

Second day of the Sixteenth Meeting
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**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON
THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE**

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, mark the 60th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1948 (hereinafter referred to as the Convention).

We acknowledge that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world and we also reiterate relevant commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

We reaffirm the significance of the Convention as an important international instrument for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

We call upon the participating States, which have not yet done so, to consider becoming Parties to the Convention as early as possible and be part of this global framework to prevent and punish the crime of genocide. We further call upon the State-Parties to increase and intensify their activities aimed at the full implementation of their obligations under the Convention.

We note that in adopting the Convention, the United Nations recognized that the crime of genocide was an odious scourge which had inflicted great losses on humanity and was convinced that international co-operation was required to facilitate the speedy prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

We recognize that genocide is one of the most serious crimes under international law which is condemned by international community as a whole and can never be justified.