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Delegation of Belgium

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR DIDIER NAGANT DE DEUXCHAISNES,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM TO THE
OSCE, AT THE 1355th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 February 2022

**In connection with the presentation of the OSCE Secretary General's thematic report
on climate change**

Mr. Chairperson,
Madam Secretary General,

Belgium aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and, given the importance of the occasion, wishes to add a few words in a national capacity.

Climate change is having a drastic impact on weather conditions everywhere in the world. The region covered by the OSCE is no exception, as highlighted by, *inter alia*, the devastating floods that hit Belgium and its neighbouring countries last summer.

Belgium stresses the importance of the OSCE's complementary role in relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, as pointed out in the Stockholm Ministerial Council decision on strengthening co-operation to address the challenges caused by climate change.

The OSCE is duty-bound to make the best possible use of the means at its disposal in order to facilitate the exchange of information and co-operation among the participating States in the economic and environmental dimension as well as the other dimensions. Indeed, the challenge of climate change encompasses far-reaching issues that call for a cross-dimensional approach.

Given the widespread effects of climate change, Belgium accordingly wishes that the Ministerial Council decision should lead to the mainstreaming of climate considerations into all of the OSCE's activities.

In this regard, might I ask you, Madam Secretary General, what ways are currently envisaged for involving the first and third dimensions in the climate change debate?

In closing, as was similarly stated by the delegations that spoke before me, I may say that we are looking forward to the high-level conference on 25 March.

Thank you.