



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

As delivered by Ambassador Steffen Kongstad
to the 63rd Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 19 October 2016

Thank you, Madame Chair,

Norway greatly welcomes the topic of conventional arms control in the FSC, as well as in this joint FSC/PC meeting and we commend the Portuguese FSC Chairmanship and the German OSCE Chairmanship for putting the Lisbon Document of 1996 and the OSCE Framework for Arms Control contained therein on our agenda. And I would also like to thank the guest speakers for their contributions.

20 years after its adoption it is obvious that it is a document of its time and a different context. But there are elements relevant also today. These may be useful in a new conversation on how we can constructively approach a discussion on how to improve security for all in the OSCE area through measures providing transparency, trust and confidence.

Today's circumstances and challenges differ from those in 1996. The current state of affairs is not likely to benefit anyone in the long run. We need to find arrangements that will and will be perceived as beneficial to all. In addition, in today's situation we need to recognize and take into consideration factors beyond our OSCE region.

If we shall move this discussion on Euro Atlantic security forward, in an including and consensus-oriented way, we need constructive and unifying approaches to find a joint way to a basic, common understanding of the challenges of tomorrow.

In this time of new, and welcome, initiatives and engagements we would like to underline the importance of existing treaties and arrangements. We should not undermine what we have and what is still functioning. And certainly not before we have new agreed measures in place. The continuous updating of the Vienna Document is a case in point.

As Norway, we will do our homework and we will constructively engage in any activities that can improve the security in a transparent and predictable way for all in the OSCE region.

Thank you, Madame Chair.