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President of Hungary

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Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset let me express my gratitude to Kazakhstan for its generous hospitality. I would also like to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship for its tireless efforts and for its commitment to convening this summit which will hopefully give a new impetus to achieving our common goal of a free, democratic and more integrated Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

Hungary fully subscribes to the Statement delivered by H.E. Herman van Rompuy on behalf of the European Union. At the same time, in my national capacity I would like to share with you some thoughts on a few issues we attach particular importance to.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since our last summit more than a decade ago we have witnessed major shifts in the security landscape. Changes that were unthinkable became a reality over a few years. Most parts of our region now enjoy an unprecedented level of stability and prosperity.

Through the enlargement of the EU and NATO our continent has become more stable and united than ever. Since we mark the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris this year, the Astana summit offers us a good opportunity to take note of the progress we have made.

Let me stress that the comprehensive set of principles contained in these two basic documents, as well as other commitments we have jointly undertaken within the framework of the OSCE are still relevant and appropriate.

At the same time, we are concerned that protracted conflicts we addressed at the Istanbul summit eleven years ago remain unresolved. We have also witnessed an increase in tension and the emergence of new, transnational threats and challenges.

Unfortunately our common commitments, in particular in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law are not fully respected and implemented either. Therefore instead of just celebrating our achievements we should take advantage of the unique opportunity provided by the Astana summit to move closer to our vision of a true security community of our nations.

Today and tomorrow we, the Heads of State and Government of the participating States, should demonstrate a common political will to address the most urgent challenges we are facing and to make this organisation more credible, effective and pro-active.

The Corfu Process has already contributed to restoring trust through better understanding of positions and hopefully also created increased willingness to move forward. Now, we should give a clear direction to our

further actions by identifying priority areas and defining a concrete and ambitious Action Plan. Without a clear operational mandate from the Heads of State and Government it would be impossible to achieve our vision of a security community and consider the summit as a success.

Mr. Chairperson,

We hope that this summit would lead to the full implementation of all OSCE commitments, especially concerning human rights, including the rights of national minorities that are the backbone of our security.

Over the last decades we have also learned that ethnic tensions and violations of minority rights can lead to conflicts. For this reason we highly value the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and reiterate our continued and full support to this important institution.

Hungary intends to make its own contribution to the international efforts aimed at addressing the root causes and fighting all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on national or ethnic origin.

These are the reasons why Hungary has decided to establish an international centre to promote human rights, with a particular focus on minority rights. We hope that this institution can closely co-operate with the OSCE participating States and institutions in the future.

The strengthening of OSCE's conflict management capabilities is indispensable for quick and effective response to newly emerging crises and to the resolution of protracted conflicts. Protracted conflicts not only pose a threat to the stability of their immediate region but to our common security as well. We therefore must redouble our efforts to settle them.

In Istanbul States Parties have agreed on modernizing the conventional arms control regime. Today, much to our regret the framework for conventional arms control remains outdated and we have not been able to overcome the decade long impasse that has even affected the implementation of existing commitments.

We should therefore make every effort to overcome this situation and build on the momentum of the Astana summit to agree on a negotiating framework to restore the viability of the conventional arms control regime in Europe.

Mr. Chairperson,

In terms of security, we are today confronted with an array of challenges. One of the key messages to come out of the recent NATO summit in Lisbon was that dealing with these challenges will require a greater level of multinational cooperation and an emphasis on partnership.

The fruitful meeting in Lisbon of the NATO-Russia Council illustrates that by building trust through closer cooperation we can contribute to the creation of a common space of peace, security and stability.

We do hope that the Action Plan we are to adopt will set the framework for our future undertakings. No doubt, the incoming Chairmanships will have a leading role in its implementation. At this point let me offer our full support to the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship. Hungary, also as the incoming EU Presidency, will do its utmost to contribute to this noble but challenging endeavour.

Thank you for your attention.