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**STATEMENT BY MR. KARL ERJAVEC,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF
SLOVENIA, AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Dublin, 6 December 2012

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

To start with I should like to thank and congratulate the Irish Chairmanship for hosting this Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin and for the excellent work it has accomplished at the head of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe this year, with the result that a number of important ministerial decisions have already been or will be adopted during its term.

Slovenia attaches great importance to the role of the OSCE, which, thanks to its comprehensive approach to security, has made a significant contribution over the last few decades to the democratization of numerous societies in the largest region in the world. My country associates itself with the statement by the European Union, and we hope that the Ministerial Council this year will help us to find an answer more easily to this fundamental question: "What can we expect specifically of the OSCE in the future?"

Slovenia welcomes the admission of Mongolia as the 57th participating State in the Organization, which bears witness to the vitality of the OSCE. The co-operation with our Mediterranean and Asian partners is also in line with our aim of enlarging the areas of stability and security for the benefit of all. Slovenia wishes above all for security and stability in the region and beyond. Unfortunately there are still protracted and unresolved conflicts in our regions, hindering the development of societies, which suffer as a result. We should like to urge all parties concerned to reinforce their political will and we call on the persons responsible to resolve all of the outstanding issues within the framework of the OSCE.

At the last Ministerial Council in Vilnius, we adopted, amongst others, an important decision on the conflict cycle. This year we shall be adopting decisions on transnational threats. Consensus on these vital questions gives us hope that political compromises and commitments undertaken can be implemented in the field, more particularly in the regions where security is not assured for everyone.

Slovenia pays great attention to the OSCE institutions such as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National

Minorities (HCNM), and the Representative of Freedom of the Media. They should pursue their activities, which are of benefit to all of our co-citizens. It is also important for the participating States to continue the implementation of their commitments and to allow these institutions to help us by identifying the elements that we need to improve within the framework of the agreed norms.

I should like to take this opportunity to mention the recently presented Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies prepared by the HCNM. They represent added value for all those endeavouring to create conditions favourable to an integrated democratic society within which the human rights of every person are completely respected within the framework of the rule of law and good governance. It is only through tolerance, non-discrimination, understanding and sincere respect for differences that we can establish an atmosphere conducive to co-operation, even when finding solutions to the most difficult questions.

We should not forget the various vulnerable groups, especially the young generation that will govern the world of tomorrow. It will be responsible not only for the future governance of the world but also for respect for the values of civilization, human rights and democracy. We must not cease investing in the education of children and young persons. To this end, suitable training is required for teachers, public officials, independent media, parliamentarians, civil society and the public sector. In this regard the OSCE's norms and mechanisms offer significant strategic and operational support. Slovenia is willing to share good practices and co-operate actively with a view to pursuing these strategic objectives.

The participating States have already shown their wisdom in the past in complying with strategic security interests. We firmly believe that we can continue to do so in future. Security and stability are of vital importance for all of us. These words should not be mere pleasing rhetoric; we must endeavour to make them work for all the citizens in our region.

In conclusion, I should like to wish the Ukrainian Chairmanship every success for next year, and likewise Switzerland and Serbia, which will assume this responsibility in 2014 and 2015. We hope that in 2015, on the 40th anniversary of Helsinki, the OSCE will be a region that is spared conflicts, a large family of countries collaborating with one another and, with the aid of the agreed principles and norms, capable of resolving their disputes and disagreements in a peaceful manner.

Thank you for your attention.