or a roster of eminent persons experienced in human rights issues which could be raised under the mechanism. We shall provide, in the context of the mechanism, for individuals to be involved in the protection of their rights. Therefore, we undertake to develop further our commitments in this respect, in particular at the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension, without prejudice to obligations under existing international instruments to which our States may be parties.

We recognize the important contribution of the Council of Europe to the promotion of human rights and the principles of democracy and the rule of law as well as to the development of cultural co-operation. We welcome moves by several participating States to join the Council of Europe and adhere to its European Convention on Human Rights. We welcome as well the readiness of the Council of Europe to make its experience available to the CSCE.

Security

The changing political and military environment in Europe opens new possibilities for common efforts in the field of military security. We will build on the important achievements attained in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and in the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-building Measures. We undertake to continue the CSBM negotiations under the same mandate, and to seek to conclude them no later than the Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE to be held in Helsinki in 1992. We also welcome the decision of the participating States concerned to continue the CFE negotiation under the same mandate and to seek to conclude it no later than the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting. Following a period for national preparations, we look forward to a more structured co-operation among all participating States on security matters, and to discussions and consultations among the thirty-four participating States aimed at establishing by 1992, from the conclusion of the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting, new negotiations on disarmament and confidence and security building open to all participating States.

We call for the earliest possible conclusion of the Convention on an effectively verifiable, global and comprehensive ban on chemical weapons, and we intend to be original signatories to it.

We reaffirm the importance of the Open Skies initiative and call for the successful conclusion of the negotiations as soon as possible.

Although the threat of conflict in Europe has diminished, other dangers threaten the stability of our societies. We are determined to co-operate in defending democratic institutions against activities which violate the independence, sovereign equality or territorial integrity

of the participating States. These include illegal activities involving outside pressure, coercion and subversion.

We unreservedly condemn, as criminal, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and express our determination to work for its eradication both bilaterally and through multilateral co-operation. We will also join together in combating illicit trafficking in drugs.

Being aware that an essential complement to the duty of States to refrain from the threat or use of force is the peaceful settlement of disputes, both being essential factors for the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, we will not only seek effective ways of preventing, through political means, conflicts which may yet emerge, but also define, in conformity with international law, appropriate mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of any disputes which may arise. Accordingly, we undertake to seek new forms of co-operation in this area, in particular a range of methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes, including mandatory third-party involvement. We stress that full use should be made in this context of the opportunity of the Meeting on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes which will be convened in Valletta at the beginning of 1991. The Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs will take into account the Report of the Valletta Meeting.

Economic Co-operation

We stress that economic co-operation based on market economy constitutes an essential element of our relations and will be instrumental in the construction of a prosperous and united Europe. Democratic institutions and economic liberty foster economic and social progress, as recognized in the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation, the results of which we strongly support.

We underline that co-operation in the economic field, science and technology is now an important pillar of the CSCE. The participating States should periodically review progress and give new impulses in these fields.

We are convinced that our overall economic co-operation should be expanded, free enterprise encouraged and trade increased and diversified according to GATT rules. We will promote social justice and progress and further the welfare of our peoples. We recognize in this context the importance of effective policies to address the problem of unemployment.

We reaffirm the need to continue to support democratic countries in transition towards the establishment of market economy and the creation of the basis for self-sustained economic and social growth, as already undertaken by the Group of twenty-four countries.

We further underline the necessity of their increased integration, involving the acceptance of disciplines as well as benefits, into the international economic and financial system.

We consider that increased emphasis on economic co-operation within the CSCE process should take into account the interests of developing participating States.

We recall the link between respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and scientific progress. Co-operation in the field of science and technology will play an essential role in economic and social development. Therefore, it must evolve towards a greater sharing of appropriate scientific and technological information and knowledge with a view to overcoming the technological gap which exists among the participating States. We further encourage the participating States to work together in order to develop human potential and the spirit of free enterprise.

We are determined to give the necessary impetus to co-operation among our States in the fields of energy, transport and tourism for economic and social development. We welcome, in particular, practical steps to create optimal conditions for the economic and rational development of energy resources, with due regard for environmental considerations.

We recognize the important role of the European Community in the political and economic development of Europe. International economic organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Bretton Woods Institutions, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (ECD), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) also have a significant task in promoting economic co-operation, which will be further enhanced by the establishment of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In order to pursue our objectives, we stress the necessity for effective co-ordination of the activities of these organizations and emphasize the need to find methods for all our States to take part in these activities.

Environment

We recognize the urgent need to tackle the problems of the environment and the importance of individual and co-operative efforts in this area. We pledge to intensify our endeavours to protect and improve our environment in order to restore and maintain a sound ecological balance in air, water and soil. Therefore, we are determined to make full use of the CSCE as a framework for the formulation of common environmental commitments and objectives, and thus to pursue the work reflected in the Report of the Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment.

We emphasize the significant role of a well-informed society in enabling the public and individuals to take initiatives to improve the environment. To this end, we commit ourselves to promoting public awareness and education on the environment as well as the public reporting of the environmental impact of policies, projects and programmes.

We attach priority to the introduction of clean and low-waste technology, being aware of the need to support countries which do not yet have their own means for appropriate measures.

We underline that environmental policies should be supported by appropriate legislative measures and administrative structures to ensure their effective implementation.

We stress the need for new measures providing for the systematic evaluation of compliance with the existing commitments and, moreover, for the development of more ambitious commitments with regard to notification and exchange of information about the state of the environment and potential environmental hazards. We also welcome the creation of the European Environment Agency (EEA).

We welcome the operational activities, problem-oriented studies and policy reviews in various existing international organizations engaged in the protection of the environment, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We emphasize the need for strengthening their co-operation and for their efficient co-ordination.

Culture

We recognize the essential contribution of our common European culture and our shared values in overcoming the division of the continent. Therefore, we underline our attachment to creative freedom and to the protection and promotion of our cultural and spiritual heritage, in all its richness and diversity.

In view of the recent changes in Europe, we stress the increased importance of the Cracow Symposium and we look forward to its consideration of guidelines for intensified co-operation in the field of culture. We invite the Council of Europe to contribute to this Symposium.

In order to promote greater familiarity amongst our peoples, we favour the establishment of cultural centres in cities of other participating States as well as increased co-operation in the audio-visual field and wider exchange in music, theatre, literature and the arts.

We resolve to make special efforts in our national policies to promote better understanding, in particular among young people, through cultural exchanges, co-operation in all fields of education and, more specifically, through teaching and training in the languages of other participating States. We intend to consider first results of this action at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting in 1992.

Migrant Workers

We recognize that the issues of migrant workers and their families legally residing in host countries have economic, cultural and social aspects as well as their human dimension. We reaffirm that the protection and promotion of their rights, as well as the implementation of relevant international obligations, is our common concern.

Mediterranean

We consider that the fundamental political changes that have occurred in Europe have a positive relevance to the Mediterranean region. Thus, we will continue efforts to strengthen security and co-operation in the Mediterranean as an important factor for stability in Europe. We welcome the Report of the Palma de Mallorca Meeting on the Mediterranean, the results of which we all support.

We are concerned with the continuing tensions in the region, and renew our determination to intensify efforts towards finding just, viable and lasting solutions, through peaceful means, to outstanding crucial problems, based on respect for the principles of the Final Act.

We wish to promote favourable conditions for a harmonious development and diversification of relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States. Enhanced co-operation with these States will be pursued with the aim of promoting economic and social development and thereby enhancing stability in the region. To this end, we will strive together with these countries towards a substantial narrowing of the prosperity gap between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbours.

Non-governmental Organizations

We recall the major role that non-governmental organizations, religious and other groups and individuals have played in the achievement of the objectives of the CSCE and will further facilitate their activities for the implementation of the CSCE commitments by the participating States. These organizations, groups and individuals must be involved in an appropriate way in the activities and new structures of the CSCE in order to fulfil their important tasks.

New structures and institutions of the CSCE Process

Our common efforts to consolidate respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, to strengthen peace and to promote unity in Europe require a new quality of political dialogue and co-operation and thus development of the structures of the CSCE.

The intensification of our consultations at all levels is of prime importance in shaping our future relations. To this end, we decide on the following:

We, the Heads of State or Government, shall meet next time in Helsinki on the occasion of the CSCE Follow-up Meeting 1992. Thereafter, we will meet on the occasion of subsequent follow-up meetings.

Our Ministers for Foreign Affairs will meet, as a Council, regularly and at least once a year. These meetings will provide the central forum for political consultations within the CSCE process. The Council will consider issues relevant to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and take appropriate decisions.

The first meeting of the Council will take place in Berlin.

A Committee of Senior Officials will prepare the meetings of the Council and carry out its decisions. The Committee will review current issues and may take appropriate decisions, including in the form of recommendations to the Council.

Additional meetings of the representatives of the participating States may be agreed upon to discuss questions of urgent concern.

The Council will examine the development of provisions for convening meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials in emergency situations.

Meetings of other Ministers may also be agreed by the participating States.

In order to provide administrative support for these consultations we establish a Secretariat in Prague.

Follow-up meetings of the participating States will be held, as a rule, every two years to allow the participating States to take stock of developments, review the implementation of their commitments and consider further steps in the CSCE process.

We decide to create a Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna to assist the Council in reducing the risk of conflict.

We decide to establish an Office for Free Elections in Warsaw to facilitate contacts and the exchange of information on elections within participating States.

Recognizing the important role parliamentarians can play in the CSCE process, we call for greater parliamentary involvement in the CSCE, in particular through the creation of a CSCE parliamentary assembly, involving members of parliaments from all participating States. To this end, we urge that contacts be pursued at parliamentary level to discuss the field of activities, working methods and rules of procedure of such a CSCE parliamentary structure, drawing on existing experience and work already undertaken in this field.

We ask our Ministers for Foreign Affairs to review this matter on the occasion of their first meeting as a Council.

* * *

Procedural and organizational modalities relating to certain provisions contained in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe are set out in the Supplementary Document which is adopted together with the Charter of Paris.

We entrust to the Council the further steps which may be required to ensure the implementation of decisions contained in the present document, as well as in the Supplementary Document, and to consider further efforts for the strengthening of security and co-operation in Europe. The Council may adopt any amendment to the supplementary document which it may deem appropriate.

* * *

The original of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, drawn up in English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish, will be transmitted to the Government of the French Republic, which will retain it in its archives. Each of the participating States will receive from the Government of the French Republic a true copy of the Charter of Paris.

The text of the Charter of Paris will be published in each participating State, which will disseminate it and make it known as widely as possible.

The Government of the French Republic is requested to transmit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the text of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe which is not eligible for registration under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to its circulation to all the members of the Organization as an official document of the United Nations.

The Government of the French Republic is also requested to transmit the text of the Charter of Paris to all the other international organizations mentioned in the text.

Wherefore, we, the undersigned High Representatives of the participating States, mindful of the high political significance we attach to the results of the Summit Meeting, and declaring our determination to act in accordance with the provisions we have adopted, have subscribed our signatures below.

[...]

CSCE HELSINKI DOCUMENT 1992 – THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE

HELSINKI, 1992

[...]

VII. ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

(1) The participating States will intensify co-operation among them in order to achieve sustainable economic development. They will continue to co-operate in supporting those participating States which are engaged in the transition process to market economies.

(2) The participating States welcome the fact that, in response to the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has identified priority areas for its activities and considers the promotion of the process of reform in economies in transition important in the preparation of its work programme. They also welcome the establishment within OECD of the Centre for Co-operation with European Economies in Transition (CCEET) , through which countries in transition have access to the expertise of that organization. They express their satisfaction that the EBRD is now in a position to provide substantial support for the restructuring and modernization of the economies in transition.

(3) The participating States invite these and other international economic and financial organizations to pursue their work, so as to facilitate the integration of the economies in transition into the international economic and financial system and to promote economic co-operation in the CSCE area. They call for increased co-ordination among them in order to ensure greater coherence and effectiveness of action and to avoid duplication.

(4) The participating States will work to ensure the further implementation of their existing commitments. They agree to give renewed impetus in particular in the areas of human resources, industrial co-operation, trade, statistics, infrastructure, energy, defence conversion, agriculture, tourism and science and technology.

(5) The participating States emphasize the need for continuing co-operation and investment in human resources development in order to cope with problems of transition to market economies, rapid technological changes and the evolution of society. Recognizing the importance of education and training, including management and vocational training at all levels, they will intensify their dialogue on education and training systems and promote further co-operation in this area.

(6) The participating States will enhance opportunities for industrial co-operation by providing an appropriate legal and economic environment for business, particularly with the aim of strengthening the private sector and developing small and medium-sized enterprises. They will create favourable conditions for business by progressively reducing obstacles to trade, to freedom of establishment and to contacts among business communities. They will, if appropriate, improve legislation in particular with regard to customs, standardization, competition, property and intellectual property rights, banking, accounting and company law, capital movement and investment protection.

(7) The participating States recognize that the maintenance of an open multilateral trading system based on General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules is an essential element in stimulating economic development. They will intensify their efforts to help economies in transition through increased market access.

(8) The participating States stress the importance of comprehensive, transparent and reliable statistics and commercial and administrative information as a basis for policy making and, in particular, for economic decision making, as well as for the efficient operation of a market economy. They will further improve the quality, timeliness and availability of this information. They recognize the valuable role of the ECE in this field, as well as the contribution by OECD of related fundamental analysis and information.

(9) The participating States emphasize the importance of the development of infrastructure, especially in the transport and telecommunication sectors, for a successful transition period and a greater share in international trade.

(10) In view of the impact of increasing transport activities on transport capacity, the environment and safety, they will co-operate in order to improve the efficiency and quality of transport by land, water and air. They will also co-operate in developing an efficient transport system within the CSCE area based on the principles of the market economy, safety and transparent and fully competitive conditions among operators and different modes of transport, with due consideration for the environment and social aspects. They stress the importance of further development and early completion of joint road and rail infrastructure projects, including those being undertaken by the ECE and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

(11) Taking into account the impact on the environment, they will pay particular attention to the development of low-emission transport systems, notably rail, inland waterways and combined transport operations.

(12) They will co-operate in creating an integrated telecommunications market, paying particular attention to the development of modern telecommunications infrastructure and related service capabilities, the establishment and expansion of telecommunications networks throughout the CSCE region, technical co-operation and the facilitation of the free flow of information.

(13) The participating States fully support the further development of the European Energy Charter and stress the importance of completing work on and implementing the Basic Agreement and the protocols. They consider these documents of particular importance for the period of transition and, recognizing their mutual interests in this field, they will co-operate to take advantage of the available opportunities.

(14) They emphasize the need for further energy sector co-operation with the objective of improving the security of energy supply, maximizing the efficiency of the production, conversion, transport, distribution and use of energy, enhancing safety and minimizing environmental problems, on an acceptable economic basis. In this context they also recognize the importance of existing international programmes, such as Energy Efficiency 2000 under the auspices of the ECE. The participating States underline the need for close co-operation in related areas such as commercial development of and research into renewable energy sources, as well as the free movement of energy products.

(15) The participating States stress the social and economic importance of the conversion of military production to civilian purposes. They support co-operation in the conversion of military production with interested participating States on a bilateral level, as well as within the framework of international organizations.

(16) The participating States stress the importance of agricultural reforms carried out in certain economies in transition. They will expand co-operation in sharing agricultural production expertise, including issues of privatization, co-operation and training in the agricultural and food industries.

(17) In order to take advantage of the enhanced opportunities for tourism since the opening of borders, the participating States will co-operate in improving, *inter alia*, infrastructure, services and harmonization of definitions and indicators, while giving due consideration to the impact of tourism on the environment. They will enhance their co-operation in the field of training and education in this sector and encourage the exchange of know-how and relevant information and the setting up of joint operations.

(18) Reaffirming the essential role of science and technology in the process of sustainable economic and social development, the participating States will enhance their co-operation in this field giving priority to areas which are of direct concern to their populations and to their production systems. This will include areas such as environmental research, biomedicine and health research, nuclear safety, energy and raw material saving techniques, agro- and food-processing technologies as well as measurement and testing techniques in order to facilitate the progressive introduction of international standards and codes of good practice to support the development of trade.

(19) They will take steps towards a greater sharing, where appropriate, of scientific and technological information and knowledge to overcome the technological gap, and recognize that the transfer of technology and exchange of up-to-date know-how should be consistent with non-proliferation obligations and the protection of intellectual property rights.

(20) Recognizing the need to develop human resources in the field of science and technology, they welcome the opportunity for further collaboration within appropriate international organizations and in research programmes such as COST and EUREKA, as well as the recent establishment of the International Centre for Science and Technology with centres in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. They will work towards the development of scientific networks and joint research projects.

Economic Forum

Mandate

(21) The CSCE Ministers agreed at the Prague Council Meeting (30 January 1992) to establish an Economic Forum within the framework of the CSO.

(22) The CSO will convene as the Economic Forum to give political stimulus to the dialogue on the transition to and development of free-market economies as an essential contribution to the building of democracy, to suggest practical efforts for the development of free-market systems and economic co-operation, and to encourage activities already under way within organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EBRD and the ECE.

Organization

(23) The CSO will convene as the Economic Forum. The Economic Forum will thus be governed by the same arrangements as those applying to all regular CSO meetings.

(24) The Forum can invite contributions to its work by those European and transatlantic organizations relevant to the subject under discussion.

(25) The work of the Forum should be so structured as to avoid duplication of the work of international organizations and overcommitment of scarce resources.

(26) The Economic Forum will meet on an annual basis as a rule. The meeting will last for two to three days, and the discussion will focus on two to three specific subjects.

(27) The Economic Forum will consider topics and subjects that may require further study by experts. This will take the form of open-ended seminars on specific subjects during the course of the year. These meetings of experts may, with the agreement of the Forum, be organized and financed by one or more CSCE States and/or by international organizations, possibly in co-operation with private organizations.

(28) These meetings of experts can bring together economic policy makers, parliamentary leaders and representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector in a positive dialogue on co-operation and the transition to market economies.

(29) The Forum will welcome reports of meetings of expert groups and encourages their distribution to all CSCE States. However, these groups of experts will not produce documents with commitments binding on CSCE States.

Functions

(30) The Economic Forum will permit the exchange of views and experiences concerning key issues of the transition process, as well as on the work of relevant international organizations.

(31) The Economic Forum should serve as an important mechanism for reviewing the implementation of CSCE commitments in the areas of economics, the environment and science and technology. The Forum should disseminate information, help to identify structural problems and suggest practical efforts for the development of economic co-operation in these areas during the period of transition.

(32) The political impulses which the Economic Forum is mandated to give to the discussion on the economic, environmental and science and technology aspects of the transition process will complement and support work in the international economic and environmental organizations that are addressing these problems at an operational level.

[...]

VIII. ENVIRONMENT

(1) The participating States will intensify the existing and growing co-operation between them in order to restore and maintain a sound ecological balance in air, water and soil and they recognize their individual and common commitment towards achieving these goals.

(2) The participating States stress the need to develop, in the appropriate fora, efficient systems for monitoring and evaluating compliance with existing environmental commitments. They are looking forward to the results of environmental policy performance reviews being carried out in co-operation between OECD and the ECE. They encourage the ECE and other international organizations to consider ways of enabling all CSCE participating States to adhere to relevant conventions.

(3) The participating States underline that the integration of environmental protection in other policies and in the economic decision-making process is an essential condition both for the creation of sustainable economic development and for a prudent use of natural resources. In this respect, the use of economic and fiscal instruments in addition to regulatory instruments is important in order to implement, at national level, the “polluter-pays” principle, as well as the precautionary approach.

(4) They emphasize that environmental protection should be a major consideration in international co-operation among them. They encourage work towards elaborating an Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe, as well as elements for an Environmental Programme for the whole of Europe, in the follow-up to the 1991 ministerial conference “Environment for Europe”.

(5) The participating States will support intensified work within the relevant international organizations to make liberalized international trade and the protection of the environment mutually supportive.

(6) The participating States stress the need to ensure effectively the safety of all nuclear installations, in order to protect the population and the environment. They will co-operate in the appropriate international fora on defining and establishing nuclear safety objectives.

(7) They recommend the widest possible adherence to the IAEA Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and express their support for active work on the early elaboration of an international convention on nuclear safety in the framework of IAEA. The participating States welcome the International Nuclear Events Scale (INES) and Incident Reporting System.

(8) They will work to support the technical co-operation programmes of IAEA aimed at enhancing nuclear safety. They will support other international efforts in this direction aimed at, *inter alia*, upgrading the safety of nuclear installations where technically feasible, and where not feasible by developing and implementing plans, as soon as practically possible, to substitute them with facilities using environmentally sound energy production processes and through the improvement of energy efficiency.

(9) The participating States should ascertain that their military establishments conform to their nationally applicable environmental norms in the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.

(10) The participating States express their concern about the illegal international transport and disposal of toxic and hazardous wastes. They will co-operate to prevent the illegal movement and disposal of such wastes and to prohibit their export to and import by countries that do not have the technical means to process and dispose of them in an environmentally sound manner, in the context of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. With regard to international transport of radioactive waste they will take into account the IAEA Code of Practice on International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste.

(11) The participating States will work towards the development of policies aimed at increasing environmental awareness and educating citizens to reduce the risks of natural and technological disasters, as well as preparing appropriate actions when such disasters occur. To this end, the participating States recognize the important work under way through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) programme. The participating States will take appropriate steps to enhance public participation in environmental planning and decision making.

(12) The participating States urge the implementation of principles regarding the exchange of information on the state of the environment, consultation, early warning and assistance in environmental emergencies contained in the OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response, and in the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

(13) They encourage the designation of national environmental arrangements, such as task forces, which could co-ordinate the dissemination of relevant information on expertise and equipment to countries facing emergencies, to the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, and to other relevant international organizations. These arrangements will take into account the ECE Conventions on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, as well as other relevant agreements.

(14) They would welcome the designation by the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance of one of its staff as liaison officer for the CSCE region, and recommend that the Centre be connected to the CSCE communications network, which could serve as a supplementary information system in emergency situations, taking into account the fact that the Centre will be subject to evaluation by the UNEP Governing Council in June 1993.

(15) The participating States will encourage in the appropriate fora the development of a network of protection areas in the CSCE region to conserve and safeguard the large-scale natural and near-natural biotopes and ecosystems still in existence, as part of their natural heritage, as well as further development of the protection and conservation of animals.

(16) Encouraging early implementation of the forest principles adopted at UNCED and recognizing the importance of sustaining the forest ecosystems of the CSCE region, the participating States decide to give impetus to this issue through practical discussions. In this regard, a Seminar of CSCE Experts on the subject of "Sustainable Development of Boreal and Temperate Forests", will be convened in Montreal from 27 September to 6 October 1993. A proposal outlining the budget, agenda and modalities of this seminar will be presented by Canada for approval by the CSO before the end of 1992.

[...]

CSCE BUDAPEST DOCUMENT 1994 – TOWARDS A GENUINE PARTNERSHIP IN A NEW ERA

BUDAPEST, 1994

[...]

IX. THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION

1. The participating States reaffirm the principles and values expressed in the Helsinki Document 1992, the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation, and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and underscore that support for the economic reform process, and the development of market economies and environmentally sound policies are essential for the security and stability of the CSCE region.

2. The participating States consider it important to pay close attention to the inter-relationship among all of the dimensions of the CSCE's comprehensive concept of security. The economic dimension in the CSCE comprises activities designed to promote co-operation in the field of economics, the environment and science and technology, as well as regional and transfrontier co-operation.

3. The participating States welcome the role played by the international economic and financial institutions in support of economic dimension priorities, and reaffirm their interest in working closely with these organizations. They consider it necessary to promote closer interaction between the CSCE and international economic and financial organizations and institutions engaged in the CSCE region. In order to place issues of common concern into a broader security context, the participating States encourage the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General to enhance their dialogue with such organizations. They ask the Secretary General to establish an international organizations contact point which would assist in the exchange of information between representatives of the CSCE and these organizations on activities relating to the economic dimension, and reduce duplication and overlap.

4. The participating States will continue to co-operate in support of the economic reform process in the countries in transition, concentrating on issues relating to trade and investment, privatization, and private sector development. They will work to promote the effective integration of the countries with economies in transition into world economic structures, and to this end reaffirm their determination to promote the continued liberalization of trade, including market access. The participating States welcome the network of bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements which contribute to

overcoming past divisions, and note with pleasure the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations and the creation of the new World Trade Organization.

5. Regional and transfrontier co-operation has a definite role in promoting good-neighbourly relations. The participating States welcome the development of an increasing number of regional groupings, in conformity with CSCE principles, including the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Central European Initiative, the Central European Free Trade Agreement, the Council of Baltic Sea States and the Danube River Protection Convention, as positive examples of economic, environmental, regional and transfrontier co-operation.

6. The participating States note that the development of economic ties and co-operation in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the implementation of their economic agreements will contribute to resolving the problems of the transition process.

7. Recognizing the importance of infrastructure development in the promotion of economic integration in Europe, the participating States welcome the declaration of the Second Pan-European Transport Conference and undertake to implement its conclusions. The participating States note with interest the upcoming signing of the European Energy Charter, and express their support for the principle of establishing a Trans-European Energy Network.

8. The participating States recall the special ad hoc meeting of Senior Officials convened as a result of the decision by the Rome Council Meeting to discuss priority projects to assist those States affected by United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). This meeting resulted in better international co-ordination in addressing these problems, and the participating States encourage international organizations and the involved States to continue their efforts in this regard.

9. The participating States will continue to encourage initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development, and will take the necessary steps toward implementing various international conventions and arrangements relating to environmental protection. They express their intention to work together, along with the relevant international organizations and institutions, to ensure the maintenance of environmental standards in the CSCE area. The participating States welcome the establishment of the European Environmental Agency in Copenhagen, and acknowledge the key role it will play in the dissemination of information in this field.

10. The participating States note the ongoing development of transfrontier co-operation on issues of mutual interest in the arctic region. They encourage the eight arctic nations to take steps to effectively implement the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (EPS) and ensure the continued co-ordination of its programmes.

11. The participating States will collaborate with the relevant international organizations in the preparation of the next Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference, scheduled for Sofia in 1995, and express their intention to continue their support for this process.

12. The participating States encourage the creation of environmental centres in the Russian Federation and the newly independent participating States, modelled after the Regional Environmental Centre in Budapest. These centres would work to promote full participation of both the public and private sectors, including non-governmental organizations, in environmental decision-making.

13. The participating States encourage ongoing international co-operation efforts, especially those of the IAEA, aimed at improving nuclear safety. The participating States will pay special attention to the safe management of radioactive waste, and welcome recent international initiatives intended to assist in this area.

14. The participating States confirm their commitment to further international co-operation in the field of science and technology through existing bilateral and multilateral frameworks, and encourage continued effort in this direction. To this end, the participating States will consider convening a second "Scientific Forum".

15. The participating States remain convinced of the need to preserve the national scientific potential of countries in transition. They recognize that co-operation between industry and research institutions is beneficial in raising productivity and enhancing competitiveness. They encourage efforts to preserve that potential, and urge continued co-operation in this area. In this respect, they welcome the establishment of the International Science and Technology Centre in Moscow, and encourage the participation of scientists in the activities of similar centres. The participating States also encourage the promotion of the exchange of high technology, consistent with their international obligations and commitments.

16. Stressing the importance of public support for reform, the participating States will continue to pay close attention to the social aspects of the transition process.

17. The participating States encourage co-operation in the adaptation of education and training systems, so that they may better serve the needs of societies undergoing reform.

Some areas requiring specific attention are the identification of present and future skill needs, retraining of the unemployed to facilitate their integration into the labour market, continued vocational training, and the integration of all sectors of society into these programmes. Training in modern management practices is also an essential element of economic reform.

18. The participating States recognize the importance of co-operation in a number of areas in the economic integration process. They confirm that the development of transparent and internationally compatible standards and certification procedures is an essential factor in promoting trade and investment. They reaffirm the importance of recognizing intellectual property rights. The participating States recognize that access to reliable information and statistics is important to public policy development as well as decision-making in the private sector. They also encourage efforts to standardize reporting practices. Progress in these areas is crucial to fostering co-operation, including the development of trade, the promotion of investment, and sound environmental policies.

19. The participating States renew their commitment to take active measures and engage in consultations in the relevant fora to prevent the trafficking of drugs.

20. The participating States stress that the Economic Forum remains the main venue for discussion of economic dimension issues. They are committed to making the Forum more dynamic through the careful preparation of each meeting well in advance, and a change in format to allow for maximum discussion. The participating States recognize that the success of the Economic Forum is dependent upon the active and high level participation of a wide range of representatives from government, international institutions, the private sector, business associations, labour unions, academic communities, and non-governmental organizations with relevant experience.

21. The participating States request the Chairman-in-Office, with support from the Secretariat, to convene an ad hoc informal group to meet in Vienna to undertake the preparation of the Economic Forum and its follow-up. Representatives of relevant international organizations may be invited to these meetings.

22. Topics addressed in the Economic Forum in general should continue to cover various aspects of the transition process and economic co-operation in the CSCE area, as well as related issues in the economic dimension. However, in order to make Forum meetings more effective, the participating States agree to choose within the broad areas a limited number of topics for each annual meeting. The topic of the Third Economic Forum meeting will be regional economic co-operation in the fields of trade, investment and infrastructure.

23. The participating States believe tourism plays a role in promoting better understanding between different cultures, and in creating enduring links between peoples and States. In this spirit the participating States welcome the Government of Romania's decision to host a seminar on tourism in the autumn of 1995, as a follow up to the ideas proposed in the Second Economic Forum.

24. To promote greater effectiveness of economic dimension activities, and noting the decision taken by the Rome Council, the participating States ask the Secretary General to designate a position for a full-time economic expert, and to designate Secretariat staff to ensure adequate support for these activities.

25. Recalling the Rome Council decision to have the CSCE take a more active role in promoting co-operation in the economic dimension, the participating States encourage the Chairman-in-Office to convene a meeting of the Permanent Council to discuss means to integrate the economic dimension into the consideration of the tasks faced by the CSCE. Representatives of relevant international economic and financial institutions may be invited to such a meeting.

26. The participating States welcome initiatives by the private sector to create business clubs and activities in line with CSCE principles and values. The participating States stand ready to facilitate the exchanges of information and experience, and promote interaction with and among these clubs and associations, through, *inter alia*, the Economic Forum meeting.

27. The participating States also encourage the Secretariat to work towards augmenting the involvement of representatives of the business community including the private sector, business associations, and non governmental organizations with relevant experience, in economic dimension activities. This could be done through the increased use of Secretariat public affairs efforts.

[...]

LISBON SUMMIT DECLARATION

LISBON, 3 DECEMBER 1996

[...]

12. The same comprehensive approach to security requires continued efforts in the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic dimension and an adequate development of OSCE activities dealing with security-related economic, social and environmental issues. The OSCE should focus on identifying the risks to security arising from economic, social and environmental problems, discussing their causes and potential consequences, and draw the attention of relevant international institutions to the need to take appropriate measures to alleviate the difficulties stemming from those risks. With this aim, the OSCE should further enhance its ties to mutually-reinforcing international economic and financial institutions, including regular consultations at appropriate levels aimed at improving the ability to identify and assess at an early stage the security relevance of economic, social and environmental developments. Interaction with regional, subregional and transborder co-operative initiatives in the economic and environmental field should be enhanced, as they contribute to the promotion of good-neighbourly relations and security. We therefore task the Permanent Council to review the role of the OSCE Secretariat in the economic dimension, and to elaborate a mandate for a co-ordinator within the OSCE Secretariat on OSCE economic and environmental activities, to be submitted not later than the 1997 Ministerial Council.

[...]

CHARTER FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY

ISTANBUL, 19 NOVEMBER 1999

SUM.DOC/1/99

[...]

5. Acute economic problems and environmental degradation may have serious implications for our security. Co-operation in the fields of economy, science and technology and the environment will be of critical importance. We will strengthen our responses to such threats through continued economic and environmental reforms, by stable and transparent frameworks for economic activity and by promoting market economies, while paying due attention to economic and social rights. We applaud the unprecedented process of economic transformation taking place in many participating States. We encourage them to continue this reform process, which will contribute to security and prosperity in the entire OSCE area. We will step up our efforts across all dimensions of the OSCE to combat corruption and to promote the rule of law.

[...]

THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

31. The link between security, democracy and prosperity has become increasingly evident in the OSCE area, as has the risk to security from environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources. Economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are indispensable for prosperity. On the basis of these linkages, we will ensure that the economic dimension receives appropriate attention, in particular as an element of our early warning and conflict prevention activities. We will do so, *inter alia*, with a view to promoting the integration of economies in transition into the world economy and to ensure the rule of law and the development of a transparent and stable legal system in the economic sphere.

32. The OSCE is characterized by its broad membership, its comprehensive approach to security, its large number of field operations and its long history as a normsetting organization. These qualities enable it to identify threats and to act as a catalyst for co-operation between key international organizations and institutions in the economic and environmental areas. The OSCE stands ready to play this role, where appropriate. We will foster such coordination between the OSCE and relevant international organizations in accordance with the Platform for Cooperative Security. We will enhance the OSCE's ability to address economic

and environmental issues in ways that neither duplicate existing work nor replace efforts that can be more efficiently undertaken by other organizations. We will focus on areas in which the OSCE has particular competence. The OSCE's efforts within the human dimension have significant economic effects and vice versa, for example by mobilizing human resources and talents and by helping to build vibrant civil societies. In the spirit of the 1998 Århus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, we will in particular seek to ensure access to information, public participation in decisionmaking and access to justice in environmental matters.

RULE OF LAW AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

33. We reaffirm our commitment to the rule of law. We recognize that corruption poses a great threat to the OSCE's shared values. It generates instability and reaches into many aspects of the security, economic and human dimensions. Participating States pledge to strengthen their efforts to combat corruption and the conditions that foster it, and to promote a positive framework for good government practices and public integrity. They will make better use of existing international instruments and assist each other in their fight against corruption. As part of its work to promote the rule of law, the OSCE will work with NGOs that are committed to a strong public and business consensus against corrupt practices.

[...]

ISTANBUL SUMMIT DECLARATION

ISTANBUL, 19 NOVEMBER 1999

SUM.DOC/2/99

[...]

29. The Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities should, under the authority of the Chairman in Office and the Secretary General and in close co-operation with the relevant OSCE field operations, develop regular reports concerning economic and environmental risks to security. These reports should include questions of promoting public awareness of the relationship between economic and environmental problems and security and the relationship between our Organization and others concerned with the promotion of economic and environmental security within the OSCE area. Such reports will be discussed by the Permanent Council.

[...]

ASTANA COMMEMORATIVE DECLARATION TOWARDS A SECURITY COMMUNITY

ASTANA, 3 DECEMBER 2010

SUM.DOC/1/10/CORR.1¹

1. We, the Heads of State or Government of the 56 participating States of the OSCE, have assembled in Astana, eleven years after the last OSCE Summit in Istanbul, to recommit ourselves to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals. As we mark the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, we reaffirm the relevance of, and our commitment to, the principles on which this Organization is based. While we have made much progress, we also acknowledge that more must be done to ensure full respect for, and implementation of, these core principles and commitments that we have undertaken in the politico-military dimension, the economic and environmental dimension, and the human dimension, notably in the areas of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. We reaffirm our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Charter for European Security and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith. We reiterate our commitment to the concept, initiated in the Final Act, of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, which relates the maintenance of peace to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and links economic and environmental co-operation with peaceful inter-State relations.

[...]

¹ Incorporates a correction to attachment 1 to the Declaration

6. The OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative approach to security, which addresses the human, economic and environmental, political and military dimensions of security as an integral whole, remains indispensable. Convinced that the inherent dignity of the individual is at the core of comprehensive security, we reiterate that human rights and fundamental freedoms are inalienable, and that their protection and promotion is our first responsibility. We reaffirm categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. We value the important role played by civil society and free media in helping us to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, including free and fair elections, and the rule of law.

7. Serious threats and challenges remain. Mistrust and divergent security perceptions must be overcome. Our commitments in the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions need to be fully implemented. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law must be safeguarded and strengthened. Greater efforts must be made to promote freedom of religion or belief and to combat intolerance and discrimination. Mutually beneficial co-operation aimed at addressing the impact on our region's security of economic and environmental challenges must be further developed. Our energy security dialogue, including on agreed principles of our co-operation, must be enhanced. Increased efforts should be made to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter, as well as the Helsinki Final Act. New crises must be prevented. We pledge to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

[...]

1

**SECTION I
SUMMIT AND OTHER
RELATED DOCUMENTS**

2

**SECTION II
MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL DECISIONS**

3

**SECTION III
PERMANENT
COUNCIL DECISIONS**

FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

BERLIN, 19-20 JUNE 1991

Summary of Conclusions

[...]

3. The Ministers had political consultations on the European architecture and the strengthening of security in Europe as well as the consolidation of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, on prospects for economic transition and social change in Europe, on current issues and on the future work of the CSCE.

In the framework of these consultations the Ministers came to the following conclusions:

4. They reaffirmed the importance of continued political and economic transformation in the democratic countries in transition towards a market economy. They stressed the necessity to continue support to these countries in their efforts to consolidate democracy and transform their economies.

5. They reaffirmed that co-operation in the fields of economy, science, technology and the environment remains an important pillar of the CSCE.

[...]

PRAGUE DOCUMENT ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CSCE INSTITUTIONS AND STRUCTURES

SECOND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

PRAGUE, JANUARY 1992

[...]

V. Economic Co-operation

18. The Ministers agreed on the need to continue their efforts to strengthen the focus of CSCE on the transition to and development of free-market economies as an essential contribution to the building of democracy.

19. To this end, they agreed to establish an Economic Forum within the framework of the CSO. The CSO would convene as the economic forum to give political stimulus to the dialogue on these topics, to suggest practical efforts for the development of free-market systems and economic co-operation, and to encourage activities already underway within organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The Forum will meet periodically in Prague and can invite contributions to its meetings by those European and transatlantic organizations relevant to the subject under discussion. It was agreed that the first meeting of the Economic Forum would be in early 1993.

20. The Ministers agreed that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting will consider appropriate further measures to promote discussions in the framework of the CSCE on economic co-operation and related topics.

[...]

CSCE AND THE NEW EUROPE - OUR SECURITY IS INDIVISIBLE DECISIONS OF THE ROME COUNCIL MEETING

FOURTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

ROME, 30 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 1993

[...]

V. THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION

1. The Ministers recalled the basic importance of economic transformation, development and co-operation to the realization of the CSCE's comprehensive concept of security. This concept emphasizes the interrelation between developing democratic institutions and market economics. Economic co-operation is essential to strengthening security and stability in the CSCE area. The Ministers agreed that the CSCE, with its broad participation, should play an active role in promoting co-operation in the economic dimension, which should be developed, inter alia, by working closely with relevant economic, financial and developmental organizations. They requested the Permanent Committee of the CSCE to integrate more fully the economic dimension into its consideration of tasks facing the CSCE.

2. To ensure that the CSCE complements efforts by other international and non-governmental organizations, the Ministers requested the Permanent Committee to identify practical means of deepening dialogue and expanding co-operative projects with such organizations.

3. They agreed that the CSCE should contribute to contacts and dialogue which help expand mutual understanding of the requirements for sustainable economic development. They also considered practical pursuit of the economic dimension to be an important aspect of the Programme of Co-ordinated Support for newly admitted States.

4. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the first session of the CSCE Economic Forum, held in Prague 16-18 March 1993 and welcomed the prospect of the second annual Economic Forum in March 1994. To ensure continuity of the work on the economic dimension, the Ministers agreed to provide permanent support for the Economic Forum and its follow-on activities through the CSCE Secretariat operating within existing resources. In this connection, the Ministers decided to designate an existing position for an economic expert to pursue such tasks.

5. They welcomed the Government of Kyrgyzstan's decision to host the first follow-up seminar to the Forum in February 1994. They called upon participating States, the Chairman-in-Office and the CSCE Secretariat to co-operate in organizing this and future such meetings.

[...]

DECISION ON A COMMON AND COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY MODEL FOR EUROPE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: A NEW CONCEPT FOR A NEW CENTURY

FIFTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

BUDAPEST, DECEMBER 1995

MC(5).DEC/2

1. The Ministerial Council notes that, in accordance with the relevant Budapest Summit decision, a broad and comprehensive discussion has been launched on devising a concept of security for the whole OSCE region in the twenty-first century. The Council stresses the importance of the strict observance of all OSCE principles and commitments to ensure security in the century to come. The Council takes note of the progress report presented to it by the Chairman-in-Office and decides to move the work on a security model into a more operational phase, providing opportunities to continue the identification of particular security risks and challenges and examining how the OSCE principles, commitments and mechanisms should be implemented to deal most effectively with the diverse security concerns of participating States. To this end, it endorses follow-up work in preparation for the 1996 Lisbon Summit.

2. A key objective of this discussion is to apply fully the OSCE's unique capabilities and inclusive nature to the development of a common security space based on the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security and its indivisibility. Within this space, free of dividing lines, all OSCE participating States and the organizations to which they belong will be able to work together in a constructive, complementary and mutually reinforcing way, building a genuine partnership, in full respect of the free will of their members. While doing so, they will respect the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve. Each participating State will respect the rights of all others in this regard. They will not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other States. Within the OSCE, no State, organization or grouping can have any superior responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the OSCE region, or regard any part of the OSCE region as its sphere of influence. The basis for our common efforts to design a model is the OSCE principles, including their co-equality, which, together with the high standards represented by our OSCE commitments, remain valid for both inter- and intra-State relationships.

3. The Ministerial Council decides that the work on a model should proceed in accordance with the following guidelines:

- to promote strict observance of OSCE principles and commitments, which is of paramount importance for stability and security in the OSCE region;
- to contribute to the further development of the OSCE and the effective use and strengthening of its operational capabilities;
- to promote co-operative approaches to security challenges and risks, bearing in mind the common commitment of the participating States to promote stability and security, to prevent conflicts, and to manage crises;
- to sustain the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security and its indivisibility in order to promote effective concerted responses to complex security challenges in a spirit of co-operation and solidarity in defence of the OSCE's common values;
- to further develop ways in which complementary and mutually reinforcing organizations work together, including through enhanced dialogue, in the common interests of security and stability in the OSCE area;
- to develop further the relationship between the OSCE and the United Nations on the basis of the OSCE's position as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, and of the relevant provisions of the Budapest Document 1994; and
- to contribute to the transparent and democratic evolution of regional and transatlantic organizations with a view to strengthening confidence, security and stability in the OSCE region.

As work on a concept of security for the twenty-first century proceeds, additional guidelines may be introduced. Such work may benefit from continued contributions by other organizations.

4. In preparation for the Lisbon OSCE Summit, the Ministerial Council entrusts the Chairman-in-Office with the task of intensifying focused discussion on all aspects of a security model, including through a Security Model Committee, under the auspices of the Permanent Council, which can benefit from input from other OSCE fora. The Chairman-in-Office will organize the work, while maintaining its comprehensiveness, in a manner that is consistent with this decision and the attached annex, which is an integral part of the decision.

As the work proceeds, specific new measures may be developed for the promotion of all dimensions of security in the OSCE region.

5. With the aim of ensuring a broad, inclusive approach to the work on a security model, the Ministerial Council

- requests the Chairman-in-Office to keep the issue of “a common and comprehensive security model for Europe for the twenty-first century” on the agenda of the Senior Council until the 1996 OSCE Lisbon Summit;
- requests the Chairman-in-Office to organize further seminars within the context of the work on a security model, the subjects of which will be agreed upon by the participating States; and
- encourages a wide-ranging discussion on a security model, with broad participation of government officials, non-governmental representatives, and academics.

6. The Council requests the Chairman-in-Office to keep the informal list of risks and challenges to security updated, and to encourage participating States to clarify further their perceptions of specific risks and challenges to their security.

7. Progress achieved and results available at that time will be presented by the Chairman-in-Office to the 1996 Lisbon Summit for consideration and assessment.

ANNEX

The Chairman-in-Office will organize the work in the following areas. These areas are indicative only and set no priorities:

- conflict prevention, including early warning and preventive diplomacy
- crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation
- OSCE peacekeeping
- arms control, including confidence-building
- enhanced co-operation in preventing and combating terrorism
- human rights and fundamental freedoms, human contacts, democracy-building

- tolerance-building
- co-operation in preventing and combating aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and ethnic cleansing
- non-military confidence-building
- co-operation in the fields of migration, refugees and displaced persons
- economic security, including sustainable economic development, well-functioning market economy,

and economic co-operation

- co-operation in solving environmental problems and managing disasters
- further development of the concept of complementary and mutually reinforcing institutions, including mechanisms for transparency, consultation and co-operation
- strengthening of the OSCE
- regional co-operation
- co-operation between the OSCE area and the Mediterranean region
- security co-operation beyond the OSCE area
- ...

Other topics may be agreed upon in the Security Model Committee.

As necessary, the Chairman-in-Office, after appropriate consultations, may set up not more than three informal subsidiary working bodies and, for each working body, appoint a co-ordinator.

DECISIONS OF THE COPENHAGEN MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING

SIXTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

COPENHAGEN, DECEMBER 1997

MC(6).Dec/5

[...]

Decision on Guidelines on an OSCE Document-charter on European Security

1. The Ministerial Council is convinced that, at the eve of the new century, the current political and security environment offers a unique historical opportunity for building a new Europe - democratic, peaceful and free of divisions. New and complex risks and challenges to security require a co-operative and comprehensive approach. Security across the entire OSCE area can be strengthened only through genuine partnership based on the sovereign equality and solidarity of States, and with full respect for the principles of the OSCE and the interests of all OSCE States irrespective of whether they belong to security structures or arrangements.

2. The Council recalls that under paragraph 22 of the Helsinki Summit Declaration of 1992 the OSCE is a forum providing direction and giving impulse to the shaping of the new Europe and that under paragraph 8 of the Budapest Summit Declaration the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management in the region. The 1996 Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century affirmed the OSCE's central role in ensuring security and stability. The purpose of the work on a Security Model is to contribute to the creation of a common and indivisible security space and benefit the security of all participating States through enhancing and strengthening the OSCE in its own work and thereby underpinning its key role as the only pan-European security organization, in European peace and stability.

3. Recalling the 1996 Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century and taking note of the report by the Chairman-in-Office on the work done on the Security Model during 1997, the Ministerial Council reaffirms the solemn commitment of all participating States to the Helsinki Final Act as the bedrock of the OSCE, to the Charter of Paris as well as to other OSCE documents which together form a common foundation of security for all participating States, and decides to develop a comprehensive and substantive OSCE Document-Charter on European Security.

4. Such a Document-Charter should be politically binding and take a further step with regard to standards and practices of OSCE participating States. It should serve the needs of our peoples in the new century by addressing risks and challenges to security, thus contributing to a common security space within the OSCE area. It should enable participating States to do so through a strengthened OSCE undertaking mutually supportive co-operation with other competent organizations on an equal basis. It should complement and advance the processes of integration across the OSCE area. It should reinforce our efforts to assist in promoting adherence to common values and implementation of commitments.

A Document-Charter should continue to uphold consensus as the basis for OSCE decision-making. The OSCE's flexibility and ability to respond quickly to a changing political environment should remain at the heart of the OSCE's co-operative and inclusive approach to common and indivisible security.

A Document-Charter should reaffirm OSCE principles and recognize their continued validity and applicability in ensuring peace and stability in the dynamic security environment in the OSCE area. It should reaffirm the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve. Each participating State will respect the rights of all others in this regard. They will not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other States. Within the OSCE, no State, organization or grouping can have any superior responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the OSCE region, or regard any part of the OSCE region as its sphere of influence.

5. As a means of turning their vision into reality, Ministers agree that participating States, through a Document-Charter, will, *inter alia*, undertake the following:

(a) Reaffirm the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and strengthen it as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region by further enhancing its effectiveness for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. They will safeguard the innovative character of the OSCE in fulfilling its role and increase the OSCE's capabilities in a number of essential areas by refining existing tools and exploring new ones.

(b) Recognizing that within the OSCE participating States are accountable to their citizens for the respect of OSCE norms and principles, and that commitments assumed by States within the OSCE are matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States, they will strengthen the commitment to act in solidarity and partnership to ensure the implementation of, and respect for, OSCE principles and commitments and for decisions adopted by the OSCE. To assist States experiencing problems with

implementation of commitments, they will draw on and explore ways of refining existing co-operative instruments and mechanisms and developing new ones. To this end States will reaffirm their commitment to co-operate within the OSCE and with its institutions and representatives and their readiness to use OSCE instruments, tools and mechanisms.

They will continue to protect the common security of all participating States, and to that end, and with a view to maintaining genuine partnership, they will explore ways of increasing the effectiveness of the OSCE in addressing cases of clear, gross and continuing violation of OSCE principles and decisions. In this connection, they will also explore ways of improving co-operation between States and institutions and joint co-operative measures to assist implementation of OSCE principles and decisions.

(c) They will explore further ways jointly to consider actions that may have to be undertaken, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, possibly in co-operation with other relevant organizations of which they are members, in the event that any State threatens to use or uses force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State. They will also explore ways to help any participating State in case of internal breakdown of law and order.

(d) They shall ensure that the presence of foreign troops on the territory of a participating State is in conformity with international law, the freely expressed consent of the host State, or a relevant decision of the United Nations Security Council.

(e) Recognizing the importance of co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant organizations when confronted with risks and challenges and building on the Common Concept set out in the Annex to this Decision, they will further strengthen non-hierarchical co-operation between the OSCE and other organizations within a Platform for Co-operative Security to be elaborated as an essential element of the Document-Charter. They will do so, *inter alia*, by exploring additional modalities for how the OSCE and other organizations might better complement each other's capabilities so as to devise optimal co-operative solutions to specific problems. To this end they will build on the modalities outlined in the agreed Annex to this Decision.

Based on the provisions set out in the Common Concept, they will offer the OSCE as a potential forum for interaction of regional and subregional groupings in the OSCE area, with the aim of facilitating exchanges of information and of developing a pragmatic approach to addressing challenges, including those in the field of post-conflict rehabilitation.

In the light of the role the OSCE has come to play across the full spectrum of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and in the light

of practical experience gained by other organizations within the field of peacekeeping, they will examine rigorously the OSCE's appropriate role in connection with peacekeeping operations, bearing in mind relevant OSCE documents.

(f) They will examine an appropriate role for the OSCE, including how the OSCE can facilitate international efforts, in addressing new risks and challenges to security.

(g) They will augment the work within the human dimension, including building and strengthening of democratic institutions, and strengthen their commitment to counter such threats to overall security as violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism, *inter alia*, in co-operation with other institutions active in this field.

They will explore how the OSCE can contribute to the improvement of implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms - including equal rights for women and men. They will also seek ways in which the OSCE, in addressing issues related to persons belonging to national minorities, can strengthen its support of inter-ethnic dialogue and promote the implementation of commitments relating to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The aim will be to refine the OSCE's tools and increase participating States' acceptance of their use.

(h) Drawing on the interlinkages between security and prosperity based on economic freedom and social justice and environmental protection, they will ensure that the economic dimension receives appropriate attention as an element of the early warning and conflict prevention activities of the OSCE and provides further political impetus to the work carried out by specialized economic and financial and other relevant institutions, *inter alia*, with a view to promoting the integration of economies in transition into the world economy and to ensuring within the OSCE area the rule of law and the development of a transparent and predictable legal system in the economic sphere.

(i) In stressing the importance of politico-military issues, they will confirm the importance of implementation of existing arms control and confidence- and security-building measures as well as their adaptation to the new security environment. They will consider possible new measures to enhance transparency, predictability and co-operation and ensure that the Forum for Security Co-operation, as a forum for dialogue and negotiation, remains effective in this regard. They will underline the continued significance of the CFE Treaty as a cornerstone of European security, and the importance of the Vienna Document and the Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security.

(j) Recognizing the indivisibility of security, they affirm that strengthened security and co-operation in adjacent areas, in particular the Mediterranean, is an important factor for stability in the OSCE area. They will consider closer co-operation with all partners for co-operation in order to promote the norms and values shared by the OSCE participating States. They will also encourage partners to draw on OSCE expertise.

6. The Ministerial Council decides:

- That work on a Document-Charter will be complemented by continuing target-oriented OSCE action providing practical means of enhancing the effectiveness of the OSCE throughout its fields of activity. This will include improving and refining OSCE tools and mechanisms, exploring new innovative possibilities, such as tools of assistance to promote democratic institutions, and improving the efficiency of OSCE field activities;
- Pending the elaboration of a Platform for Co-operative Security as part of a Document-Charter, to task the Chairman-in-Office, in co-operation with the Secretary General, on the basis of the Annex to this Decision, to work actively to increase the OSCE's co-operation with other international institutions and organizations.

7. The Ministerial Council further decides:

- That the development of a Document-Charter will be undertaken by the Security Model Committee, under the auspices of the Permanent Council, which may, as appropriate, set up subordinate bodies to deal with specific elements of the Document-Charter;
- To task the Chairman-in-Office, as a matter of priority, with presenting a schedule, organizational modalities and procedures for this process. Progress of the work may, as appropriate, be reviewed at special meetings of the Permanent Council;
- That a Document-Charter will be adopted at the level of Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States.

ANNEX to MC(6).DEC/5

Common Concept for the Development of Co-operation between Mutually-Reinforcing Institutions

The goal of a Platform for Co-operative Security is to strengthen the mutually-reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area. The Common Concept below provides the basis for the development of a Platform which will be part of a Document-Charter.

I. Common Concept

Ministers recognize that security in the OSCE area requires co-operation and co-ordination among participating States and relevant organizations and institutions of which they are also members.

The OSCE participating States wish to strengthen the non-hierarchical mutually-reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions, with a view to fostering a foundation for common, comprehensive and indivisible security in the OSCE area.

The OSCE will work co-operatively with those organizations and institutions whose members individually and collectively, in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to each organization or institution, now and in the future:

- Adhere to OSCE principles and commitments as set out in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Helsinki Document 1992, the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security and the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century;
- Subscribe to the principles of transparency and predictability in their actions in the spirit of the Vienna Document;
- Implement fully the arms control obligations, including disarmament and CSBMs, to which they have committed themselves;
- Proceed on the basis that those organizations and institutions of which they are members will adhere to transparency about their evolution;

- Ensure that their membership in those organizations and institutions is based on openness and free will;
- Actively support the OSCE's concept of common, comprehensive and indivisible security and a common security space free of dividing lines;
- Play a full and appropriate part in the development of the relationships between mutually-reinforcing security-related institutions in the OSCE area;
- Are ready in principle to deploy the institutional resources of international organizations and institutions of which they are members in support of the OSCE's work, subject to the necessary policy decisions as cases arise. In this regard, participating States note the particular relevance of co-operation in the areas of conflict prevention and crisis management.

Together these principles and commitments form a Common Concept for the development of co-operation between mutually-reinforcing organizations and institutions within the Platform.

Within the relevant organizations and institutions of which they are members, participating States will work to ensure the organizations' and institutions' adherence to the Platform for Co-operative Security. Adherence, on the basis of decisions taken by each member State within relevant organizations and institutions, will take place in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to each organization or institution. Contacts and co-operation of the OSCE with other organizations and institutions will be transparent to participating States and will take place in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to the OSCE and those organizations and institutions.

II. A first set of practical steps towards the development of co-operation between the OSCE and those organizations and institutions which subscribe to the Common Concept will be:

1. Regular contacts, including meetings, through a continuous framework for dialogue, increased transparency and practical co-operation, including the identification of liaison officers or points of contact; cross-representation at appropriate meetings; and other contact intended to increase understanding of each organization's conflict prevention tools.

2. Co-operation in responding to specific crises:

- The OSCE, through its Chairman-in-Office and supported by the Secretary General, and the relevant organizations and institutions are encouraged to keep each other informed of what actions they are undertaking or plan to undertake to deal with a particular situation;
- To this end, participating States encourage the Chairman-in-Office, supported by the Secretary General, to work with other organizations and institutions to foster co-ordinated approaches that avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of available resources. As appropriate, the OSCE can offer to serve as a flexible framework for co-operation of the various mutually-reinforcing efforts. The Chairman-in-Office will consult with participating States on the process.

ANNEX TO MC DECISION ON COMBATING TERRORISM: THE BUCHAREST PLAN OF ACTION FOR COMBATING TERRORISM

BUCHAREST, 4 DECEMBER 2001

ANNEX to MC(9).DEC/1

I. GOAL OF THE ACTION PLAN

1. Terrorism is a threat to international peace and security, in the OSCE area as elsewhere. The OSCE stands ready to make its contribution to the fight against terrorism in close cooperation with other organizations and fora. This contribution will be consistent with the Platform for Cooperative Security and will benefit from interaction between global and regional antiterrorism efforts under the aegis of the United Nations. The OSCE participating States commit their political will, resources and practical means to the implementation of their obligations under existing international terrorism conventions and pledge themselves to intensify national, bilateral and multilateral efforts to combat terrorism.

2. In contribution to the worldwide efforts to combat terrorism, the OSCE will seek to add value on the basis of the specifics of the Organization, its strengths and comparative advantages: its comprehensive security concept linking the politicomilitary, human and economic dimensions; its broad membership; its experience in the field; and its expertise in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, postconflict rehabilitation and building democratic institutions. In addition, many effective counterterrorism measures fall into areas in which the OSCE is already active and proficient, such as police training and monitoring, legislative and judicial reform, and border monitoring.

3. The aim of the Action Plan is to establish a framework for comprehensive OSCE action to be taken by participating States and the Organization as a whole to combat terrorism, fully respecting international law, including the international law of human rights and other relevant norms of international law. The Action Plan seeks to expand existing activities that contribute to combating terrorism, facilitate interaction between States and, where appropriate, identify new instruments for action. The Action Plan, which recognizes that the fight against terrorism requires sustained efforts, will identify activities to be implemented immediately as well as over the medium and long term.

II. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND POLITICAL COMMITMENTS

4. United Nations conventions and United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCR) constitute the global legal framework for the fight against terrorism. UNSCR 1269 (1999), 1368, 1373 and 1377 (2001), along with the 12 relevant United Nations conventions and protocols on antiterrorism issues, provide the basis for this framework and include a number of specific elements of combating terrorism. In addition, a range of OSCE documents, including Summit declarations from Helsinki to Istanbul, spell out the OSCE's commitment to fight terrorism, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The widest and most comprehensive participation in and implementation of existing instruments and commitments to combat terrorism by the participating States must be pursued and ensured.

5. Participating States: Pledge themselves to apply efforts to become parties to all 12 United Nations conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, by 31 December, 2002, if possible, recognizing the important role that parliamentarians may play in ratification and other antiterrorism legislative processes. States are encouraged to inform the Permanent Council of steps taken in this regard. Will participate constructively in the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations on a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism and an International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, with a view to their early and successful conclusion.

6. Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR): Will, on formal request by interested participating States and where appropriate, offer technical assistance/advice on legislative drafting necessary for the ratification of international instruments, in close co-operation with other organizations, including the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCCP).

7. Participating States: Will consider how the OSCE may draw upon best practices and lessons learned from other relevant groups, organizations, institutions and fora in areas such as police and judicial co-operation; prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorism; denial of other means of support; border controls including visa and document security; and access by law enforcement authorities to information.

8. The participating States will also use the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to strengthen their efforts in combating terrorism through full and timely implementation of all relevant measures agreed by the OSCE. To this end they will enhance implementation of existing politicomilitary commitments and agreements, in particular the Code of Conduct on PoliticoMilitary Aspects of Security and the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

The FSC will examine the relevance of its other documents to the fight against terrorism, and will assess whether there is a need to develop additional norms and measures. The Security Dialogue may serve as a suitable basis for regular consultations on these issues within the FSC.

The participating States will submit responses to the Code of Conduct Questionnaire that provide further transparency on international, regional and national commitments in combating terrorism, especially relevant United Nation conventions and resolutions. The FSC will consider ways to fully implement the Document on SALW, *inter alia*, Section V on early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, and postconflict rehabilitation. The FSC will examine the possibility of enhancing transparency on national marking systems, exports and imports, and national stockpile management and security procedures, primarily by reviewing the information thus exchanged and developing best practice guides. The followup conference on the Code of Conduct and the SALW workshop, both of which will take place in 2002, could further enhance the application of these documents in combating terrorism.

III. PREVENTIVE ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE OSCE AREA

9. No circumstance or cause can justify acts of terrorism. At the same time, there are various social, economic, political and other factors, including violent separatism and extremism, which engender conditions in which terrorist organizations are able to recruit and win support. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security provides comparative advantages in combating terrorism by identifying and addressing these factors through all relevant OSCE instruments and structures.

10. **Institution building, strengthening the rule of law and state authorities:** ODIHR: Will continue and increase efforts to promote and assist in building democratic institutions at the request of States, *inter alia* by helping to strengthen administrative capacity, local and central government and parliamentary structures, the judiciary, ombudsman institutions and civil society. Will facilitate exchanges of best practices and experience between participating States in this regard. Will continue to develop projects to solidify democratic institutions, civil society and good governance.

11. **Promoting human rights, tolerance and multiculturalism:** Participating States/Permanent Council/ODIHR/High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)/Representative on Freedom of the Media: Will promote and enhance tolerance, coexistence and harmonious relations between ethnic, religious, linguistic and other groups as well as constructive co-operation among participating States in this regard. Will provide early warning of and appropriate responses to violence, intolerance, extremism and

discrimination against these groups and, at the same time, promote their respect for the rule of law, democratic values and individual freedoms. Will work to ensure that persons belonging to national minorities have the right freely to express, preserve and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

12. Representative on Freedom of the Media: Will consider developing projects aimed at supporting tolerance towards people of other convictions and beliefs through the use of the media. Will promote measures aimed at preventing and fighting aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the media. Will continue to encourage pluralistic debate and increased media attention to promoting tolerance of ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural diversity and will, in this context, promote broad public access to media as well as monitor hate speech.

13. **Addressing negative socioeconomic factors:** Participating States/Secretariat: Will aim to identify economic and environmental issues that undermine security, such as poor governance; corruption; illegal economic activity; high unemployment; widespread poverty and large disparities; demographic factors; and unsustainable use of natural resources; and will seek to counter such factors with the assistance, on their request, of the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), acting, among other things, as a catalyst for action and co-operation.

14. **Preventing violent conflict and promoting peaceful settlement of disputes:** Drawing on all its capacities, the OSCE will continue and intensify work aimed at early warning and appropriate response, conflict prevention, crisis management and postconflict rehabilitation; will strengthen its ability to settle conflicts; will increase efforts to find lasting solutions to unresolved conflicts, including through promotion of the rule of law and crime prevention in such conflict zones through increased co-operation with the United Nations, the European Union and other international organizations; and will further develop its rapid deployment capability (REACT) in crisis situations.

15. **Addressing the issue of protracted displacement:** Participating States/ODIHR/HCNM/Representative on Freedom of the Media: Will explore strengthened OSCE potential for contributing to durable solutions, supporting and closely cooperating with other relevant organizations, primarily the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Will closely monitor situations of protracted displacement.

16. **Strengthening national antiterrorism legislation:** Participating States: Will commit themselves to implementing all the obligations they have assumed under relevant conventions and protocols relating to terrorism as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional protocols, sharing information and

methods in this regard and considering ways and means of co-operation in implementation at bilateral, OSCEwide and subregional meetings.

17. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: Will continue its efforts to promote dialogue among OSCE parliamentarians with a view to strengthening legislation essential in combating terrorism.

18. ODIHR: Will, on request by interested participating States and where appropriate, offer technical assistance/advice on the implementation of international antiterrorism conventions and protocols as well as on the compliance of this legislation with international standards, in accordance with Permanent Council decisions, and will seek co-operation with other organizations, especially the UNODCCP, to this end. Will consider facilitating contacts between national experts to promote exchange of information and best practices on counterterrorism legislation.

19. **Supporting law enforcement and fighting organized crime:** Participating States: Noting the close connection between terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking in drugs, money laundering and illicit arms trafficking, will take the necessary steps to prevent in their territory illegal activities of persons, groups or organizations that instigate, finance, organize, facilitate or engage in perpetration of acts of terrorism or other illegal activities directed at the violent overthrow of the political regime of another participating State. Will afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in providing information in connection with criminal investigations or criminal extradition proceedings relating to terrorist acts, in accordance with their domestic law and international obligations.

20. Permanent Council: Will consider arranging regular meetings of law enforcement officials of participating States and, where applicable, of OSCE experts with relevant experience in the field to exchange best practices and ways of improving co-operation.

21. Secretariat: Will assist participating States, on their request, through measures to combat trafficking in human beings, drugs and small arms and light weapons, in accordance with relevant Permanent Council decisions, and will undertake efforts to assist in facilitating increased border monitoring, where appropriate. Will further assist participating States, on the request and with their agreement, through provision of advice and assistance on restructuring and/or reconstruction of police services; monitoring and training of existing police services, including human rights training; and capacity building, including support for integrated or multiethnic police services. Will, to this end, reinforce its existing policerelated activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and postconflict rehabilitation.

22. ODIHR: Will provide continued advice to participating States, at their request, on strengthening domestic legal frameworks and institutions that uphold the rule of law, such as law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the prosecuting authorities, bar associations and defence attorneys. Will expand its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and to support victims of trafficking. Will, where appropriate, support prison reform and improvements in criminal procedure.

23. Representative on Freedom of the Media: Will cooperate in supporting, on request, the drafting of legislation on the prevention of the abuse of information technology for terrorist purposes, ensuring that such laws are consistent with commitments regarding freedom of expression and the free flow of information.

24. **Suppressing the financing of terrorism.** Participating States: Will, within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism and UNSCR 1373 (2001), take action to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, criminalize the willful provision or collection of funds for terrorist purposes, and freeze terrorist assets also bearing in mind UNSCR 1267 (1999). Will, in accordance with their domestic legislation and obligations under international law, provide early response to requests for information by another participating State and relevant international organizations.

25. Participating States/Secretariat: Will, in the realm of the Economic and Environmental activities for 2002, also consider ways of combating economic factors which may facilitate the emergence of terrorism, economic consequences of terrorism as well as financial support for terrorists. Will consider how the OSCE may contribute, within the framework of its work on transparency and the fight against corruption, to the wider international effort to combat terrorism. Will consider taking on a catalytic role in providing targeted projects for the training of the personnel of domestic financial institutions in counterterrorism areas, *inter alia* on monitoring of financial flows and on prevention of money laundering. Participating States will participate constructively in the forthcoming negotiations at the United Nations on a global instrument against corruption, with a view to their early and successful conclusion.

26. **Preventing movement of terrorists:** Participating States: Will prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, as well as through measures for ensuring the security of identity papers and travel documents and preventing their counterfeiting, forgery and fraudulent use. Will apply such control measures fully respecting their obligations under international refugee and human rights law. Will, through the proper application of the exclusion clauses contained in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, ensure that asylum is not granted to persons who have participated

in terrorist acts. Will provide for the timely detention and prosecution or extradition of persons charged with terrorist acts, in accordance with their obligations under international and national law.

IV. ACTION UNDER THE PLATFORM FOR COOPERATIVE SECURITY CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

27. The United Nations is the framework for the global fight against terrorism. Close cooperation and coordination between all relevant actors must be secured. The OSCE can take on a coordinating role for inter and intraregional initiatives. The OSCE reaches out through close contacts to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and parliamentarians, creating an evercloser network for the international coalition against terrorism.

28. Participating States/Secretariat: Will strengthen co-operation and information exchanges, both formally and informally, with other relevant groups, organizations, and institutions involved in combating terrorism. Will strengthen co-operation with the European Union on analysis and early warning and reinforce synergy with the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Central European Initiative in areas relevant to combating terrorism. Will promote dialogue within the OSCE area on issues relating to new threats and challenges. Will broaden dialogue with partners outside the OSCE area, such as the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and Partners for Co-operation in Asia, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, the Conference on Interaction and ConfidenceBuilding Measures in Asia, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, the African Union, and those States bordering on the OSCE area to exchange best practices and lessons learned in counterterrorism efforts for application within the OSCE area.

V. FOLLOW-UP

29. The “Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism”, to be held on 13 and 14 December 2001 in Bishkek, will be a first opportunity to:

- discuss among a broad range of participants, on the basis of the present Action Plan, concrete experiences and best practices in combating international terrorism and
- due to the specific security challenges to which this region is exposed, apply relevant provisions of this Action Plan for practical support to participating States in Central Asia, including financial and technical assistance in concrete areas of their interest.

30. The Secretary General will, by 27 December 2001, report to the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee on action on combating terrorism taken by the OSCE, and will thereafter inform the United Nations as appropriate. In addition, he will regularly inform the Permanent Council about OSCE activities under this Plan of Action. He will prepare a report for submission to the next OSCE Ministerial Council/Summit on activities of OSCE bodies in the antiterrorism field, and thereafter as requested by the Permanent Council.

31. Each OSCE body called upon to take action under this Plan will prepare, for submission to the Permanent Council, a “road map” for implementation of these tasks, including a timetable, resource implications, and indication of activities requiring further Permanent Council decisions.

On the basis of information provided by other OSCE bodies, the Secretariat will prepare an indicative assessment of the administrative and financial implications of this Plan of Action, including the possible need for establishing an antiterrorism unit or focal point within the Secretariat, and make recommendations for the approval by the Permanent Council of necessary resources within the 2002 budget. The Permanent Council, acting, *inter alia*, through the Chairman in Office and assisted by the Secretariat, will monitor the implementation of this Action Plan. It will further identify sources for assistance in implementing counterterrorism measures, including expert teams, and possible additional tasking by the Permanent Council of OSCE field presences in close co-operation and agreement with host governments.

MC DECISION ON FOSTERING THE ROLE OF THE OSCE AS A FORUM FOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE

BUCHAREST, 4 DECEMBER 2001

MC(9).DEC/3

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the importance of furthering the role of the OSCE as a forum of political dialogue in the EuroAtlantic space,

Conscious of the importance of the political dialogue so that important matters relating to security and co-operation in Europe can be fully discussed by participating States,

Aware of the need to give political guidance to the Head of institutions and field operations,

Bearing in mind that the comprehensive approach to security covers the politicomilitary, economic and environmental and human dimension and that the development of expertise in these areas can contribute to the depth and value of the Permanent Council's own debates and conclusions,

Decides the following:

1. As the principal body for ongoing political consultations and decisionmaking of the OSCE, the Permanent Council will:

- (a) provide a permanent framework for political dialogue of participating States;
- (b) focus its weekly regular meetings on discussing issues of interest for the participating States;
- (c) continue to examine, at regular intervals, reports of the OSCE field operations, with the participation of their respective Heads; normally, the examination will be preceded by written activity reports distributed in advance to participating States, and previous informal opened discussions of delegations with the Head of field operation;
- (d) with full respect of their respective mandates, continue to discuss, at regular intervals, reports by the Heads of OSCE institutions;

- (e) make use of the Preparatory Committee in its decisionmaking and for focused political consultations among the participating States;
- (f) as appropriate, hold discussions with representatives of other international organizations, as well as with others who can contribute to the political dialogue on security issues;
- (g) adopt, whenever appropriate, public declarations or statements on topics of interest for the governments, civil societies and public opinion.

2. Recalling paragraph 18 of the Charter for European Security, the Ministerial Council tasks the working group on legal capacity to continue its work and seek to solve this issue.

3. Coordination and co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in particular, to promote democratic values and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms should be strengthened. To this effect, active communication and interaction, to include joint activities, between the Parliamentary Assembly and other OSCE structures should be developed, as appropriate.

4. Participating States reaffirm their commitment to seek the peaceful resolution of disputes as set out in the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act.

5. As a priority objective, the OSCE will apply renewed efforts to the settlement of conflicts in the OSCE area, in accordance with the standards and principles contained in the documents of the Organization to which participating States have agreed. The OSCE will continue to support participating States in their efforts to settle such conflicts, and will seek active involvement in facilitating or conducting negotiations with the parties to such conflicts, at the request of the participating States.

6. Meetings of the Ministerial Council, as the central political consultation, decisionmaking and governing body of the OSCE, will be effectively prepared by the Permanent Council, *inter alia* through:

- (a) establishment of the timetable and the organizational modalities, including international organizations and institutions to be invited at the meeting;
- (b) preparation of documents to be submitted to the Ministerial Council in the Preparatory Committee or *ad hoc* openended working groups established with sufficient time in advance;

- (c) appropriate review in the Permanent Council, the Preparatory Committee, or an appropriate working group of the stages of preparations.

7. Meetings of the Permanent Council, and those of the Preparatory Committee, other committees and working groups will be conducted with inclusiveness, equality and free exchange of views in order to address the interests of all participating States and to identify areas for co-operation and compromise.

8. In order to strengthen the politicomilitary dimension of the OSCE, the Forum for Security Co-operation, as the OSCE body for reviewing the implementation of OSCE commitments in the fields of arms control and confidence and securitybuilding, and for negotiating measures in the fields of arms control, and confidence and securitybuilding, will:

- (a) address those aspects of new security challenges which fall within its mandate, and update its activities accordingly;
- (b) while retaining its autonomy and decisionmaking capacity, be more closely connected with the overall OSCE work on current security issues and, to this end, will make available its expert advice on issues of a politicomilitary nature, at the request of the Permanent Council; this may include, as necessary, advice on politicomilitary issues of OSCE field operations, in accordance with their respective mandates. The Forum for Security Co-operation may also advise the Permanent Council or the ChairmaninOffice on its own initiative;
- (c) continue to fulfil its mandate and facilitate implementation of existing politicomilitary commitments, and to serve as a venue to negotiate measures in the politicomilitary field, in order to enhance security by fostering stability, transparency and predictability.

9. In order to facilitate interaction between the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, the OSCE Chairmanship will be represented at the Forum's Troika meetings. The Chairmanship of the Forum will also be represented at OSCE Troika meetings on matters of FSC concern.

10. The Ministerial Council welcomes the Forum's review of the modalities of its Chairmanship and its steps to enhance its organizational efficiency.

11. Bearing in mind the need to strengthen co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension, and with a view to improving organizational structure in this field, and without prejudice to the functions of the Economic Forum, an Economic and

Environmental SubCommittee of the Permanent Council is hereby established. It will normally meet in informal format and normally report to the Permanent Council through the Preparatory Committee. It will perform the following tasks:

- (a) to provide an ongoing framework for dialogue of the participating States on economic and environmental issues and to make recommendations to the Permanent Council, including on projects to be implemented;
- (b) to support the preparation of the meetings of the Economic Forum and make recommendations to the Permanent Council on the future programme of work, including actions to followup of recommendations made by the Forum;
- (c) to examine any important or topical economic or environmental issue relevant to the OSCE at the request of the Permanent Council, or at the initiative of any participating State;
- (d) to provide advice to the Permanent Council, as necessary, on economic and environmental activities of OSCE field operations, in accordance with their respective mandates.

12. Where appropriate, the SubCommittee may invite representatives of the business community, business associations and relevant governmental and nongovernmental organizations, the academic community, and nonparticipating States, particularly Partners for Co-operation, to participate in its meetings.

13. The OSCE Coordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities will provide working support for the activities of the SubCommittee, subject to his mandate.

PORTO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON RESPONDING TO CHANGE

TENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

SOFIA, 7 DECEMBER 2002

MC.DOC/1/02

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, have met in Porto and reaffirmed our determination to work together to protect our peoples from existing and emerging threats to security. The evolving political, security and economic environment creates new challenges for the OSCE. As we advance in the new century, we see these challenges more clearly and the OSCE's unique contribution to an international community in which all nations and individuals can feel secure becomes ever more valuable. We have a historic opportunity to consolidate lasting peace, prosperity and democracy throughout a Europe which is becoming ever more united.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to promote security and co-operation throughout an OSCE area with no dividing lines, by building mutual confidence and working together to resolve security issues in a spirit of transparency and partnership. Our efforts will be complemented by those of other international organizations and institutions with which we will co-operate closely, on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security.

3. At the same time, our Organization must develop new responses to the changing nature of the threats to our security, embracing and enhancing all three dimensions of our comprehensive approach. Our efforts to promote peace and stability must go hand in hand with our determination to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, and to reinforce the conditions essential for sustainable development in all our States.

4. Terrorism, as recent terrorist acts like the hostage-taking in Moscow demonstrate, remains a threat to individual and global security. The Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism which we have adopted today sets out the principles of our common approach to terrorism. Last year, in Bucharest, following the events of 11 September, we adopted a Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, and today we have decided to further intensify our efforts to implement it.

5. In order to ensure that the OSCE can effectively respond to present and future demands, we have concluded that it should continue to develop during 2003 a strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century. The OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, on which we have decided today, will provide a framework for enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States. We have also decided to review the OSCE role in peacekeeping operations, with a view to assessing the OSCE's capacity and identifying options for its involvement in this field.

6. Good policing can make a major contribution to security and stability. We confirm that the OSCE should continue to develop its capacity to assist participating States wishing to strengthen their policing skills and we encourage participating States to provide the necessary resources.

7. Today we have decided to develop a new strategy during 2003 to enhance the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension that will set out the objectives, principles, criteria and methods of OSCE activities in this area, including improved co-operation on environmental issues.

Security and stability can be threatened by economic and environmental factors. The catastrophe caused by the loss of the oil tanker *Prestige* a hundred miles offshore from our meeting place painfully reminds us of the need to protect the marine environment against oil pollution and its consequences for the local population. We call on participating States, the International Maritime Organization and other relevant international organizations to enhance their efforts to ensure the protection of the marine environment against such disasters by strengthening co-operation on the prevention, reduction and control of pollution by oil on the basis of full respect for international law.

8. The Human Dimension remains at the core of the activities of the Organization. The new modalities for the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meetings adopted this year will further enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Organization and its institutions. We have agreed to revise and update the OSCE Plan of Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. The promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, on which we have adopted a separate decision, is a high priority. We have also adopted a decision on election commitments and we will co-operate further in this field.

9. We recognize the significant contribution of our institutions and field operations, through their dedicated staff, in putting into practice the goals and principles of our Organization, in co-operation with host States. We task the Permanent Council to consider, as appropriate, ways of further improving the functioning and effectiveness of field operations.

10. Not all the challenges facing the OSCE are new. We remain concerned over the persistence of conflicts in various regions in the OSCE area that threaten the observance of the OSCE principles and have an impact on peace and stability. We commit ourselves to intensify our efforts to resolve these conflicts.

11. We welcome the significant progress made towards the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, and look forward to early full implementation of these commitments by all the parties concerned.

12. We commend the work done this year on improving the management of the Organization. We task the Permanent Council, through the working group on OSCE reform, to continue consideration of the remaining issues as set out in the relevant Chairmanship's report and to take appropriate decisions in 2003. We also task the Permanent Council to continue its work on OSCE legal status and privileges and immunities.

13. Arms control and confidence- and security-building measures remain indispensable to our comprehensive approach to security. We welcome the decisions of the Forum for Security Co-operation on enhancing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons; on dealing with the risks arising from stockpiles of surplus ammunition and explosives; and on strengthening the role of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in the fight against terrorism. We task the Forum to contribute to common responses to existing and emerging security challenges.

14. We welcome the first year of successful implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies. We recall that all OSCE participating States may apply for accession to the Treaty. We take note that the applications of a number of OSCE participating States have already been approved by the States Parties or are on the agenda of the Open Skies Consultative Commission.

15. We will continue to foster co-operation and dialogue with our Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. We look forward to their continued active and goal-oriented participation in the work of the OSCE on subjects of common concern.

16. The OSCE has a unique role in promoting democracy, peace and stability throughout its region. It builds confidence through dialogue and transparency, strengthens civil society, addresses the root causes of threats to stability, establishes principles and commitments and promotes their implementation. It also provides practical assistance for States to reinforce their institutions to face new challenges. This role is more important than ever in the new security environment. Today, we express our determination to strengthen the Organization and to adapt it to changing circumstances.

MC DECISION ON IMPLEMENTING THE OSCE COMMITMENTS AND ACTIVITIES ON COMBATING TERRORISM

PORTO, 7 DECEMBER 2002

MC(10).DEC/1

The Ministerial Council,

[...]

Encourages the Coordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to continue to pursue programmes in co-operation and coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support participating States' efforts to strengthen their ability to prevent and suppress terrorist financing;

Welcomes the decision in July 2002 (PC.DEC/487) that all participating States will complete the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) self-assessments on compliance with the Eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing and notes with approval the OSCE's 88 per cent response rate to date. Commits to take steps towards speedy implementation of the Financial Action Task Force's Eight Special Recommendations on terrorist financing;

Recalls the Personal Representative of the Chairman in Office for Preventing and Combating Terrorism's recommendation that the OSCE pursue activities *inter alia* in policing, border security, anti-trafficking and suppressing terrorist financing. Requests that interested donors consider providing the necessary resources to implement OSCE projects for combating terrorism;

[...]

MC DECISION ON ENHANCING THE ROLE OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

PORTO, 7 DECEMBER 2002

MC(10).DEC/5

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension, making full use of the Organization's comprehensive approach to security, in order to promote stability and respond to threats and challenges to security caused by economic and environmental factors,

Reaffirming the commitments related to the Economic and Environmental Dimension contained in the Helsinki Final Act, Concluding Document of the Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (Bonn 1990), Charter of Paris for a New Europe, Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit and other CSCE/OSCE documents,

Emphasizing the need to improve economic and environmental co-operation throughout the entire OSCE region *inter alia* by means of increased project activities,

Underscoring the need to enhance co-operation in the economic and environmental field between the OSCE and other international organizations and institutions working in this field, in accordance with the Platform for Cooperative Security, in a way which exploits as effectively as possible the strengths and advantages of each and recognizes their respective mandates and expertise,

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, and recognizing that the OSCE has a role to play in encouraging participating States' implementation of the Johannesburg Programme of Action,

Noting the relevance of the themes of previous Economic Forum meetings as constituting building blocks of the OSCE's approach to the Economic and Environmental Dimension, their contribution to the strengthening of the OSCE work in this dimension, as well as the importance of further improvement of efficiency and effectiveness and follow-up modalities of the OSCE Economic Forum,

Reaffirming the importance of effective implementation, efficient review thereof as well as further development of the OSCE commitments in the Economic and Environmental Dimension,

Decides:

- To task the Permanent Council to develop through its Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee a new OSCE strategy document in the Economic and Environmental Dimension including recommendations and proposals for additional commitments, and to present it at the next OSCE Ministerial. This new document, complementing the Bonn Document, should set out the main objectives, principles and methods of co-operation. It should be based on an assessment of the current situation and of existing economic and environmental threats to security and stability in the OSCE region. It should provide recommendations for addressing such problems and develop criteria for activities and projects as well as guidance for further enhancement of the OSCE capabilities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension, taking account of the OSCE's comparative strengths and role as catalyst for action by other organizations and institutions;
- To invite the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other partner organizations and specialized agencies to cooperate in elaborating the new strategy;
- That the document should recommend ways to improve the review of implementation of commitments, which takes place annually in the framework of the Economic Forum in Prague, building as much as possible on the positive experience and achievements of the OSCE and other international organizations and institutions.

OSCE STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THREATS TO SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

MAASTRICHT, 2 DECEMBER 2003

MC.DOC/1/03

[...]

Addressing threats related to the economy and the environment

42. The OSCE's response to economic and environmental challenges and threats to security is laid down in a new Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. It encourages further development of co-operation among participating States in various areas, action and policies aimed at strengthening good governance at all levels, ensuring sustainable development in all its aspects, and protecting the environment. In its response, the OSCE will take fully into account the activities of other international organizations and institutions, in accordance with the Platform for Cooperative Security, with a view to adding value and seeking synergies.

43. To help carry out these tasks, the role of the OSCE will be strengthened by enhancing the dialogue among participating States on economic and environmental issues. The OSCE will also improve the process of review of implementation of commitments and strengthen its capacity both to provide advice and assistance and to mobilize and facilitate deployment of expertise and resources of other international organizations.

[...]

OSCE STRATEGY DOCUMENT FOR THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

MAASTRICHT, 2 DECEMBER 2003

MC.DOC/1/03

The OSCE Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the substantive importance of the economic and environmental dimension (EED) in the OSCE concept of comprehensive security and co-operation and its role in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and postconflict rehabilitation,

Recalling the principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act related to co-operation in the field of economics, science and technology and the environment,

Recognizing the significance of the Concluding Document of the CSCE Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (Bonn 1990) in establishing a set of key commitments in the economic and environmental areas, and reaffirming these commitments, together with commitments in other OSCE documents and decisions concerning co-operation and action in these fields, in particular, the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit,

Taking as a basis Decision No. 5 of the Tenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto calling for the development of a new OSCE Strategy document in the economic and environmental dimension,

Taking account of the major changes and developments in the economic and environmental situation in the OSCE area during the last decade, which have led not only to progress and achievements, but also to the emergence of new threats and challenges of an economic and environmental nature,

Underlining the resolve of the participating States to respond to these economic and environmental threats and challenges by developing a strategy with clear priorities which makes full use of the OSCE's capabilities and comparative advantages,

Convinced that more effective co-operation by all the OSCE participating States on an equitable, mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory basis to counteract threats and challenges caused by economic and environmental factors, can make a crucial contribution to security, stability, democracy and prosperity in the OSCE region,

Reiterating the determination of all the participating States to further strengthen our co-operation for this purpose with other international and regional institutions and organizations, *inter alia*, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security,

Has come to the following conclusions:

1. Challenges and threats in the economic and environmental dimension

- 1.1 During the last decade, many of our countries made considerable progress towards achieving our common objectives set out in the 1990 Bonn Document, such as sustainable economic growth and development, rising standards of living, an improved quality of life, efficient use of economic resources and protection of the environment. These aims remain pertinent for the years ahead.
- 1.2 Our common commitment to market economy principles contributed to enhanced performance and improved efficiency in our economies. The process of transition and reform in a number of countries, sometimes painful and difficult, led to more stable conditions for development. It also fostered economic co-operation and integration among our countries.
- 1.3 But these important achievements were sometimes uneven and were accompanied by the emergence of disturbing new trends and economic and environmental threats to security and stability.
- 1.4 Globalization, liberalization and technological change offer new opportunities for trade, growth and development, but have not benefited all the participating States equally, thus contributing, in some cases, to deepening economic disparities between and also within our countries. In the context of the growing openness of national economies and their greater exposure to external economic shocks and financial turbulence, this raises the challenge of managing globalization so that the benefits are available to all and contribute to our common security.
- 1.5 Notwithstanding the progress achieved in advancing the market economy in the OSCE area, some participating States still need assistance for transition, reforms and integration into the world economy in a fair and effective manner.
- 1.6 Deepening economic and social disparities, lack of the rule of law, weak governance, corruption, widespread poverty and high unemployment are among the factors that contribute to global threats such as terrorism, violent extremism, transnational

organized crime, and also to illegal economic activities, including money-laundering, trafficking of all kinds, and illegal migration. InterState and intraState conflicts, in their turn, impede regional economic co-operation and development and undermine the security, *inter alia*, of communications and energy transport routes.

- 1.7 Our concerns over the environment have increased during recent years. Environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources and mismanagement in the processing and disposal of wastes have a substantial impact on the health, welfare, stability and security of our countries and can upset ecological systems. These factors, together with problems of access to resources and negative external effects of pollution, can cause tensions between countries. Ecological disasters resulting from natural causes, economic activities or terrorist acts may also pose a serious threat to stability and security.
- 1.8 Problems of governance, such as ineffective institutions and a weak civil society, lack of transparency and accountability in the public and private sectors, deficient economic and environmental legislation and inadequate implementation of economic and environmental laws, rules and regulations, absence of national and individual security and inadequate treatment of vulnerable groups, poor public management and unsustainable use of natural resources, corruption and lack of respect for business ethics and corporate governance, deprive participating States of the capacity to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to address economic and environmental challenges and threats to security and stability effectively, and need to be addressed in all their aspects. Good governance on the international as well as the national level is crucial for wellbeing, security and stability in the OSCE region.
- 1.9 The outcome of globalization depends on the policy choices adopted by our governments and international institutions and on the responses of the private sector and civil society. Good governance, including policies enabling the private sector to grow, efficient markets and a coherent international framework are essential to ensure that the benefits of economic growth and globalization are maximized and fairly distributed, as well as to the achievement of successful transition.

2. Our response and action

Our common response to economic and environmental challenges and threats to security will include further development of co-operation among the participating States in various areas, action and policies aiming at strengthening good governance at all levels, ensuring sustainable development in all its aspects and protecting the environment. In its response,

the OSCE will take fully into account the activities of other international organizations and institutions, in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security, with a view to adding value and seeking synergies.

2.1 Through co-operation to enhanced development, security and stability

- 2.1.1 Economic co-operation remains an essential element of the OSCE. We believe that increased co-operation among the participating States can make a substantial contribution to tackling emerging economic and environmental challenges and threats to security. Co-operation among the participating States and the international and regional institutions and organizations to which they belong is an essential way to enhance security and stability and to prevent possible conflicts in the OSCE region. Promoting economic and environmental co-operation within the OSCE area is necessary to avoid new divisions and to narrow disparities between and within our countries and to achieve sustainable results.
- 2.1.2 Our co-operation should be based on solidarity, transparency, equal and nondiscriminatory partnership, mutual accountability and full respect for the interests of all the OSCE participating States. If action in the economic field has a negative impact on other participating States, we will seek to minimize this, in line with our international obligations.
- 2.1.3 We will continue to cooperate closely with each other and with the relevant regional and international institutions and organizations through the exchange of information, statistical data, expertise, knowhow and best practices, the promotion of information and business networks, the conclusion of agreements and arrangements, the implementation of agreed policies of standardization and harmonization, technical assistance and advice and the promotion of public and private joint projects and programmes in appropriate areas.
- 2.1.4 In particular, we will endeavour to enhance public and private co-operation in fields such as trade, transport, energy, environmental protection, communication, finance, investment, education, science and technology, and to promote the development of business co-operation across the OSCE region.

Integration into the global economy

- 2.1.5 Successful integration of our countries into the global economy is a precondition for benefiting fully from globalization and trade liberalization. We will assist each other to increase the integration of our economies into the international

economic and financial system, above all through early accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). We will strive to develop co-operation among our governments and with financial institutions and other organizations having the necessary expertise and resources to provide participating States with the technical assistance they need to achieve these objectives.

Regional integration

- 2.1.6 Regional and subregional integration processes and agreements can give an important impulse to trade and economic development in the OSCE region and the OSCE participating States.
- 2.1.7 We will pursue opportunities for regional and subregional economic integration and co-operation, which will be mutually beneficial. We agree to strengthen our co-operation with a view to assisting the participating States to identify and follow up such opportunities.
- 2.1.8 In order to ensure that integration processes are harmonized and complementary, we will seek to ensure that they take due account of the economic interests of other participating States and do not contribute to the creation of new divisions. For this purpose, we will encourage direct dialogue among interested participating States. The establishment of common economic spaces could contribute to these processes. Regional and subregional trade arrangements should be compatible with WTO rules and obligations.

Trade and access to markets

- 2.1.9 International trade and investment are vital factors for accelerating economic growth and promoting economic development. The establishment in the OSCE region of open and integrated markets functioning on the basis of compatible or harmonized rules and further liberalization could bring significant economic and other benefits to all the OSCE participating States. Such markets could further enhance economic co-operation and integration within the OSCE region.
- 2.1.10 We are also convinced of the benefits for the participating States of measures to facilitate market access including reduction of customs tariffs and barriers to entry, gradual elimination of existing nontariff barriers, harmonization of laws in the sphere of customs regulations and foreign trade, harmonization or equivalence of standards and simplification of access to financial resources, including loans and investments. We will look for ways to make progress on these issues in the appropriate fora.

Finance

2.1.11 We are committed to a strong international framework for the prevention and resolution of financial crisis, and support the activities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to enhance its surveillance. Underlining the need for financial stability, we commit ourselves to promote and apply high quality accounting standards. We will continue to develop, implement and enforce financial legislation and regulations on combating money laundering and corruption and criminalizing the financing of terrorism.

Energy

2.1.12 We recognize that a high level of energy security requires a predictable, reliable, economically acceptable, commercially sound and environmentally friendly energy supply, which can be achieved by means of longterm contracts in appropriate cases. We will encourage energy dialogue and efforts to diversify energy supply, ensure the safety of energy routes, and make more efficient use of energy resources. We will also support further development and use of new and renewable sources of energy.

Investment in industry and infrastructure

2.1.13 We recognize that foreign and domestic investment, including investment in industry, as well as in energy, transport and communications infrastructure, is a necessary condition for sustainable and environmentally sound economic growth, increased employment, higher living standards and reduced levels of poverty, and hence for stability and security throughout the OSCE region. We will step up exchange of information and experience on the best means of attracting investment, in particular foreign direct investment (FDI), and removing the obstacles to it.

Transport

2.1.14 We encourage the development of transport networks in the OSCE region which are efficient and integrated, free of avoidable safety and security risks and sensitive to the environment. In this regard, we will give a high priority to the uninterrupted operation of the existing transport corridors and to construction of new ones, where this can be economically justified.

2.2 Strengthening good governance

- 2.2.1 Good public and corporate governance and strong institutions are essential foundations for a sound economy, which can attract investments, and thereby enable States to reduce poverty and inequality, to increase social integration and opportunities for all and to protect the environment. Good governance at all levels contributes to prosperity, stability and security. Peace, good international relations, the security and stability of the State and the security and safety of the individual within the State, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, are crucial for the creation of the climate of confidence which is essential to ensure positive economic and social development.
- 2.2.2 Good governance is of critical importance for all the participating States, and we are agreed to work on a national basis, with the support of relevant international institutions, to strengthen good governance in all its aspects and to develop methods of co-operation to assist each other in achieving it.
- 2.2.3 Achieving good governance requires a comprehensive and long-term strategic approach, so that successes in one area are not undermined by weaknesses in others. We will cooperate in the development of our strategies for good governance and will share experience regarding best practices.

Promoting transparency and combating corruption

- 2.2.4 Transparency in public affairs is an essential condition for the accountability of States and for the active participation of civil society in economic processes. Transparency increases the predictability of, and confidence in an economy that is functioning on the basis of adequate legislation and with full respect for the rule of law. Free and pluralistic media which enjoy maximum editorial independence from political and financial pressure have an important role to play in ensuring such transparency.
- 2.2.5 We will make our governments more transparent by further developing processes and institutions for providing timely information, including reliable statistics, about issues of public interest in the economic and environmental fields to the media, the business community, civil society and citizens, with a view to promoting a well-informed and responsive dialogue. This is essential for decision-making which is responsive to changing conditions and to the needs and wishes of the population.

- 2.2.6. Transparency is also important for the exposure and prosecution of all forms of corruption, which undermines our economies and our societies. In addition to transparency, the fight against corruption requires the adoption by the participating States of a comprehensive and longterm anticorruption strategy.
- 2.2.7 We agree to make the elimination of all forms of corruption a priority. We will consider accession to, encourage ratification of, and support full implementation of, international conventions and other instruments in the field of combating corruption, in particular those developed by the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We welcome the adoption of the UN Convention against corruption and look forward to its early signature, ratification and entry into force.

Improving the management of public resources

- 2.2.8 Another component of good governance is the effective management of public resources by strong and well-functioning institutions, a professional and effective civil service and sound budgetary processes. Good management of public resources, including revenue collection, budget formation and execution and public procurement, is particularly important in order to provide the best possible public and social services. We will seek to provide a solid financial basis for our public administration systems and to further strengthen their effectiveness and efficiency at all levels.

Developing a businessfriendly environment and promoting small and mediumsized enterprise(s) (SME)

- 2.2.9 Good governance implies the creation of a framework of economic policies, institutions and legislation, in which business can thrive and the confidence of investors can grow. This involves the adoption and enforcement of businessfriendly legislation, which promotes and protects private ownership, lays down clear rules and regulations for economic activities and streamlines procedures and formalities. We are determined to establish clear legal and institutional frameworks conducive to the development of business, including SMEs, and to the promotion of investment.

Improving the practice of corporate governance

- 2.2.10 Good corporate governance, based on efficient management; proper auditing and accountability; and adherence to and respect for laws, rules and regulations, business ethics and codes of conduct established in close consultation with business, is essential for the functioning of a healthy economy. As has frequently been demonstrated, serious problems can arise from a breakdown of corporate governance, which can lead to crises in the interrelated economies of participating States.
- 2.2.11 We will endeavour to maintain good corporate governance on the basis of a close dialogue with corporate business and civil society, *inter alia*, through chambers of commerce, business associations and other fora. We encourage participating States to adopt, on a voluntary basis, appropriate principles such as the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and to promote the UN Global Compact Initiative. We will also encourage the business community to take into account in its activities the social, environmental, humanitarian and security needs of participating States.

Human capital development

- 2.2.12 Human resources are an essential factor for economic growth and development, which require knowledge and skills, *inter alia*, in economic, business, administrative, legal and scientific matters. We will take appropriate measures to promote education and training and will increase co-operation, including with specialized international institutions and organizations, in areas such as facilitating and widening access to educational, research and training institutions through increased fellowships and internship programmes.

Social conditions

- 2.2.13 Good governance and sustainable development imply policies and systems that promote social partnership and cohesion. We will work for improved access for all to basic social benefits, such as affordable health services, pensions and education, and for adequate levels of protection of socially vulnerable groups, and the prevention of social exclusion.
- 2.2.14 We are determined to take measures to improve social conditions, including by identifying and targeting vulnerable groups in society, providing adequate and effective safety nets, strengthening health services, increasing employment opportunities and implementing rehabilitation programmes.

2.3 Ensuring sustainable development

- 2.3.1 The OSCE is committed to the achievement of sustainable development, which aims at economic growth and poverty reduction and takes fully into account the impact of human activities on the environment. We support the global action foreseen in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Monterrey Consensus, and the internationally agreed development goals, including those in the UN Millennium Declaration, and the Plan of Implementation adopted at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- 2.3.2 For this purpose, and in order to ensure economic and social development and environmental protection, we will pursue our action and co-operation, as appropriate, through:
- (a) Promotion of coordinated approaches to institutional frameworks for sustainable development, including, as appropriate, through the strengthening of authorities and mechanisms necessary for policy-making and the enforcement of laws;
 - (b) Formulating and elaborating national strategies/programmes of sustainable development which involve business and civil society, and beginning to implement them by 2005;
 - (c) Promoting public participation in sustainable development policy formulation and implementation;
 - (d) Enhancing the role of local authorities and stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Johannesburg World Summit;
 - (e) Increasing efficiency in the use of natural resources and preventing the deterioration of the environmental habitat; and
 - (f) Providing conditions and mechanisms for mobilizing internal and external resources for development, and ensuring adequate social conditions.
- 2.3.3 We support the efforts of the participating States to implement policies of poverty reduction and sustainable development, including the national poverty reduction programmes in countries with economies in transition. We will encourage the provision of the necessary advice and assistance by international organizations and institutions having the relevant expertise and resources.

2.4 Protecting the environment

- 2.4.1 We are agreed that the protection of the environment is a high priority for all our States. In the light of the growing impact of environmental factors on the prosperity, stability and security of our States and the health of our populations, we encourage dialogue and the exchange of information, *inter alia*, on best practices, on a voluntary basis, on environmental issues of importance for participating States, including on environmentally sound technology.
- 2.4.2 We will strengthen our co-operation to address jointly key environmental issues such as pollution, particularly when it has external effects, and the unsustainable use of natural resources, with a view to preventing ecological risks and their irreversible effects on environment and health. Strong national environmental legislation and institutions are essential for the promotion of sound and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources.
- 2.4.3 We will regularly assess the state of our environment, building on the work already done by international organizations in the UN system such as UNECE, UNEP, UNDP, WMO and FAO. In this regard, we support further development of the UNEP UNDP OSCE Environment and Security Initiative. We also support closer co-operation with the Environment for Europe process, building on the outcome of the Fifth Ministerial Conference, held in Kiev in 2003.
- 2.4.4 We will share and disseminate this information on the state of our environment, on a voluntary basis, among all the participating States so that all parties which are or might be affected by environmental degradation are fully informed about the current situation and potential dangers. Environmental threats, including risks of natural and man-made disasters, should be identified in a timely fashion and tackled by the common efforts of the participating States.
- 2.4.5 We will encourage States to consider the ratification of existing international environmental legal instruments, including the relevant UN conventions, and will support the full implementation of these instruments by States that are parties to them. Participating States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge participating States that have not already done so to ratify it in a timely manner.
- 2.4.6 We will promote training on the environment and security for national, regional and local administrations, as well as for the business community, and will promote capacitybuilding and research programmes for a sound environment and the management of natural resources, when appropriate.

3. Enhancing the role of the OSCE

The role of the OSCE in promoting the fulfilment of our objectives in the economic and environmental dimension can be further enhanced by:

- Enhancing the dialogue among participating States on economic and environmental issues through the better use of the OSCE Economic Forum, the OSCE Permanent Council and its Economic and Environmental Subcommittee;
- Improving the process of review of the implementation of commitments;
- Strengthening the OSCE's capacity to provide advice and assistance to all the participating States on the implementation of commitments, *inter alia*, by implementing appropriate programmes and projects in areas where it can add value, and has or can obtain cost effectively the expertise and resources required;
- Strengthening the OSCE's capacity to effectively mobilize and facilitate deployment of the expertise and resources of other international organizations.

3.1 Enhancing the dialogue

- 3.1.1 The Economic Forum remains the major annual event of, and provides the annual focus for activities in, the OSCE economic and environmental dimension. It should be made more effective by ensuring a better targeting of its theme(s) on issues of major concern, an improved preparatory process and an effective procedure for ensuring followup of its deliberations.
- 3.1.2 The Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council provides an important instrument for ongoing dialogue on EED issues and for the preparation and followup of the Economic Forum. We will make additional efforts to bring economic and environmental issues more regularly to the agenda of the OSCE, *inter alia*, to Permanent Council meetings on the basis of the recommendations made by the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee in accordance with its mandate. The Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will provide working support for these discussions.
- 3.1.3 For the purpose of enhancing the dialogue among the participating States on key EED issues, the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will identify fields where the OSCE can add value to the promotion of economic and environmental co-operation. As a contribution to OSCE early warning

and conflict prevention activities, it will also, as appropriate, catalogue and monitor economic and environmental challenges and threats to security and stability in the OSCE region, in collaboration with relevant international organizations. The Office will prepare reports on economic and environmental issues and submit these reports and proposals through the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee to the Permanent Council for further discussion, decisions and actions. In carrying out these activities, it will coordinate with relevant organizations and institutions in order to develop synergies and avoid duplication.

3.2 Improving the review of implementation of commitments

- 3.2.1 We recognize the importance of reviewing in a consistent manner the implementation of OSCE commitments and assessing specific threats to security in the economic and environmental dimension. To this end, we will strengthen the annual review of implementation of the OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension.
- 3.2.2 We expect that UN Economic Commission for Europe will continue to play a supportive role in the review of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. We request the Secretary General to conclude an arrangement with the UNECE to provide a basis for future monitoring and review of the economic and environmental situation in the OSCE area, after submitting his proposal to the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee for prior consideration. Input may also be solicited from other international organizations.
- 3.2.3 In addition to providing annual assessments for the Economic Forum, the UNECE may report, when appropriate, on the results of its monitoring in accordance with the arrangement to be agreed. It will be invited to take part in the discussions in the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee, which will follow up the review of implementation of commitments at the Economic Forum, as well as in discussion of other UNECE reports.
- 3.2.4 We task the OCEEA to continue co-operation with the UNECE and other partner organizations on developing early-warning mechanisms and indicators for the assessment of implementation of commitments, and to present a report on the progress achieved to the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee by the end of 2004.
- 3.2.5 The annual review at the Economic Forum will include both a general review of implementation of commitments *visàvis* key EED documents and a focused review

with regard to a relevant selected topic. Monitoring and reviewing should take place through discussions among participating States, taking into account the views of all the relevant players, including business, academia and civil society. The review process should cover the follow-up to previous fora.

3.2.6 The contribution to the review process, on the above basis, of academia, the business community and civil society should be enhanced, with the assistance of business organizations, including business advisory councils, business chambers and networks of NGOs, with the objective of:

- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of legislation and policies in relation to OSCE commitments;
- Raising awareness of obstacles to economic growth, including barriers to market entry and to trade and investment, and of the need for greater transparency to foster sustainable economic development;
- Identifying opportunities and monitoring the effectiveness of OSCE programmes and projects designed to meet local and national needs and to support the implementation of OSCE commitments.

3.3 Strengthening the capacity for advice and assistance

3.3.1 Programmes and projects are important means for the OSCE to assist the participating States to implement their commitments and to prevent and address economic and environmental threats to security. They should be undertaken directly by the OSCE only in areas where it can add value and has the necessary expertise or can acquire it cost effectively.

3.3.2 In order to provide advice and assistance to participating States on the implementation of their commitments, including those contained in this Strategy document, the OSCE, drawing on the expertise and resources of its Secretariat, in particular the OCEEA, its institutions and field presences, within their respective mandates, and in co-operation with relevant international institutions and organizations, should develop and implement relevant programmes and projects that can include:

- Promoting regional and crossborder co-operation among interested participating States on economic and environmental issues, including but not limited to, the organization of regional seminars and conferences;

- Assisting participating States, at their request, in developing appropriate legislation and institutions, including pilot/model capacity-building programmes;
- Supporting timely ratification and implementation of existing international legal instruments;
- Elaborating and organizing, at the request of participating States, pilot/model seminars/training for national, regional and local administrations, academics, business communities and NGOs;
- Developing and supporting research programmes that help to increase knowledge and awareness of economic and environmental challenges and threats to security and stability and of ways to respond to them.

3.3.3 OSCE projects and programmes in the economic and environmental dimension should be carried out transparently, in a rational and cost-effective way, and in strict conformity with the relevant documents and procedures, which may be further developed. They should be part of a programmatic approach, with defined objectives and timeframes, so that their effectiveness can be evaluated.

3.4 Strengthening the capacity to mobilize advice and assistance from other organizations

3.4.1 Where a need is identified for programmes and projects requiring a large input of resources, or expertise not readily available in the OSCE, the OSCE should seek to mobilize and facilitate the involvement of other organizations and institutions, such as UNDP and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In view of its broad political role and its experience in areas such as conflict prevention and crisis management, the OSCE should also be ready to assist participating States at their request with the coordination of activities involving a number of organizations where there is a need for an overall approach.

3.4.2 For this purpose, the OSCE needs to develop its operational links with international institutions and organizations involved in economic and environmental activities in the OSCE area and to cooperate closely and coordinate its activities with them, including, when appropriate, through partnerships, memorandums of understanding and specific joint programmes, with a view to avoiding duplication, exploiting complementarities and developing synergies. The development of such links will enhance the OSCE's ability to provide the advice and assistance required and sought by participating States from institutions and organizations having the necessary expertise and resources, thus enhancing the OSCE's role as a catalyst in the economic and environmental dimension.

- 3.4.3 In order to develop such co-operation with other organizations and thus to enhance the OSCE's capacity to provide the assistance required by participating States to implement this Strategy, the OSCE will need to reinforce its relevant tools, including through the availability of the necessary expertise. The Permanent Council should take the necessary decisions in this regard.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 In adopting this Strategy document for the economic and environmental dimension, which complements our previous commitments, we are taking an important step forward in developing our efforts to intensify economic and environmental co-operation among the participating States and thus to ensure comprehensive security and stability in the OSCE region. We are determined to achieve the objectives and priorities on which we have agreed. We will regularly review the progress achieved in implementing this Strategy and the commitments it contains.

MC DECISION NO. 2/03: COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

MAASTRICHT, 2 DECEMBER 2003

MC.DEC/2/03

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments that participating States have adhered to in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, especially the 2000 Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, the 2001 Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 6, and the 2002 Porto Ministerial Declaration,

Recalling furthermore Permanent Council Decision No. 557 of 24 July 2003 on the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which provides participating States with a comprehensive toolkit to combat trafficking in human beings through a multidimensional approach, covering protection of victims, prevention of trafficking in human beings, and prosecution of those who facilitate or commit the crime,

With the goal of enhancing the OSCE's efforts in fighting trafficking in human beings,

1. Decides to endorse the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings as annexed to this Decision; and
2. Establishes, under the aegis of the Permanent Council, an OSCE mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings. The mechanism will consist of two parts, complementing the activities of each other: a Special Representative appointed by the Chairmanship-in-Office, and a special unit in the OSCE Secretariat,

The mechanism is set up to:

- (a) Assist OSCE participating States in the implementation of commitments and full usage of recommendations proposed by the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings;
- (b) Ensure co-ordination of OSCE efforts in combating trafficking in human beings across all three dimensions of the OSCE;
- (c) Strengthen co-ordination among the relevant authorities of the participating States and between the OSCE and other relevant organizations;

- (d) Raise the public and political profile of the combat against trafficking in human beings;
- (e) Operate in the whole OSCE area and as appropriate, assist the participating States, in a spirit of co-operation and following consultations with the respective authorities of the relevant participating States in aiming at the implementation of their commitments in combating human trafficking;
- (f) Provide and facilitate advice and technical assistance in the field of legislation as well as policy development, together, as necessary, with other OSCE structures engaged in this field;
- (g) Be ready to offer advice to senior level authorities representing the legislative, judicial, and executive branches in participating States and discuss with them the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and commitments in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. In specific cases calling for special attention, seek direct contacts, in an appropriate manner with the participating State concerned and discuss the provisions of advice and concrete assistance, if needed;
- (h) Co-operate with National Rapporteurs or other national mechanisms established by participating States for co-ordinating and monitoring the anti-trafficking activities of State institutions. It will also co-operate with relevant Non-Governmental Organizations of the participating States. Furthermore, it will assume responsibility within the OSCE for hosting and facilitating meetings for the exchange of information and experience between national co-ordinators, representatives designated by participating States, or experts on combating trafficking in human beings;
- (i) Closely co-operate and co-ordinate with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and other OSCE Institutions, the Secretary General, relevant structures of the Secretariat including the Office of the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU), the Senior Gender Adviser, as well as, where appropriate, the OSCE field operations. The mechanism will draw on the expertise within these OSCE structures, and will see that duplication is avoided. Participate when appropriate in the work of the Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings;

- (j) Co-operate and co-ordinate with relevant international actors such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the International Labour Organization, as well as the International Organization for Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Council of Baltic Sea States, the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, Interpol and Europol;

3. Affirms that the Special Representative will be politically accountable to, and will report regularly and when appropriate to the Permanent Council. It will function in accordance with Decision No. 8 of the Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Porto;

4. Calls on the Chairmanship-in-Office to appoint as Special Representative a prominent personality with relevant expertise, according to OSCE procedures, following consultations with participating States through the Preparatory Committee on his or her mandate. In order to ensure continuity for the Special Representative to carry out his or her responsibilities initially for at least the duration of two successive Chairmanships, the Chairmanship-in-Office will consult with the next incoming Chairmanship-in-Office on this appointment, and the next incoming Chairmanship-in-Office will, within its prerogative, undertake to prolong the Special Representative’s duties for the duration of that Chairmanship-in-Office, in accordance with Decision No. 8 of the Tenth Ministerial Council Meeting in Porto;

5. Tasks the Permanent Council to establish the above-mentioned special unit, as a part of the OSCE Secretariat, with contracted or seconded staff. The Special Representative will have the capacity of the special unit at his or her full disposal in order to effectively implement the above-mentioned tasks;

6. Agrees that both parts of the mechanism will be funded by the participating States through the OSCE Unified Budget in accordance with existing procedures. The ACMF will elaborate, in consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretary General, administrative and funding modalities for the mechanism and submit its recommendations to the Permanent Council for approval in time for their inclusion into the OSCE 2004 Unified Budget.

ANNEX to MC.DEC/2/03

OSCE ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

I. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES OF THE ACTION PLAN

1. The Action Plan intends to provide participating States with a comprehensive toolkit to help them implement their commitments to combating THB. It aims to provide participating States with a follow-up mechanism, which will also promote co-ordination between individual participating States, both within the OSCE structures and with other international organizations. The Action Plan adopts a multidimensional approach to combating trafficking in human beings. It addresses the problem comprehensively, covering protection of victims, the prevention of THB and the prosecution of those who facilitate or commit the crime. It provides recommendations as to how participating States and relevant OSCE institutions, bodies and field operations may best deal with political, economic, legal, law enforcement, educational and other aspects of the problem.

2. The Action Plan is further intended to assist participating States in employing these tools by drawing upon existing regional experience gained through the implementation of such concrete initiatives and measures as those undertaken by the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe.

3. A comprehensive approach to trafficking in human beings requires a focus on bringing to justice those responsible for this crime, and on carrying out effective measures to prevent it, while maintaining a humanitarian and compassionate approach in rendering assistance to its victims.

II. DEFINITION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Action Plan is based on the following definition contained in Article 3 of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime:

“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or

of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”.

The OSCE Ministerial Council in its Decision No. 6 (2001) called on participating States to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

III. INVESTIGATION, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION

Commitments of participating States related to investigation, law enforcement and prosecution have been undertaken in the Ministerial Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto in 2002, the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism of 2001, the Ministerial Decision No. 6 adopted in Bucharest in 2001, and the Ministerial Decision on Enhancing the OSCE’s Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Vienna in 2000. In these documents the participating States also agreed on the role of the OSCE in this field.

Recommended action at the national level

1. Criminalization

- 1.1 Adopting such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in Article 3 of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- 1.2 Adopting such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences:
 - Attempting to commit this criminal offence;
 - Participating as an accomplice in this criminal offence;
 - Organizing or directing other persons to commit this criminal offence.

- 1.3 Adopting such measures as may be necessary to establish the liability of legal persons for trafficking offences in addition to the liability of natural persons. Subject to the legal principles of the participating State, the liability of legal persons may be criminal, civil and/or administrative.
- 1.4 Making legislative provisions for effective and proportionate criminal penalties, including imprisonment, that take into account the serious nature of this crime. Where appropriate, legislation should provide for additional penalties to be applied to persons found guilty of trafficking in aggravating circumstances, such as in the case of offences involving trafficking in children or offences committed by or involving the complicity of State officials.
- 1.5 Considering legislative provisions for confiscation of the instruments and proceeds of trafficking and related offences, specifying, where not inconsistent with national legislation, that the confiscated proceeds of trafficking will be used for the benefit of victims of trafficking. Giving consideration to the establishment of a compensation fund for victims of trafficking and the use of the confiscated assets to help finance such a fund.
- 1.6 Ensuring that trafficking, its constitutive acts and related offences constitute extraditable offences under national law and extradition treaties.
- 1.7 Adopting such legislative and other measures to establish as criminal offences acts of active or passive corruption of public officials, as referred to in Articles 8 and 9 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- 1.8 Ensuring that victims of trafficking are not subject to criminal proceedings solely as a direct result of them having been trafficked.

2. Law enforcement response

- 2.1 Fully implementing anti-trafficking and related measures set out in legislation.
- 2.2 Establishing special anti-trafficking units — comprising both women and men — with advanced training in investigating offences involving sexual assault or involving children, in order to promote competence, professionalism and integrity.
- 2.3 Building capacity in the anti-corruption field.
- 2.4 Developing community-policing programmes: raising levels of trust between the police and the public in order, inter alia, to contribute to the acquisition of

- information relating to trafficking and to increase the willingness of victims to report offences.
- 2.5 Enhancing co-operation between law enforcement investigating bodies in order to establish the possibly criminal, trafficking-related origins of suspicious assets.
 - 2.6 Providing not only the resources and training for developing intelligence-led policing for the management and analysis of crime and criminal information, but also the other advanced skills and equipment necessary for law enforcement bodies to carry out their anti-trafficking tasks.
 - 2.7 Encouraging investigators and prosecutors to carry out investigations and prosecutions without relying solely and exclusively on witness testimony. Exploring alternative investigative strategies to preclude the need for victims to be required to testify in court.
 - 2.8 Taking practicable measures to ensure that OSCE mission members who are behaving in breach of the OSCE Code of Conduct for Mission Members and other regulations face prescribed sanctions, including, as appropriate, disciplinary and criminal proceedings.
 - 2.9 Targeting corruption of local law enforcement as a matter of priority, and ensuring that appropriate disciplinary and criminal proceedings are undertaken against law enforcement authorities found to be engaged in corrupt practices related to trafficking in human beings.
3. Law enforcement co-operation and information exchange between participating States
- 3.1 Co-operating closely with one another and consistent with their respective domestic legal and administrative systems, to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action in combating the offences covered by this Action Plan. Promoting similar co-operation and co-ordination between law enforcement agencies within States.
 - 3.2 Adopting, in particular, effective measures
 - To enhance and where necessary to establish channels of communication between participating States;
 - To co-operate on inquiries regarding offences covered by this Action Plan;

- To provide, when appropriate, items or evidence necessary for analytical or investigative purposes;
 - To facilitate effective co-ordination between their competent authorities, agencies and services and to promote the exchange of personnel and other experts, including, subject to bilateral agreements or arrangements between the participating States concerned, the posting of liaison officers;
 - To exchange information on specific means and methods used by organized criminal groups, including, where applicable, routes and conveyances and the use of false identities, altered or forged documents or other means of concealing their activities;
 - To co-ordinate administrative and other measures considered appropriate for the early identification of the offences covered by this Action Plan.
- 3.3 Concluding agreements on bilateral and multilateral law enforcement co-operation to facilitate exchange of information.
- 3.4 Undertaking efforts to develop common standards for the collection of statistical data.
4. Assistance and protection of witnesses and victims in the criminal justice system
- 4.1 Taking appropriate measures within participating States' means, including legislative ones, to provide effective protection from potential retaliation or intimidation for witnesses in criminal proceedings who give testimony concerning offences covered by this Action Plan and, as appropriate, for their relatives and other persons close to them.
- 4.2 Sensitizing law enforcement authorities and officials to their responsibility for ensuring the safety and immediate well-being of victims of THB.
- 4.3 Ensuring data protection and the victim's right to privacy, also in the course of data collection and analysis.
- 4.4 Facilitating the victim's participation as a witness in the investigation and court hearings or other criminal proceedings by providing him/her with the possibility of relocation as a form of witness protection.

4.5 Providing legal counselling for victims when they are in the process of deciding whether or not to testify in court.

4.6 Permitting NGOs to support victims in court hearings, if it is not inconsistent with national legislation.

5. Training

5.1 Providing or improving training for border officials, law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, immigration and other relevant officials in all aspects of trafficking in persons.

5.2 Giving, in such training programs, consideration to human rights and child- and gender-sensitive issues, and encouraging co-operation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society.

6. Border measures

6.1 Considering taking measures that permit, in accordance with its domestic law, the denial of entry, the revocation of visas or possibly the temporary detention of persons implicated in committing offences as defined by the legislation in force.

6.2 Considering strengthening co-operation among border control agencies by, inter alia, establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication.

7. Security and control of documents

7.1 Taking such measures as may be necessary, within available means, to ensure that travel or identity documents issued by or on behalf of participating States are of such quality that they cannot easily be misused, readily falsified or unlawfully altered, replicated or issued.

8. Legitimacy and validity of documents

8.1 At the request of another participating State and in accordance with its domestic law, verifying within a reasonable time the legitimacy and validity of travel or identity documents issued or purporting to have been issued in its name, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect their usage for trafficking in persons.

Action for OSCE Institutions and Bodies

9. Legislative review and reform

- 9.1 The ODIHR, and where appropriate the field operations, will continue to promote and support legislative review and reform efforts in compliance with international standards.
- 9.2 The OSCE will further develop co-operation with other relevant partners and organizations.

10. Law enforcement response

- 10.1 The OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit will further promote the concept of community policing.
- 10.2 The Strategic Police Matters Unit and the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) will facilitate the exchange of information between participating States on best practices to be used by relevant investigating units to check the possibly criminal and trafficking-related origin of suspicious assets.
- 10.3 The OCEEA will further work together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme against Money Laundering and use its good offices to promote the organization of workshops on tackling money-laundering in interested participating States.
- 10.4 As part of its assistance in the development of National Referral Mechanisms the ODIHR will continue to promote and encourage co-operation between law enforcement and civil society.

11. Disciplinary response

- 11.1 The Office of Internal Oversight is requested to maintain data on investigations into offences related to trafficking in human beings by mission members and all subsequent related actions taken thereon. The Secretary General is requested to report regularly to the Permanent Council on measures taken to implement regulations in cases of breaches of the Code of Conduct while respecting the privacy of alleged perpetrators.

12. Training

- 12.1 The ODIHR and the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit will continue to develop training materials targeted at law enforcement authorities on trafficking and sex crimes investigation, consult with the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest regarding possibilities for incorporating this training into ILEA programs, identify law enforcement trainers to conduct training, and facilitate funding training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating States.
- 12.2 While international partners such as the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the International Organization for Migration provide basic police training on how to respond to allegations of trafficking, and others such as the United Nations Development Programme provide advanced training, additional training needs to be provided on dealing with particular aspects of sexual crime, e.g. sexual abuse of children. The OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit will provide such training in co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant organizations.

13. Security and control of documents

- 13.1 The relevant OSCE bodies, in particular the Anti-Terrorism Unit, will continue to facilitate workshops focusing on detecting documents used for illegal purposes in relation to trafficking in human beings, detecting false travel documents being used for entry of trafficked persons, and improving non-technical means of detection, such as interview techniques. In addition, workshops will focus on means of protecting freedom of movement of persons across the border, within the restrictions that are consistent with relevant OSCE commitments.

IV. PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Commitments of participating States related to prevention have been undertaken in the Ministerial Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto in 2002, the OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 426 of 2001, the Ministerial Decision on Enhancing the OSCE's Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Vienna in 2000, the OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues approved by the Permanent Council in 2000, the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul in 1999, the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE adopted in Moscow in 1991, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe adopted in Helsinki in 1975. In the above-mentioned documents the participating States also agreed on the role of the OSCE in this field.

Recommended action at the national level

1. Data collection and research

- 1.1 Collecting separate data related to women, men and children victims of trafficking, and improving research into and analysis of subjects such as the character and scale of THB and the trafficking and exploitation mechanisms deployed by the organized criminal groups, in order to develop effective and well-targeted prevention measures on trafficking in human beings. Promoting more research and exchange of information on trafficking in children.
- 1.2 Identifying the most vulnerable segments of the population and developing specially designed awareness-raising campaigns for them.
- 1.3 Conducting more far-reaching analysis of the root causes of THB, its demand and supply factors, its networks and its economic consequences, and its link with illegal migration.

2. Border measures

- 2.1 Without prejudice to international commitments in relation to the free movement of people, strengthening, to the extent possible, border controls as may be necessary to prevent and detect THB.
- 2.2 Adopting legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent, as far as possible, means of transport operated by commercial carriers from being used in committing offences, as defined by the provisions against trafficking.
- 2.3 Where appropriate, and without prejudice to applicable international conventions, obliging commercial carriers, including any transportation company or the owner or operator of any means of transport, to ascertain that all passengers are in possession of valid travel documents. In accordance with domestic law, taking the necessary measures to provide for sanctions in case of violation.

3. Economic and social policies aimed at addressing root causes of THB

- 3.1 In countries of origin:
 - Considering as priority goals: the fostering of social-economic and political stability, and the reduction both of migration caused by deep poverty and

of supply factors of trafficking. Policies followed in pursuit of these goals should also promote both economic development and social inclusion;

- Improving children’s access to educational and vocational opportunities and increasing the level of school attendance, in particular by girls and minority groups;
- Enhancing job opportunities for women by facilitating business opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Organizing SMEs training courses, and targeting them particularly at high-risk groups.

3.2 In countries of destination:

- Implementing measures to reduce “the invisibility of exploitation”. A multi-agency programme of monitoring, administrative controls and intelligence gathering on the labour markets, and, where applicable, on the sex industry, will contribute greatly to this objective;
- Considering the liberalization by governments of their labour markets with a view to increasing employment opportunities for workers with a wide range of skills levels;
- Addressing the problem of unprotected, informal and often illegal labour, with a view to seeking a balance between the demand for inexpensive labour and the possibilities of regular migration;
- Tackling underground economic activities which undermine economies and enhance trafficking.

3.3 Whether in countries of origin or countries of destination:

- Taking measures to raise levels of social protection and to create employment opportunities for all;
- Taking appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of gender equality, the right to equal pay for equal work and the right to equality in employment opportunities;
- Addressing all forms of discrimination against minorities;

- Developing programmes that offer livelihood options and include basic education, literacy, communication and other skills, and reduce barriers to entrepreneurship;
- Encouraging gender sensitization and education on equal and respectful relationships between the sexes, thus preventing violence against women;
- Ensuring that policies are in place which allow women equal access to and control over economic and financial resources;
- Promoting flexible financing and access to credit, including micro-credit with low interest;
- Promoting good governance and transparency in economic transactions;
- Adopting or strengthening legislative, educational, social, cultural or other measures, and, where applicable, penal legislation, including through bilateral and multilateral co-operation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that leads to trafficking.

4. Awareness-raising

- 4.1 Undertaking, in co-operation with civil society and NGOs, information campaigns to generate public awareness about trafficking in its various forms, including the methods employed by traffickers and the risks to victims.
- 4.2 Increasing awareness about trafficking among immigration authorities and consular and diplomatic personnel so that they use this knowledge in their daily contacts with potential victims.
- 4.3 Encouraging national embassies to disseminate information on relevant national legislation such as family law, labour law and immigration law as is of interest to potential migrants, including through NGOs.
- 4.4 Increasing awareness of other relevant target groups, including policy makers, law enforcement officers, and other relevant professionals such as medical, social services and employment officials, and in the private sector, to THB, to enhance their readiness to address it adequately and to strengthen their institutional capacity to counter it.

- 4.5 Encouraging the consular and visa sections of the diplomatic missions to use printed and other materials in their work with at-risk individuals.
- 4.6 Raising awareness of the media. The perception of the problem of trafficking in human beings brought forward by the media should include a clear explanation of the phenomenon and a realistic portrayal of the victims. To maximize public knowledge and awareness, anti-trafficking campaigns should be conducted with media professionals.
- 4.7 Targeting awareness-raising campaigns also at the most vulnerable groups, including persons belonging to national minorities, children, migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- 4.8 Extending awareness-raising campaigns to smaller towns and villages whose populations may be at particular risk.
- 4.9 Working in schools and universities as well as directly with families to reach young people and to raise their awareness about trafficking.
- 4.10 Addressing, also through the media, the need to reduce the demand for the activities of persons trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or other practices similar to slavery and, in this connection, promoting zero tolerance towards all forms of trafficking.
- 4.11 Establishing well-publicized telephone “hotlines” in the countries of origin, transit and destination, which should serve three purposes: to act as an independent source of advice and guidance to potential victims who may be considering job opportunities or other offers to go abroad, to act as a first point of contact providing access to a referral mechanism for victims of THB, and, furthermore, to facilitate the anonymous reporting of cases or suspected cases of THB.

5. Legislative measures

- 5.1 Adopting or reviewing laws, administrative controls and procedures relating to the licensing and operation of sectors of business that, according to intelligence, may be involved in trafficking, such as employment, tourist, au pair, adoption or mail-order bride agencies, as well as hotels and escort services.
- 5.2 Ensuring that measures adopted for the purpose of preventing and combating trafficking in persons do not have an adverse impact on the rights and dignity of persons, including their freedom of movement.

Action for OSCE Institutions and Bodies

6. Data collection and research

- 6.1 Enhancing data collection and research on trafficking in persons, particularly on trafficking in children, by building on past research and engaging in exchanges with the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant actors.
- 6.2 Tasking ODIHR's Contact Point on Roma and Sinti with continuing to gather data regarding trafficking in human beings, especially children, and its effects on Roma and Sinti communities.

7. Addressing root causes of THB

- 7.1 The OCEEA will support the promotion and the development of national public information resource centres to allow individuals to check the legitimacy of businesses, particularly those advocating employment abroad, while avoiding overlap with existing Chambers of Commerce facilities or other business registration offices. The OCEEA can function as an intermediary, collecting examples of best practices on easily accessible legitimacy checks and distributing them to interested participating States and/or OSCE field operations.
- 7.2 The OCEEA will continue to promote SMEs training and to target it in particular at high-risk groups, including by assisting in the development of legislation to reduce barriers to the establishment of SMEs.
- 7.3 The OCEEA should develop programmes to tackle economic factors that increase the vulnerability of women and minorities to trafficking, including discrimination in the workplace and lack of access to credit.

8. Awareness-raising

- 8.1 The ODIHR and, where appropriate, field operations will continue to contribute to research efforts as well as promoting and carrying out awareness-raising initiatives in co-operation with relevant partners throughout the OSCE region.
- 8.2 The Press and Public Information Section will help to raise media awareness of OSCE activities in the field of trafficking. The ODIHR will enhance training activities with regard to the responsibility of the media for dealing with the topic of trafficking in a sensitive manner and without reinforcing negative stereotypes.

Training will stress the complexity of the trafficking phenomenon and the need for a comprehensive response.

- 8.3 In order to ensure that staff of OSCE field operations do not engage in or in any way knowingly facilitate trafficking in human beings, and to fulfil the norms contained in part 4 of the OSCE Code of Conduct which is an integral part of the Staff Regulations, the Secretary General will draft comprehensive staff instructions for review by the Permanent Council no later than 15 November 2003.
- 8.4 The OSCE Training Co-ordinator, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and the Senior Security Co-ordinator will continue to use the induction course to develop and implement staff training on gender issues, trafficking in human beings and on relevant regulations and guidelines, in co-operation with the ODHR, and to organize special workshops in the field. Heads of field operations will ensure that attendance at such training courses will be compulsory for all staff.
- 8.5 The OCEEA will help to mobilize and strengthen the private sector's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings by raising awareness, and by identifying and disseminating best practices, such as self-regulation, policy guidelines and codes of conduct.

V. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

The OSCE commitments related to protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking in human beings have been undertaken in the Ministerial Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto in 2002, the Ministerial Decision No. 6 adopted in Bucharest in 2001, the Ministerial Decision No. 1 adopted in Vienna in 2000, the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul in 1999.

Recommended action at the national level

1. Data collection and research

- 1.1 Collecting data through the exchange and analysis of best practices and other information regarding effective protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking in the OSCE participating States.

2. Legislative measures

- 2.1 Considering the need for adopting legislation which will provide the legal basis for rendering assistance and protection to victims of THB, especially during pre-trial investigations and in court proceedings.
- 2.2 Ratifying, or acceding to, and fully implementing the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

3. National Referral Mechanisms (NRM)*

- 3.1 Establishing National Referral Mechanisms by creating a co-operative framework within which participating States fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of the victims of THB in co-ordination and strategic partnership with civil society and other actors working in this field. (*The ODIHR's Handbook on Guidelines and Principles to Design and Implement National Referral Mechanisms may serve as a useful source of advice and information regarding the role of NRMs in rendering assistance and protection to victims of THB).
- 3.2 Providing guidance to facilitate the accurate identification and appropriate treatment of the victims of THB, in ways which respect the views and dignity of the persons concerned.
- 3.3 Combining the efforts of law-enforcement bodies, including specially established anti-trafficking units and police at local level, officials of migration and border services, social protection units, medical institutions, as well as NGOs and other civil society institutions as the most relevant actors to be involved in NRM activities.
- 3.4 Establishing appropriate mechanisms to harmonize victim assistance with investigative and prosecutorial efforts.
- 3.5 Drawing special attention to the need for enhanced co-operation between the police and NGOs in identifying, informing and protecting victims of THB.
- 3.6 Linking the activities of NRMs with those of inter-ministerial bodies, national co-ordinators, NGOs and other relevant national institutions to form a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary team capable of developing and monitoring the implementation of anti-trafficking policies.

4. Shelters

- 4.1 Establishing shelters, run by governmental bodies, NGOs, or other institutions of civil society to meet the needs of trafficked persons; these shelters are to provide safety, access to independent advice and counselling in a language known by the victim, first-hand medical assistance, and an opportunity for reflection delay after the experienced trauma. Shelters may be established on the basis of already existing facilities such as crisis centres for women.
- 4.2 Providing access to shelters for all victims of trafficking, regardless of their readiness to co-operate with authorities in investigations.
- 4.3 Giving special attention to ensuring security for personnel of such shelters, confidentiality of information obtained, and safety and privacy for victims of THB.
- 4.4 Using shelters to provide the kind of training opportunities for victims of THB which will facilitate their future reintegration, employment and independence, as well as improving their competitive capabilities after the experienced trauma.

5. Provision of documents

- 5.1 Ensuring provision of documents, if necessary, as a first step to clarifying the victim's identity and status in countries of destination, thus making it possible to proceed with options of assistance in appropriate cases, such as repatriation, preferably voluntary, provision of a temporary or permanent residence permit, and/or legalization of employment.
- 5.2 Enhancing co-operation amongst law enforcement bodies in the countries of origin, transit and destination, and responsible officials of all institutions involved in the restoration of rights of victims of THB, including the personnel of embassies and consulates of participating States in order to facilitate the speedy verification of personal data and the avoidance of undue or unreasonable delay.
- 5.3 Informing identified victims of THB of their right to access to diplomatic and consular representatives of their country of nationality.

6. Provision of social assistance

- 6.1 Developing social assistance and integration programmes, including legal counselling in a language known by the victim, medical and psychological assistance and access to health care, to be made available either in shelters or other relevant institutions.

6.2 Considering, where not inconsistent with national legislation, legal measures to allow confiscated assets to be used to supplement government funding for programmes that address the needs of victims of THB and to compensate the victims in accordance with the gravity of the crime committed against them.

7. Repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration

7.1 Assisting the victims of THB in — preferably — voluntary repatriation to the country of origin with due regard for their safety and that of their families, and without undue or unreasonable delay.

7.2 Ensuring due process in all return and removal proceedings, taking into account a humanitarian and compassionate approach.

7.3 Considering contributing to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of THB by providing them with social and economic benefits.

7.4 Raising media awareness of the need to safeguard privacy by avoiding public disclosure of the identity of victims of THB, or publication of confidential information inimical to victims' security or to the cause of justice in criminal proceedings.

8. Provision of a reflection delay and temporary or permanent residence permits

8.1 Considering the introduction of a reflection delay to give the victim due time to decide whether or not to act as a witness.

8.2 Considering on a case-by-case basis, if appropriate, the provision of temporary or permanent residence permits, taking into account such factors as potential dangers to victims' safety.

8.3 Considering, if appropriate, the provision of work permits to victims during their stay in the receiving country.

9. Ensuring the right to apply for asylum

9.1 Ensuring that anti-trafficking laws, policies, programmes and interventions do not affect the right of all persons, including victims of THB, to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution in accordance with international refugee law, in particular through effective application of the principle of *non-refoulement*.

10. Protection of children

- 10.1 Ensuring that the special needs of children and the best interests of the child are fully taken into account when deciding upon appropriate housing, education and care. In appropriate cases, if there is no direct threat to the safety of the child, providing the children with access to the State educational system.
- 10.2 Deciding on the repatriation of a child victim of THB only after having taken account of all the circumstances of the specific case and if there is a family or special institution in the country of origin to ensure the child's safety, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration.
- 10.3 Considering the provisions outlined in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Guidelines for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors when elaborating policies targeted at this risk group, and in particular for those who are not in possession of identification documents.
- 10.4 Using bilateral and/or regional agreements on fundamental principles of good reception of unaccompanied children in order to combine efforts targeted at the protection of children.
- 10.5 Ratifying or acceding to, and fully implementing, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Action for OSCE Institutions and Bodies

11. National Referral Mechanism

- 11.1 Enhancing the activities of the OSCE, especially the ODIHR, in assisting participating States, upon their request, in establishing the NRM.
- 11.2 Tasking the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, together with the ODIHR, with the further development of guidelines or a manual on the identification of suspected victims and of evidence of THB, in order to assist participating States, as appropriate.

12. Reintegration

- 12.1 The OCEEA will facilitate contacts between public and private actors with a view

to encouraging the business community to offer job opportunities to victims of trafficking.

13. Protection of children

- 13.1 The OSCE as a whole shall give special attention to the issue of trafficking in children and to recognizing the vulnerability of unaccompanied children. Efforts should be made to develop co-operation with specialized international agencies, especially the United Nations Children's Fund and relevant international NGOs, on expert meetings, research and the development of guidelines promoting the best interest of the child.

14. Training

- 14.1 Tasking the OSCE Training Co-ordinator, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and the Senior Security Co-ordinator in co-operation with the ODIHR with developing information material on how to assist victims of trafficking, especially children, in response to requests either from individuals or governmental and non-governmental bodies, and with providing relevant training for OSCE mission members. The material might also be disseminated to military personnel, peacekeepers and other international staff in the field.
- 14.2 Tasking the ODIHR with the collection and dissemination of information on measures, training programmes and materials already in place in OSCE participating States.

15. Legislative measures

- 15.1 In co-ordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Council of Europe and other relevant actors, the ODIHR will continue to assist participating States, upon their request, in bringing their national legislation into compliance with international norms and standards, particularly by promoting a humanitarian and compassionate approach to the victims of THB.

VI. FOLLOW-UP AND CO-ORDINATING MECHANISMS

Besides monitoring the implementation of the OSCE commitments by participating States through existing OSCE mechanisms, including the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Review Conferences and relevant human dimension events,

The Permanent Council recommends the following actions at the national level:

1. To consider appointing National Rapporteurs or other mechanisms for monitoring the anti-trafficking activities of State institutions and the implementation of national legislation requirements;
2. To consider establishing Anti-Trafficking Commissions (task forces) or similar bodies responsible for co-ordinating activities within a country among State agencies and NGOs, and for elaborating measures to prevent THB, to punish perpetrators of THB and to protect its victims;
3. To improve co-operation between State institutions and national NGOs active in rendering protection and assistance to the victims of THB, combating violence against women and children, promoting gender equality and raising awareness in human rights issues;

Furthermore, the Permanent Council:

4. Tasks the Chairmanship with conducting discussions on follow-up to this Action Plan, including augmenting current structures and examining the need for a new mechanism, with a view to enhancing the OSCE's efforts in fighting trafficking in human beings by raising its political profile and giving it a prominent role on the issue, as well as better co-ordinating work among the three dimensions of the OSCE;
5. Tasks the OSCE relevant structures with hosting and facilitating annual meetings in Vienna of national co-ordinators, representatives or experts on combating trafficking, to monitor the process of the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan. This will provide them with a chance to build networks, exchange information, and outline priorities for co-operation;
6. Urges the pursuit of close interaction between the OSCE Secretariat, its institutions and its field operations, to assist participating States, where appropriate, in implementing the current Action Plan;
7. Tasks the ODIHR with rendering necessary technical assistance to participating States, when appropriate, in developing National Anti-Trafficking Plans of Action, including legislative and other assistance measures aimed at effective prevention and combating trafficking and protection of victims;
8. Tasks OSCE institutions and bodies with engaging in more extensive regular exchange of information, data collection and research with relevant international organizations;
9. Tasks the ODIHR with the further development of its clearing-house function for the exchange of information, contacts, materials and good practices and with the enhancement of its project activities.

ANNEX to MC.DEC/2/03

THE OSCE COMMITMENTS RELATED TO:

Investigation, law enforcement and prosecution

(Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto, 2002)

"We recognize that trafficking in human beings represents a serious and rapidly expanding area of transnational organized crime, generating huge profits for criminal networks that may also be associated with criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, as well as smuggling of migrants.

...

We will strive for adequate measures to prevent trafficking in human beings in our countries ... and will seek ... to organize training for relevant officials and government employees in the areas of law enforcement, border control, criminal justice and social services, and to recommend full co-operation with NGOs in this field.

...

We call on participating States to enhance international co-operation in combating transnational organized crime, including criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, as well as smuggling of migrants. Such co-operation should include international law enforcement bodies, such as Europol and Interpol, as well as the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative (SECI), with a view to investigating and prosecuting those responsible for trafficking in human beings in accordance with domestic law and, where applicable, international obligations. In this regard, we ask that the Senior Police Adviser should devote increased attention to the fight against trafficking in human beings."

(Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, 2001)

"Secretariat: Will assist participating States, on their request, through measures to combat trafficking in human beings, drugs and small arms and light weapons, in accordance with relevant Permanent Council decisions, and will undertake efforts to assist in facilitating increased border monitoring, where appropriate. Will further assist participating States, on the request and with their agreement, through provision of advice and assistance on restructuring and/or reconstruction of police services; monitoring and training of existing police services, including human rights training; and capacity building, including support for integrated or multi-ethnic police services. Will, to this end, reinforce its existing police-related activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation."

(Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 6, 2001)

“Calls on participating States to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children;

...

Encourages information exchange with a view to strengthening investigation, law enforcement and crime prevention”.

(Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, 2000)

“Reaffirms that trafficking in human beings is an abhorrent human rights abuse and a serious crime that demands a more comprehensive and co-ordinated response from participating States and the international community, as well as a more coherent and co-operative approach among countries, in particular those of origin, transit and destination;

Welcomes the adoption, by the United Nations General Assembly, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the definition of trafficking in persons contained therein and calls upon all participating States to sign and ratify the United Nations Protocol as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;

...

Stresses the role of national parliaments in the enactment, among others, of laws necessary to combat trafficking in human beings and welcomes articles 106 and 107 of the Parliamentary Assembly’s Bucharest Declaration on trafficking in persons;

...

Commits to take necessary measures, including by adopting and implementing legislation, to criminalize trafficking in human beings, including appropriate penalties, with a view to ensuring effective law enforcement response and prosecution. Such legislation should take into account a human rights approach to the problem of trafficking, and include provision for the protection of the human rights of victims, ensuring that victims of trafficking do not face prosecution solely because they have been trafficked.”

Prevention of THB

(Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto, 2002)

To prevent trafficking in human beings, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE have recognized “the need to address root causes of trafficking and to reduce the economic and social inequalities and disadvantages, which also provoke illegal migration, and which may be exploited by organized criminal networks for their profit”. They also have recognized “the need to fight corruption, which facilitates the operation of such

networks". They have recommended "that the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities play an increased role in addressing all economic aspects of trafficking in human beings".

They have recognized "that, in countries of destination, demand for the activities of persons trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or other practices similar to slavery is an integral factor in trafficking in human beings". They have urged "countries of destination to take measures to effectively address such a demand as a key element in their strategy for effectively preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and to exercise zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation, slavery and all forms of exploitation of forced labour, irrespective of its nature".

They decided to "strive for adequate measures to prevent trafficking in human beings in our countries, taking the form, *inter alia*, of target-oriented awareness raising campaigns and education in countries of origin and transit, directed in particular towards youth and other vulnerable groups" and to "seek to develop appropriate campaign in the countries of destination ...".

(Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, 2000)

The Ministerial Council "undertakes to raise awareness, including with assistance from the ODIHR, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions, through, where necessary, establishing training programmes among public officials, including law enforcement, judiciary, consular and immigration officials, about all aspects of trafficking".

(Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul, November 1999)

The Heads of State or Government have applauded "the unprecedented process of economic transformation taking place in many participating States". They have encouraged them "to continue this reform process, which will contribute to security and prosperity in the entire OSCE area". They have decided to step up their "efforts across all dimensions of the OSCE to combat corruption and to promote the rule of law".

(CSCSE Helsinki Document 1992 - the challenges of change)

"The participating States emphasize the need for continuing co-operation and investment in human resources development in order to cope with problems of transition to market economies, rapid technological changes and the evolution of society. Recognizing the importance of education and training, including management and vocational training at all levels, they will intensify their dialogue on education and training systems and promote further co-operation in this area.

The participating States will enhance opportunities for industrial co-operation by providing an appropriate legal and economic environment for business, particularly with the aim of strengthening the private sector and developing small and medium-sized enterprises.”

(Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE - Moscow, 3 October 1991)

The participating States will “encourage measures effectively to ensure full economic opportunity for women, including non-discriminatory employment policies and practices, equal access to education and training, and measures to facilitate combining employment with family responsibilities for female and male workers; and will seek to ensure that any structural adjustment policies or programmes do not have an adversely discriminatory effect on women;

...

seek to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women including by ensuring adequate legal prohibition against such acts and other appropriate measures;

...

develop educational policies, consistent with their constitutional systems, to support the participation of women in all areas of study and work, including non-traditional areas, and encourage and promote a greater understanding of issues relating to equality between men and women”.

(Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe - Helsinki, 1 August 1975)

The participating States “will equally endeavour, in developing their co-operation, to improve the well-being of peoples and contribute to the fulfilment of their aspirations through, *inter alia*, the benefits resulting from increased mutual knowledge and from progress and achievement in the economic, scientific, technological, social, cultural and humanitarian fields. They will take steps to promote conditions favourable to making these benefits available to all; they will take into account the interest of all in the narrowing of differences in the levels of economic development, and in particular the interest of developing countries throughout the world”.

The participating States “are of the opinion that the problems arising bilaterally from the migration of workers in Europe as well as between the participating States should be dealt with by the parties directly concerned, in order to resolve these problems in their mutual interest, in the light of the concern of each State involved to take due account of the requirements resulting from its socio-economic situation, having regard to the obligation of each State to comply with the bilateral and multilateral agreements to which it is party, and with the following aims in view:

to encourage the efforts of the countries of origin directed towards increasing the possibilities of employment for their nationals in their own territories, in particular by developing economic co-operation appropriate for this purpose and suitable for the host countries and the countries of origin concerned;

to ensure, through collaboration between the host country and the country of origin, the conditions under which the orderly movement of workers might take place, while at the same time protecting their personal and social welfare and, if appropriate, to organize the recruitment of migrant workers and the provision of elementary language and vocational training;

to ensure equality of rights between migrant workers and nationals of the host countries with regard to conditions of employment and work and to social security, and to endeavour to ensure that migrant workers may enjoy satisfactory living conditions, especially housing conditions;

to endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, that migrant workers may enjoy the same opportunities as nationals of the host countries of finding other suitable employment in the event of unemployment;

to regard with favour the provision of vocational training to migrant workers and, as far as possible, free instruction in the language of the host country, in the framework of their employment;

to confirm the right of migrant workers to receive, as far as possible, regular information in their own language, covering both their country of origin and the host country;

to ensure that the children of migrant workers established in the host country have access to the education usually given there, under the same conditions as the children of that country and, furthermore, to permit them to receive supplementary education in their own language, national culture, history and geography;

to bear in mind that migrant workers, particularly those who have acquired qualifications, can by returning to their countries after a certain period of time help to remedy any deficiency of skilled labour in their country of origin;

to facilitate, as far as possible, the reuniting of migrant workers with their families;

to regard with favour the efforts of the countries of origin to attract the savings of migrant workers, with a view to increasing, within the framework of their economic development, appropriate opportunities for employment, thereby facilitating the reintegration of these workers on their return home”.

Protection of victims of THB and rendering assistance to them

(Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto, 2002)

Participating States undertook “to render assistance and protection to the victims of trafficking, especially women and children, and to this end, when appropriate, to establish effective and inclusive national referral mechanisms, ensuring that victims of trafficking do not face prosecution solely because they have been trafficked. The dignity and human rights of victims must be respected at all times. We will consider adopting appropriate measures, such as shelters, and establishing appropriate repatriation processes for the victims of trafficking, with due regard to their safety, including the provision of documents; and developing policies concerning the provision of economic and social benefits to victims, as well as their rehabilitation and reintegration in society”.

Participating States expressed their “concern about the increase in trafficking in minors and, recognizing the special needs of children”, supported “more research and exchange of information on trafficking in children and, with due regard to the best interest of the child as the primary consideration in all actions concerning children,” called “for the elaboration of special measures to protect trafficked minors from further exploitation, mindful of their psychological and physical well-being”.

Participating States recognized that “intensified co-operation among relevant actors in countries of origin, transit and destination plays a critical role in the return programmes for victims of trafficking and facilitates their reintegration”. Therefore participating States “encourage all organizations providing assistance to victims, including NGOs, to further develop such co-operation”.

Participating States reiterated “the need for national strategies in order to unite efforts directed towards combating trafficking in human beings and to enhance co-ordination among national, international and regional organizations in this field. This need could be met through measures such as appointing inter-ministerial bodies and national co-ordinators or, as appropriate, other relevant bodies or mechanisms”.

Participating States asked “that the Senior Police Adviser should devote increased attention to the fight against trafficking in human beings”.

(Ministerial Council Decision No. 6 adopted in Bucharest, 2001)

The Ministerial Council called on participating States “to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children”.

(Ministerial Council Decision No. 1 adopted in Vienna, 2000)

The Ministerial Council called upon participating States “to sign and ratify the United Nations Protocol as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography”.

Ministerial Council called “on OSCE institutions, in particular the ODIHR, and field operations, to develop and implement anti-trafficking programmes and to promote co-ordinated efforts in the areas of prevention, prosecution and protection, in co-operation with non-governmental organizations as well as international organizations and other relevant institutions”.

Ministerial Council decided that relevant “legislation”, criminalizing trafficking in human beings, ... “should take into account a human rights approach to the problem of trafficking, and include provision for the protection of the human rights of victims, ensuring that victims of trafficking do not face prosecution solely because they have been trafficked”.

Ministerial Council confirmed the need to “consider adopting legislative or other appropriate measures, such as shelters, which permit victims of trafficking in persons to remain in their territories, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases; and establishing appropriate repatriation processes for the victims of trafficking, with due regard to their safety, including the provision of documents; and developing policies concerning the provision of economic and social benefits to victims as well as their rehabilitation and reintegration in society”.

(Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul, November 1999)

Participating States decided to “undertake measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, and to end violence against women and children as well as sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking in human beings. In order to prevent such crimes”, participating States decided to, “among other means, promote the adoption or strengthening of legislation to hold accountable persons responsible for these acts and strengthen the protection of victims”.

SOFIA MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING TERRORISM

SOFIA, 7 DECEMBER 2004

MC.DOC/1/04

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, having met together in Sofia, declare our resolute and unconditional condemnation of terrorist acts, in particular those committed in 2004 in Spain, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Russia, where in the city of Beslan terrorists brutally and callously killed innocent and defenceless children. We grieve the loss of hundreds of human lives and express our profound solidarity with victims of acts of terrorism and their families. These acts have vividly exposed terrorism's inhuman nature. We express our solidarity with the States not participating in our Organization which were also attacked by terrorists.

Reiterating that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and considering that acts of terrorism seriously impair the enjoyment of human rights, we reaffirm our commitment to protect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to life, of everyone within our jurisdiction against terrorist acts. We reemphasize our determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and to conduct this fight with respect for the rule of law and in accordance with our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

2. We underscore the leading role of the United Nations in the comprehensive fight against terrorism.

We reaffirm obligations and commitments adopted by our States in the field of combating terrorism within the United Nations, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1456 (2003), 1535 (2004), 1540 (2004) and 1566 (2004) of the United Nations Security Council, as well as resolution 58/187 of the United Nations General Assembly, and we support the resolution 2004/87 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. We also reaffirm obligations and commitments adopted within other international organizations of which we are members.

We welcome the importance attributed by UN Security Council resolution 1566 (2004) to the role of relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in strengthening international co-operation in the fight against terrorism and the call for intensified interaction with the United Nations.

We underline our determination to support the important efforts of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and of its Executive Directorate. We commit to hold ourselves to the highest possible standards of implementation of the 12 United Nations conventions and protocols related to terrorism. We also renew our call for co-operation on an expedited basis in resolving all outstanding issues with a view to adopting by consensus the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

we remain committed to the anti-terrorism OSCE decisions, in particular the commitments contained in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism and the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century.

Our countries reaffirm their commitment to swift and full implementation of these decisions and arrangements throughout the OSCE area.

3. We welcome the OSCE's efforts in the field of combating terrorism, including the decisions adopted in 2004, and support the work of the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Secretariat.

We are convinced that the package of practical decisions that we adopt and welcome today¹, and their further implementation will increase the level of security and stability in the OSCE area. These decisions will help ensure implementation of our obligations under international law to prevent and combat terrorism.

4. We intend to step up OSCE activities and measures to prevent and combat terrorism and to address all the factors which engender conditions in which terrorist organizations are able to recruit and win support.

We reaffirm that the OSCE efforts to counter terrorist threats should be taken in all OSCE dimensions, the security dimension, including the politico-military area, the economic and environmental dimension, and the human dimension. Based on the common, comprehensive and indivisible approach to security, our Organization could make further substantial contributions to global anti-terrorist efforts.

1 Permanent Council Decision No. 617 on Further Measures to Suppress Terrorist Financing (1 July 2004)
Permanent Council Decision No. 618 on Solidarity with Victims of Terrorism (1 July 2004)
Ministerial Decision on Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes
Ministerial Decision on Enhancing Container Security
Ministerial Decision on Reporting Lost/Stolen Passports to Interpol's ASF-STD

We are convinced that respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms is an important element of ensuring peace and stability and prevention of terrorism. We acknowledge that effective prevention of and fight against terrorism require the involvement of civil society in our countries.

We are determined to further strengthen our interaction at both bilateral and multilateral levels in various formats in order to forestall the threat of terrorism in the OSCE area and in the world. We will actively co-operate to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers, supporters and sponsors of terrorist acts.

We also will continue to develop interaction and dialogue on the issues of preventing and combating terrorism with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation.

MC DECISION NO. 10/04: IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ECONOMIC FORUM

SOFIA, 7 DECEMBER 2004

MC.DEC/10/04

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the OSCE economic and environmental dimension (EED),

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Strategy Document),

Welcomes the progress achieved in the ongoing process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Forum, as outlined in the Annex.

Tasks the Permanent Council, through its Economic and Environmental Subcommittee and with the support of the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), to continue its work on enhancement of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension and to periodically review the progress achieved. In particular, a report of the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee focusing on issues of further improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Forum should be submitted to the Permanent Council preferably not later than by 15 June 2005.

ANNEX to Decision No. 10/04

The Economic Forum should become a more effective tool for promoting the implementation of the Strategy Document and other EED documents. The structure, format and content of the Economic Forum should reflect the provisions of the Strategy Document and other EED documents.

The theme(s) of each meeting of the Economic Forum should focus on issues where the OSCE can provide added value and should be selected among the priority areas defined by the Strategy Document, allowing thus for better and more comprehensive, thorough, streamlined and result oriented discussions. The Economic Forum will endeavour to treat economic and environmental subjects in a balanced manner.

The Economic Forum should strengthen its role in providing a framework for political dialogue among the participating States on key issues regarding the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE and should become more policy oriented and focus on practical proposals, building upon the work done during the preparatory process.

The Economic Forum should provide a framework for a more effective participation of officials and experts from the participating States, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, financial institutions, representatives of academic and business circles, as well as NGOs.

The relationship between the Forum and the preparatory seminars has to be improved, with due attention to the number of seminars, their location and format. Special attention should be given to translating ideas and proposals voiced at the Forum into reality.

The Economic and Environmental Subcommittee, under the guidance of the Permanent Council, has a leading role in providing guidance for the substantive preparation of the Forum as well as for the followup activities.

The review of the implementation of the OSCE commitments should be substantially updated and improved. Relevant provisions of the Strategy Document and other EED documents should be applied. The review of commitments should be done in cooperation with other international organizations, as appropriate, and in particular with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in accordance with the OSCE/UNECE Memorandum of Understanding. A more comprehensive and forward looking report should be prepared and distributed well in advance of the Forum. It should address the status of implementation of a specific cluster of commitments, obstacles encountered, best practices identified, followup action needed and possible OSCE assistance to participating States. Given the importance of this session, the time allocated to the review part of the Forum should be increased up to two working days.

In planning and conducting the meetings of the Economic Forums as well as of the preparatory seminars, the Chairmanship and the OCEEA, following the guidance of the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee, will pay due attention to further improving the quality of deliberations.

MC DECISION NO. 11/04: COMBATING CORRUPTION

SOFIA, 7 DECEMBER 2004

MC.DEC/11/04

The Ministerial Council,

Reiterating that corruption represents one of the major impediments to the prosperity and sustainable development of the participating States, that undermines their stability and security and threatens the OSCE's shared values,

Determined to further intensify efforts in the implementation of existing OSCE commitments on combating corruption, as reflected in the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003,

Reaffirming its commitment to make the elimination of all forms of corruption a priority and to implement effective and resolute measures against corruption, including through the implementation of relevant national legislation and programmes,

Recalling that the fight against corruption requires the adoption by the participating States of a comprehensive and longterm anticorruption strategy,

Acknowledging the important work on this issue done by other international organizations, in particular by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

Recognizing that the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 31 October 2003 in New York, marks a major step forward in international co-operation against corruption and provides the opportunity for a global response to the problem,

Encourages the OSCE participating States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible, in order to ensure its rapid entry into force, and implement it fully.

Tasks the OSCE Secretariat, in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), upon the request of the OSCE participating States, to provide support in mobilizing technical assistance, including necessary expertise and

resources, from relevant competent international organizations, with due regard to their respective mandates, in the ratification or/and the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

MC DECISION NO. 17/04: OSCE AND ITS PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

SOFIA, 7 DECEMBER 2004

MC.DEC/17/04

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the increasing importance of the well-established co-operation between the OSCE and its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571/Corr.1, by which the Permanent Council decided to submit a report to the Ministerial Council meeting in 2004 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and which requested the Forum for Security Co-operation to make its own contribution to this work,

Underlines the importance of the report PC.DEL/366/04/Rev. 4, which is based on an exchange of various views, including with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation;

Tasks the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation to remain seized of the matter.

BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT CONCEPT FRAMEWORK FOR CO-OPERATION BY THE OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

LJUBLJANA, 6 DECEMBER 2005

MC.DOC/2/05

Chapter I: The OSCE participating States' commitments

1. Recognizing that border security and management is a matter of the national sovereignty and responsibility of States, the OSCE participating States reaffirm their commitment to promoting open and secure borders in a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area without dividing lines. In doing so, they also commit themselves to co-operate following the principles of international law, mutual confidence, equal partnership, transparency and predictability, and pursuing a comprehensive approach in a spirit that would facilitate friendly relations between States.

2. The OSCE participating States reaffirm the obligations and commitments on border-related issues that they have undertaken at all levels:

- 2.1 At the global level: On border security and management issues, the participating States reaffirm their commitments under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, and may consider as well standards and recommendations laid down by the World Customs Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant international organizations;
- 2.2 At the OSCE level: The participating States reaffirm the norms, principles, commitments and values enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, all of which apply equally and unreservedly, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others. They reaffirm the principles and commitments contained in the Copenhagen Document 1990, the Helsinki Document 1992 and the Charter for European Security 1999. They recall the action plans, decisions and other relevant agreed OSCE documents which address borderrelated issues. In particular, strengthening OSCE capacities to promote open and secure borders and enhancing mutually beneficial inter-State co-operation are means to address the threats of terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, and the illicit trafficking

in weapons, drugs and human beings, as identified in paragraph 35 of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the TwentyFirst Century;

- 2.3 At the regional and subregional levels: In the same spirit, the participating States reaffirm their obligations and commitments in all regional and subregional formats in which they are members and undertake to promote their co-operation in all relevant organizations and agencies in order to ensure consistency in policies and standards and to avoid duplication of efforts;
- 2.4 Bilaterally: In a spirit of solidarity, and aiming at good neighbourly relations, the participating States will respect their bilateral agreements on borderrelated issues and undertake efforts to promote sharing of experience and good practices.

Chapter II: Main objectives of co-operation

3. Co-operation by the participating States is aimed at promoting the implementation of border-related commitments. It should foster compliance with border-related security and management standards recognized by the participating States, as well as their improvement, *inter alia*, based on sharing of good practices.

4. The participating States will promote co-operation between their border services, customs authorities, agencies issuing travel documents and visas, and law enforcement and migration agencies, as well as other competent national structures, with a view to achieving the following aims:

- 4.1 To promote free and secure movement of persons, goods, services and investments across borders, in conformity with relevant legal frameworks, international law and OSCE commitments, *inter alia*, through enhancing the security of travel documents and encouraging, as appropriate, circumstances that could allow liberalization of visa regimes, in the spirit of the commitments under the documents mentioned above;
- 4.2 To reduce the threat of terrorism, including by preventing crossborder movement of persons, weapons and funds connected with terrorist and other criminal activities;
- 4.3 To prevent and repress transnational organized crime, illegal migration, corruption, smuggling and trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings;

- 4.4 To promote high standards in border services and competent national structures;
- 4.5 To promote dignified treatment of all individuals wanting to cross borders, in conformity with relevant national legal frameworks, international law, in particular human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law, and relevant OSCE commitments;
- 4.6 To create beneficial conditions for social and economic development in border territories, as well as for the prosperity and cultural development of persons belonging to all communities residing in border areas, with access to all opportunities;
- 4.7 To foster prospects for joint economic development and help in establishing common spaces of freedom, security and justice in the OSCE area;
- 4.8 To ensure the security of the international transport circuit for supply of commodities.

Chapter III: Principles of co-operation by the OSCE participating States on border-related issues

Guided by the OSCE co-operative approach,

5. The participating States agree that their common prosperity and security can be enhanced through an increase in beneficial cross-border movements of people, goods, services and investments.

6. Issues of a regulatory nature raised by cross-border movements can best be addressed through direct co-operation between the border services and competent national structures of the participating States, based on relevant agreements. This co-operation should take place at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

7. Sovereign national authorities, and in particular the border services responsible on each side of the border, have the best knowledge of the issues at hand. Cross-border dialogue, transparency and confidence-building constitute the first logical steps towards generating solutions with added value to the benefit of all.

8. Borders in the OSCE are not uniform. Every border has a particular character and may call for specific policy choices. Each participating State has the sovereign right to choose how to secure and manage its borders, taking into account relevant political, military, economic and social considerations.

Chapter IV: OSCE contribution

9. In keeping with its concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security, the OSCE constitutes an appropriate political framework and offers the services of its structures and institutions for contributions. It acts upon the request of participating States and in a spirit of solidarity and partnership, based on mutual interest and respect. In case the OSCE offers its contribution in border areas between participating States it will act after close consultation with and taking into account the views expressed by these participating States.

10. OSCE work in support of border security and management will be based on realism and pragmatism. It will make the best use of OSCE structures and institutions, the strengthening of which should be considered. OSCE border-related activities are subject to ongoing periodic review and monitoring by the OSCE decision-making bodies and through the budgetary process.

11. The OSCE will ensure a continued political dialogue on border-related issues, through discussions in an appropriate consultative working structure on the implementation of the commitments and the future development of co-operation by the participating States in this area, as well as on providing guidance regarding border activities to the OSCE structures and institutions.

12. The OSCE remains a forum for dialogue and conflict-resolution through peaceful dialogue. The OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is in this respect a tool available to States recognizing its jurisdiction, to be consulted and to provide confidential legal opinion upon request.

13. The possible OSCE contribution may be put into practice, *inter alia*, through the following methods:

- Exchange of information, experience and best practices;
- Establishment of “points of contact” and national focal points;
- Holding of workshops and conferences, including with the participation of experts;
- Maintaining contacts and interaction with the competent international and regional organizations.

A more detailed list of possible OSCE contributions is contained in the Annex.

Chapter V: OSCE external co-operation with international organizations and partners

14. The OSCE can offer its organizational framework for interaction on border-related issues with international regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security.

15. International co-operation and assistance could benefit from a more target-oriented and coordinated approach. The OSCE should continue political and operational coordination with other international organizations and institutions in promoting open and secure borders. Complementarity, comparative advantage and added value should guide the co-ordinated approach, *inter alia*, through concerted actions and joint deployment of international resources.

16. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is also a forum for co-operation with subregional organizations in its area. Increased coordination on border security and management at the subregional level may constitute a stepping stone towards the OSCE-wide establishment of open and secure borders.

17. The provisions of this Concept will be shared by the Partners for Co-operation, on a voluntary basis.

POSSIBLE OSCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Upon the request of interested participating States and where they can provide comparative advantage and added value, the contributions of the OSCE, based on lessons learned from border-related programmes, could take, *inter alia*, the following forms:

A. Facilitation:

1. Political dialogue between participating States on border-related issues, including OSCE good offices;
2. Confidencebuilding measures in border areas, as referred to by relevant OSCE documents, as well as by decisions elaborated by the Forum for Security Co-operation;
3. Technical dialogue between national border services and competent national structures, through exchanges of information at all levels;
4. Possible mobilization and co-ordination of assistance.

B. General forms of contribution:

1. Technical assistance in the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans, based on the vision of national authorities and their existing commitments, if a State so requests;
2. Technical assistance in development, adaptation and harmonization of relevant legislation;
3. Technical assistance in enhancing the effectiveness of border structures through the sharing of best practices;
4. Technical assistance in the development and implementation of training plans and programs through the sharing of good practices and international exchanges;
5. Overall information sharing by creating, *inter alia*, an awareness of resources that comprise all available international experience, including new technologies and knowhow, for example on rapid but effective border controls, border checkpoint construction, etc.;
6. Identification of sources for available equipment and supplies appropriate to border services, with the aim of their possible mobilization.

C. Possible specialized assistance in the following fields:

1. Combating terrorism, transnational organized crime, illegal migration and illicit trafficking in nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional weapons and their means of delivery and related materials, hazardous wastes, drugs and human beings:
 - (i) Strengthening of international exchange networks and informationsharing on the above-mentioned threats and challenges to security;
 - (ii) Crime-specific training for border services and competent national structures;
 - (iii) Identification of sources for crime-specific equipment and supplies and, if possible, mobilization of available resources;
 - (iv) Technical and non-technical means of detection of illegal or false documents aiming at improving the security of travel documents and visas;

- (v) Encouragement for the conclusion and implementation of agreements on cross-border co-operation;
- (vi) Promotion of the implementation and development of multilateral international norms and practices, in conformity with international legal frameworks, regarding extradition and other forms of legal co-operation on criminal matters related to terrorism and other serious crimes, on aspects related to border security and management;
- (vii) Enhancement of co-operation aimed at preventing and countering the threat of illicit trafficking in drugs.

2. Free and secure movement of persons:

- (i) Technical assistance and expert advice on exit and entry procedures, including on simplification of visa procedures, as appropriate;
- (ii) Expert advice on enhancing the security of travel documents;
- (iii) Facilitation of free and secure movement of persons across borders;
- (iv) Promotion and expert advice by the OSCE structures and institutions on the rights and development interests of persons belonging to all communities living in border areas without prejudice toward persons belonging to national minorities;
- (v) Awareness-raising on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers.

3. Economic and environmental field:

- (i) Sharing of best practices on border-crossing and customs procedures for import, export and transit, in particular to ensure the security of the international transport circuit;
- (ii) Promotion of economic cross-border co-operation and facilitation of local border trade;
- (iii) Fostering of cross-border co-operation on environmental issues that have an impact on local community development;

- (iv) Facilitation of cross-border co-operation in case of natural disasters or serious accidents in border zones;
- (v) Ensuring of the security of the international transport circuit for the supply of commodities, including through the establishment of a system for providing preliminary information on goods and vehicles transferred across borders.

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS

By the Delegation of Georgia:

“In regard to the adoption of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, the Delegation of Georgia would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph 79, Chapter 6, of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.

Having joined others on the consensus regarding the adoption of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, Georgia underlines that all possible OSCE contributions mentioned in the Annex to the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept may be carried out only in full respect of the national sovereignty and taking fully into account the concerns of the country that is offered such possible OSCE contributions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We request that this statement be attached to the just adopted OSCE Border Security and Management Concept.

Thank you.”

OSCE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISASTER AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

LJUBLIANA, 6 DECEMBER 2005

MC.DOC/3/05

26 April 2006 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP).

Commemorating this tragic day, we once again remember all the victims, including all emergency and recovery operation workers, of the twentieth century's major technological catastrophe, in terms both of scope and of consequences.

This disaster resulted in large-scale radioactive contamination of vast areas in Europe, most heavily affecting the territories of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The accident has had an adverse impact on the lives and health of millions of people, in particular children, and has imposed a massive burden on the economy and environment of the most affected States.

We appreciate the enormous efforts made by the national governments concerned to address the effects of the Chernobyl accident. These endeavours have been supplemented to a significant degree by the involvement of the international community, including organizations of the United Nations system, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), aimed at providing assistance to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. We also commend the contribution made by non-governmental organizations, private initiatives and individuals.

However, even today, the long-term consequences of the disaster, which include humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health problems, continue to persist. Therefore, efforts need to continue to alleviate these consequences, focusing primarily on such vitally important issues as economic and environmental rehabilitation and sustainable development of the territories affected.

We are also aware that the Chernobyl NPP continues to pose a potential threat in the centre of Europe. In this regard, special attention should be focused on completing the Shelter Implementation Plan by constructing the main remaining component, the New Safe Confinement Arch. We appreciate the effort of the international community to increase financial commitments to the EBRD Chernobyl Shelter Fund to over USD 1 billion this year.

Environmental matters have always been a part of the OSCE's mandate, reflecting the Organization's comprehensive approach to security and co-operation. In the Helsinki Final Act we agreed to study, with a view to their solution, those environmental problems that, by their nature, are of a multilateral, bilateral, regional or subregional dimension; as well as to encourage the development of an interdisciplinary approach to environmental problems.

In this context, the OSCE will continue to contribute to international co-operation efforts to alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, including through participation in and support of relevant projects, and to provide appropriate assistance and expertise in consultation with the States concerned.

In commemorating this tragic event we believe that the Chernobyl disaster demonstrated how important it is for the international community to develop and apply commonly agreed policies and strategies to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the prevention of, and response to, technological accidents and their consequences for human beings and the environment. We also believe that, in order to effectively tackle such challenges, concerted efforts are needed between the States concerned, the relevant international organizations, financial institutions and other interested donors.

MC DECISION NO. 2/05: MIGRATION

LJUBLJANA, 6 DECEMBER 2005

MC.DEC/2/05

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments related to migration, and in particular regarding migrant workers, and other relevant commitments, especially those recognized in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Madrid Document (1983), the Vienna Final Document (1989), the Copenhagen Document (1990), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the Moscow Document (1991), the Helsinki Document (1992), the Budapest Document (1994) and documents adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003) and Sofia (2004),

Recognizing the increasing importance of migration, as well as the challenges and opportunities that it presents to participating States,

Further recognizing that migration is becoming a more diverse and complex phenomenon, which needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner and therefore requires a crossdimensional approach at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that all States should adopt effective national frameworks in order to manage migration,

Underlining that migration is inherently a transnational issue requiring co-operation between States,

Acknowledging that migration constitutes an important economic, social and human factor for host countries as well as for countries of origin,

Acknowledging also that successful integration policies that include respect for cultural and religious diversity and promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are a factor in promoting stability and cohesion within our societies,

Determined to fight illegal migration and to address its root causes,

Bearing in mind the different approaches to migration issues by the OSCE participating States, and drawing on their experience and best practices,

Taking into account the initiatives taken and the work done by the OSCE during 2005 in addressing the issue of migration and integration, in particular, the Human Dimension Seminar on Migration and Integration, the Thirteenth OSCE Economic Forum and the 2005 Mediterranean Seminar,

Welcoming the existing co-operation between the OSCE, in particular, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and relevant international organizations and institutions,

Considering that the OSCE, within its comprehensive approach to security, could contribute, *inter alia*, by:

- Working in synergy and developing a stronger partnership with international bodies having a specific focus on migration,
- Facilitating dialogue and co-operation between participating States, including countries of origin, transit and destination in the OSCE area, as well as the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation,
- Assisting the participating States, upon their request, to develop effective migration policies and to implement their relevant OSCE commitments,
- Inviting participating States to consider becoming parties to relevant international instruments,

Tasks the Permanent Council to follow up the work initiated in 2005 and to report to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;

Tasks the Secretary General as well as relevant OSCE institutions and structures, to continue their work on migration issues in all three dimensions.

MC DECISION NO. 3/05: COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

LJUBLJANA, 6 DECEMBER 2005

MC.DEC/3/05

The Ministerial Council,

1. Reaffirming the participating States' commitment to preventing and combating organized crime, in particular as recognized in the Charter for European Security (1999), the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001), the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the TwentyFirst Century (2003) and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (2003),

2. Reiterating the grave concern expressed in the Follow-up to the Outcome of the Millennium Summit (2005 World Summit Outcome) over the negative effects of organized crime on peace, security and stability, which is a major impediment to the prosperity and sustainable development of the participating States,

3. Underscoring links that exist between transnational organized crime and other threats, such as illicit drugs, terrorism, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as in sensitive materials and technologies, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants, cyber crime, corruption and illegal migration in the context of organized crime and money laundering,

4. Recognizing that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocols, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 2000 in New York, mark a major step forward in international co-operation against transnational organized crime and provide the opportunity for a global response,

5. Recognizing the ongoing work of the OSCE in the areas linked to combating organized crime,

6. Convinced that the OSCE concept of comprehensive security is well placed to enhance the ability of all participating States to tackle the threat of organized crime, and that the OSCE may provide a relevant framework for promoting the fight against organized crime and acknowledging the important work done by relevant international organizations and institutions, in particular United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

- Urges participating States to enhance co-operation between themselves and the UNODC, the Council of Europe and other relevant international organizations;
- Invites the OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 2000 in New York, and to fully implement their obligations under these instruments thereafter;
- Tasks the Secretary General with providing the requesting participating States with support for the mobilization of technical assistance, including the necessary expertise and resources, from relevant competent international organizations for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols in support of and in close consultation with the Conference of Parties and the UNODC;
- Recalls that preventing and combating organized crime require a coherent approach by the participating States, in promoting the implementation of their own relevant national legislation and programmes, in particular in the field of criminal justice, consistent with the rule of law and OSCE participating States' commitments;
- Tasks the Permanent Council to carry forward co-operation between participating States and to work on designing, with the support of the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE institutions, possible measures and forms of assistance that could be available to requesting participating States with a view to improving and promoting the functioning of criminal justice systems, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, prosecution, administration of justice, international legal co-operation, including extradition, and the penal system, in consultation with the UNODC, the Council of Europe and other pertinent international organizations;
- Invites the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the relevant provisions of this decision.

* The declaration regarding implementation of the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, signed by the director general of the customs administration, records a State's intention to begin the process of implementing the Framework. It also records the fact that in implementing the Framework the administration may require capacity-building assistance.

Attachment to MC.DEC/3/05

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS

By the Delegation of Turkey:

“Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

We have joined the consensus in order to make possible the adoption of this decision which, *inter alia*, addresses an important component of our collective fight against terrorism, namely, the links between terrorism and organized crime. The language in the decision seeks to reaffirm these links by means of formulations that are at variance with the OSCE agreed documents. Turkey regards the context in which this decision is elaborated to be inappropriate for a competent and thorough consideration of the nature of these links. Therefore, the adoption of the decision in no way alters, either in letter or spirit, the binding character, or mitigates the operational impact, of the participating States’ earlier policy statements contained in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001) and the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (Porto, 2002), and more importantly, United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

Turkey requests that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

MC DECISION NO. 6/05: FURTHER MEASURES TO ENHANCE CONTAINER SECURITY

LJUBLJANA, 6 DECEMBER 2005

MC.DEC/6/05

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE participating States' commitment to prevent and combat terrorism,

Recalling the participating States' obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004), as well as the commitments in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism,

Recalling its Decision No. 9/04 on enhancing container security, in which it recognized the vulnerability of transport networks, the important role container shipping plays in the global economy, OSCE's ability to work effectively with governments, representatives of business and civil society, and the importance of enhancing container security, as well as the need to minimize any adverse effects on the free flow of commerce of enhanced container security, and that enhanced container security will promote international trade and economic co-operation,

Welcoming the results of the OSCE Technical Experts Workshop on Container Security, held in Vienna on 7 and 8 February 2005 and the work subsequently carried out by the Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Combating Terrorism,

Recognizing the work of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in creating global standards to enhance the security and facilitation of the international supply chain,

Noting that certain participating States are not members of the WCO and that some participating States have customs union agreements with other participating States by which responsibilities are assigned,

Decides:

- That all OSCE participating States should take measures recommended in the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade as soon as possible. To this end participating States that have not already done so, are encouraged to sign and submit to the WCO Secretary General the declaration regarding implementation of the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade* as soon as possible;
- That, in taking measures foreseen by the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, the OSCE participating States will in particular aim to promptly incorporate into their national procedures and regulations the Seal Integrity Programme for Secure Container Shipments, contained in the Appendix to Annex 1 of the Framework;
- That all OSCE participating States will inform each other on the measures taken to implement the above commitment;

Tasks the Secretary General to facilitate, as appropriate and within existing financial resources, technical assistance in this field by the WCO and other relevant international organizations to requesting participating States;

Tasks the Secretary General to promote, through and within the OSCE's existing organizational and logistic abilities, co-operation with the WCO and other relevant organizations in their efforts to enhance understanding of the objectives of the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade;

Encourages the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement this decision.

Attachment to MC.DEC/6/05

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS

By the Delegation of Switzerland:

“In connection with the decision just adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council, the Delegation of Switzerland wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

Switzerland welcomes the efforts of the OSCE to enhance container security. In implementing the Decision on Further Measures to Enhance Container Security, Switzerland will respect the terms and conditions of any agreement providing for closer regional co-operation in the field of container security.

Switzerland requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting of the Ministerial Council.”

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON MIGRATION

BRUSSELS, 5 DECEMBER 2006

MC.DOC/6/06

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the report prepared on the OSCE work in the area of migration since 2005 and express our appreciation and continued support for the work carried out on migration and integration issues in all three dimensions of the OSCE and affecting all countries, including those of origin, destination and transit.

2. Bearing in mind the relevance migration has acquired for international and national affairs, we reaffirm Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on migration and request the Permanent Council and relevant OSCE structures, within their existing mandates, to continue to consider relevant migration and integration issues as part of its comprehensive approach to security.

3. The UN HighLevel Dialogue on International Migration and Development, *inter alia*, explored the relationship between these two complex phenomena, underscored that migration can be a positive force for the development in all countries, and confirmed the importance of ensuring co-ordination between the relevant international and regional organizations operating in these fields.

4. Owing to globalization and increasing mobility, dialogue and co-operation between governments at the bilateral, regional and international levels have become increasingly important for effectively addressing the opportunities and challenges of international migration within and between all countries, including those of origin, transit and destination.

5. As the phenomenon of migration has been growing, both in scope and in complexity, we encourage all relevant OSCE institutions and structures, within their existing mandates, to continue their work on migration and integration issues in all three dimensions, in particular on the potential contribution of migration to sustainable development and codevelopment; promoting integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity; addressing forced migration while respecting relevant international legal obligations, and combating illegal migration as well as trafficking in human beings and the exploitation, discrimination, abuse and manifestation of racism directed towards migrants, with special attention to women and children; and facilitating dialogue, partnership and co-operation between the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation on migration-related issues.

6. We acknowledge the good inter-organizational work done in producing the OSCE/IOM/ILO Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination and promoting improved migration management through a range of activities. The Handbook is an effective tool for capacitybuilding, which is a key element in preparing government institutions to put in place a system of migration management in order to oversee migration flows.

MC DECISION NO. 3/06: COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

BRUSSELS, 5 DECEMBER 2006

MC.DEC/3/06

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments that the participating States have adhered to in the field of combating trafficking in human beings,

Reaffirming the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including its Addendum Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance (PC.DEC/557/Rev.1 of 7 July 2005),

Recalling Decision No. 2/03 of the Eleventh Ministerial Council Meeting in Maastricht on combating trafficking in human beings, which established, under the aegis of the Permanent Council, the OSCE mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings,

Reaffirming the importance of having an appropriate structure with adequate administrative and financial resources that can operate at the political level,

1. Decides that the OSCE mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings, established under the aegis of the Permanent Council, shall be changed to form an integral part of the Secretariat. The structure will be headed by a prominent personality, who will act as a Special Representative and represent the OSCE at the political level, and will consist of contracted and seconded staff, including those of the present Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit, appointed or assigned in accordance with the OSCE Staff Regulations and Rules;

The structure shall:

- (a) Assist OSCE participating States in the implementation of commitments and full usage of recommendations set forth in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including its Addendum Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance;

- (b) Ensure coordination of the OSCE's efforts in combating trafficking in human beings across all three dimensions of the OSCE and act as a focal point for the OSCE's efforts in this area;
- (c) Strengthen co-operation among the relevant authorities of the participating States and between the OSCE and other relevant organizations;
- (d) Raise the public and political profile of combating trafficking in human beings;
- (e) Operate in the whole OSCE area and as appropriate, assist the participating States, in a spirit of co-operation and following consultations with the relevant authorities of the participating States concerned, in aiming at the implementation of their commitments in combating human trafficking;
- (f) Provide and facilitate advice and technical assistance in the field of legislation as well as policy development, together, as necessary, with other OSCE structures engaged in this field;
- (g) Be ready to offer advice to senior level authorities representing the legislative, judicial, and executive branches in participating States and discuss with them the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including its Addendum, and commitments in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. In specific cases calling for special attention, seek direct contacts, in an appropriate manner with the participating State concerned and discuss the providing of advice and concrete assistance, if needed;
- (h) Co-operate with national co-ordinators, national rapporteurs or other national mechanisms established by participating States for coordinating and monitoring the antitrafficking activities of State institutions. It will also cooperate with relevant nongovernmental organizations in the participating States. Furthermore, it will assume responsibility within the OSCE for hosting and facilitating meetings for the exchange of information and experience between national coordinators, representatives designated by participating States, or experts on combating trafficking in human beings;
- (i) Closely co-operate, in a coordinating role and in full respect of their mandates, with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and other OSCE institutions, relevant structures of the Secretariat including the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU), the Senior Gender Adviser, as well as, where

appropriate, the OSCE field operations. Drawing on the expertise within the OSCE, the OSCE structures that undertake activities in this field will closely consult with each other and the Special Representative in order to avoid duplication, ensure complementarity and coherence and, as appropriate, seek to develop an integrated approach;

- (j) Cooperate and seek synergies with relevant international actors, including regional organizations, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations; continue to convene, chair and organize joint initiatives of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons;

2. Calls on the Secretary General and the Chairmanship-in-Office to consult each other regarding the appointment of a prominent personality with relevant professional and political expertise:

- The Secretary General will appoint the personality as co-ordinator at the D2 level, with the consent of the Chairmanship, in accordance with Decision No. 15/04 of the Twelfth Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia;
- The Chairmanship-in-Office will confer on the co-ordinator the functions and title of Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in order to enable the incumbent to adequately represent the OSCE at the political level. The participating States will be consulted in accordance with Decision No. 8 of the Tenth Ministerial Council Meeting in Porto;

3. Affirms that the Special Representative will be politically accountable to, and will report regularly and when appropriate to the Permanent Council after consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretary General, as well as in accordance with Decision No. 13/05 of the Thirteenth Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana;

4. Agrees that from 2007 onwards the funding modalities will be changed, so that the current programme in the Unified Budget entitled “Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” will be part of the Main Programme now entitled “AntiTrafficking Assistance Unit”;

5. Decides that this decision amends Decision No. 2/03 of the Eleventh Ministerial Council Meeting in Maastricht and, if necessary, may be amended by the Permanent Council.

Attachment 1 to MC.DEC/3/06

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS

By the Delegation of the United States of America:

“The United States welcomes the decision on combating trafficking in human beings, which was adopted following expiration of silence on 21 June 2006. Combating trafficking in human beings is a high priority for our country. We urge that the position be filled quickly by the appointment of a highly-qualified individual.

The United States would like to stress that this decision in no way sets any precedent for the placement of other Chairman-in-Office representatives or other high-level positions.

I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

Attachment 2 to MC.DEC/3/06

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS

By the Delegation of Turkey:

“Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

We have joined the consensus in order to make possible the adoption of this decision which establishes a new structure to provide assistance to participating States in combating trafficking in human beings. Combating trafficking in human beings is a priority for the OSCE and requires continuous follow-up at the political level. Established in response to this urgent need, the new structure is a *sui generis* institutional set-up whose effectiveness can only be tested by time and practice. Therefore, the structure can in no way constitute a precedent or establish a model for other possible new structures including ‘thematic missions’ without prior consultations and the elaboration of their conceptual and organizational framework as well as their mandates and functions.

Turkey requests that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

MC DECISION NO. 4/06: OSCE SENIOR COUNCIL

BRUSSELS, 5 DECEMBER 2006

MC.DEC/4/06

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decisions taken at the CSCE/OSCE's 1990 Paris Summit, 1992 Helsinki Summit and 1994 Budapest Summit in relation to the Senior Council, formerly the Committee of Senior Officials, as well as the related decisions of the Ministerial Council, formerly the Council,

Pursuant to the provision of the 1990, 1992 and 1994 Summit decisions that the Ministerial Council may adopt any amendment to those decisions which it may deem appropriate,

Taking into account the role of the Permanent Council as the principal and regular decision-making body for political consultations and for governing the day-to-day operational work of the OSCE,

Decides:

1. To dissolve the Senior Council and transfer its functions and tasks, except for those referred to in paragraph 3 below, to the Permanent Council, without amending the current organizational modalities of work of the Permanent Council;
2. To continue convening the Economic Forum as a regular OSCE meeting outside the framework of the Senior Council, under the auspices of the Permanent Council, and with the mandate and functions as previously agreed by the participating States;
3. To reaffirm, taking into account the amendments set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, all other provisions of OSCE decisions related to the Economic Forum, in particular those contained in paragraphs 21 to 32 of Chapter VII of the 1992 Helsinki Decisions, related to the mandate, organization and functions of the Economic Forum, as well as paragraph 20 of Chapter IX of the 1994 Budapest Decisions and Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04;
4. To authorize the Permanent Council to take, as necessary, all decisions related to the mandate, functions and organizational modalities of the Economic Forum.

MC DECISION NO. 9/06: COMBATING THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS BY AIR

BRUSSELS, 5 DECEMBER 2006

MC.DEC/9/06

The Ministerial Council,

Willing to build further upon the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and other relevant decisions adopted in the framework of the OSCE,

Reaffirming its support for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects,

Determined to contribute to reducing the risk of diversion of SALW into the illicit market, in particular through efforts to combat illicit trafficking of SALW by air,

Welcoming the introduction of the topic of illicit trafficking of SALW by air on the agenda of the Forum for Security Co-operation,

Welcoming the added value the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities can bring to the discussion on the topic,

1. Endorses the decision of the Forum for Security Co-operation to hold a special meeting on this topic in the first quarter of 2007;
2. Encourages broad participation in this special meeting, including by representatives of the air cargo transportation sector as well as competent international organizations; and
3. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation to remain seized of this matter and to report on progress and achievements, through the general progress report on the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

MC DECISION NO. 11/06: FUTURE TRANSPORT DIALOGUE IN THE OSCE

BRUSSELS, 5 DECEMBER 2006

MC.DEC/11/06

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments related to transportation in the OSCE area, in particular those made in the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003) and in other relevant OSCE documents,

Bearing in mind the importance of appropriate followup to Economic and Environmental Forums,

Recognizing the vital importance of secure transportation networks and of transport development to the enhancement of regional economic co-operation and stability in the OSCE area,

Noting the crucial role of transport in promoting trade and generating economic development across the OSCE area,

Drawing upon the summary conclusions and policy recommendations of the Fourteenth OSCE Economic Forum and welcoming the continuity achieved in different follow-up activities such as:

- The Workshop on Urban Transport Security, held in Vienna on 4 and 5 May 2006,
- The joint International Labour Organization/OSCE workshop on security in ports, held in Antwerp, Belgium, from 4 to 6 October 2006,
- The workshop on transport, security and environment held in Tonsberg, Norway, from 16 to 18 October 2006,
- The joint OSCE/UNECE seminar on the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, held in Moscow on 17 and 18 October 2006,

Acknowledging that co-operation both between States and between relevant stakeholders is crucial to address transportation challenges adequately, and recognizing that an

integrated approach incorporating capacity-building activities and appropriate follow-up is needed to achieve results in the longer term,

Convinced that the OSCE can support, strengthen and complement existing initiatives in the field of transport by providing a relevant framework for dialogue based on its comprehensive mandate for security and co-operation,

Welcoming the existing co-operation between the OSCE structures and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and recognizing the importance of further strengthening co-operation with other international organizations and institutions on a case by case basis, in close consultation with participating States,

Recalling the Platform for Co-operative Security, as an essential element of the Charter for European Security of 1999, to further strengthen co-operation and synergy between the OSCE and other international organizations with a view to further promoting comprehensive security within the OSCE area,

Noting that landlocked developing countries face unique challenges related to their lack of access to the open sea, their dependence on transit services and difficulties related to market access,

Taking into account the joint statement of the delegations of the Central Asian participating States of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan made at the Fourteenth Economic Forum,

Acknowledging that addressing the needs of landlocked developing countries is an immediate concern and requires a long-term process,

Welcoming and recognizing the importance of the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action (APA): Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Co-operation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Co-operation in Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003, and further welcoming the role of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS) in this respect,

Endeavouring to support the mid-term review of the implementation of the APA,

Further recognizing the challenges and opportunities that transportation development and transportation security present to participating States and the need for more coordination and exchange of best practices,

Affirming the significant role of the OSCE Maastricht Strategy Document, in which participating States committed themselves to closer coordination in the fields of economic co-operation, good governance, sustainable development and protecting the environment,

Considering that, within its comprehensive approach to security, the OSCE could make contributions in the field of transport by, *inter alia*:

- Supporting the adoption and implementation of legal instruments and other tools developed by relevant organizations related to transportation and trade facilitation,
- Providing political support and a framework for dialogue with regard to the further development of transport corridors and networks without prejudice to the transportation-related interests of any participating State, and by playing a catalytic role between national and international actors,
- Paying due attention to transport related transit issues, with a particular eye on the special needs of landlocked developing countries, and by facilitating dialogue and co-operation among the OSCE participating States and OSCE Partners for Co-operation,
- Encouraging the development of stronger partnerships between participating States and with relevant international bodies that focus on transport, in particular transport development and transport security,
- Promoting a wide dissemination and implementation of best practices and standards developed by relevant organizations in the field of transport security, and by promoting better coordination in this field among participating States and partner organizations,
- Promoting good public and corporate governance and by combating corruption in the area of transport and trade facilitation, in particular with regard to customs and crossborder operations and infrastructure development,
- Making full and regular use of the relevant provisions of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept,

- Promoting and facilitating publicprivate dialogue with regard to transportation issues,
 - Emphasizing the linkages between transport development and the environment and promoting environmentally sustainable transportation choices, and
 - Promoting dialogue on transport and broader transport-related issues, within the context of the conflict settlement processes in the OSCE area,
1. Encourages participating States to enhance co-operation amongst themselves and with relevant international organizations on transport-related matters, notably by making use of the existing internationally recognized legal instruments, standards and best practices;
 2. Endeavours to enhance the existing co-operation with the UNECE, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, in particular by providing political support for:
 - 2.1 The implementation of relevant conventions among participating States, drawing upon the example developed in the framework of the Pilot Project on the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 21 October 1982; and by
 - 2.2 The implementation of the TransEuropean Motorway (TEM) and TransEuropean Railway (TER) Projects' Master Plan, and of the EuroAsian transport links project Phase II;
 3. Tasks the Permanent Council to promote co-operation among participating States and to take initiatives to strengthen the dialogue on transport within the OSCE, including by reviewing, when appropriate, transport-related commitments on a regular basis as foreseen in the existing review mechanism, with a view to take specific actions where the need would arise;
 4. Tasks the Secretariat, in close consultation with participating States with strengthening co-operation with relevant partner organizations where the OSCE could offer comparative advantages, expertise and added value, aimed at capacity-building, exchange of best practices, raising awareness, and enhancing the transport dialogue among the OSCE participating States;

5. Tasks the OSCE structures, within the framework of their respective mandates, to support the participating States, upon their request, in their implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, and in the mobilization of international assistance taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
6. Decides to support the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (APA) in the OSCE area with a view to improving the transit potential of landlocked developing countries by strengthening the regional political dialogue and by supporting the relevant UN structures in their capacity-building programmes;
7. Encourages the Secretariat to strengthen co-operation with the UNOHRRLLS in this field, notably in the framework of the mid-term review of the APA;
8. Tasks the Permanent Council and the Secretariat with providing OSCE participating States, upon their request, with assistance on the implementation of the APA, and with helping them to mobilize the necessary international assistance, taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
9. Welcomes the offer by the Government of Tajikistan to host in 2007 an OSCE conference on the prospects for development of transAsian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015;
10. Decides to convene the above-mentioned conference, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, in close co-operation with the Government of Tajikistan and together with the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, with the aim of raising awareness and enhancing the political dialogue on the development of transportation in and through Central Asia including the adjacent OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation;

Tasks the Secretariat to report to the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council on the ongoing preparatory process;

11. Tasks the Permanent Council and the Secretariat and the OSCE field presences, within their existing mandates, with continuing to support participating States in their efforts to create proper conditions for a favourable business climate, inevitably linked with transport development, by promoting the Best Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate launched in 2006, and by organizing round tables with the business community to promote transparency and address corruption issues;

12. Endeavours to develop further avenues of co-operation between participating States, building on international conventions to which they are parties and mutually agreed upon standards, with a view to enhancing the enforcement of national legislation related to the illegal transport of hazardous waste;
13. Encourages participating States to consider signing and ratifying international agreements aimed at reducing the negative impact on the environment of economic activities, and in particular that of transport activities, and urges participating States that are parties to such agreements to implement them;
14. Encourages participating States to stimulate, apply and share best practices in the field of technological progress aimed at reducing the negative impact on the environment of economic activities, and in particular that of transport activities.

MC DECISION NO. 12/06: ENERGY SECURITY DIALOGUE IN THE OSCE

BRUSSELS, 5 DECEMBER 2006

MC.DEC/12/06

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments regarding energy in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003,

Recognizing that a high level of energy security requires a predictable, reliable, economically acceptable, commercially sound and environmentally friendly energy supply which can be achieved by means of longterm contracts in appropriate cases,

Acknowledging that the security of demand and concerted actions of energy producers and consumers are also of critical importance for the enhancement of energy security,

Noting that the increasing energy interdependence between producing, consuming and transit countries needs to be addressed through co-operative dialogue enabling them to benefit fully from this interdependence and to further promote global energy security with due regard to the interests of all stakeholders,

Bearing in mind that this dialogue should strengthen the partnership among producing, transit and consuming countries to enhance global energy security through a comprehensive and concerted approach, also involving industry and civil society,

Regarding the availability of reliable and stable sources of supply of hydrocarbons to and from OSCE participating States as a favourable condition to promote a long-lasting and mutually beneficial co-operation in energy,

Taking note of efforts to diversify energy supply and demand, energy sources and transportation routes, as well as to increase the flexibility of energy transport systems through multiple supply routes or optimal, including direct, transport interconnections between suppliers and consumers, as appropriate, and to make more efficient use of energy resources, paying due respect to environmental considerations,

Determined to support the further development and use of new and renewable sources of energy, and

Recognizing that a large-scale use of renewable energy could make a significant contribution to long-term energy supply without adverse impact on the climate,

Considering the importance of good public and corporate governance, market transparency and regional co-operation in the energy sector to the promotion and enhancement of energy security, while taking into account the interests of all concerned,

Noting the efforts of the OSCE to raise awareness of challenges in the field of energy security and to serve as a platform for energy security dialogue, to add value and to promote regional and global co-operation in the field of energy security,

Taking note of the activities in the field of energy security already conducted by the OSCE in 2006,

1. Expresses support for the principles and objectives aimed at strengthening energy security, agreed at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation;
2. Tasks the Permanent Council and, in close co-operation and consultation with participating States, the OSCE Secretariat, to promote dialogue on energy security including on expert level, involving producing, transit and consuming countries;
3. Tasks the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat with raising awareness and enhancing dialogue on the G8 Plan of Action on climate change, clean energy and sustainable development (2005) and the G8 Plan of Action on global energy security (2006).

Attachment to MC.DEC/12/06

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE OSCE RULES OF PROCEDURE

By the delegation of Sweden:

“In connection with the decision on energy security dialogue in the OSCE I would like to make the following interpretative statement on behalf of the delegations of Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Sweden, the United States of America and Ukraine.

We have joined consensus on this decision under the assumption that it in no way pre-judges any national decision related to energy transportation or energy security.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

MC DECISION NO. 17/06: IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

BRUSSELS, 5 DECEMBER 2006

MC.DEC/17/06

The Ministerial Council,

Bearing in mind the comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security, covering the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions, while recognizing the need for a cross-dimensional perspective, both in terms of conceptual approach and programme activities,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Panel of Eminent Persons for introducing a committee structure in order to make the consultative and decision-making process more participatory, interactive and transparent, involving all the participating States more actively and effectively, and for broadening the ownership of the participatory process,

Recalling Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/05 on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE,

Recognizing the need for improved consultations and dialogue, also with a view to preparing debates, conclusions and decisions in the Permanent Council,

Mindful of the desirability to avoid setting up working groups and to discourage the creation of additional bodies,

Desiring to enhance co-operation, to address new threats to security more effectively and to provide a comprehensive and more effective framework for political dialogue among all the participating States,

Decides to establish the following committees as informal subsidiary bodies of the Permanent Council:

[...]

An Economic and Environmental Committee, which will subsume the existing Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council and will perform the

following tasks, in addition to those set forth in Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 3 on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue:

- Discuss economic and environmental issues, including implementation of the commitments of the participating States;
- Support the preparation of the meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) and other meetings on economic and environmental issues;
- Consider, when so requested by the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States, cross-dimensional issues with a particular connection to economic and environmental aspects of security;
- Discuss recommendations to the Permanent Council on the programme of work, including actions to follow up on recommendations made by the EEF; and

A Human Dimension Committee, which will perform the following tasks:

- Discuss human dimension issues, including implementation of the commitments of the participating States;
- Support the preparation of the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings and other human dimension meetings;
- Consider, when so requested by the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States, cross-dimensional issues with a particular connection to the human dimension;
- Discuss recommendations to the Permanent Council on the programme of work, including actions to follow up on recommendations made at the human dimension meetings;

Further decides that:

At the beginning of each year, the Chairmanship, in consultation with the participating States, will further clarify the tasks of the above-mentioned Committees and establish a work programme reflecting the objectives and priorities of the Organization, also taking into account the need to ensure adequate coverage of the cross-dimensional issues under consideration.

The Advisory Committee on Management and Finance will continue to operate within its current mandate, as established in Permanent Council Decision No. 552.

The above-mentioned Committees will meet in an informal format and will report, provide advice, make recommendations and prepare relevant decisions for the Permanent Council through the Preparatory Committee. The relevant provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, in particular Chapter V(A), will apply to the work of the Committees.

The Preparatory Committee may be convened by the Chairmanship on an *ad hoc* basis in order to address general and organizational matters relating to the Organization, including the preparation of Ministerial Council/Summit meetings. At the Preparatory Committee meetings, cross-dimensional issues may be addressed, as well as other issues not covered by the three newly established Committees, when in the assessment of the Chairmanship, in consultation with participating States, they merit debate in such a format.

As a rule, each Committee will meet at least once a month. At the initiative of the Chairmanship, or of the chairperson of the Committee, or at the request of one or more participating States, each Committee may meet as frequently as necessary, based on the need for consultations or the necessity to prepare for decision-making by the Permanent Council. The Chairmanship and chairpersons of the Committees will avoid convening meetings of informal subsidiary bodies simultaneously.

The Committees will examine issues within their competence at the request of the Chairmanship, the Permanent Council or one or more participating States.

Paragraphs 6 to 9 of Chapter V(A) of the OSCE Rules of Procedure will apply with regard to participation in meetings of the three newly established Committees in the same way as they apply to participation in meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

The Secretariat of the OSCE will provide support for the activities of the Committees.

This decision will be applicable for a period of one year from 1 January 2007. It will be subject to review by the Permanent Council at the end of 2007, with a view to deciding on its possible extension taking into account the experience gained with the new structure.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

MADRID, 30 NOVEMBER 2007

MC.DOC/3/07

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, remain concerned about the persistent terrorist threat in the OSCE area.
2. We reaffirm the existing OSCE counter-terrorism commitments and the intention to maintain our counter-terrorist activities as priorities for the OSCE.
3. We recognize the leading role of the United Nations in the international efforts against terrorism and support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006 by the UN General Assembly, which we look upon as providing guidance for OSCE counter-terrorism activities, since the Strategy outlines a comprehensive global approach towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, within a framework based on human rights and the rule of law and complying with all obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.
4. We recall the comprehensive global approach of the Strategy towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, including but not limited to, prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.
5. We note that the UN General Assembly encourages regional organizations “to support the implementation of the Strategy, including through mobilizing resources and expertise”.
6. We recall the commitment to implement all UN Security Council resolutions related to international terrorism, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in their implementation.
7. We support the OSCE Secretariat’s work to promote the implementation of the Strategy, in particular the annual high-level consultations between representatives of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations

(Vienna, February 2007) in the “Tripartite-Plus” format, as well as the roundtables for counter-terrorism practitioners from regional organizations and counter-terrorism centres in Copenhagen (July 2006) and Vilnius (June 2007), organized by the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit.

8. We are satisfied that the OSCE approach to the fight against terrorism corresponds to that of the UN Strategy, because, among other things, it promotes the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems, all of which constitute the fundamental basis of our common fight against terrorism, and that all our counter-terrorist activities could be seen as a contribution to the Strategy’s implementation. The OSCE, in particular its participating States, assisted when necessary by the Secretariat, institutions and field presences, will continue to implement counter-terrorism commitments and could focus, albeit not exclusively, on the following activities:

9. The OSCE will continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, in particular the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, encouraging participating States to become parties to them and to implement their obligations under these instruments;

10. After conducting, in the period 2005–2007, in co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a number of workshops at the OSCE-wide, subregional and national levels, aimed at enhancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, and recognizing the emphasis the UN Strategy places on prosecution and related judicial co-operation, the Secretariat will continue its legal co-operation programme with particular — though not exclusive — attention to training assistance to judicial officials at the subregional and national levels;

11. Participating States will use the Forum for Security Co-operation to continue promoting, in close co-operation with the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) given the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists. The FSC will also strengthen co-operation in combating the risk emanating from illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW), including man-portable air defence systems, and conventional ammunition. Participating States will work towards full implementation of relevant existing politico-military commitments, in particular those contained in the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;

12. Having developed a comprehensive programme on travel document security, which fully corresponds to the call of the UN Strategy to step up efforts and co-operation to improve security of manufacturing and issuing of identity and travel documents, the OSCE

Action against Terrorism Unit will strengthen its efforts to facilitate the deployment of technical platforms for accessing Interpol's stolen and lost travel documents database at border control points, will encourage States to report data on lost and stolen documents to Interpol, and will continue to promote technological upgrades of travel documents and the implementation of a comprehensive and secure handling and issuance process, in line with ICAO standards, that protects identity and strengthens civil registry systems which would respect the principle of non-discrimination;

13. Participating States will co-operate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates in or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens. Participating States will take appropriate measures in conformity with the relevant provisions of national and international law, including international standards of human rights, before granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts. They will ensure, in conformity with international law, that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and that claims of political motivation are not recognized as grounds for refusing requests for the extradition of alleged terrorists;

14. Remaining seriously concerned about the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, the OSCE participating States will continue the exchange of information about this threat, and take other measures in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/06 on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;

15. The OSCE will support efforts by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee/Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to advance implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1624 (2005);

16. The OSCE will continue its participation in processes for the resolution of protracted conflicts, which are among the conditions conducive to terrorism;

17. The OSCE will continue its activities in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. Intolerance and discrimination must be addressed and countered by the OSCE's participating States and OSCE's executive structures within their respective mandates. The Permanent Council, with the support of the Secretariat and institutions, will consider in 2008 how the OSCE, with a multidimensional approach, could contribute to the development of a better understanding of the phenomena of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, through sharing of national experiences;

18. The OSCE will continue its activities aimed at promoting supply chain security, especially by supporting and facilitating the capacity-building work of the World Customs Organization in implementation of the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and will endeavour to serve as a platform for co-ordination and co-operation between relevant international organizations and national authorities for the development and application of an integrated approach to supply chain security;

19. The OSCE will remain committed to the promotion of public-private partnerships in countering terrorism and will continue involving the private sector (civil society and the business community) in its counter-terrorism activities;

20. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will continue, in co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Euro-Asian Group (EAG) and other relevant partners, to provide assistance to participating States, at their request, in building up their capacity to counter terrorist financing, by, *inter alia*, the strengthening of financial control mechanisms and the implementation of the nine special FATF recommendations on terrorist financing and the 40 FATF recommendations on money laundering;

21. Working in close co-operation with UNODC, the OSCE will remain seized of the threat of illicit drugs, following up on activities successfully carried out in 2006 and 2007 on this issue;

22. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will continue to assist participating States, at their request, in ensuring that their counter-terrorism initiatives are human rights compliant, pursuant to their OSCE commitments. The ODIHR will continue to offer technical assistance and advice on the human rights aspects of the drafting and implementation of national legislation aimed at countering the threats posed by terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and will continue to facilitate dialogue between State and non-governmental actors with a view to exploring areas of co-operation and mutual assistance;

23. The OSCE institutions will continue their overall effort aimed at combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding, *inter alia* through projects and programmes involving all sectors of society;

24. The OSCE will continue addressing the issue of solidarity with the victims of terrorism, drawing, *inter alia*, on Permanent Council Decision No. 618 on solidarity with victims of terrorism and taking note of the High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism held in Vienna in September 2007.

25. We reiterate that the OSCE, including its Secretariat, institutions and field presences, is ready to work closely with the United Nations system, and other international and regional organizations for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The OSCE will continue supporting the UN in its counter-terrorism efforts and will co-operate with other international and regional organizations active in this area, facilitating their capacity-building assistance to participating States, supporting and promoting their counter-terrorism and security standards, identified as best practices for countering terrorism as well as contributing to networking between counter-terrorism practitioners from participating States and international and regional organizations to bring about better co-operation and synergies in their work, thus making its contribution to the global effort against terrorism.

MADRID DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY

MADRID, 30 NOVEMBER 2007

MC.DOC/4/07

The OSCE Ministerial Council,

Recalling the provisions of the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht Strategy) in the area of environment and security,

Recalling the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Concluding Document of the CSCE Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (Bonn Document), the 1999 Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit, the already-mentioned 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, other OSCE relevant documents and decisions regarding environmental issues, and the outcome of all previous Economic and Environmental Fora, which have established a basis for the OSCE's work in the area of environment and security,

Taking account of the environmental risks, notably those related to land degradation, soil contamination, desertification and water management, and the environmental impact of natural and man-made disasters, such as the Chernobyl accident, which may have a substantial impact on security in the OSCE region and which might be more effectively addressed within the framework of multilateral co-operation, and recalling the outcome of the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum,

Recognizing that climate change is a long-term challenge; acknowledging that the United Nations climate process is the appropriate forum for negotiating future global action on climate change, and the OSCE, as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, has a complementary role to play within its mandate in addressing this challenge in its specific region,

Recalling the final declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Belgrade, which recognizes that addressing common environmental problems offers opportunities for co-operation amongst governments diffusing tension and contributing to a greater co-operation and security, and that environmental co-operation may contribute to peace-building process, and also noting the continued work and the lessons learned from the demand-driven Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) in participating States,

Recognizing the importance of good environmental governance for the governments of participating States,

Reiterating the determination of all the participating States to further strengthen co-operation aiming at reducing environment-related security risks, amongst each other and with other international and regional institutions and organizations working in the area of environment, *inter alia*, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, programmes and conventions and the OSCE Partners, and focusing on the OSCE's added value and avoiding duplications,

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on the Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE and welcoming the theme of the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum "Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment",

Affirming that co-operation on environmental issues may serve as a tool to prevent tensions, to build confidence and to promote good neighbourly relations in the OSCE region,

Has come to the following conclusions:

1. We highlight the importance of enhancing co-operation in the area of environment and security in the OSCE region.
2. Environmental degradation, including both natural and man-made disasters, and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict. Climate change may magnify these environmental challenges.
3. Environmental co-operation and the promotion of early warning could be useful tools in diminishing tensions as part of a broader effort to prevent conflict, build mutual confidence and promote good neighbourly relations.
4. The OSCE, within its mandate, financial and human resources and capacity has a potential for widening and deepening its co-operation with other international organizations working in the area of environment and thereby making contributions to deal with future relevant risks and challenges in the OSCE region.
5. The OSCE should consider bringing better focus to its existing activities on environmental matters and utilize more effectively its institutional capacity and its transboundary co-operative arrangements in this field.

6. The OSCE could raise awareness on the potential impact on security of environmental challenges, by using its forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices and also by integrating these considerations into its activities.
7. We commend the Spanish Chairmanship initiative to make the Madrid Ministerial Council a carbon neutral event and welcome any voluntary carbon offsetting programmes including other OSCE initiatives in this regard.
8. We reaffirm our commitment to improve environmental governance, *inter alia*, by strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources, especially water, soil, forests and biodiversity.
9. We underline the importance of further implementing the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the recommendations of the OSCE Handbook of the Best Practice Guides on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in all aspects relating to the risks for the environment.
10. We commend the OSCE, in co-operation with relevant international organizations, to support, within existing resources, regional and transboundary co-operation on the rehabilitation of the land contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl disaster both to prevent the radionuclide migration and to promote the natural recovery processes.
11. We note the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship proposal of an action plan on the threats and opportunities in the area of environment and security.

Participating States may further elaborate, if deemed necessary, common response to environmental challenges, fully taking into account the OSCE mandate and capabilities and focusing on the OSCE's added value and avoiding duplication.

MC DECISION NO. 6/07: PROTECTING CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE FROM TERRORIST ATTACK

MADRID, 30 NOVEMBER 2007

MC.DEC/6/07

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE participating States' commitments to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Gravely concerned with the growing risk of terrorist attack on critical infrastructure, which, if disrupted or destroyed, would have a serious impact on the health, safety, security or economic well-being of citizens,

Determined to support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which, *inter alia*, encourages Member States "to step up all efforts to improve the security and protection of particularly vulnerable targets, such as infrastructure and public places, as well as the response to terrorist attacks and other disasters, in particular in the area of civil protection",

Recognizing that critical energy infrastructure, including nuclear power-plants, dams of hydroelectric power plants, oil and gas producers, refineries, transmission facilities, supply routes and facilities, energy storage facilities as well as hazardous waste storage facilities, can be vulnerable to terrorist attack,

Willing to support the implementation of the G8 Action Plan on the Global Energy Security adopted in St. Petersburg in 2006, which promotes international co-operation to address threats to and vulnerabilities of critical energy infrastructure,

Noting Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE,

Recalling the outcome of the OSCE Political Conference on Public-Private Partnership in Countering Terrorism (31 May and 1 June 2007, Vienna),

Convinced that effective co-operation among participating States to protect critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack would enhance security and stability in the OSCE region,

Determined to contribute to the enhancement of critical energy infrastructure protection from terrorist attack in addition to and in support of the efforts undertaken in relevant international organizations and structures,

1. Calls upon participating States to consider all necessary measures at the national level to ensure an adequate protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack;
2. Urges participating States to continue co-operation amongst them and to better co-ordinate measures to increase protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack;
3. Encourages participating States to further promote public-private partnership with business communities with a view to increasing critical energy infrastructure protection against terrorist attack and to effectively address preparedness/consequence management issues in this field;
4. Tasks the Secretary General to examine and report to the Permanent Council on opportunities for co-operation with relevant international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the field of protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack;
5. Invites the Secretary General to consider facilitating the exchange of best practices and the timely sharing of information on, and effective responses to, terrorist threats to the security of critical energy infrastructure without duplicating the activities already carried out by the relevant international organizations;
6. Invites the Permanent Council to remain seized of this issue and include it for consideration in the framework of relevant meetings and discussions within the OSCE;
7. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

MC DECISION NO. 7/07: FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIFTEENTH ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM: WATER MANAGEMENT

MADRID, 30 NOVEMBER 2007

MC.DEC/7/07

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension,

Taking note of the work done in the ongoing process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic and Environmental Forum, and bearing in mind the importance of appropriate follow-up to Economic and Environmental Forums,

Taking into account the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003),

Recognizing the importance of co-operation on the management of water resources to the enhancement of regional economic and environmental co-operation and stability in the OSCE area,

Drawing upon the outcome of the Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum,

Noting the previous OSCE experiences with regard to integrated river basin management, for example in the Sava river basin and the Chu and Talas Rivers, as well as the lessons learned from the demand-driven Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC),

Welcoming the existing co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations, in particular with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and recognizing the importance of further strengthening co-operation with other relevant international organizations and institutions on a case-by-case basis, in close consultation with the participating States,

Considering that, within its comprehensive approach to security, the OSCE might make contributions, as appropriate and within its capacity, in the field of water management by, *inter alia*:

- Providing a framework for dialogue with regard to the possible further development of water management co-operation networks, where relevant, if so requested and agreed by the participating States concerned,
- Contributing to relevant international events related to water management, and in particular the Review Session on Water at the Sixteenth Session at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in May 2008, the International Expo on Sustainable Development and Water Management in Zaragoza, Spain, from June to September 2008, and the Fifth World Water Forum which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 15 to 22 March 2009,
- Encouraging continued partnerships between participating States and with relevant international organizations that focus on water management,
- Paying attention to transboundary issues of water management, where relevant, if so requested and agreed by all riparian countries concerned,
- Promoting a wide dissemination of best practices and facilitating the implementation of standards developed by relevant international organizations in the field of water management, as well as better co-ordination in this area among participating States and partner organizations,
- Striving to promote good public and corporate governance and combating corruption in the area of water management,
- Promoting wider public participation, as well as a better civil society and business community participation in the area of water management related matters, where applicable,

Decides to:

1. Endeavour to enhance the existing co-operation between the OSCE and the UNECE, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, as well as the existing co-operation with other relevant international organizations on water management related matters;
2. Encourage participating States to strengthen dialogue and co-operation on water management within the OSCE;

3. Task the OSCE structures, within the framework of their mandates, to support the participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
4. Encourage participating States to consider the ratification of existing international environmental legal instruments related to water management and relevant to the OSCE region and support their full implementation by participating States that are parties to them.

MC DECISION NO. 9/08: FOLLOW-UP TO THE SIXTEENTH ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM ON MARITIME AND INLAND WATERWAYS CO-OPERATION

HELSINKI, 5 DECEMBER 2008

MC.DEC/9/08

The Ministerial Council,

Taking into account the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003),

Drawing upon the outcome of the Sixteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment”, in particular the recommendations made in Vienna in January 2008 and in Prague in May 2008, and also those made at the two preparatory conferences held in Helsinki in September 2007 and in Ashgabat in March 2008,

Bearing in mind the importance of appropriate follow-up to the Economic and Environmental Forums and noting the recommendations of the Chairmanship follow-up conference held in Odesa in June 2008,

Recognizing the importance of maritime and inland waterways co-operation to the enhancement of regional economic and environmental co-operation, security and stability in the OSCE area,

Emphasizing that maritime and inland waterways co-operation is best enhanced through an integrated approach taking account of security, economic and environmental aspects,

Recognizing the specific challenges of landlocked developing countries and stressing the opportunities that maritime and inland waterways co-operation bring with regard to facilitating their access to the sea and seaports,

Acknowledging the growing challenges related to the environment and security aspects of maritime and inland waterways co-operation, and the need to step up regional, subregional and inter-regional efforts, in particular in addressing the challenges and opportunities related to:

- Maritime pollution, in particular oil pollution and the need to develop effective oil spill response capacities,
- Combating the transfer of invasive species through ballast water,
- The transport of dangerous goods,
- Emergency situations and the need for joint emergency responses,
- Integrated river basin management,
- The development of efficient and secure multimodal transport corridors,
- The multifaceted aspects of maritime security, including supply chain security,

Convinced that increased transboundary waterways co-operation can foster dialogue and serve as a further confidence-building measure, and noting the work carried out by the OSCE and the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) in this field,

Acknowledging that waterways co-operation can also contribute to the management of water resources,

Recognizing the importance of continuing co-operation with relevant international organizations, especially the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and with relevant regional organizations, in close consultation with participating States,

Acknowledging that co-operation at all levels, both between States and between all relevant stakeholders, including the business community, civil society and academia, is important to addressing maritime and inland waterways co-operation challenges adequately, Considering that the OSCE, within its comprehensive approach to security and co-operation, may support and complement existing initiatives in the field of maritime and inland waterways co-operation, as appropriate and within its capacity and resources,

Decides to:

1. Urge participating States to strengthen dialogue and co-operation regarding the security, environmental and economic aspects of maritime and inland waterways;

2. Encourage participating States to consider becoming parties to relevant international legal instruments developed by the IMO and the UNECE, in particular the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its Annexes, the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, and decides to support the full implementation by participating States of their obligations under these instruments;
3. Task the OSCE executive structures, within the framework of their mandates and existing resources, with supporting the participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of relevant commitments, taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
4. Urge participating States to endeavour to strengthen and further develop subregional, regional and inter-regional co-operation, where appropriate, in order to address the challenges mentioned above;
5. Encourage participating States to develop efficient and secure multimodal transport corridors including efficient and secure border crossings in order to facilitate access to the sea for landlocked countries, taking into account the relevant provisions of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept as well as the relevant OSCE commitments related to transport;
6. Encourage participating States to approach the issue of waterways co-operation in synergy with management of water resources;
7. Encourage participating States to apply and share best practices and technological solutions relevant to addressing security, environmental and economic challenges in the field of maritime and inland waterways co-operation;
8. Urge participating States to promote good governance and transparency and invite them to include all stakeholders, including the business community, civil society and academia, in the policy debate on maritime and inland waterways co-operation where applicable, and to promote public-private partnership;
9. Task the Secretariat with continuing, within existing resources, exploratory consultations with the IMO in order to define the scope and modalities for co-

operation and with reporting to the Permanent Council by mid-2009 so that it can take appropriate decisions;

10. Encourage the OSCE field presences, within their mandates and existing resources, to promote awareness-raising and to facilitate training and capacity-building in close co-operation with the host countries.

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE OSCE CORFU PROCESS: RECONFIRM-REVIEW-REINVIGORATE SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION FROM VANCOUVER TO VLADIVOSTOK

ATHENS, 2 DECEMBER 2009

MC.DOC/1/09

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the 56 participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, meet, for the second time this year after our informal meeting in Corfu, to mark the significant progress that we have achieved together since the reunification of Europe and the elimination of Europe's old divisions. We reconfirm that the vision of a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security remains a common goal, which we are determined to reach.

2. To achieve this goal, much work remains to be accomplished. We continue to be seriously concerned that the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and OSCE commitments are not fully respected and implemented; that the use of force has not ceased to be considered as an option in settling disputes; that the danger of conflicts between States has not been eliminated, and armed conflicts have occurred even in the last decades; that tensions still exist and many conflicts remain unresolved; that stalemates in conventional arms control, resolution of disagreements in this field, resumption of full implementation of the CFE Treaty regime, and restoration of its viability require urgent concerted action by its States Parties; and that our common achievements in the fields of the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms need to be fully safeguarded and further advanced. This is occurring at a time when new emerging transnational threats require, more than ever, common responses.

3. We recognize that these security challenges, further accentuated by the ongoing international financial and economic crisis, should be tackled with a renewed commitment to achieve results through multilateral dialogue and co-operation. At this stage, our highest priority remains to re-establish our trust and confidence, as well as to recapture the sense of common purpose that brought together our predecessors in Helsinki almost 35 years ago. In this context, we welcome the dialogue on the current and future challenges for security in the EuroAtlantic and Eurasian area, initiated at the 2008 Helsinki Ministerial Council and launched by the Greek Chairmanship in June 2009 as the "Corfu Process", aimed at achieving the aforementioned goals. We consider the first ever OSCE Informal Ministerial Meeting in Corfu, with broad participation, as a milestone in

this process, where we expressed our political will to confront security challenges, in all three OSCE dimensions.

4. The Corfu Process has already improved the quality and contributed to the revitalization of our political dialogue in the OSCE on security and co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We are committed to continue and further develop this process, setting ambitious, concrete and pragmatic goals, while also focusing on the key issues identified in our work so far. The OSCE, due to its broad membership and its multidimensional approach to common, comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security, provides the appropriate forum for this dialogue. We welcome the valuable contributions of all relevant organizations and institutions dealing with security, on the basis of the Platform for Cooperative Security.

5. The dialogue within the Corfu Process will be grounded in the OSCE and in the principles of equality, partnership, co-operation, inclusiveness and transparency. It will aim at addressing disagreements openly, honestly and in an unbiased manner, acknowledging our diversities and concerns, in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. It will build on three basic guidelines:

- (a) Adherence to the concept of comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security, as enshrined in the OSCE fundamental documents;
- (b) Compliance with OSCE norms, principles and commitments in all three OSCE dimensions, in full and in good faith, and in a consistent manner by all;
- (c) Determination to strengthen partnership and co-operation in the OSCE area, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of the OSCE and its contribution to security in our common space.

6. The Corfu Process will be taken forward by our Permanent Representatives to the OSCE in Vienna, in accordance with the decision we are adopting today. We remain committed to provide strong political impetus to the Corfu Process, and we are looking forward to reassessing its progress in 2010, in the format and level that we will deem appropriate, taking into consideration the results we achieve.

7. We welcome Kazakhstan in the 2010 OSCE Chairmanship, the first ever to be exercised by a Central Asian OSCE participating State. We note with interest its proposal to hold an OSCE summit in 2010. We point out that such a high-level meeting would require adequate preparation in terms of substance and modalities. We task the Permanent Council to engage in exploratory consultations to determine the extent of progress on the OSCE agenda to inform our decision.

MC DECISION NO. 1/09: FURTHERING THE CORFU PROCESS

ATHENS, 2 DECEMBER 2009

MC.DEC/1/09

The Ministerial Council,

Commending the initiative of the Greek Chairmanship for launching a wide-ranging and open Vienna-based dialogue on the key issues of wider European security, initiated on the basis of the outcome of our informal Ministerial meeting in Corfu,

Encouraged by the positive spirit of this dialogue and taking into account the many proposals put forward by the delegations in the course of this dialogue,

Recognizing the need to continue the Corfu process and deepen the dialogue in order to promote understanding and enhance confidence; also, to take forward proposals aimed at strengthening the OSCE's capabilities for addressing security threats and at delivering concrete results, in the context of ensuring a comprehensive and balanced approach to security,

To this end, decides:

1. To task the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010, in close consultation with the successive FSC Chairmanships, to continue the informal, regular and open dialogue, in the framework of the Corfu Process, through regular informal meetings, at the level of permanent representatives, reinforced by capitals, as appropriate, in order to extend the areas of agreement and contribute to consensus building.

Taking into account the initial assessment of the main threats and challenges to our security and co-operation, identified in the Corfu Process so far, the future dialogue will and focus on issues pertaining to:

- Implementation of all OSCE norms, principles and commitments;
- Role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;
- Role of the arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes in building trust, in the evolving security environment;

- Transnational and multidimensional threats and challenges;
- Economic and environmental challenges;
- Human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as democracy and the rule of law;
- Enhancing the OSCE's effectiveness;
- Interaction with other organizations and institutions, on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security.

In the framework of the Corfu Process, participating States may raise any issue they consider pertinent.

2. Based on the results of the informal meetings of the permanent representatives, the OSCE Chairmanship, in close consultation with the FSC Chairmanship, will submit, by the end of June 2010, an interim report summarizing proposals put forward by the participating States within the Corfu Process, to a joint reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, for further consideration and possible decision.

3. That the PC and the FSC, within their mandates and, as necessary, jointly, will examine the interim report and consider actions, on the proposals therein, as appropriate.

4. Upon request, the OSCE executive structures will provide, within their mandates, assistance and expert input, as appropriate. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may also contribute to the Corfu Process.

The Chairmanship, after close consultation with participating States, will invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, international, regional and subregional organizations and institutions, as well as representatives of the academic and NGO communities to contribute to the discussions, on an ad hoc basis.

5. The engagement of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation in the Corfu Process will not detract from their mandates, regular agendas and activities.

MC DECISION NO. 2/09: FURTHER OSCE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO SECURITY AND STABILITY

ATHENS, 2 DECEMBER 2009

MC.DEC/2/09

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that the evolving security environment in the 21st century, along with the process of globalization, create new threats and challenges to security and stability of transnational and multidimensional nature, which require comprehensive, multidimensional and collective responses,

Reaffirming that strict compliance with the international law and principles of the Charter of the United Nations remains the focus of efforts to prevent and combat threats to stability and security and that the UN Security Council bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and continues to play a crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the world,

Confident that the OSCE can make a real contribution to the development of co-operative responses to these challenges, drawing upon its broad membership, its thematic expertise and its signature concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Mindful that threats to security and stability in the OSCE region are more likely to arise as destabilizing consequences of developments that cut across the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions,

Bearing in mind that transnational threats to participating States can also stem from areas adjacent to the OSCE region, and as such require responses that are closely co-ordinated with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and relevant international and regional organizations,

Reaffirming the continued relevance of the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st century, which provides a multidimensional, comprehensive and co-operative basis for OSCE activities in this regard,

Commending the ongoing work of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation to address transnational threats, within their respective mandates,

Commending the active role played by the OSCE across its region in the field of transnational threats through its Secretariat, institutions and field operations as important instruments in assisting all participating States to implement their commitments in all three dimensions, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly on all relevant issues,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, and recognizing that strong democratic institutions and the rule of law play an important role in preventing transnational threats from arising,

Considering that inter-State and intra-State conflicts throughout the OSCE area may give rise to instability and other types of risks and threats, such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALWs, human rights violations, mass expulsion, deterioration of the socio-economic situation and illegal migration,

Recognizing that non-compliance with international law and with OSCE norms and principles, as well as a range of factors within the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions lie behind the immediate causes of violent conflicts,

Commending the OSCE's contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts, in particular in support of the UN efforts and through close co-operation with other international and regional organizations, as well as the OSCE's pioneering programmes in such areas as countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; promoting public-private partnerships to counter terrorism; enhancing travel document security and legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism; countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism; protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks,

Taking note of the OSCE's contribution to international efforts to fight organized crime, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, smuggling of migrants, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, as well as other transnational threats through the provision of relevant law enforcement expertise and assistance to the participating States,

Recalling our commitment to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; and taking note of the OSCE's police-related activities, including providing capacity building, democratic police training and training in key policing skills,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the OSCE border security and management activities on the basis of the 2005 OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening OSCE capacities to promote open and secure borders and enhancing mutually beneficial inter-State co-operation, where appropriate, as a means to address the threats of terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, and the illicit trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings,

Commending the progress achieved in the implementation of MC.DEC/4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and calling for intensified implementation of this decision,

Recognizing the willingness of participating States to promote a comprehensive OSCE approach to enhancing cyber security, as evidenced by the results of the March 2009 OSCE workshop on this issue,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat in assisting the participating States to address transnational threats and challenges in the economic and environmental dimension, including on such issues as illegal migration, good governance, transport, energy security, and security implications of environmental challenges,

Reaffirming that practices related to discrimination and intolerance, that can have their root in issues such as ethnic and religious tensions, aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia, and may also stem from racism, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, as well as lack of respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, both threaten the security of individuals and may give rise to wider-scale conflict and violence,

Recognizing that the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the OSCE area, including resulting from conflicts, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters, requires enhanced co-operation of all participating States and concerted action,

Recognizing the importance of the OSCE's comprehensive efforts to eradicate trafficking in human beings, and paying due tribute to the activities of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as other relevant OSCE executive structures, for their dedication in providing assistance to the participating States in addressing THB,

Recognizing that many threats of a politico-military nature, including those such as destabilizing accumulations of conventional weaponry, illicit transfers of arms and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, remain of great concern to the OSCE participating States,

Recognizing that the effort needed to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, is not confined to military means and welcoming the adoption of a Best Practice Guide on UNSCR 1540 by the Forum for Security Co-operation on 30 September 2009,

Fully recognizing that transnational threats and challenges, including inter-State and inter-organizational co-operation, remain an important topic of deliberations in the framework of the Corfu Process,

Decides to step up individual and collective efforts to address transnational threats to security in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, in accordance with the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century, making full use of the OSCE's expertise and comparative advantages;

Decides to explore further ways to strengthen synergies in OSCE activities against these threats, including by improving internal co-ordination, co-operation with OSCE Partners for Co-operation and by focusing on those areas where the OSCE can add value to the work of the UN and complement activities of other international organizations, including on the basis of 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security;

Tasks all OSCE executive structures to intensify their efforts, within their current mandates and existing resources, to further consolidate the OSCE's cross-institutional responses to multidimensional threats to security, in particular in those areas which cut across the mandates of several executive structures;

Requests the Secretary General to explore ways to further strengthen programmatic co-ordination between the OSCE executive structures, as set out in MC.DEC/18/06, with particular focus on the OSCE's multidimensional activities to address transnational threats to security, building on the Secretariat's current mandates and within available resources, and to give a first overview on progress by 1 April and to make proposals to the Permanent Council on planning in this regard no later than 1 June 2010.

MC DECISION NO. 4/09: FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

ATHENS, 2 DECEMBER 2009

MC.DEC/4/09

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension,

Recalling the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, at Maastricht in 2003,

Welcoming the Chairmanship's Report on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE, its Findings and Recommendations (CIO.GAL/97/09),

Stressing the need to continue to streamline and improve the effectiveness of the OSCE's work in the economic and environmental dimension,

Tasks the Permanent Council, through its relevant informal subsidiary body and with the support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, with identifying and adopting, by the end of 2010, appropriate measures to implement recommendations contained in the Report;

Encourages future Chairmanships, the participating States and the OSCE Secretariat to review regularly the progress achieved in implementing the Maastricht Strategy Document.

MC DECISION NO. 5/09: MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

ATHENS, 2 DECEMBER 2009

MC.DEC/5/09

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments related to migration, in particular the relevant provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration and the Ministerial Statement on Migration (MC.DOC/6/06),

Taking into account the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003) and recalling the Thirteenth OSCE Economic Forum,

Taking note of the initiatives and the work of the OSCE in the framework of the Seventeenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”,

Acknowledging the increasing importance of and the benefits stemming from effective migration management for the socio-economic development, social cohesion, security and stability in all countries including those of origin, transit and destination, and fully recognizing the human rights of migrants and their family members,

Underscoring the importance of mainstreaming migration policies into economic, social, environmental, development and security strategies and addressing migration management through co-operative, comprehensive and cross-dimensional approaches,

Underlining the need to facilitate legal migration and fight illegal migration,

Bearing in mind the different approaches to migration issues by the OSCE participating States, and drawing on their experiences and best practices,

Stressing the need to deepen dialogue and co-operation at all levels within and between all States, as well as with all relevant stakeholders, including social partners, business community, civil society and academia, to effectively address the opportunities and challenges related to comprehensive migration management,

Confirming that co-operation, dialogue and exchange of good practices and information on migration management issues remain an important component of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, supported as appropriate and within the respective mandates, capacities and resources in all three dimensions,

1. Encourages the participating States to continue to work on migration management by:

- Paying particular attention to addressing the root causes of migration;
- Ensuring that their national migration practices comply with their respective international obligations and OSCE commitments;
- Further elaborating and enhancing implementation of comprehensive and effective national migration policies and action plans as appropriate;
- Improving the collection of comparable data on migration, in order to facilitate dialogue and exchange of best practices at the OSCE level;
- Fostering co-operation and partnerships between countries of origin and destination, by facilitating effective legal migration schemes, such as circular migration and other forms of voluntary labour mobility programmes, for the benefit of the development of countries of origin and destination;
- Respecting the human rights of migrants and increasing efforts to combat discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia towards migrants and their families;

2. Encourages the participating States to incorporate gender aspects in their migration policies, noting the recommendations of the OSCE-produced Guide on Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policies;

3. Calls upon the participating States to enhance migration management by improved policy coherence between migration and economic, social, environmental and security policies, through consultation, partnership and co-operation among governments at bilateral, regional and interregional levels, as appropriate;

4. Encourages the participating States to take necessary measures to minimize negative impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on migrants by intensifying economic co-operation, creating attractive conditions for investment and business development and facilitating the flow of remittances;

5. Tasks the Permanent Council, its informal subsidiary bodies and the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their respective mandates across all dimensions, within the Organization's comprehensive concept of security and within existing resources to *inter alia*:

- Provide a broad regional platform for dialogue on migration and security issues, both among OSCE participating States and between participating States and Partners for Co-operation, with the involvement of other relevant stakeholders in full conformity with the OSCE Rules of Procedure;
- Continue working on gender aspects of migration;
- Assist participating States, upon their request, to improve migration legislation and to elaborate and implement effective national policy frameworks, by providing advice and training, in co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations;
- Contribute to international efforts to assess the possible impact of environmental degradation on migratory pressures, which climate change may magnify, in order to ensure better preparedness in this area;
- Continue to assist the participating States, upon their request, to promote effective migration management, including exchange of best practices, and to facilitate legal migration and fight illegal migration, while paying particular attention to bilateral and multilateral co-operation in this field.

MC DECISION NO. 6/09: STRENGTHENING DIALOGUE AND CO-OPERATION ON ENERGY SECURITY IN THE OSCE AREA

ATHENS, 2 DECEMBER 2009

MC.DEC/6/09

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments regarding energy security in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE and the Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack,

Taking note of the efforts undertaken in the implementation of those commitments and desirous to promote further co-operation and dialogue between participating States in energy security and to tackle all kinds of risks and threats to critical energy infrastructure,

Taking into account the Joint Statement of the G8 Energy Ministers and European Energy Commissioner in L'Aquila in May 2009, desirous to continue to raise awareness and enhance dialogue on the G8 Plan of Action on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development (2005) and reiterating support for the St. Petersburg Principles on Global Energy Security (2006),

Taking into account the potential for increased consumption of energy resources,

Bearing in mind the impact of the global financial and economic crisis and the need for continued investment in the energy sector and promotion of good public and corporate governance, while paying due respect to security and environmental aspects,

Recognizing the comparative advantage of the OSCE as a platform for broad political dialogue, as well as the growing efforts of the OSCE to promote energy security dialogue, to ensure its continuity and to facilitate the sharing of best practices between participating States, thus complementing existing bilateral and multilateral activities and initiatives in energy co-operation,

Recalling the discussions of the Chairmanship Conference on Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE Area, held in Bratislava on 6 and 7 July 2009,

Recognizing that the increasing energy interdependence between producing, consuming and transit countries in the OSCE area requires co-operative dialogue, in order to enhance transparency, reliability and co-operation in the energy field, and strengthen the ability of the international community to prevent and resolve energy-related disputes,

Underlining that the interrelated challenges of climate change, energy security and efficient use of energy resources are amongst the most important issues to be tackled in the strategic perspective of ensuring sustainable development,

Acknowledging the importance of access to new energy technologies on mutually agreed terms, of alternative sources of energy and of diversifying energy supplies, routes and transportation systems, as well as of modernizing and developing existing systems,

1. Encourages the participating States, with a view to addressing energy challenges in the OSCE region, to promote awareness of the G8 St. Petersburg principles and objectives on strengthening global energy security, namely:

- Increasing transparency, predictability and stability of global energy markets;
- Improving the investment climate in the energy sector;
- Enhancing energy efficiency and energy saving;
- Diversifying energy mix;
- Ensuring physical security of critical energy infrastructure;
- Reducing energy poverty;
- Addressing climate change and sustainable development;

2. Encourages participating States, in accordance with the Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 to continue to use the OSCE as a platform for energy security dialogue, without duplicating the activities carried out in bilateral and multilateral energy co-operation fora, in order to:

- Contribute to security and stability in the OSCE area;
- Strengthen co-operation among the participating States in the energy field, including at regional and subregional level, as appropriate;

3. Tasks the Permanent Council, supported by the OSCE Secretariat, with organizing in 2010 an OSCE special expert meeting with the aim of assessing OSCE's future contribution to international energy security co-operation;
4. Tasks the OSCE Secretary General to submit in 2010 a report, for consideration by the Permanent Council, based on the outcomes of and recommendations formulated at the above event as well as on his consultations with participating States and relevant international and regional organizations and agencies, concerning the complementary role of the OSCE in the field of energy security;
5. Tasks the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, in co-operation with other OSCE executive structures, within their mandates and available resources, to continue providing assistance to participating States, at their request, to support the exchange of best practices and build capacity in the areas related to energy security, *inter alia* energy efficiency, energy savings and the development of and investment in renewable sources of energy;
6. Encourage the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

MC DECISION NO. 3/11: ELEMENTS OF THE CONFLICT CYCLE, RELATED TO ENHANCING THE OSCE'S CAPABILITIES IN EARLY WARNING, EARLY ACTION, DIALOGUE FACILITATION AND MEDIATION SUPPORT, AND POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION

VILNIUS, 7 DECEMBER 2011

MC.DEC/3/11

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the 1992 Helsinki Document, the 1994 Budapest Document, the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, the 2009 Athens Ministerial Declaration and Decision on the OSCE Corfu Process, the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith,

Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Recognizing the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and its crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the OSCE area,

Reaffirming our commitment to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals,

Reaffirming further the pledge made at the Astana Summit meeting to increase efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and international law, and to prevent new crises as well as to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act,

Underlining the need for these agreed principles to be applied equally to all conflict and crisis situations in the OSCE area while recognizing that each crisis or conflict situation has its specific characteristics and therefore needs an approach tailored to the particular situation,

Recalling the commitment to uphold consensus as the basis for OSCE decision-making, and mindful of the need to preserve the OSCE's flexibility and ability to respond quickly to a changing political environment at the heart of the Organization's co-operative and inclusive approach to common and indivisible security,

Recognizing that threats to our security can stem from conflicts within States as well as from conflicts between States,

Taking into account the discussions aimed at improving the OSCE's capabilities within the framework of the Corfu Process, the preparation of the Astana Summit meeting as well as the V-to-V Dialogue,

Acknowledging the need for timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts, which requires, *inter alia*, a comprehensive early warning capacity across all three OSCE dimensions; timely, objective and verifiable information, also regarding the humanitarian and security conditions on the ground including during a crisis, as well as the political will to take early and effective action; making full use of existing OSCE instruments, mechanisms and procedures for addressing the various phases of the conflict cycle and the ability to create new ones when necessary,

Bearing in mind that the OSCE's ability to deploy civilian, police or unarmed military expertise rapidly is essential to effective conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Acknowledging the necessity to strengthen the OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts and the importance of preventing relapses into crisis or conflict,

Acknowledging the vital role, in building a sustainable peace, of dialogue facilitation and mediation as well as preventive and quiet diplomacy as instruments for early action, crisis management, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and confidence-building, while recognizing the contribution of OSCE mediators and special representatives in this regard,

Recognizing that a comprehensive, cross-dimensional response is required to address the multi-faceted causes of crises and conflicts and that this also demands co-operation and

co-ordination between the participating States and among OSCE executive structures, including field operations within their respective mandates, and the Parliamentary Assembly as well as with international and regional organizations,

Emphasizing the importance of full implementation by participating States of the OSCE commitments in all three dimensions during all phases of the conflict cycle,

Reiterating that conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and peace-building must involve efforts to address violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as intolerance and discrimination, and the absence of strong democratic institutions and the rule of law,

Recognizing that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as well as the rights of persons at risk of displacement or already affected by it, need to be effectively protected in all phases of the conflict cycle,

Taking into account that impediments to economic welfare and social development as well as threats to environmental security, including environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be potential contributors to conflict,

Reaffirming the significant role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325, and recognizing the important role of civil society,

Reaffirming also our full adherence to the OSCE decisions, commitments and principles pertaining to politico-military aspects of security, including, *inter alia*, the 1993 Document on Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations, the 1994 Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Vienna Document, the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers and acknowledging their importance to confidence- and security-building and conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Within the framework of the existing mandates of the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other executive structures, including as defined *inter alia* by the Porto Ministerial Decision No. 8/02 and other relevant OSCE Ministerial decisions, with the aim to enable timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts as well as strengthen mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts while avoiding the overlapping of their mandates and duplication of functions and responsibilities,

1. Decides, in anticipation of further steps in addressing the conflict cycle, to strengthen OSCE capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation on an operational level as follows:

2. Tasks the Secretary General to ensure that the Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) assumes the role and functions as the focal point for the Organization-wide systematic collection, collation, analysis and assessment of relevant early warning signals from various sources, co-operating and co-ordinating closely with other OSCE executive structures and the Parliamentary Assembly;

3. Urges the OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates to strengthen their exchange of information related to all phases of the conflict cycle and calls for enhanced co-ordination between them in this regard;

4. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairmanship to:

- Provide early warning to the participating States by bringing to the attention of the Permanent Council any situation of emerging tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area, complementing the early warning functions already contained in the existing mandates of all relevant OSCE executive structures;
- Suggest to the Permanent Council, after consulting the participating State(s) concerned, possible options for timely and effective response(s) to escalating tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area;
- Consolidate, in co-ordination with other executive structures, the OSCE's early warning capacity in a more methodical, comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner within available resources;
- Prepare a proposal on how to make better use of the possible contributions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in developing a more effective response to emerging crisis and conflict situations;
- Prepare a proposal on how to enhance OSCE fact-finding, including expert team capabilities during emerging crises and conflicts and present it for consideration by the Permanent Council;

5. Agrees that participating States will share information, as appropriate, with each other and the Chairmanship at the earliest opportunity with regard to emerging crises or conflicts that threaten security and stability anywhere in the OSCE area;

6. Urges the Chairmanship to use its mandate to the full extent and to convene the Permanent Council without delay, including in special, reinforced or joint FSC-PC meeting if necessary, to consider early warning signals and possible response options, and in this context encourages the Permanent Council to:

- Welcome, as appropriate, the participation of the OSCE executive structures directly involved as well as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during Permanent Council debates on emerging and ongoing crisis/conflict situations which relate to issues that fall within their mandates;
- Seek closer interaction with the Forum for Security Co-operation that will make its own contribution to this work within its competences and mandate;
- Pursue follow-up to discussions in the Permanent Council on emerging crises and conflict situations;
- Seek input of other international and regional organizations involved as well as external advice, as appropriate;

7. Encourages the Chairmanship to draw on past experience and lessons learned to organize thematic meetings devoted to a specific conflict in the OSCE area;

8. Expects the OSCE Chairmanship and the executive structures to take full advantage of their respective mandates to address all phases of the conflict cycle and urges the Chairmanship and participating States to use, swiftly and to the greatest extent possible, all available tools and procedures as applicable to a particular crisis or conflict situation; in this light, tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures, upon request by the Chairmanship and/or decision making bodies, to provide advice on the use of existing instruments, mechanisms and procedures and to recommend those, as appropriate, to a given crisis or emerging conflict;

9. Tasks the Secretary General to designate a mediation-support focal point within the CPC;

10. Tasks the Secretary General, in close co-operation and consultation with the Chairmanship and executive structures, to prepare a proposal for consideration by the Permanent Council on how to maximize the continuity, consistency and effectiveness of OSCE engagement in conflict mediation and to strengthen the role of OSCE mediators. Among others, this proposal will aim at developing a systematic mediation-support capacity within the CPC covering, *inter alia*: (1) training and capacity-building within the OSCE structures; (2) knowledge management and operational guidance; (3) outreach,

networking, co-operation and co-ordination with relevant local/national actors, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations; (4) operational support to Chairmanships, their special representatives, heads of field operations, and other relevant OSCE mediators;

11. Urges the Chairmanship, the participating States and the OSCE executive structures to ensure that post-conflict rehabilitation efforts are comprehensive, systematic and sustainable, including through the deployment, upon consent of host participating State, of expert teams as well as other forms of temporary presence on the ground tailored to the specific needs of a given post-conflict situation and based on the existing mandates and areas of expertise of relevant executive structures, in accordance with relevant decision-making procedures;

12. Calls on the participating States to develop rosters of national experts readily available for OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts as well as for other phases of the conflict cycle and to provide those experts with the necessary specialized training for them to be rapidly deployable to a crisis or conflict environment;

13. Urges the participating States, with the assistance of the executive structures, to make optimal use of OSCE instruments launched by previous OSCE documents such as Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) and tasks the OSCE executive structures to collect and analyse lessons identified from the use of such instruments in order to develop best practices;

14. Urges participating States to implement UNSCR 1325 by ensuring increased representation of women at all levels in conflict resolution and peace processes, and tasks the Secretary General in consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office to prepare a set of concrete recommendations in this regard, and present these for consideration by the Permanent Council;

15. Encourages participating States and, within the framework of their mandate, the OSCE executive structures to make greater use of confidence-building and confidence- and security-building measures (CBMs and CSBMs), including those involving civil society representatives, across the three dimensions of security, in all phases of the conflict cycle and as agreed by participating States directly concerned;

16. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their respective mandates and within the framework of relevant decisions of the OSCE decision-making bodies, to enhance their co-operation and co-ordination with other international and regional organizations, especially with their respective structures in the field, and with civil society

organizations, to increase financial, technical and political efficiency and burden-sharing, reduce unnecessary duplication and promote the best use of available resources. OSCE executive structures should also develop lessons identified and best practices as regards co-operation and co-ordination with other international actors in the field;

17. Calls for increased efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act and international law. To that end, calls on the Chairmanship and participating States to pursue steps to strengthen OSCE capabilities in further addressing the conflict cycle;

18. Tasks the Secretary General to provide a report by 16 July 2012 as a first step to inform participating States on progress made and possible options for the way forward in the areas dealt with in this decision, including possible options on how to cover, if necessary, related expenses.

MC DECISION NO. 10/11: PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE

VILNIUS, 7 DECEMBER 2011

MC.DEC/10/11

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitment of the participating States to implement fully Decision No. 14/04 on the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted at the Twelfth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Sofia, in 2004,

Taking into consideration the Secretary General's 2011 Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and its recommendations,

Recalling Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/09 on women's participation in political and public life,

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the Concluding Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (1990) and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003, with regard to promoting the equal rights of men and women to equal opportunities and participation in the economic sphere,

Recognizing that women's participation in the economic sphere contributes significantly towards economic recovery, sustainable growth and the creation of cohesive societies, and thus is essential to the security and stability of the OSCE region,

Noting with concern the continued inequities faced by women in the OSCE region in terms of labour market participation, including job segregation; disparities in access to social protection as well as quality, full-time employment; and the slow progress being made in efforts to overcome the pay gaps for equal work, resulting in women's reduced lifetime earnings and pensions and increased female poverty,

Concerned about the continued under-representation of women in economic leadership and decision-making processes in the public and private sectors,

Concerned also about the persistence of constraints on women's effective participation in the economic sphere, in particular with regard to access to and control over such economic and financial resources as loans and property and inheritance rights,

Recognizing the need for improved and systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data and conducting of studies on equal opportunities in the economic sphere as a basis for planning policy and action,

Recalling the need for economic and social policies aimed at addressing the root causes of the trafficking in human beings, especially to eliminate discrimination against women in employment and to address economic factors that increase the vulnerability of women to trafficking,

Recognizing the need to continue monitoring the implementation of existing commitments on eliminating discrimination against women and promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere, with the aim of identifying and exchanging good practices and developing effective approaches, including within the Organization and its executive structures,

Taking into account the Report of the UN Secretary-General on the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, focusing on women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance (A/64/93), and considering paragraphs 4 and 19 of the Outcome Document of the Review meeting of the UN Doha Declaration and Monterrey Consensus on Financing Development (A/CONF.212/L.1/Rev.1), which call on States to eliminate gender-based discrimination and promote women's economic empowerment to overcome the global economic crisis,

Recognizing that women may face additional barriers, beyond those based on gender, to their participation in the economic sphere,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Collect and analyse data to identify and address obstacles preventing women from fulfilling their potential in the economic sphere and, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to support non-governmental and research bodies in producing targeted studies, including on good practices;

2. Assess the allocation of budgetary resources for promoting gender equality in the economic sphere and take concrete measures that lead to women's equal opportunity for economic participation and equal access to social protection, and that support quality as well as full-time and/or self-employment;
3. Facilitate the development of women's entrepreneurial and other work-related skills, and, incorporate gender aspects, with particular attention to women, in migration policies, in order, *inter alia*, to prevent human trafficking and re-trafficking;
4. Initiate or strengthen policy and legal measures, including positive action measures as appropriate, that would facilitate and protect equal opportunity for participation of women in the labour market, including through the expansion of childcare and nursing facilities;
5. Identify concrete actions aimed at promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere and, where appropriate, establish effective national mechanisms for monitoring progress in this field, such as on closing pay gaps;
6. Promote the sharing of domestic work, and parental and caregiver responsibilities, by expanding paternity leave; promoting non-discriminatory employment policies and practices and equal access to education and training; taking measures to facilitate combining employment with family responsibilities; and seeking to ensure that any structural adjustment policies and programmes do not have an adversely discriminatory effect on women;
7. Support the development of the necessary environment for successful policy formulation and implementation through targeted information and awareness-raising activities regarding the benefits of measures taken to promote the equal opportunity for participation of women in the economic sphere and to combat the social exclusion of women and discrimination against them;
8. Introduce measures and engage in dialogue with the private sector to provide equal opportunities for women's professional advancement and to close pay gaps;
9. Develop and strengthen measures, as feasible, that lead to increased diversification in employment sectors that are traditionally male or female-dominated;
10. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

MC DECISION NO. 11/11: STRENGTHENING TRANSPORT DIALOGUE IN THE OSCE

VILNIUS, 7 DECEMBER 2011

MC.DEC/11/11

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments related to transportation in the OSCE area, in particular those contained in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (1990), the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003), Ministerial Council Decisions No. 11/06 on future transport dialogue in the OSCE and No. 9/08 on follow-up to the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum on maritime and inland waterways co-operation, and other relevant OSCE documents,

Noting the attention given to the transport issues during the Corfu Process and the preparation of the Astana Summit, which reconfirmed the importance of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension for the Organization's comprehensive approach to security,

Recognizing the vital importance of secure transportation networks and of sustainable transport development to the enhancement of regional economic co-operation and to stability in the OSCE area,

Drawing upon the summary conclusions and recommendations of the 14th, 16th, 18th and 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forums and acknowledging the valuable contribution that they have provided to the OSCE's work in the transport field,

Recognizing the importance of the activities listed in the annex that were conducted in follow-up to the above-mentioned Economic and Environmental Forums,

Noting that landlocked developing countries face unique challenges related to their lack of access to the open sea, their dependence on transit services and difficulties related to market access and acknowledging that addressing the needs of landlocked developing countries is an immediate concern and requires a long-term process,

Welcoming the ongoing co-operation between the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and recognizing the importance of further strengthening targeted co-operation with other relevant international organizations and institutions,

Noting that progress has been made in the implementation of the aforementioned Ministerial Council decisions, while recognizing that additional efforts are needed to address existing challenges adequately,

1. Encourages the participating States to further develop co-operation and dialogue amongst themselves and with relevant international organizations on transport-related matters, notably by making the best use of the existing internationally recognized legal instruments they are party to, and standards and best practices available, with the aim of facilitating efficient, secure and sustainable transportation;
2. Calls upon the participating States to enhance, where appropriate, regional and interregional co-operation and the exchange of experiences and best practices to create and maintain sustainable, secure, integrated and uninterrupted transportation links amongst themselves, including in the maritime field;
3. Encourages the participating States to expand and enhance co-operation between landlocked, transit and non-landlocked countries, for the benefit of regional economic development including within the spirit of the United Nations Almaty Programme of Action;
4. Encourages the participating States to:
 - Intensify efforts aimed at facilitating secure transportation and trade, while preventing illicit trafficking in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and agreements to which the OSCE participating States are parties;
 - Further strengthen public-private partnerships in the transport field;
 - Share best practices, particularly in the field of border-crossing facilitation and sustainable transport;
 - Develop more effective national policies for cleaner and more energy-efficient transportation;
 - Promote the establishment of multimodal transport and logistics systems, including further development of Euro-Asian transport links and corridors;
 - Identify and tackle inland transport security challenges across the OSCE area and improve the co-ordination and effectiveness of national and international efforts in addressing these challenges;

5. Tasks the OSCE Secretary General, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and field missions, within their mandates, with assisting participating States upon their request in implementing the provisions of this decision;

6. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

ANNEX to MC.DEC/11/11

OSCE activities in the follow-up to the 14th, 16th, 18th, and 19th Economic and Environmental Forums:

- The International Conference on the Prospects for the Development of Trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transportation through Central Asia till the year 2015 held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in October 2007;
- The International Expert Conference on The Safety of Navigation and Environmental Security in a Transboundary Context in the Black Sea Basin, in Odesa, Ukraine, in July 2008;
- The practical support provided by the OSCE Secretariat to the continuation of the Euro-Asian transport links – Phase I-II, Trans-European Motorways (TEM) and Trans-European Railways (TER) projects Master Plan as a contribution to the implementation in the OSCE region of the UN Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries;
- The various national and regional training and capacity-building activities organized across the OSCE region with a view to improving the implementation of relevant international legal instruments such as the UNECE International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and the WCO International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures;
- The regional training seminars on prevention and detection of illegal transboundary waste transportation and its disposal;
- The joint OSCE-UNECE Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective, in order to contribute to further awareness-raising and capacity-building in the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND COMBATING CORRUPTION, MONEY-LAUNDERING AND THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM

DUBLIN, 7 DECEMBER 2012

MC.DOC/2/12

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, declare our strong support for promoting good governance and transparency in the OSCE area.

We recognize that the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE landmark documents contain shared commitments, principles and instruments that the participating States should implement in their efforts to promote good governance and transparency.

We reiterate that good governance at all levels is fundamental to economic growth, political stability, and security. Good public and corporate governance, rule of law and strong institutions are essential foundations for a sound economy, which can enable our States to reduce poverty and inequality, to increase social integration and opportunities for all, to attract investment and to protect the environment.

We reaffirm that peace, good international relations, the security and stability of the State and the security and safety of the individual within the State, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, are crucial for the creation of a climate of confidence which is essential to ensure positive economic and social development.

Transparency in public affairs is an essential condition for the accountability of States and for the active participation of civil society and the private sector in economic and development processes. Transparency increases the predictability of, and confidence in, institutions and economies which are functioning on the basis of adequate legislation and with full respect for the rule of law.

We agree that problems of governance, including corruption and money-laundering, deprive participating States of the capacity to effectively ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and undermine social cohesion, stability and security. Weak governance is among the factors conducive to the spread of terrorism. We therefore reaffirm our full commitment to tackling corruption and countering money-

laundering, the financing of terrorism and related offences by making them policy priorities backed up by appropriate legal instruments, adequate financial, human and institutional resources and, where necessary, appropriate tools for their practical and effective implementation.

We recognize the progress achieved to date by the OSCE participating States, individually and collectively, in addressing these threats and challenges to stability and security. We affirm that the OSCE political commitments related to good governance and transparency cut across all three dimensions, and we reiterate our full adherence to implementing these commitments through a comprehensive approach, as set forth in this and other relevant OSCE documents.

We reaffirm our agreement to work on a national basis, with the support of relevant international institutions, to strengthen good governance in all its aspects and to develop methods of co-operation to assist each other in achieving this goal.

I. Good governance and transparency

We view a public sector based on integrity, openness, transparency, accountability and rule of law as being a major factor of sustainable economic growth, and recognize that such a public sector constitutes an important element for fostering citizens' trust in public institutions and government. Thus, we underline the importance of providing education and training on ethical behaviour for public officials, establishing and enforcing relevant codes of conduct and conflict-of-interest legislation, and adopting and implementing comprehensive income- and asset-disclosure systems for relevant officials. In particular, we recognize that both the development of and adherence to codes of conduct for public institutions are critical to reinforcing good governance, public-sector integrity and the rule of law, and to providing rigorous standards of ethics and conduct for public officials.

We welcome the support the OSCE and its field operations have already provided in this regard and call on them to continue providing their valuable assistance to participating States upon their request, also in sharing among themselves, through the OSCE platform for dialogue, national experiences gained and good practices.

We recognize that good governance requires a framework of economic policies, legislation and institutions in which businesses and investments can grow. Therefore, we reaffirm our determination to have clear legal frameworks conducive to the development of business, including small and medium-sized enterprises, which are critical to economic growth, and to the promotion of investment.

We recognize that achieving good governance and combating corruption will not succeed without the full and equal participation of women and men in political and economic processes and institutions, as stipulated in a number of OSCE documents. We underline the importance of empowering women to actively participate in and contribute to policies and activities related to good governance for the equal benefit of men and women.

We recognize the importance of adopting and enforcing laws and other measures against bribery, providing, for example, for the criminalization of bribery of domestic and foreign public officials and the development of public-private partnerships to counter the bribery of public officials.

We reaffirm that the effective management of public resources by strong and well-functioning institutions, a professional and effective civil service, as well as sound budgetary and public procurement processes are major components of good governance. Thus, we recognize the importance of openness, transparency and non-discrimination in the area of goods and services, providing a solid financial basis for our public administration systems, ensuring fiscal and budgetary transparency and adopting fair and transparent government procurement systems, taking into consideration resources such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on Public Procurement and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Government Procurement.

We acknowledge the importance of transparency in different economic sectors. In this respect, we take note of the activities of multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives in this sphere, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST).

II. Combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism

We encourage those OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to become States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and to fully implement it. We welcome OSCE assistance towards its implementation, and task the OSCE Secretariat, in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), at the request of OSCE participating States with providing support, including the mobilization of technical assistance.

We recognize the need to enhance the implementation of our international and national anti-corruption commitments by *inter alia* involving civil society and the business community in the process, as appropriate, and the importance of regularly reviewing them, including, within the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in accordance with the terms of reference of the Mechanism.

We welcome that the OSCE, and in particular the OCEEA, continues to assist participating States, at their request, with developing and/or harmonizing their national anti-corruption legislation, in line with their international commitments, with ensuring practical implementation and effective enforcement through exchanges of experience and good practices at the regional, subregional and national levels, and with providing advice and training in co-operation with other relevant organizations, such as, *inter alia*, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Anti-Corruption Academy. We also recognize other relevant regional anti-corruption monitoring mechanisms, such as the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), as effective tools, which can assist participating States as they fight corruption.

We recognize that combating corruption requires long-term and comprehensive strategic approaches and strong institutions. We are convinced that those in charge of the prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption offences should be free from improper influence. In particular, we underline the central role that law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions play in fighting against corruption and in guaranteeing the rule of law. We recognize the critical importance of safeguarding the judiciary's independence in order to enable it to fulfil this function and the need to intensify efforts in this regard. We also acknowledge the importance of, and the need to ensure adequate resources for such institutions.

We also acknowledge the fundamental importance of effectively preventing transfers of the proceeds of crime, the theft, embezzlement and other diversion of public assets, and of recovering stolen assets, for the credibility of our anti-corruption efforts and for economic development. We recognize that effective asset recovery requires appropriate legal frameworks and institutions, empowered practitioners with proper skills and resources, proactive and swift national and international co-operation, networking frameworks and strong political will.

We therefore support measures geared towards removing barriers to asset recovery, *inter alia*, by increasing the efficiency of legal procedures and preventing abuse of those procedures, enhancing efforts to prevent money-laundering, and strengthening international co-operation on asset recovery. We encourage continuing efforts in our countries aimed at the recovery and return of stolen assets and the denial of safe haven in our countries to the proceeds of corruption, consistent with applicable law.

We further encourage the OCEEA to support interested participating States in implementing their international asset-recovery commitments, including by co-operating with and

complementing the efforts of other relevant organizations and initiatives *inter alia* of the World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative and the International Centre on Asset Recovery.

We recognize the importance of extending sufficient protection to whistleblowers in the public or private sector, as they play a key role in the prevention and detection of corruption, thus defending the public interest. We will intensify our efforts to take appropriate measures to put in place and implement legal mechanisms for the effective protection of whistleblowers and their close family members, from retaliation, intimidation or other psychological or physical harm, or the unwarranted loss of their liberty or livelihood. We recognize such measures to be necessary elements of an effective anti-corruption regime.

We recognize that acts of international terrorism depend on the financing that terrorists may obtain. We consider that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern to the international community as a whole. We are convinced of the urgent need to enhance international co-operation among States in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism, as well as for its suppression through the prosecution and punishment of its perpetrators.

We fully support the international standards contained in the revised Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and we express our support to the work of FATF-style regional bodies and their observers and, as appropriate, to ratifying or acceding to and fully implementing relevant regional and international instruments to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism including, as appropriate, the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (Warsaw, 16 May 2005).

We encourage the OCEEA to support interested governments and other relevant partners in implementing the FATF Recommendations, including by building capacity to conduct, and to contribute and respond to, money-laundering and financing-of-terrorism risk assessments.

We also encourage the OCEEA and Transnational Threats Department within their respective mandates to assist participating States, at their request, in their efforts to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, including through the development, adoption and implementation of legislation and practices to improve inter-agency and external co-ordination mechanisms in this area.

We recognize that financial investigations are a crucial tool in tackling not only money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, but also related and predicate offences.

III. Civil society and the private sector

We encourage the OSCE to further embrace its comprehensive approach to security and to continue to strengthen the dialogue and co-operation between governments, civil society and the private sector in order to support good governance efforts, including combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in the participating States.

We recognize that it is important to include the private sector in efforts to counter corruption and enhance good governance and to engage it in favour of a fair and transparent business environment. Such a commitment by the business community is important to enhancing good governance, transparency, stability and security at the national and international levels. In the context of promoting good corporate governance, we take note of the updated OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

We encourage the business community to take into account in its activities the social, environmental, humanitarian and security needs of the participating States.

We underline the importance of enhancing the contribution of academia, the business community and civil society to raising awareness of impediments to economic growth, including barriers to market entry, trade and investment, and of the need for greater transparency to foster sustainable economic development.

We recognize that freedom of information and access to information foster openness and accountability in public policy and procurement, and enable civil society, including the media, to contribute to preventing and combating corruption, the financing of terrorism, and money-laundering and its predicate offences. We reaffirm our commitment to make our governments more transparent by further developing processes and institutions for providing timely information, including reliable statistics, with a view to promoting a well informed and responsive dialogue.

We uphold the value of openness in our engagement with citizens to improve services, increase public integrity, effectively manage public resources, create safer communities and increase corporate accountability. We encourage the OCEEA to explore 2012 opportunities for co-operation with the Open Government Partnership, which promotes the principles of transparency, citizen participation, accountability and technology and innovation, with a view to achieving greater prosperity, well-being and human dignity.

IV. Working together for progress

We recognize that the OSCE provides a forum for political dialogue, information exchange and co-operation on good governance, as well as a platform on which to build the necessary political consensus and understanding regarding the importance of preventing and suppressing corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism at all levels for sustainable socio-economic development and stability. We reaffirm our commitment to co-operating in the development of strategies for good governance and to sharing experience regarding best practices.

We welcome the established close co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant organizations and institutions, including the United Nations, and we call on the OSCE executive structures and in particular the OCEEA to further develop co-operation with them in order to ensure added value and complementarity of activities.

We recognize the valuable contribution that the OSCE executive structures, including the OSCE field operations, bring to the wider work of the Organization in promoting good governance, transparency and the rule of law. We call on them to further foster their co-operation and to continue to co-ordinate their efforts to assist participating States, at their request, in implementing the provisions of this declaration.

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

In connection with the Ministerial Council Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, we note that we are very pleased to join consensus on this decision.

We would like to state our view that when paragraph 10 of Section II speaks of fully implementing relevant regional and international instruments to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, we take that to include the United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, including Resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999), and 1989 (2011), and recognize these resolutions and conventions as providing critical international authorities and imposing substantive international obligations to prevent the financing of terrorism.

We would ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the declaration just adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.”

MC DECISION NO. 5/13: IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF ENERGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE OSCE REGION

KYIV, 6 DECEMBER 2013

MC.DEC/5/13

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments related to environment and energy in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks, the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security, adopted at the Madrid Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2007, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/09 on strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration,

Acknowledging the link between energyrelated activities and the environment,

Stressing the importance of reducing the negative impact of the environmental footprint of energyrelated activities,

Noting the impact of energy production, transportation and consumption on the environment and its transboundary nature,

Recognizing that a responsible and sustainable management of natural and energy resources can improve the environment, curb climate change, boost economic growth and contribute to security and stability,

Acknowledging that affordable, diversified reliable and sustainable energy supply is an important precondition for sustainable development and that energy resources can contribute substantially to economic growth if managed responsibly and transparently,

Noting that the environmental footprint can be improved through participating States pursuing energy diversification coupled with more environmentally sustainable energy options, with a focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency, when developing their respective national energy policies,

Highlighting the comparative advantage of the OSCE as a platform for broad political dialogue on issues relating to improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, complementing existing bilateral and multilateral activities and initiatives creating synergies *inter alia* with the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy of UNECE,

Recognizing that good governance, transparency and anticorruption measures as well as the involvement of civil society and the private sector in decision and policymaking processes at all levels lead to greater accommodation of environmental concerns related to energy production, transportation and use and noting in this respect activities and principles of the EITI and other multistakeholder partnerships and initiatives,

Recognizing that the increasing interdependence between energy producing, consuming and transit countries in the OSCE area requires cooperative dialogue,

Being aware that the use of renewable energy sources, low carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures contributes to reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and offers economic opportunities,

Aiming at supporting further development and use of new and renewable sources of energy including sharing best practices and technology in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities,

Emphasizing the importance of regional and subregional co-operation, where appropriate, on improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities, in order to strengthen security and stability,

Drawing upon the relevant summary conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Twenty-First OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on "Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities in the OSCE region",

1. Encourages participating States to make best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices, *inter alia* on good governance and transparency in the energy sector renewable energy and energy efficiency, new technologies, technology transfer, green growth;

* Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality." See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-Second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1), Chapter IV, paragraph 4.

2. Encourages participating States to continue to promote high standards of transparency, accountability and good governance in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including by advocating and reinforcing good environmental governance in planning, financing and the implementation of energy related activities;
3. Calls on participating States to engage civil society organizations in the development of policy recommendations as well as the design, implementation and evaluation of projects related to sustainable energy and the environmental impact of energy related activities;
4. Encourages participating States to promote modernization and technological innovation in the energy sector, in particular with a view to enhancing environmental sustainability and improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities, including through public-private co-operation;
5. Encourages participating States to promote multistakeholder co-operation among governments, international, regional and nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the business community, academia, development agencies and financial institutions in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including through the promotion of public-private partnerships and technological innovation aiming at sharing best practices among participating States;
6. Encourages participating States to explore the OSCE's possible role in supporting the UN post2015 development agenda as it may relate to the environmental footprint of energy activities, and in the UN/World Bank Sustainable Energy for All Initiative;
7. Encourages participating States to mainstream a gender perspective* in the elaboration and implementation of projects and policies related to energy sustainability, and to ensure for men and women equal opportunities for access to resources, benefits and participation in decision-making at all levels;
8. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to continue fostering, where appropriate, international co-operation, *inter alia*, through supporting relevant international and regional legal instruments, conventions and protocols related to improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities and to support, upon request, their implementation by participating States thus contributing to transparency, accountability and good governance in the field of energy in the OSCE area;

9. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to further follow the crossdimensional aspects of the environmental impact of energy-related activities when exacerbated by natural or man-made disasters, and to assist participating States upon their request in making best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices on these aspects;

10. Tasks the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their mandates and with a view to strengthening security and stability in the OSCE region, to promote sustainable energy and foster, where appropriate, transboundary co-operation;

11. Tasks the OCEEA and the OSCE field operations, within their mandates and upon request of the host country, to continue supporting awareness raising on the impact of energyrelated activities on the environment, and facilitating the involvement of civil society, academia and the business sector in respective decision making processes, including through the Aarhus Centres and other multistakeholder partnerships and initiatives;

12. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

MC DECISION NO. 6/13: PROTECTION OF ENERGY NETWORKS FROM NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS

KYIV, 6 DECEMBER 2013

MC.DEC/6/13

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments related to energy contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/09 on strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration,

Recalling the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security (MC.DOC/4/07), which underlines the linkages between environmental risks, and natural and man-made disasters and security in the OSCE region,

Noting Permanent Council Decision No. 1088, on the theme, agenda and modalities for the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area”, with a particular focus on preparedness, emergency response and recovery related to environmental challenges,

Taking positive note of the Good Practices Guide on Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection from Terrorist Attacks Focusing on Threats Emanating from Cyberspace,

Noting that, for the purpose of this Ministerial Decision only, the term “energy networks” does not refer to nuclear energy installations or gas and oil infrastructure,

Recognizing that energy networks can be vulnerable to risks posed by natural and man-made disasters,

Noting that protection in relation to energy networks refers to activities aimed at ensuring their functionality, continuity and integrity intended to deter, mitigate, and neutralize a threat, risk or vulnerability,

Recognizing the need for uninterrupted functioning of energy networks and taking into consideration the severe consequences of possible disruptions,

Noting with interest the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and any subsequent post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction,

Taking into consideration the potential environmental challenges associated with damage to energy networks,

Underlining the importance of co-operation among the participating States on energy and environment, with a view to strengthening security and stability,

Recognizing the need to strengthen dialogue and co-operation on security and safety of energy networks,

Considering the importance of good public and corporate governance, market transparency and regional co-operation in the energy sector, while taking into account the interests of all concerned,

Convinced that more effective co-operation by all the OSCE participating States on an equitable, mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory basis to counteract threats and challenges caused by natural and man-made disasters can make a crucial contribution to security, stability and prosperity in the OSCE region,

1. Encourages the participating States to consider necessary measures, including the identification and assessment of risks, countermeasures and relevant procedures, at the national and local level, to increase protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters;
2. Encourages participating States to make best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices on strengthening the security and safety of the energy networks in the OSCE region;
3. Encourages the participating States to more effectively co-ordinate measures to increase the protection of energy networks, including at the early stages of planning;
4. Invites the participating States to facilitate co-operation and partnerships between public and private entities in order to enhance the protection of energy networks;

5. Encourages the participating States, in the context of attaining sustainable development, to implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster preparedness and risk reduction, in order to obviate adverse effects on energy networks;
6. Tasks the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to identify opportunities for co-operation with international organizations and regional organizations and agencies in the field of protection of energy networks against natural and man-made disasters and to facilitate discussions on possible areas for co-operation;
7. Tasks the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to facilitate the exchange of good practices, technological innovations and the sharing of information on effective preparedness for, and responses to, disaster risks to energy networks without duplicating activities already carried out by other relevant international organizations;
8. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of Lithuania on behalf of the European Union:

“We would like to underline that, the inclusion of a preambular paragraph excluding energy installations as well as gas and oil infrastructure from the scope of application of this decision, considerably reduces its remit.

In this context, we believe that this decision should be regarded as the starting point for us to continue to work towards broadening the scope of our future discussions on these non-nuclear issues.

We would ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.”

DECLARATION ON YOUTH

BASEL, 5 DECEMBER 2014

MC.DOC/3/14

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, recall the OSCE commitments relating to youth and children, which are enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and other relevant OSCE decisions, and take note of the efforts of other international organizations in this regard, in particular the United Nations.

We acknowledge that youth and children require particular attention and that their needs, concerns and interests should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

We acknowledge the potential of young people to contribute to economic, political and social development, and that they can support participating States in the implementation of commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

We take note of the Swiss Chairmanship's initiative related to youth in the OSCE.

MC DECISION NO. 5/14: PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION

BASEL, 5 DECEMBER 2014

MC.DEC/5/14

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments on combating corruption, in particular the relevant provisions of the Charter for European Security adopted in 1999 at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/04 on combating corruption adopted in Sofia in 2004 and the Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, MoneyLaundering and the Financing of Terrorism adopted in Dublin in 2012,

Recognizing that corruption at all levels is a potential source of political tension that undermines the stability and security of participating States, threatens the OSCE's shared values, and facilitates criminal activity,

Convinced that more effective prevention of corruption promotes good governance in all public sectors, reinforces trust in public institutions, increases corporate social responsibility in the private sector, enhances economic growth and contributes to social stability and security,

Reaffirming that freedom of information and access to information foster openness and accountability in public policy and procurement and enable civil society, including the media, to contribute to preventing and combating corruption, the financing of terrorism, money-laundering and its predicate offences,

Underlining the central role played by law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions in preventing and combating corruption,

Recognizing that the ability of an independent media to investigate and to publish the results of that investigation, in accordance with national legislation and international commitments, without fear of prosecution, persecution or physical harm is fundamental to preventing and combating corruption at all levels and in all sectors,

Acknowledging that efficient, accessible, accountable, and transparent public service delivery is one of the key components in building an anti-corruption environment in the public sector,

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building efforts for effectively preventing and combating corruption,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation between national anticorruption bodies for the exchange of best practices, further development of anticorruption measures and exchange of knowledge among anticorruption practitioners,

Welcoming the fact that almost all the participating States have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards meeting their commitments deriving from the Convention,

Highlighting the importance of cooperation with other relevant international organizations in preventing and combating corruption,

Encourages the participating States to:

- Further develop and implement preventive anticorruption legislation and policies, and establish and promote practical measures and tools to address all forms and levels of corruption for both the private and the public sectors, and for other stakeholders;
- Take measures to enhance transparency, accountability and the rule of law in public administration, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, including through the introduction of effective measures facilitating public access to information and the promotion of effective public service delivery;
- Adopt, maintain and strengthen systems that prevent conflicts of interest in the public sector, including, for example, by addressing conflicts of interest through enforceable codes of conduct and by establishing and strengthening asset declaration systems applicable to public officials and politically exposed persons, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, and to provide for a fair and competitive environment for recruitment in the public sector, so as to increase transparency and integrity in public administration;

- Foster the involvement of the private sector, civil society organizations, the media and academia, including through the support of the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates, in developing national anticorruption strategies and policies and to support their subsequent implementation;
- Promote a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability, across all sectors of society in order to contribute to the prevention of corruption;
- Recognize the important role whistle-blowers play in identifying and preventing corruption and defending public interest, and intensify individual national efforts to provide sufficient protection for whistle-blowers;
- Contribute to strengthening awarenessraising measures with respect to corruption throughout all sectors of society, by providing training and educational programmes in the area of corruption prevention and integrity, with special attention being given to youth, and recognizing the role played in this regard by an engaged and wellinformed civil society and an independent, free and pluralistic media;
- Take the necessary steps, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to establish or enhance appropriate systems of public procurement that are based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decisionmaking, that are effective in preventing corruption;
- Support measures to strengthen the integrity of the judiciary and to prevent opportunities for corruption among members of the judiciary and prosecution services;
- Implement and adhere to the relevant international standards to fight corruption, such as those prescribed by the United Nations Convention against Corruption and, where appropriate, by the OECD and the Council of Europe conventions on corruption and contribute to intensifying the involvement of civil society in their implementation as laid out in these conventions;
- Establish and implement effective, proportionate, and dissuasive sanctions and administrative penalties to penalize corruption for natural as well as, where appropriate, legal persons, with a view to discouraging and stemming corruption;

- Facilitate the recovery of stolen assets as part of national measures as well as in the framework of international and, where appropriate, regional cooperation and ensure beneficial ownership transparency;
- Make use of available OSCE tools, guidelines and projects in combating and preventing corruption;

Encourages the relevant OSCE executive structures, including, where appropriate, field operations, in accordance with their mandates and within existing resources, to facilitate the exchange of best practices in the prevention of corruption among participating States upon their request;

Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the Office of the Coordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and, where appropriate, field operations, in cooperation with relevant international partners, *inter alia*, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Council of Europe (CoE), and the International AntiCorruption Academy (IACA), to assist participating States, within existing resources and upon their request, in the implementation of their commitments within the UNCAC and in the formulation of national policies, in the exchange of best practices and in the delivery of capacitybuilding activities and projects in the area of preventing and combating corruption;

Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the OCEEA and, where appropriate, the OSCE field operations, to promote, within their available resources and mandates, the available OSCE tools and guidelines on combating and preventing corruption;

Tasks the OCEEA to explore, within its available resources and mandates, the opportunities for cooperation with national, regional and international initiatives, promoting the principles of transparency, citizen participation and accountability;

Tasks the Economic and Environmental Committee, with input and contributions from the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE field operations, to present a report to the Permanent Council no later than 1 June 2015 providing options for strengthening the current OSCE capacity on combating and preventing corruption and for enhancing coordination among the OSCE executive structures in that field, taking available resources into consideration;

Encourages the Partners for Cooperation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

ATTACHMENT TO MC.DEC/5/14

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION
FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

While joining the consensus on the Ministerial Council Decision on Prevention of Corruption, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

“The Delegation of Azerbaijan has been actively engaged in the discussions on the adopted Decision since the very beginning by contributing to its draft with numerous constructive proposals which had been included to the final text of just adopted Decision.

As reflected in this Decision, corruption is among the factors which facilitates criminal activities. Azerbaijan proceeds from the understanding that criminal activities referred to in the adopted Decision are those identified in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, which includes terrorism, violent extremism, transnational organized crime, and illegal economic activities, including money-laundering, trafficking of all kinds, and illegal migration.

The Ministerial Council Decision welcomes the fact that almost all participating States have ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards meeting their commitments deriving from the Convention. Azerbaijan hopes that implementation of UNCAC by the OSCE participating States will be in compliance with their commitment in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention, which underlines the necessity of implementation of obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.”

We request that this statement be attached to the Decision adopted and be included in the journal of today’s meeting.

MC DECISION NO. 6/14: ENHANCING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

BASEL, 5 DECEMBER 2014

MC.DEC/6/14

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments and principles related to the environment, disasters and security contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1992 Helsinki Document, the 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration, the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security adopted at the Madrid Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2007, Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/13 on improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/13 on protection of energy networks from natural and manmade disasters,

Emphasizing the often cross-boundary nature of environmental challenges, including disasters,

Acknowledging that environmental degradation, including disasters, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict and that conflicts, poor governance, mismanagement and degradation of natural resources as well as migratory pressures can affect the vulnerability of society to disasters,

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among participating States in disaster risk management, in order to diminish tensions as part of a broader effort to prevent conflict, and where appropriate, to build mutual confidence and promote good neighbourly relations,

Recognizing that natural hazards may become disasters because of, among other factors, the vulnerability of societies, and acknowledging that the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and natural resources such as soil, water and forests are essential for the prevention of disasters,

Noting the exacerbating effect climate change may have on the frequency and magnitude of disasters, and therefore the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation to effectively reducing disaster risk,

Acknowledging that each participating State has the primary responsibility for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risks,

Noting the efforts undertaken by regional and international organizations, *inter alia* the United Nations system, in the area of disaster risk reduction, and recognizing that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations has a complementary role to play within its mandate in addressing this challenge in its specific region while avoiding duplication, focusing on the OSCE's added value, namely its broad membership and its multidimensional concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security,

Reaffirming the importance of co-operation with other regional and international organizations in addressing environmental challenges that have an impact on security, including disasters,

Noting the relevant UNECE multilateral environmental agreements to the disaster risk reduction efforts of participating States,

Noting the significance of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and encouraging the participating States to actively engage in the preparations for the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) aiming at adopting the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in 2015,

Noting the importance of the ongoing global negotiations on climate change in the context of the UNFCCC, aiming at adopting a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties from 2020, and of the discussions on the post-2015 Development Agenda,

Taking note of the relevant summary conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Twenty-Second OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area”,

1. Encourages the participating States, which have not done so, in an effort to foster security and resilience, to strive to adopt an integrated approach to disaster risk management including measures for prediction, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery at all levels;
2. Encourages the participating States to develop, co-ordinate and implement, where appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures with climate change adaptation and mitigation plans at all appropriate levels;
3. Encourages the participating States to promote technological development, innovation, and the transfer of technology and know-how among themselves and with all relevant stakeholders, in support of disaster risk reduction;
4. Encourages the participating States to promote good governance and transparency in the field of disaster risk reduction, to incorporate local knowledge and information into national plans, taking into consideration the capabilities of both men and women and the specific vulnerabilities of children, women, the elderly, the poor, and the disabled, and to actively engage all relevant stakeholders, including where appropriate local authorities, civil society, the private sector, the media and academia in all phases of disaster risk reduction;
5. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and where possible in cooperation with the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to support the participating States upon their request in strengthening disaster risk reduction and management at all levels, and to facilitate cooperation, where appropriate, within and across borders, including by making best use of the OSCE's partnership within the ENVSEC Initiative;
6. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the OCEEA, within their available resources and mandates, to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experience, building upon the OSCE's good practices in disaster risk reduction gained particularly in the field of water management, flood risk management, and fire management;
7. Tasks the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to assist the participating States, upon their request, in implementing where appropriate increased preparedness for cross-border implications of disasters, with a view to building trust and confidence among the OSCE participating States;

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8. Tasks the OCEEA and the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to support the participating States, upon their request, in raising disaster risk awareness at the local level, and to promote community-based and gender/age/disability-sensitive disaster risk reduction, including, where appropriate, through Aarhus Centres, civil society organizations and other multistakeholder partnerships and initiatives;
9. Encourages the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

DECLARATION ON YOUTH AND SECURITY

BELGRADE, 4 DECEMBER 2015

MC.DOC/5/15

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, recall the OSCE commitments relating to youth, built upon relevant provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

We take note of the efforts of the current and previous OSCE Chairmanships and stress the importance of promoting the implementation of the OSCE commitments on youth, particularly in the area of education and the role young people can play to support participating States in implementing OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

We recognize that youth and children require particular attention and that their needs, concerns and interests should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING OSCE EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COUNTER TERRORISM

HAMBURG, 9 DECEMBER 2016

MC.DOC/1/16

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, condemn in the strongest possible terms all terrorist attacks that occurred across the OSCE area, neighbouring regions, and worldwide, in particular in 2016. We reaffirm our solidarity with victims of terrorism and emphasize the need to promote international solidarity in support of them and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect. We offer heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to the people and governments that have been targeted.
2. We condemn unequivocally and express outrage at the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians, numerous atrocities, persecutions of individuals and communities, *inter alia* on the basis of their religion or belief, by terrorist organizations, in particular by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Levant, also known as DAESH (ISIL/DAESH), Al-Qaida, ANF/Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.
3. We reaffirm that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any act of terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable regardless of its motivations, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization.
4. We underscore the central role of the United Nations in preventing and countering terrorism, and strongly reaffirm our commitment to take the measures needed to protect everyone within our jurisdictions against terrorist acts and the need for all actions to be conducted in compliance with the UN Charter, and all other applicable obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In accordance with these documents, we underscore the importance of our commitments under the UN Global CounterTerrorism Strategy. We also take note of the relevant good practices documents adopted by the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

5. We recall all relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of preventing and countering terrorism under the previous Chairmanships. We also take note of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and encourage OSCE participating States to consider becoming a Party to the Convention and to its Additional Protocol.
6. We stress that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), while respecting their obligations under international law, in particular human rights and fundamental freedoms. We strongly reaffirm our determination and commitment to remain united in preventing and countering terrorism, through increased international solidarity and cooperation and a sustained and comprehensive approach at all relevant levels, involving the active participation and cooperation of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations. We recognize that participating States should take measures, consistent with their OSCE commitments, and while ensuring national ownership, to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism. In this context, we recognize the need to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists, including public justification of terrorism, incitement and recruitment, and call on the participating States to act cooperatively to develop the most effective responses to this threat, in compliance with international law, including international human rights law.
7. We welcome the work done by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and stress that all participating States shall take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism and refrain from any form of financial support, in particular through engagement in favour of terrorist organizations in direct or indirect trade in natural resources, such as oil and oil products, in weapons, ammunition and spare parts, in cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific and religious importance. We also underscore the importance of cooperation among OSCE participating States to prevent and counter the recruitment of members of terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters. We will further reduce the threat of terrorism by preventing cross-border movement of persons, weapons, funds connected to the terrorist activities, in line with OSCE commitments.

8. We reaffirm that those who participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating terrorist acts must be held accountable and brought to justice on the basis of the principle *extradite or prosecute*, in compliance with the obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic legislation. We reiterate our determination and commitment to co-operate fully in preventing and countering terrorism, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in compliance with obligations under international law. We call on States to co-operate in efforts to address the threat posed by terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters and returnees, by *inter alia* developing and implementing, after prosecution, rehabilitation and re-integration strategies.
9. We emphasize the key importance of information-sharing, especially in the areas of foreign terrorist fighters, stolen and lost travel documents, firearms, and looted or stolen cultural property, such as antiquities and encourage all States to make full use of available multilateral and bilateral mechanisms and data exchange systems.
10. We stress the importance of cooperation among OSCE participating States, including by involving where appropriate, civil society, to prevent and counter terrorism. We also underscore the important role that civil society, in particular youth, families, women, victims of terrorism, religious, cultural and education leaders, as well as the media and the private sector can play in preventing VERLT, *inter alia* by countering terrorist and violent extremism messaging and offering alternatives to these narratives, including on the Internet, social and other media. We encourage political leaders and public figures including from civil society and religious leaders to speak out strongly and promptly against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.
11. We take positive note of the continued implementation of the “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism (#United CVE) campaign” and we recall that the UN General Assembly took note of the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism presented by the SecretaryGeneral of the United Nations suggesting that States consider its relevant recommendations when developing, where appropriate, and as applicable in their domestic context, national and regional plans of action for preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

12. We welcome the activities pursued by the OSCE executive structures, including the OSCE institutions, within existing mandates and available resources, in support of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of preventing and countering terrorism, in line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.
13. We invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to join us in affirming this declaration.

MC DECISION NO. 3/16: OSCE'S ROLE IN THE GOVERNANCE OF LARGE MOVEMENTS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

HAMBURG, 9 DECEMBER 2016

MC.DEC/3/16

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that the benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly and regular migration are substantial and often underestimated, whilst noting that irregular migration in large movements often presents complex challenges, and recognizing the substantial economic and social contribution that migrants and refugees can make for inclusive growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations,

Commending efforts made since 2015 by the Serbian and German OSCE Chairmanships to address issues related to the governance of these movements more effectively in the OSCE,

Acknowledging the many specific activities linked to migration and refugees already undertaken by OSCE executive structures, within existing mandates, as well as by participating States, based on existing OSCE commitments, relevant United Nations documents and national policies,

Building on in-depth discussions conducted at the OSCE, especially during the hearings of the Informal Working Group Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows in spring 2016 and during a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council held on 20 July 2016,

1. Acknowledges the work of the Informal Working Group Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows and the output discussed at the special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council of 20 July 2016;

2. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, within existing mandates and available resources, to continue their work on the issue of migration, including by reinforcing activities leading to the exchange of best practices and enhancing dialogue and cooperation with Partners for Cooperation, in a manner that complements the activities undertaken by other relevant international organizations and agencies;
3. Encourages participating States also to use the OSCE platform, including appropriate OSCE working bodies, to continue addressing migration-related issues where the OSCE has developed its expertise, and improve dialogue on migration-related matters with regard to developing possible effective measures and common approaches to address them.

ATTACHMENT 1 TO MC.DEC/3/16

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION
FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Turkey:

“In connection with the Ministerial Council decision just adopted on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees, the Republic of Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

Turkey joined consensus on this text. We did so in order to pay tribute to the value of the significant work done at the OSCE throughout the year on this important issue.

As the country hosting the highest number of refugees and asylum seekers not only in the OSCE but in the entire world, we regret that the only text which could achieve consensus is lacking considerably in substance, and does not reflect such key notions as ‘solidarity’, ‘compassion’, ‘empathy’ and ‘dignity’ which govern our approach to the question.

Regardless of our sad inability to adopt a text more worthy of both the matter and our collective efforts pertaining thereto, Turkey will continue to address this humanitarian issue in the exemplary manner it has done until now.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day and to the decision in question.”

ATTACHMENT 2 TO MC.DEC/3/16

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION
FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision just adopted on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States believes that this phenomenon is truly a multi-dimensional, crosscutting challenge that will affect security throughout the OSCE for the foreseeable future. As we have made clear throughout our negotiations, we would like to have seen a stronger decision adopted by the Ministerial Council today.

Many of the OSCE executive structures and field missions are already active, within their mandates, on humane migration management and combatting trafficking in human beings.

We believe the Conflict Prevention Centre and OSCE field missions should intensify their migration-related work, including through joint regional activities with other international organizations, as well as monitoring and early warning.

The Secretary General should engage with participating States to recruit secondees to work on migration-related projects, reprioritize to have staff dedicated to co-ordinating migration-related activities, and create a network of migration focal points.

The OSCE, and in particular the ODIHR, can assist participating States with the integration of migrants and refugees.

As recommended in the report by the chairperson of the Informal Working Group on Migration and Refugee Flows, OSCE executive structures should, within their respective mandates, mainstream the issue of migration into the larger OSCE agenda, assist with sharing of best practices, strengthen co-operation and co-ordination among themselves, increase outreach to OSCE Partners for Co-operation as well as to civil society, and contribute to capacitybuilding efforts to improve governance of large movements of migrants and refugees.

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings should increase engagement in the protection of victims of trafficking in the context of refugees and migration. We would note, however, that we do not support any alteration of her mandate to encompass human smuggling.

The United States strongly urges the incoming Austrian Chairperson-in-Office to appoint a Personal Representative on this issue, in order to strengthen coherence across the OSCE and increase engagement with Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, and civil society.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the decision we have just adopted and also included in the journal of the day.”

ATTACHMENT 3 TO MC.DEC/3/16

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION
FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America (also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Canada, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Ukraine):

“In connection with the adoption of the ministerial decision on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees, we would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The delegations of Azerbaijan, Canada, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United States are pleased that consensus has been reached on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees. We are concerned, however, that this decision does not address the important issue of protecting the rights of internally displaced persons.

We call on OSCE participating States, in parallel to actions being taken to address large movements of migrants and refugees, also to use the OSCE as a platform for elaborating a comprehensive OSCE response addressing the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons.

We also acknowledge language in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by consensus at the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016, which reads:

'We recognize the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders and the possibility that such persons might seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants. We note the need for reflection on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and to prevent and reduce such displacement.'

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson."

ATTACHMENT 4 TO MC.DEC/3/16

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION
FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Switzerland:

“Switzerland makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure and asks that it be attached to this Ministerial Decision.

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland welcomes the adoption of a ministerial decision on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees.

Switzerland however regrets that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, was not able to find consensus among its participating States to refer to the phenomenon of forced movement of people in its entirety, covering both large movements of internally displaced persons and large movements of migrants and refugees, as has been referred to by the Member States of the United Nations when they adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of 19 September 2016.

I kindly ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day as well as to the decision in question.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.”

MC DECISION NO. 4/16: STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY

HAMBURG, 9 DECEMBER 2016

MC.DEC/4/16

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the relevance of, and our full respect for all OSCE norms, principles and commitments related to our co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension, and bearing in mind the comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments on combating corruption, in particular the relevant provisions of the Charter for European Security adopted in 1999 at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/04 on combating corruption adopted in Sofia in 2004, the Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism adopted in Dublin in 2012, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/14 on prevention of corruption adopted in Basel in 2014,

Reaffirming the commitments related to transportation and trade facilitation in the OSCE area, in particular those contained in the Helsinki Final Act adopted in 1975, the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe adopted in 1990, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept adopted in Ljubljana in 2005, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on future transport dialogue in the OSCE adopted in Brussels in 2006, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/11 on strengthening transport dialogue in the OSCE adopted in Vilnius in 2011, and other relevant OSCE documents,

Recognizing that good governance, transparency and accountability are essential conditions for economic growth, trade, investment and sustainable development, thereby contributing to stability, security and respect for human rights in the OSCE area,

Recognizing that corruption and lack of good governance are potential sources of political tension that undermine the stability and security of participating States,

Acknowledging that good governance, rule of law, the prevention of and fight against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism; sound regulatory

frameworks, including adequate protection for whistle-blowers; a public sector based on integrity, openness, transparency and accountability as well as good corporate governance based on efficient management, proper auditing, accountability and adherence to and respect for laws, rules and regulations, business ethics and codes of conduct established in close consultation with business and civil society are critical components for promoting a positive business and investment climate in the OSCE area,

Welcoming the fact that almost all participating States have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards fulfilling the commitments deriving from the Convention,

Recognizing the importance of the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation",

Affirming that transparent management of public resources by strong and wellfunctioning institutions, a professional and effective civil service as well as sound budgetary and public procurement processes are major components of good governance,

Recognizing the importance of the active participation of the private sector, including small and mediumsized enterprises, civil society and media, in preventing and combating corruption and promoting a sound business and investment climate,

Recognizing that regional and subregional integration processes and agreements can give an important impulse to trade and economic development in the OSCE area and the OSCE participating States,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting, where appropriate, regional and subregional economic cooperation,

Recalling the UNECE transport agreements and conventions for the OSCE's work in the field of transport and trade facilitation,

Underlining that promoting connectivity through transport and trade facilitation is an important part of our economic co-operation,

Reaffirming that our economic cooperation should be based on solidarity, transparency, equal and non-discriminatory partnership, mutual accountability, and full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States, and that, if action in the economic field has a negative impact on other participating States, we will seek to minimize this, in line with our international obligations,

Calling upon participating States to promote free and secure movement of persons, goods, services and investments across borders, in conformity with relevant legal frameworks, international law and OSCE commitments,

Reaffirming the commitments of OSCE participating States to assist each other to increase the integration of their economies into the international economic and financial system, above all through early accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO),

Underlining the importance of the 2014 WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets as well as the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015, including the role that good governance, among other factors, plays in their implementation,

Recognizing the importance of the public and private sectors' full adherence to labour, social, and environmental standards and its contribution to good governance and sustainable development,

Welcoming the substantial discussions held in the framework of the 24th Economic and Environmental Forum and of the thematic Economic and Environmental Committee meetings held in 2016,

Welcoming the discussions held at the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on "Connectivity for Commerce and Investment" held in Berlin on 18 and 19 May 2016 and taking note of the outcome document "Conference Outcome – Chair's Perception",

Reaffirming the existing OSCE commitments in the field of good governance, stressing our determination to fight trafficking in human beings in all its forms, and recognizing the role that transparency and accountability in public procurement processes can play in preventing and combating human trafficking and labour exploitation,

Strengthening good governance, promoting transparency and improving the business climate

1. Encourages participating States to accede to, ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and to exchange information and best practices on the UNCAC Second Review Cycle process, as laid out in UNCAC;
2. Encourages participating States to, where appropriate, implement and adhere to other relevant international standards, such as those prescribed by the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation", and to contribute to intensifying the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the business community in their implementation, as laid out in these international instruments;
3. Encourages participating States to promote the exchange of best practices among all relevant stakeholders that contribute to good public and corporate governance, the promotion of transparency, and the prevention and combating of corruption, also in the sphere of the environment;
4. Calls upon participating States to further promote integrity, accountability and costeffectiveness in public procurement processes, also by ensuring that private interests are not unduly influencing decisions at relevant levels of government, and to ensure adequate transparency requirements for companies participating in public tenders;
5. Calls upon participating States to facilitate access to appropriate government information by increasing the accountability of the public sector and by stimulating public participation through egovernance;
6. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, to contribute to enhancing cooperation between participating States, the private sector and civil society and to actively involve the private sector and civil society in their activities on strengthening good governance, promoting transparency and improving the business and investment climate;

Promoting connectivity through transport and trade facilitation

7. Recognizes that connectivity through transport and trade facilitation, including through measures at different levels of government, can enhance economic cooperation that is mutually beneficial and contribute to goodneighbourly relations, confidencebuilding and trust in the OSCE area;
8. Calls upon participating States to further promote transparency, integrity and the fight against corruption in customs, cross-border operations and infrastructure development, including by improving border-crossing procedures and processes;
9. Encourages participating States to enhance co-operation between landlocked, transit and non-landlocked countries for the benefit of regional economic development, thereby contributing to the creation of a conducive environment for promoting connectivity within the OSCE area;
10. Encourages participating States to promote policies and initiatives reducing the environmental footprint of transport and its impact on climate change;
11. Encourages participating States that are members of the WTO to sign and ratify the 2014 WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and to support its full implementation;
12. Invites participating States to implement additional trade facilitation measures, aimed at making customs, administrative and regulatory processes more predictable, transparent and accountable, including by harmonizing, simplifying and streamlining norms and procedures without weakening current standards, by strengthening cross-border and regional cooperation of relevant authorities including customs, and by strengthening dialogue and cooperation between relevant government authorities and the private sector;
13. Encourages participating States to further pursue, where appropriate, opportunities for mutually beneficial regional and sub-regional economic co-operation, including through promoting dialogue and co-operation among participating States and with relevant international and regional organizations, including WTO;
14. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, to support participating States, upon their request, in the development of trade facilitation measures with a view to strengthening good governance, promoting bordercrossing facilitation and fostering business interaction;

Strengthening good governance through adherence to labour, social, and environmental standards

15. Encourages participating States to facilitate secure transportation and trade while preventing illicit trafficking in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and agreements to which the OSCE participating States are parties, and to increase efforts aimed at overcoming challenges such as labour exploitation and poorly regulated and inspected worksites;

16. Invites participating States to strive for better application of internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards within the UN, ILO, and where appropriate OECD;

17. Encourages participating States to promote, in co-operation with the private sector, sustainable consumption and production patterns based on internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards;

18. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their existing mandates and available resources, to support participating States in exchanging best practices on raising awareness of the relevance of internationally recognized labour, social and environmental standards, and on strengthening good governance and promoting transparency in public procurement processes;

Strengthening public-private partnerships in the fight against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism

19. Encourages participating States to facilitate co-operation among law enforcement, the judiciary and financial intelligence units and other relevant actors as well as between the public and the private sector and civil society, including media, in combating corruption, money laundering and other financial crime;

20. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, to facilitate dialogue and co-operation among governments, private sector and civil society in order to support good governance efforts, including combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and in order to address impediments to economic growth and sustainable development;

21. Encourages the Partners for Cooperation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

ATTACHMENT 1 TO MC.DEC/4/16

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-
OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision just adopted on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity, the United States would like to make the following interpretive statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the adoption of this decision. We would, however, like to express our disappointment that the Russian Federation would not accept more robust language on the importance of combatting human trafficking and ensuring that our supply chains – including for government procurement – are accountable and that our policies towards them prevent and combat human trafficking and labour exploitation.

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to combat human trafficking, and also asked the OSCE Secretary General to ensure that OSCE’s own procurement supply chains do not contribute to human trafficking or labour exploitation.

The United States looks forward to the Austrian Chairmanship addressing this as a priority issue throughout 2017.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the decision we have just adopted and also included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

ATTACHMENT 2 TO MC.DEC/4/16

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of Ukraine:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of the ministerial decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity, the delegation of Ukraine would like to make the following interpretative statement in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

The delegation of Ukraine joined consensus on the ministerial decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity.

We did so in the recognition that the economic and environmental dimension is an important part in the OSCE concept of comprehensive security linking co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension to peaceful inter-State relations. Such cooperation necessitates that all OSCE principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, be implemented fully and in good faith. We expect that the work of OSCE Chairmanships will continue to be underpinned, including on this decision, by ensuring adherence to the core OSCE principles and commitments and the imperative of correction of existing glaring violations.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

ATTACHMENT 3 TO MC.DEC/4/16

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of Armenia:

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure.

We welcome adoption of the ministerial decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity.

Armenia attaches importance to their promotion as important factors for enhancing trust and confidencebuilding, narrowing divisions and building bridges across dividing lines, including in the situation of application of unilateral coercive measures.

We welcome that concept of connectivity will build upon and reinforce the principles of our economic cooperation, that of solidarity, transparency, nondiscriminatory partnership, mutual accountability and full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States, as well as minimizing negative impact of actions in the economic field on other participating States.

The decision clearly refers to the OSCE principles, norms and commitments related to the economic and environmental cooperation. Thus it reaffirms the commitment of refraining from any act of economic coercion. We hope that the implementation of the decision will assist participating States which apply acts of economic coercion particularly through closing transport links and borders to reconsider their current practices.

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia requests that this statement be attached to the decision and registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC DECISION NO. 8/17: PROMOTING ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION IN THE OSCE AREA

VIENNA, 8 DECEMBER 2017

MC.DEC/8/17

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the relevance of, and our full respect for all OSCE norms, principles and commitments related to our co operation in the economic and environmental dimension, and bearing in mind the comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security,

Reaffirming the commitments related to aspects of economic participation contained in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, the Ministerial Council Decision on promoting equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere adopted in Vilnius in 2011, the Ministerial Council Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism adopted in Dublin in 2012, the Ministerial Council Decision on the prevention of corruption adopted in Basel in 2014, the Ministerial Council Declaration on Youth adopted in Basel in 2014 and the Ministerial Council Decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity adopted in Hamburg in 2016,

Highlighting that promoting economic participation implies job creation, better access to education, vocational training and the labour market, as well as improvement of conditions for employment and entrepreneurship,

Reaffirming that peace, good international relations, the security and stability of the State and the security and safety of the individual within the State, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, including internationally recognized workers' rights, are crucial for the creation of a climate of confidence which is essential to ensure positive economic and social development and to promote economic participation,

Recognizing that economic participation, social inclusion and sustainable growth are interdependent and contribute to prosperity, trust, stability, security and co operation in the OSCE area,

Acknowledging that co operation on economic activities can strengthen sustainable economic, social and environmental development, thereby promoting social cohesion, stability and security and positively contributing to the prevention of terrorism and the fight against organized crime,

Reaffirming that good governance at all levels implies a clear, transparent and predictable framework of economic policies, institutions and legislation in which business can thrive and the confidence of investors can grow, thereby enabling States to reduce poverty and inequality, and to increase social integration and opportunities for all,

Recognizing that more effective prevention of corruption and the promotion of good governance reinforce trust in public institutions, improve corporate social responsibility and thereby promote economic participation and enhance economic growth,

Acknowledging the importance of the active participation of the private sector, including small and medium sized enterprises, trade unions, civil society and media, in preventing and combating corruption, enhancing good governance, fostering integrity and promoting a sound business and investment climate, thereby contributing to social inclusion and broader economic participation,

Recognizing that regional and subregional integration or co-operation processes and agreements can give an important impulse to trade and sustainable development in the OSCE area and the OSCE participating States,

Recalling the need for economic and social policies aimed at promoting social justice and improving living and working conditions,

Acknowledging the potential of young people to contribute to economic, political and social development, and recognizing the importance of facilitating the integration of young people into professional life, thereby promoting economic participation,

Recognizing that women's participation in the economic sphere contributes significantly towards economic development, sustainable growth and the promotion of cohesive societies,

Welcoming the substantial discussions held in the framework of the 25th Economic and Environmental Forum on "Greening the economy and building partnerships for security in the OSCE region" and of the thematic Economic and Environmental Committee meetings held in 2017,

1. Calls upon participating States to:

- Strengthen co operation on economic activities, where appropriate, thereby promoting sustainable economic, social and environmental development and contributing to confidence and trust, stability, security, the prevention of terrorism and the fight against organized crime;
- Continue their efforts to improve social conditions, provide adequate and effective safety nets, promote education and vocational training, strengthen health care services and increase employment opportunities;
- Promote good governance and strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks conducive to a positive investment climate and the development of businesses, including small and medium sized enterprises, thereby promoting social inclusion and economic participation;
- Further strengthen the co operation of labour market institutions, including local employment services and training institutions, trade unions and employers' organizations as social partners, business community, higher education institutions and other relevant stakeholders to improve labour market transparency, access and conditions for employment and entrepreneurship;
- Continue their efforts to promote economic participation of and employment opportunities for young people by, *inter alia*, ensuring the necessary conditions for the education and vocational training of youth, and through programmes facilitating youth access to the labour market;
- Strengthen measures that enable the development of women's entrepreneurial and other work related skills, and promote and protect equal opportunity for participation of women in the labour market;

2. Encourages participating States to make use of the OSCE to foster the exchange of best practices and to promote capacity building initiatives in line with the provisions of this decision;

3. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates, to assist participating States, upon their request, in implementing the provisions of this decision;

4. Encourages the OSCE Partners for Co operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

1

**SECTION I
SUMMIT AND OTHER
RELATED DOCUMENTS**

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**SECTION II
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**SECTION III
PERMANENT
COUNCIL DECISIONS**

PC DECISION NO. 194: MANDATE FOR A CO-ORDINATOR OF OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

5 NOVEMBER 1997

PC.DEC/194

In keeping with the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, bearing in mind the particular role which the OSCE plays in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, in fulfilment of the commitment embodied in the Lisbon Summit Declaration to improve their common efforts in the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic dimension and to pursue the adequate development of OSCE activities dealing with security-related economic, social and environmental issues, the participating States:

1. Decide to establish the position of a Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities within the OSCE Secretariat.

Mandate

2. The Co-ordinator, acting in support of the Chairman-in-Office, is charged with strengthening the ability of the Permanent Council and the OSCE institutions to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security.

3. The Co-ordinator will act in accordance with the OSCE's flexible approach in responding to tensions and crisis situations as they emerge and evolve. His/Her regular priorities will be:

- to enhance OSCE interaction with relevant international economic organizations, financial institutions and organizations active in the environmental field, as well as with relevant regional, subregional and transborder economic co-operation organizations and initiatives;
- recognizing the role these organizations, institutions and initiatives play, to establish interaction and regular consultations with them based on the concept of co-operative security and aimed at the development of synergies;
- to draw on their expertise in working to assess potential security risks stemming, wholly or in part, from economic, social and environmental factors;

- to offer them the added value of the OSCE's unique political and security perspective;
- to foster co-operation and information-sharing between the OSCE and international economic organizations/financial institutions in addressing the economic and environmental aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation;
- to strengthen the economic, social and environmental components of the work of OSCE missions^{1*} where appropriate as an essential early-warning tool and in the fulfilment of OSCE commitments;
- to deepen interaction with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in areas within the Coordinator's competence;
- to broaden OSCE interaction with representatives of the business community, business associations and relevant non-governmental organizations; and
- to develop, on the basis of input from participating States and other institutions, a work programme, to include planning for and follow-up to meetings of the Economic Forum, and the preparation of an appropriate schedule of events in the economic dimension. The Co-ordinator shall, within the scope of his/her mandate, participate in and provide input to these meetings and other related OSCE activities, including but not limited to annual implementation reviews and work related to the Security Model. In general, the Co-ordinator's activities shall be reflected in the Secretary General's reports to the Permanent Council; however, given his/her specialized expertise, he/she shall address that body as the need arises or upon request.

Profile, Appointment and Support

4. The Co-ordinator shall be an individual with a distinguished record of service, in the public or the private sector, in promoting enhanced economic co-operation and security in the OSCE region.

5. The Co-ordinator shall be appointed for a period of three years, in accordance with established OSCE procedures applicable to D2 and D1 positions.

6. The Co-ordinator will work under the direct supervision of the Secretary General. The post will be funded through the OSCE budget in accordance with the OSCE Staff Regulations. The Co-ordinator will be assisted by the Economic Adviser and necessary office staff.

¹ The term "missions" here includes all comparable field activities such as "assistance groups", "presences", etc.

PC DECISION NO.743: RENAMING THE OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM

19 OCTOBER 2006

PC.DEC/743

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/06 of 26 July 2006 on the OSCE Senior Council,

Decides,

1. To change the name of the OSCE Economic Forum to the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF);
2. To revise Permanent Council Decision No. 735 of 6 July 2006 on the theme, format and organizational modalities for the Fifteenth Economic Forum to reflect this change;
3. That all previously adopted OSCE decisions referring to the Economic Forum shall continue to apply in relation to the Economic and Environmental Forum, unless amended by subsequent OSCE decisions.

DECISION NO. 16/07: EXTENDED DIALOGUE WITH THE OSCE PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION ON CIVIL-MILITARY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

21 NOVEMBER 2007

FSC.DEC/16/07

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Recognizing the national responsibilities of all participating States for ensuring plans for dealing with emergencies such as accidents involving chemicals or toxic spills, avalanches, floods and earthquakes, or managing the consequences of terrorists attacks,

Also recognizing that disasters, whether man-made or natural, do not recognise international borders, therefore making international co-operation a useful tool,

Recalling the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century adopted in Maastricht in 2003, which called for an OSCE response to ecological disasters that can provide a substantial negative impact on the health, welfare, stability and security of participating States,

Recalling the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension also adopted in 2003, which called for a common response and action to combat ecological disasters resulting from natural causes, economic activities or terrorist attacks that may pose a serious threat to stability and security,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation that refers to the report on the implementation of PC.DEC/571/Corr.1, distributed under the reference PC.DEL/366/04/Rev.4, which identifies the possibility to exchange views on how Civil Military Emergency Planning (CMEP) activities could serve as a confidence- and security-building measure with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation,

Referring to the Border Security and Management Concept adopted in Ljubljana in 2005, which called for possible specialized assistance upon request of interested participating States in facilitating cross-border co-operation in case of natural disasters or serious accidents in border zones,

1. Welcomes the contributions and discussions on CMEP during the Special FSC Meeting held on 26 September 2007;
2. Takes note of the survey of suggestions and recommendations made during the Special FSC Meeting, included in the report provided by the FSC Chairperson and distributed under reference FSC.GAL/111/07 of 15 October 2007;
3. Calls upon the participating states to remain seized of this matter and continue to engage OSCE Partners for Co-operation in dialogue on a bilateral basis on co-operation in activities relating to CMEP;
4. Encourages the participating States to report, when appropriate, on progress and achievements concerning the involvement of the OSCE Partners for Co-operation in activities relating to CMEP.

PC DECISION NO.958: STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WORK IN THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

11 NOVEMBER 2010

PC.DEC/958

The Permanent Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension,

Underlining the importance and increasing relevance of the economic and environmental dimension as an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Stressing the need to continue to streamline and improve the effectiveness of the OSCE's work in the economic and environmental dimension,

Recalling Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/09, which, *inter alia*, tasked the Permanent Council, through its relevant informal subsidiary body and with the support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, with identifying and adopting, by the end of 2010, appropriate measures to implement recommendations contained in the 2009 Chairmanship's Report on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE (CIO.GAL/97/09),

Reaffirming that the Economic and Environmental Forum remains the main annual event in the OSCE economic and environmental dimension,

Taking note of the relevant related discussions that took place in 2010,

Decides to synchronize the annual cycle of work in the economic and environmental dimension with the Chairmanship year.

The annual Economic and Environmental Forum will consist of three meetings, each of which will be from two to four days long.

The concluding meeting will be organized in Prague.

In line with previous Permanent Council decisions, the structure of each Economic and Environmental Forum will be determined by the decision by the Permanent Council regarding the theme(s), agenda and modalities for the Forum, to be adopted in good time, at the proposal of the incoming Chairmanship.

In order to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of work in the economic and environmental dimension, the Forum process for 2011 will be complemented by a meeting dedicated to a review of the implementation of decisions and commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, as well as to future work in the economic and environmental dimension. This meeting will be three days long. Its mandate, modalities, time and agenda will be defined by a Permanent Council decision to be adopted by 1 April 2011.

Taking into account the experience gained, both the structure of the new annual cycle of work in the economic and environmental dimension and the future of the meeting will be subject to review by the Permanent Council by the end of 2011, with a view to deciding on their continuation.

Tasks the Economic and Environmental Committee, with the support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, with continuing its work towards identifying and proposing further agreed measures by the end of July 2011 to implement the recommendations contained in the 2009 Chairmanship's Report on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE (CIO.GAL/97/09).

PC DECISION NO. 979: EXTENSION OF THE APPLICATION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECISION NO. 17/06

16 DECEMBER 2010

PC.DEC/979

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/06 of 5 December 2006 on the improvement of the consultative process,

Having reviewed the application of the provisions of the aforementioned Ministerial Council decision concerning the performance of the Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee during 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010,

Welcoming the experience gained from the new structure of the consultative process established with a view to improving consultations and dialogue, also with a view to preparing debates, conclusions and decisions in the Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the application of Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/06 beyond 31 December 2010.

PC DECISION NO. 995: DATES, AGENDA, MANDATE AND MODALITIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

31 MARCH 2011

PC.DEC/995

The Permanent Council,

Reiterating that the economic and environmental dimension is an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Determined to further develop mutually beneficial co-operation aimed at addressing the impact on security of economic and environmental challenges in the region, as stipulated in the Astana Commemorative Declaration adopted at the Astana Summit, 2010,

Recalling the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Maastricht in 2003, as well as other OSCE decisions relevant to the economic and environmental dimension,

Further to Decision No. 4/09, adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Athens, on Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension, and Permanent Council Decision No. 958 on Strengthening and Improving the Effectiveness of Work in the Economic and Environmental Dimension,

Taking into account the discussions at the OSCE Review Conference in 2010, and further preparatory work conducted in the run up to the OSCE Astana Summit, 2010,

Reaffirming that the Economic and Environmental Forum remains the main annual event in the OSCE economic and environmental dimension,

Aiming to improve the implementation of commitments as well as the effectiveness of work in the economic and environmental dimension,

Mindful of the importance of continuity in the work of the OSCE within the economic and environmental dimension,

Decides to convene the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting from 17 to 19 October 2011, in Vienna, in accordance with the agenda contained in the annex to this decision.

Mandate

The Meeting will provide a framework for enhancing dialogue and co-operation on key thematic areas within the economic and environmental dimension throughout the year, in particular to:

- Review implementation of decisions and commitments in the economic and environmental dimension;
- Contribute to setting out the future work in the economic and environmental dimension;
- Discuss aspects of regional and subregional co-operation, where the appropriate conditions exist;
- Exchange experiences and best practices;
- Strengthen co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions, as well as with academia and civil society;
- Discuss the activities of the OCEEA and other OSCE structures relevant to the economic and environmental dimension, including through presentations of activities by the field presences;
- Contribute to preparations for Ministerial Council meeting;
- Further enhance interactions and co-ordination between delegations, the Secretariat, and economic and environmental officers from the OSCE field operations;
- Discuss outcomes of and follow-up to the Economic and Environmental Forum.

The Meeting will complement the Economic and Environmental Forum process. The discussions of the Meeting should benefit from cross-dimensional input provided by OSCE structures and by relevant meetings and deliberations in various other international organizations and fora.

Modalities

The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level, by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate and make both oral and written contributions.

Relevant international and regional organizations and institutions will be invited to participate.

Regional groupings, expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate.

Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the Meeting.

The rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE will be applied to the Meeting.

The Permanent Council, taking into account the experience gained, will decide by the end of 2011 on the continuation of organizing Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meetings in the future.

Annex: Agenda of the 2011 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, Vienna, 17 to 19 October 2011

Monday, 17 October 2011

10–11 a.m. Opening remarks

11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. Session 1: Follow-up to the Nineteenth Economic and Environmental Forum devoted to the promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport

3–6 p.m. Session 2: Follow-up to the ideas and proposals relevant to the EED put forward in the preparation for the Astana Summit and within the framework of the “V to V Dialogue”

Tuesday, 18 October 2011

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Session 3: Discussion on the implementation of decisions and commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, with a focus on the thematic work of the Economic and Environmental Committee throughout the year 2011, *inter alia*, in the areas of good governance, fighting corruption, money-laundering and financing of terrorism; energy security; modernization of economies; and environment and security

3–6 p.m. Session 4: Presentation of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and field presences activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension, including co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations, as well as outcomes of the OSCE chairing of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative

Wednesday, 19 October 2011

10 a.m.–12 noon Concluding session: The way forward and recommendations for future actions

12 noon–1 p.m. Closing session

PC DECISION NO. 997: PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS ON ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY ISSUES IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

5 DECEMBER 2011

PC.DEC/997

The Permanent Council,

Further to the discussion in the framework of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation,

Taking note of the preliminary report on informal consultations with the Mediterranean Partners on priority areas for activities to be sponsored through the Partnership Fund circulated by Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/824/09),

Welcoming the proposal by Lithuania and Ireland, contained in PC.DEL/309/11/Rev.1, to use the OSCE Partnership Fund to finance activities related to participatory workshops on environment and security issues in the Southern Mediterranean region,

Recalling the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation (MC.DOC/1/07),

Recalling the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security (MC.DOC/4/07),

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 812 on the establishment of a Partnership Fund,

Decides to authorize the use of the Partnership Fund, subject to the availability of sufficient contributions, to finance the proposed activities related to participatory workshops;

Encourages the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to contribute to the Partnership Fund for this purpose.

PC DECISION NO. 1011: STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF THE OSCE

7 DECEMBER 2011

PC.DEC/1011

The Permanent Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension,

Emphasizing the importance and increasing relevance of the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension and its activities,

Recognizing that the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security links economic and environmental co-operation with peaceful inter-State relations,

Being determined to further develop mutually beneficial co-operation aimed at addressing the impact on security of economic and environmental challenges in the OSCE area, as stipulated in the Astana Commemorative Declaration adopted at the Astana Summit meeting of 2010,

Recalling the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003,

Recognizing the potential of activities in the economic and environmental dimension in contributing to confidence and security in the OSCE area,

Stressing the contribution of Economic and Environmental Officers towards facilitating the implementation of OSCE activities in the economic and environmental dimension in accordance with the mandates of their respective field operations and with priorities set out by the participating States in the relevant OSCE decisions,

Recalling Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/09 on the future orientation of the economic and environmental dimension, in which participating States stressed, *inter alia*, the need to continue to streamline and improve the effectiveness of the OSCE's work in the economic and environmental dimension,

Further to the Permanent Council Decision No. 958 on strengthening and improving the effectiveness of work in the economic and environmental dimension, which tasks the Economic and Environmental Committee, with the support of the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, with continuing its work towards identifying and proposing further agreed measures to implement the recommendations contained in the 2009 Chairmanship's Report on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE (CIO.GAL/97/09),

Reaffirming that the Economic and Environmental Forum is the main annual event within the economic and environmental dimension,

Taking into account Permanent Council Decision No. 995 on the dates, agenda, mandate and modalities of the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting,

Noting the attention given to strengthening the effectiveness of the economic and environmental dimension within the Corfu Process, at the 2010 OSCE Review Conference, the 2010 Astana Summit meeting and the 2011 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, and in ongoing consultations within the Economic and Environmental Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council,

Aiming to improve the implementation of OSCE commitments and the effectiveness of its work in the economic and environmental dimension,

1. Underlines that the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the economic and environmental dimension constitutes the basic comprehensive framework for the OSCE's work in the economic and environmental dimension and provides strategic guidance to the participating States and OSCE executive structures;
2. Emphasizes the need to continue promoting co-operation by increasing the focus of the OSCE work in the economic and environmental dimension on the basis of the concept of comprehensive security by taking into account the interlinkages with other dimensions through, *inter alia*, the Organization, on the initiative of the Chairmanship and/or participating States, of events on cross-dimensional issues;
3. Agrees on the need for improved continuity in the focus of work in the economic and environmental dimension from year to year;

4. Encourages the OSCE Chairmanship, in consultation within the OSCE Troika, the participating States and the Secretariat and on the basis of the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the economic and environmental dimension and other relevant OSCE documents and decisions, to identify priority themes for the Economic and Environmental Committee to focus on during the respective Chairmanship's year;
5. Encourages the OSCE Chairmanship to continue the practice of organizing thematic meetings of the Economic and Environmental Committee and special events, and, with the support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and other relevant executive structures, to ensure an appropriate follow-up to Ministerial Council decisions and to previous Economic and Environmental Forums;
6. Encourages the OSCE Chairmanship, with the support of the OSCE executive structures, to take discussions forward on strengthening the effectiveness of the economic and environmental dimension, in a transparent and constructive manner, taking into account the experience gained so far within the Corfu Process, at the 2010 Review Conference, and in the V to V Dialogue;
7. Decides to maintain the practice of synchronizing the annual cycle of work in the economic and environmental dimension with the Chairmanship's year;
8. Decides to hold the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on an annual basis in accordance with the mandate and modalities established by Permanent Council Decision No. 995, with the dates and agenda of each Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting being defined by a decision of the Permanent Council;
9. Encourages the OSCE Chairmanship to invite the Economic and Environmental Officers to the Economic and Environmental Committee and other relevant meetings, with a view to strengthening co-ordination between delegations of participating States, the Secretariat and Economic and Environmental Officers;
10. Tasks the Economic and Environmental Committee with initiating reviewing implementation of the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, in order to determine if the Strategy needs to be adapted to the evolving economic and environmental challenges, and to present a progress report on this issue to the Permanent Council/Ministerial Council, as appropriate, by the end of 2012.



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