

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE
OUTCOME OF THE MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL IN VILNIUS**

The delegation of the Russian Federation is grateful to the Lithuanian Chairmanship for the efforts made throughout the year to ensure the successful holding of the ministerial meeting here in the hospitable city of Vilnius. Today we have indeed adopted individual decisions concerning the principal areas of the OSCE's work.

However, we have unfortunately failed to achieve the kind of results that could have been regarded as a real step forward towards resolving the task set at the OSCE Astana Summit in December 2010 of forming a security community. The Russian delegation expresses its concern in this regard.

One of the reasons for this situation is that during the preparations for and actual holding of the Vilnius Ministerial Council proposals aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the OSCE have been unjustifiably ignored. These proposals included the strengthening of the Organization's legal framework, improvements in the area of election observation, greater freedom of movement, the streamlining of the participation of non-governmental organizations in OSCE events, and the countering of contemporary forms of intolerance and extremism, including neo-Nazism.

The drawing up of a unifying agenda for the Organization has been impeded by the unsound practice of promoting within that agenda group interests, a practice that is becoming ever more prevalent and that runs counter to the original sense and purpose of the CSCE/OSCE and the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act. The founding documents stipulate that the Organization's agenda must reflect the interests of all the OSCE participating States. The practice according to which biased unilateral approaches are taken with regard to the priority interests of certain countries should not be encouraged.

The preparations for the Vilnius Ministerial Council and the way in which it has proceeded have made it absolutely clear that the current system for preparing OSCE decisions is not functioning properly. The approach involving a significant increase in the number of commitments and the adoption of decisions on minor issues that bring no real added value has completely outlived its usefulness. We need to give serious thought to the nature of the decisions we adopt, the form they take and whether in fact they need to be adopted at all.

1 Contains corrections to the English translation.

We firmly believe that the Organization, its institutions and all of its instruments require serious reform. The need for a strengthening of the collective foundations underlying the OSCE's activities and for the development of its legal framework is becoming ever more evident. Without this, the OSCE will continue to lose its relevance as a multilateral platform for dialogue on co-operation and ensuring security.

The delegation of the Russian Federation calls on the participating States to pay priority attention in 2012 to solving the aforementioned problems threatening the political future of the OSCE.

We wish the incoming Irish Chairmanship every success in advancing the OSCE agenda drawn up in Astana.

Thank you for your attention.