



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

ADDRESS

by

His Excellency Mr. Ivica Dačić
First Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
at the
OSCE Annual Security Review Conference

Vienna, 24 June 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. President,

Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank President Burkhalter for the invitation to open together the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, which is certainly the most important event within the political-military dimension. I am pleased to note that Switzerland and Serbia have so far cooperated well within the framework of our consecutive chairmanships in 2014 and 2015, as well as in the implementation of the activities envisaged by the Joint Work Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the Chairmanship of the OSCE is a great opportunity for Serbia and probably the most challenging multilateral task that we have undertaken so far. To that end, we have embarked upon very serious and extensive preparations and we are ready to fully contribute to the Organization in an active and impartial manner.

I am confident that, as the upcoming Serbian Chairmanship is approaching, our cooperation will be enhanced and that this year's valuable experience of Switzerland will significantly contribute to our efforts to implement, as successfully as possible, the priorities of our Chairmanship next year when we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. In this context, I expect that the Conference will help us better perceive the prospects for solutions of the most pressing security issues in the OSCE region, as well as the future role of the OSCE in the international security architecture.

This year, the Annual Security Review Conference is taking place at the time of one of the biggest challenges in the OSCE region since the inception of the Organization. It is safe to say that, in these very specific circumstances, the theme of the Conference requires constructive engagement and intensified efforts of the participating states, both on political and operational level. Discussions on revitalizing the role of the OSCE through “Helsinki +40” process, which started last year, should also include reflection on current events and the relevant experiences of the Organization. The current security situation in and around the OSCE region indicates the necessity of an objective assessment of all security aspects and their potential implications. Also, there is a need to strengthen the capacities of the OSCE, which would enable adequate support in an effective and timely manner in all phases of the conflict cycle, ranging from early warning to post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation. The contribution of the Organization to the resolution of crises and the establishment of security and stability in the OSCE region would thus be more concrete and tangible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to underline that we should all work together to strengthen the dialogue, because OSCE was established as and remains the broadest platform for dialogue on all security issues from Vancouver to Vladivostok, including the dialogue with our Mediterranean and Asian partners. Dialogue, as much as it is an essential element, is just a necessary prerequisite for achieving and implementing adequate solutions based on consensus. I believe that our experiences during the Belgrade-Priština dialogue under the auspices of the EU, which is currently underway, and particularly efforts invested towards improving daily lives of local population and ensuring their basic human rights, may be of use for future efforts aimed at solving many problems.

In the context of the current crisis in Ukraine, I would like to emphasize that Serbia supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all UN member states. Adoption of the decision on the establishment and deployment of the OSCE Special Observation Mission to Ukraine is an example of a positive outcome of a

comprehensive dialogue among the participating states. It demonstrates that the Organization is capable of responding to a crisis in a relatively short period of time, in an appropriate and flexible manner. Serbia appreciates the OSCE engagement in Ukraine so far and expects that it will contribute to the normalization of the situation on the ground.

Serbia strongly supports the coordinated activities of the OSCE aimed at de-escalating the crisis, establishing an inclusive dialogue and supporting the internal processes, the objective of which is to stabilize the situation in Ukraine. Within this framework, we believe it is of utmost importance to cease hostilities and we welcome the plan of President Poroshenko for peaceful resolution of the crisis. It offers an opportunity to improve internal dialogue and strengthen institutions, while taking into account the interests of all citizens.

I would like to take this opportunity to support the activities of the Swiss Chairmanship aimed at de-escalating the crisis. President Burkhalter and our Swiss colleagues have undertaken a number of activities at the highest political level aimed at resolving the crisis through peaceful, political and diplomatic means. During our chairmanship, we are ready to assume responsibility and continue working towards full stabilization of the situation in Ukraine. We believe that the OSCE activities in relation to the crisis in Ukraine are also an opportunity for our Organization, not only to enhance its visibility, but also its new potential role in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security space.

Mr. Chairman,

Political tensions and conflicts, both within the OSCE region and beyond, continue to have an adverse effect. Although the crisis in Ukraine has largely dominated the discussions within the OSCE, Serbia deems necessary to provide active support to the existing negotiating formats for the resolution of protracted

conflicts. We will explore all avenues for reaching compromise solutions acceptable to all participants in these negotiations. To this end, we consider important the role of special representatives of the Chairman-in-Office, where Serbia provided its contribution within the framework of the Swiss Chairmanship.

Strengthening the OSCE capacities and mechanisms to actively respond in all phases of the conflict cycle, from early warning to post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation, and to achieve concrete results in terms of stabilizing the situation on the ground remains a priority. In view of the experiences of the Western Balkans, I wish to point out that concrete and sustainable solutions can only be reached through constructive political action and dialogue. On this occasion, I would like to mention that we support the renewed, more systematic efforts of the OSCE in strengthening mediation activities. In this regard, I wish to underline once again the significance of political will for mediation efforts to be successful.

Mr. Chairman,

The implementation of commitments undertaken within the framework of the politico-military dimension represents an important factor of stability, transparency and confidence among the OSCE participating states. Arms control and confidence-and-security building measures remain vital for the improvement of security in our region and it is in the interest of all participating States to continue their implementation. We are convinced that the OSCE, particularly in the framework of the Forum for Security Co-operation, has the capacity to contribute to the activities in the field of arms control and confidence-building within the European security architecture. During our Chairmanship, Serbia will work in a coordinated manner with Mongolia, Montenegro and Norway, the countries which will chair the Forum for Security Cooperation during 2015. We believe that different regional affiliation of these three FSC Chairs will provide additional

quality and contribute to a more diverse perception of issues on the agenda of the Forum.

In light of the significant technological changes, as well as new risks, challenges and threats at the beginning of the 21st century, we are aware of the need to revitalize, update and modernize the relevant OSCE documents. Compliance with the principles and obligations stemming from these documents and their consistent implementation remains essential.

In that sense, as defined by the priorities in the Joint Work Plan of Switzerland and Serbia, we are committed to continuing a comprehensive dialogue within the OSCE in order to maintain military stability, predictability and transparency, by updating and modernizing the Vienna Document, strengthening and implementing the Code of Conduct on Political-Military Aspects of Security, as well as OSCE documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. The above documents, which are the basis for confidence-building and security in the OSCE region should be modernized in accordance with current military and security conditions in the OSCE region.

Mr. Chairman,

Today we are faced with new challenges, risks and threats which are of transnational character. These threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking, drug trafficking etc. know no borders and require coordinated cooperation of the participating states. I want to emphasize the role of the Organization which, realizing the importance of countering transnational threats, undertook significant steps in recent years through adoption of relevant decisions, exchange of experiences and best practices, establishment of cooperation between competent institutions of the participating states, as well as the academic institutions. I would like to use this opportunity to commend the OSCE network of

academic institutions and its study on “Perceptions of threats in the OSCE region”. I note with satisfaction that a think-tank from Serbia also took part in the preparation of the study. This first task of the network of academic institutions is a step in the right direction in terms of integration of the so-called *Track II* diplomacy into the work of our Organization.

Given the evolving nature and the need for constant monitoring and adjustment of responses to these threats, during the Serbian Chairmanship, we plan to carry out a number of activities in this field. We intend to deal with transnational challenges and threats from a cross-dimensional perspective. It is not possible to treat negative phenomena such as corruption and illegal migration in isolation. We can counter them through strengthening democratic institutions. We also need to understand the role organized crime plays in spreading the above mentioned negative phenomena. Police plays significant role in this fight, but only together with the judiciary.

OSCE is well positioned to serve as a platform for the promoting of the above mentioned cooperation between the law enforcement agencies and judiciary. Prevention is one of the most significant phases in combating transnational threats, and we should concentrate more on the role of women and youth in this process. We wholeheartedly embraced the proposal of our Swiss colleagues, based on the activities already undertaken in the UN, to further the work on the concept of Security Sector Governance and Reform in the OSCE, particularly in the area of civil control of security forces.

In the context of transnational threats, it is particularly important to cooperate with other relevant international organizations in a coordinated and complementary manner. OSCE should find a niche to act and continue to develop capacities for response to new challenges and threats. A good example in this regard is a pioneer endeavour of the OSCE on confidence building measures in the field of ICT/cyber-security.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, I would like to emphasize once again that current complex challenges require joint responses. No one can successfully overcome the aforementioned challenges on their own. OSCE, with its flexibility and mechanisms, can offer tailor-made solutions while taking into account the interests of all participating States. Serbia is ready, together with others, to work hard to improve the capabilities of the OSCE and to offer relevant responses to the issues of collective security in the 21st century.

I would like to conclude by underlining that I fully share the position of President Burkhalter that our joint action should be focused in three directions: assisting Ukraine in peacefully resolving the crisis, reconsolidating European security as a common project and strengthening the OSCE as an anchor of cooperative security. In this regard, “Helsinki +40” process represents a framework for strengthening the Organization as such, which should not be neglected. We believe that this process should continue precisely because of the challenges we have been facing in the past months. We are convinced that the Road Map is still valid and particularly the goals set in its introductory part. Therefore, we should seize the opportunity, strengthen our dialogue, mutual engagement, and come to broadly acceptable solutions in a constructive manner.

I wish you all successful work during this conference. As an incoming Chairmanship, we will strive to incorporate the consensus based results and recommendations of the Conference in our work plan and the priorities for the 2015, which I will present at the Permanent Council in mid-July this year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.