

**SECOND DAY OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL****THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)**

1. Date: Wednesday, 7 December 2011

Opened: 9.40 a.m.
Suspended: 12 noon
Resumed: 7.30 p.m.
Closed: 7.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Eamon Gilmore, Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland
Ms. Lucinda Creighton, Minister of State
H.E. Audronius Ažubalis, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania,
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 7: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

San Marino (MC.DEL/46/11), Liechtenstein (MC.DEL/50/11), Andorra (MC.DEL/54/11), Latvia (MC.DEL/43/11), Azerbaijan, Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Australia (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/68/11), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/78/11), Mongolia (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/49/11), Japan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/58/11), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation), Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/71/11), Thailand (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/51/11), Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation), Jordan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/56/11), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/73/11)

Contributions by: United Nations, Council of Europe, North Atlantic Treaty Organization

1 Contains corrections to the translation of annex 6.

Agenda item 8: ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS
AND DECISIONS

The text of Decision No. 1/10 (MC.DEC/1/10) on the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, which was adopted by the Ministerial Council on 10 March 2010 through a silence procedure, is appended to this journal.

The text of Decision No. 2/10 (MC.DEC/2/10) on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, which was adopted by the Ministerial Council on 22 July 2010 through a silence procedure, is appended to this journal.

The text of Decision No. 3/10 (MC.DEC/3/10) on the time and venue of the next OSCE Summit and Review Conference, which was adopted by the Ministerial Council on 3 August 2010 through a silence procedure, is appended to this journal.

The text of Decision No. 4/10 (MC.DEC/4/10) on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2013, which was adopted by the Ministerial Council on 23 November 2010 through a silence procedure, is appended to this journal.

The text of Decision No. 5/10 (MC.DEC/5/10) on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, which was adopted by the Ministerial Council on 29 November 2010 through a silence procedure, is appended to this journal.

Chairperson (Lithuania)

The Chairperson (Lithuania) announced that Decision No. 1/11 (MC.DEC/1/11) on the reappointment of Ambassador Janez Lenarčič as Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 30 May 2011 through a silence procedure, the text of which is appended to this journal.

The Chairperson (Lithuania) announced that Decision No. 2/11 (MC.DEC/2/11) on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 30 June 2011 through a silence procedure, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of Human Trafficking (MC.DOC/1/11/Corr.1), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 3/11 (MC.DEC/3/11) on elements of the conflict cycle, related to enhancing the OSCE's capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation and mediation support, and post-conflict rehabilitation, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 4/11 (MC.DEC/4/11) on strengthening OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 5/11 (MC.DEC/5/11) on Partners for Co-operation, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 6/11 (MC.DEC/6/11) on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 7/11 (MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1) on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Germany (also on behalf of Albania, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Ukraine) (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 8/11 (MC.DEC/8/11) on the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Azerbaijan (Annex 1), Armenia (Annex 2)

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 9/11 (MC.DEC/9/11) on strengthening co-ordination and coherence in the OSCE's efforts to address transnational threats, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 10/11 (MC.DEC/10/11) on promoting equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 11/11 (MC.DEC/11/11) on strengthening transport dialogue in the OSCE, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Armenia (Annex 4)

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 12/11 (MC.DEC/12/11) on the application of Mongolia to become a participating State, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Mongolia (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/77/11)

Decision: The Ministerial Council placed the decision on the OSCE consecutive Chairmanships in 2014 and 2015, the text of which is appended to this journal, under a silence procedure with the period of silence expiring on Friday, 10 February 2012, 12 noon CET.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 13/11 (MC.DEC/13/11) on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 7 December 2011, at 8 p.m., in the plenary hall

CLOSING SESSION (OPEN)

1. Date: Wednesday, 7 December 2011

Opened: 8 p.m.
Closed: 8.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Audronius Ažubalis, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania,
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 10: FORMAL CLOSURE (STATEMENTS BY THE CURRENT
AND INCOMING CHAIRPERSONS-IN-OFFICE)

Chairperson (Lithuania), Poland-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (Annex 5), Russian Federation (Annex 6), United States of America (Annex 7), Canada (Annex 8), Turkey (Annex 9), Ukraine (Annex 10), Ireland (MC.DEL/63/11)

The letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson-in-Office is annexed hereto (Annex 11).

The Chairperson formally declared the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council closed.

4. Next meeting:

6 and 7 December 2012, to be held in Dublin



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011**

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
7 December 2011
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

In connection with adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make a statement and state the following:

While supporting and implementing the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004), the Republic of Azerbaijan cannot fully apply this and other relevant resolutions, including UNSCR 1977 (2011), in its occupied internationally recognized territories.

We are gravely concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors such as separatist regimes may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Recalling the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on combating the proliferation of CBRNs, especially UNSCR 1977 (2011), we stress the importance of international co-operation in accordance with international law, which is required to counter the illicit trafficking by non-State actors in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials.

I request to attach this statement to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
7 December 2011
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

My delegation would like to put on record that the interpretative statement of the Azerbaijani delegation contained ungrounded allegations and unjustified claims.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011**

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
7 December 2011
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

In connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on strengthening transport dialogue in the OSCE, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to state the following:

Proceeding from the provisions of this decision the Republic of Azerbaijan urgently calls on the Republic of Armenia to take all necessary measures to:

1. Withdraw its armed forces from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, thus creating conditions for restoration of all communications, including railroads and motorways on the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
2. Submit the road passing through the Lachin region of the Republic of Azerbaijan into guaranteed and unimpeded use of the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the principles of openness of all communications in the region;
3. Restore the Meghri part of the Baku-Meghri-Nakhchivan railroad with the view to restore the regional railroad network, thus contributing to regional transport co-operation.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011**

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
7 December 2011
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

My delegation reiterates its previous statement made in response of similar allegations put forward by the interpretative statement of Azerbaijan. It should be mentioned that issues which are part of the conflict resolution are being approached within the agreed formats.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011**

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
7 December 2011
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Twelve months on from Astana, the OSCE Ministerial Council here in Vilnius offered all participating States the ideal platform to translate the vision of our Heads of State or Government into concrete deliverables. We warmly thank Lithuania for seeking to do that in a principled and determined manner.

The European Union has taken an ambitious and constructive approach in the run-up to the Vilnius Ministerial Council in seeking to develop the OSCE across all three dimensions. We therefore welcome the progress on cross-dimensional issues notably on the conflict cycle, partners for co-operation including Afghanistan, as well as progress towards the future accession of Mongolia to the OSCE. It also proved possible to advance in the politico-military dimension, on transnational threats, as well as in the economic and environmental dimension. We reaffirm the EU's commitment to co-operate in the OSCE on all issues in order to promote comprehensive security.

The European Union expresses its deep concern however at the lack of progress in the human dimension. Human rights, democracy and the rule of law are at the core of the OSCE and its comprehensive concept of security. We particularly regret that not all participating States have been able to agree to strengthen the commitments related to freedom of expression, notably to protect journalists from violence, harassment, prosecution and imprisonment. We also deeply regret that some participating States were not able to recognise that fundamental freedoms also cover the use of new technologies in the digital age. The signal sent to the participating States from the NGOs in the parallel OSCE civil society conference was loud and clear. They underlined the importance of strengthening the implementation of the human dimension notably as regards freedom of expression including on the Internet.

The developments in the Southern Mediterranean have illustrated the universality of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Those same values are increasingly called into question in the OSCE region. The European Union therefore calls on all participating States to fully implement all OSCE principles and commitments. We remain convinced that we will not be able to advance toward comprehensive security and a genuine community of security without clear progress in the human dimension.

We strongly praise the role of the OSCE institutions in monitoring the implementation of our OSCE commitments and assisting the participating States in improving their record in

this respect. We fully support the work of the ODIHR in observing elections throughout the OSCE area. In this context, we reiterate the European Union statement made in the plenary session yesterday commending the assessment presented by the OSCE/ODIHR on the elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation and calling on Russia to duly implement the ODIHR's recommendations. We also recall the statements made yesterday and today by the High Representative Catherine Ashton.

The European Union regrets that regional statements on the protracted conflicts in Georgia and in the Republic of Moldova could not be adopted, the latter despite the resumption of the formal "5+2" negotiations on 30 November and 1 December in Vilnius. In that context, we would like to recall the EU position expressed on these matters in our Astana closing statement. The EU welcomes the joint statement by the Heads of Delegation of the Minsk Group countries and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The European Union confirms its expectation that significant and focused progress in all three dimensions, in particular in the human dimension, will be made in the forthcoming year under the Irish Chairmanship-in Office leading to the Dublin Ministerial Council in December 2012 and calls on all participating States to join in this effort.

The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro¹ and Iceland², the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

I kindly request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

1 Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011**

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1¹
7 December 2011
Annex 6

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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

1 Contains corrections to the English translation.

nature of the decisions we adopt, the form they take and whether in fact they need to be adopted at all.

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.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011**

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
7 December 2011
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. Chairperson, on behalf of the United States, I would like to express again our appreciation for the Lithuanian Chairmanship's dedicated leadership this year. The Chairperson's priorities, including progress on Europe's protracted conflicts, the safety of journalists and media freedom, energy security co-operation, greater military transparency, and enhanced engagement with our Mediterranean Partners and Afghanistan, enjoyed broad support among participating States.

We have recorded progress in some important areas: last week, after more than five years, official 5+2 talks on the Moldova conflict resumed. Today we have here adopted Ministerial decisions on the conflict cycle, enhanced engagement with Partners and Afghanistan, the empowerment of women in the economic sphere, combating human trafficking, as well as all three decisions considered in the FSC.

But that is not the full slate of results we had hoped to achieve at this meeting. The OSCE's concept of security is comprehensive. Thus, we expected that ministers would adopt a balanced package of decisions and declarations encompassing steps in all three dimensions that contribute to our shared goal of enhancing security in the OSCE space.

Sadly, that did not happen. Despite widespread support from governments and civil society, consensus could not be reached on decisions that would commit our governments to enhance the safety of journalists, reaffirm that fundamental freedoms apply in the digital age, and promote tolerance. These decisions reflect the core of this organization's mandate: that respect for human rights is essential to the progress and security of all of our countries.

In the case of the declaration on fundamental freedoms in the digital age, the United States was proud to have been one of 25 OSCE participating States calling for a simple declaration recognizing that human rights and fundamental freedoms do not change with new technologies and reaffirming that they will honour their obligation to respect the exercise of fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly and association. Unfortunately, this decision was never even discussed in the Preparatory Committee, and discussions on enhancing journalists' safety foundered, both due to objections by one participating State. And, at a time when we are witnessing growing intolerance, including anti-Semitism and attacks against ethnic minorities, such as Roma and other vulnerable groups, such as LGBT individuals, it is troubling that some participating States could not overcome their differences

and confirm our common humanity by strengthening the OSCE's capacity to promote tolerance and combat hate crimes against their fellow human beings regardless of belief, background, race, legal status, or sexual orientation.

Our citizens require more of us. As Secretary Clinton noted in her intervention yesterday, human rights are not only a moral imperative, they are an essential component of international security and stability.

We also could not reach consensus, based again on the objections of one participating State, on regional statements addressing the conflicts in Georgia and Moldova, despite determined efforts by the Chairmanship and tangible accomplishments to address and advance in the 5+2 negotiations.

In the first dimension, we have achieved only a technical updating of the OSCE's flagship Vienna Document and not the updating that would have made that document more relevant to today's modern, streamlined military forces. In addition, in today's exceptionally challenging economic circumstances, we would have welcomed more, and more ambitious, results in the second dimension.

The Lithuanian Chair drove us all towards a substantive package of decisions. Our Chairperson is not responsible for the limited results in the third dimension. No Chairperson-in-Office can compel co-operation or create political will. It is up to all of us to summon the determination to honour their commitments, strengthen OSCE institutions and spur the OSCE's work in all three dimensions.

As we look to 2012 and our onward work, we must keep our focus on issues of principle and concern to people living in this vast region and to our Partners beyond it: human dignity and democracy, justice and tolerance, prosperity and peace. These great issues of our time will not go away. That is the reality, online and off. And consensus or no consensus, we will continue to grapple with them, here within the OSCE and every day within each of our countries and across the international community.

We would like underscore the importance of dialogue with civil society, and welcome the recommendations of the civil society parallel conference, and the creation of the "Civic Solidarity" platform.

My government continues to believe in the great promise of Helsinki. To realize it, we remain committed to working with our fellow States and with civil society across this region. In that spirit, we look ahead to our deliberations under the Irish Chairmanship.



Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird.

We warmly congratulate Lithuania for doing its utmost this year as Chair of the OSCE and underline the superb leadership and stewardship of our OSCE Council this year. Your efforts have allowed us to adopt some solid outcomes on:

- Partners for Co-operation – in which we have committed to work with States in the Mediterranean and Asian regions to promote OSCE norms, principles and commitments;
- Trafficking in human beings;
- Capabilities in enhancing the OSCE capacity to respond to conflict and crisis; and on transnational threats;
- Strengthening OSCE engagement with Afghanistan; and
- Equal opportunities for women in the economy.

However, Canada very much regrets that consensus was prevented on important issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms:

- As Minister Baird stated in the plenary yesterday, Canada is keenly aware that anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions still occur in the OSCE;
- And that people in the OSCE region can still be attacked and imprisoned simply because of their sexual orientation.

Canada is committed to supporting democratic reform and to responding to aspirations for freedom and empowerment, particularly for women and youth.

Canada continues to strongly support the aspirations of Mongolia to join the OSCE community. We came to Vilnius ready to adopt a decision on this and remain of the view that Mongolia should become a participating State as soon as possible.

Canada is confident that the incoming Irish Chairmanship will do its utmost to move ahead on these vital issues.

We also look ahead to the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in 2013 and expect that Ukraine will uphold the principles and integrity of this Organization. Respect for human rights and democracy, including a legitimate and active opposition, are core tenets of the OSCE.

In conclusion, we thank the Lithuanian Chair and his talented team for their hard work and determination in preserving the comprehensive approach to security that is the hallmark of the OSCE.

Thank you. Merci.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011**

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
7 December 2011
Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to join the previous speakers in warmly congratulating Lithuania for its tireless efforts in steering our Organization in a very skilful manner during 2011. If we succeeded in achieving the deliverables of the Vilnius Ministerial, an important part of the credit goes to the able leadership role of the Chairmanship.

We are also of the opinion that the decisions that have been adopted move our agenda forward in following up the results of the Astana Summit Meeting.

In this context, we are happy to see a progress in the politico-military dimension, on transnational threats, as well as in the economic and environmental dimension. We supported from the beginning a package of decisions with the ownership of the Chairmanship in the human dimension. We regret that this package is not among the deliverables of this Ministerial. Taking this opportunity, I would like to repeat what my Minister emphasized in his statement yesterday, that we should avoid applying selective and hierarchical approaches with a focus on certain issues as priorities while considering other very important concerns as secondary issues. We will continue to support efforts in treating all dimensions on an equal footing as enshrined in the founding OSCE documents. Within each dimension, we need to seek the necessary balance as well.

We are gratified with the fact that we could be able to agree on decisions on Partners for Co-operation and on our engagement with Afghanistan. We consider the decision in the conflict cycle to be one of the most important deliverables of Vilnius, since efforts to prevent and settle conflicts are in the heart of the activities of our Organization. Therefore, the political value of this decision has to be judged in that context.

We strongly support Mongolia's aspirations to join the OSCE. We would have preferred taking a decision on granting Mongolia the status of participating State at this time. Nevertheless, we are confident that the Irish Chairmanship will do its utmost to move this issue to fruition.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have to focus on the filled part of the half empty glass. While doing so, we should also be able to reflect on the reasons for failure of our efforts in adopting some of the important decisions. It requires us to have an honest soul-searching with a genuine self-criticism and draw lessons for the future on how we can better employ a consensus building working methodology to provide means for effective engagement and political ownership of all the participating States. I am sure that in Vienna the Permanent Council will have ample opportunity to follow up the deliberations and results of the Vilnius Ministerial.

In concluding, once again let me repeat our thanks and appreciation to the good job done by our Lithuanian friends and best of luck and success to the incoming Irish Chairmanship.

I kindly request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
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Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine sincerely thanks the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship for warm hospitality and tireless efforts during the year dedicated to achieving concrete and forward-looking results at this Ministerial Council meeting.

We welcome the adoption of a number of decisions, which aim to provide important impetus to our co-operation, including in the politico-military dimension, in addressing transnational threats and on some cross-dimensional issues.

We look forward to and encourage other participating States to work towards further progress in expanding the scope of CSBMs, enhancing military transparency, updating the OSCE framework for non-proliferation as well as finding negotiated solutions in area of conventional arms control.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Economic and Environmental Committee thanks delegations for their constructive and positive approach, which allowed us to produce relevant deliverables for this Ministerial meeting.

Ukraine shares regret, that despite considerable efforts, we were unable to reach consensus on important draft decisions, related to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular on the safety of journalists.

As an incoming member of the OSCE Troika and future OSCE Chairmanship, Ukraine stands ready to actively support the efforts of the Irish Chairmanship to take forward the focused work in all three dimensions. We believe that this goal should be pursued through open and constructive dialogue and co-operation, which is based on mutual trust and respect as well as on the strengthened sense of ownership and purpose.

Let me assure of Ukraine's commitment to work closely with all participating States in this spirit.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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Vilnius 2011**

MC(18).JOUR/2/Corr.1
7 December 2011
Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF LITHUANIA, CHAIRPERSON OF THE
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Your Excellency,

As the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is a pleasure for me to inform you about the activities of the FSC in 2011.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted this year's FSC Chairmanships, which in addition to Kazakhstan, are Iceland and Italy. During 2011, the Chairmanships constantly worked in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity, balance and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum's annual work programme.

The focus of the FSC's work in 2011 continued to be on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC) and the implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004). Separate progress reports on further implementation of the commitments on those issues were forwarded to the Ministerial Council and contain more detailed information about developments in the FSC during 2010–2011 regarding these aspects of its work.

Overall, 2011 was a challenging and active year for the FSC. Initiatives put forward by delegations had by November led to the adoption of 13 new decisions, some of which were designed to support the implementation of existing commitments, while others introduced new areas of work for the Forum. The FSC also contributed within its mandate to the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), as well as to the preparation of Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting's documents.

In line with the priorities identified in the Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010), in 2011, the Forum engaged in intensive discussions to update, revitalize and modernize confidence- and security-building measures. In particular, following the establishment of a procedure for regular updating of the Vienna Document every five years, ending a decade of stagnation in the Vienna Document discussions, the Forum has intensified its work to update

the Document to reflect the current politico-military realities. By 30 November 2011, the FSC had adopted nine Vienna Document Plus decisions, which were integrated into the Vienna Document 2011 issued in November 2011. A number of other Vienna Document Plus proposals continue to be under consideration in the FSC.

The strategic discussion during the Security Dialogue emphasized the FSC's importance as a platform to address and discuss security issues. Specifically, an active dialogue took place on matters related to topical European security issues, including arms control and CSBMs.

One of the most important events of 2011, the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine, was held on 24 and 25 May 2011. As stipulated by the provisions of the Vienna Document, the Seminar brought together a number of senior military officials from the participating States and Partners for Co-operation to examine developments in military technology and military doctrines and their implications for security in the OSCE area. The event itself served as a useful CSBM.

As envisaged by Chapter XI of the Vienna Document 1999, the FSC held the twenty-first Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) on 1 and 2 March 2011. For the first time, the Meeting focused solely on the Vienna Document 1999 and provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and it allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions and assess the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of CSBMs. The heads of verification centres (HoV) meetings, held on the margins of the Annual Exchange of Military Information in 2010, proved to be a useful initiative, bringing together the expert knowledge of participating States in the practical implementation of CSBM measures, and allowing for an exchange of experiences and recommendations on their improvement. The fourth HoV meeting will take place on 14 December 2011.

The FSC also contributed to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, held from 29 June to 1 July 2011. Discussions on the revitalizing, updating and modernizing conventional arms control and CSBMs continued at the ASRC, affording an opportunity to address outstanding challenges and opportunities at a strategic level. In particular, the ASRC reconfirmed that conventional arms control and CSBMs continue to play a vital role in providing a foundation for stability.

The OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) remained key topics on the FSC's agenda. The FSC adopted an important decision on destruction of surplus, expired and obsolete ammunition as the preferred method of disposal. Following the adoption of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW in 2010, the Forum's work focused on the implementation of the Plan. Particularly, in order to alleviate the reporting burden on States and improve the quality of reports, the CPC and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs aligned their reporting templates on the OSCE Document on SALW and the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Furthermore, in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/09 on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the subsequent FSC Decision No. 17/10, the participating States conducted an information exchange on national controls over brokering activities in SALW, which was then summarized in a CPC summary

report. The CPC, together with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, has developed an electronic template for an end-user certificate relating to SALW that should facilitate the implementation of the relevant commitments. These initiatives were presented and discussed at the special FSC meeting on 28 September 2011. Furthermore, a representative of the FSC Chairmanship delivered an OSCE statement on marking, tracing and record-keeping at the UN Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW, held in May 2011 in New York. Recently, the FSC decided to hold a meeting to review the implementation of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW in May 2012.

In 2011, the OSCE continued implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on SALW and SCA. Dealing with the requests from participating States with regard to destruction and stockpile management and security of SALW and SCA remains one of the most dynamic areas of implementation of the Documents on SALW and SCA. During the year, projects in Albania, Moldova and Ukraine were completed. Also during the year, the OSCE continued the implementation of two joint assistance programmes with the UNDP, one in Montenegro and the other one in Belarus, and launched another joint project in Georgia. This year, the Forum also received four new requests for assistance on SALW and SCA from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Cyprus and Moldova. In the field of practical assistance on SALW and SCA, special attention should be paid to resolving issues regarding the financing of the projects in Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine. The FSC continued to manage a comprehensive SALW and SCA programme. In addition to regular donations to established projects, this programme facilitates contributions to SALW and SCA projects under development.

The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security retained its importance in the work of the FSC in 2011. During the year, the FSC continued its discussion on the implementation of this landmark document in the field of security sector governance. Building upon the work accomplished in the previous years, the Forum took note of the Reference Guide on the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct and offered it for use by interested participating States as an important element to facilitate the implementation of the Code. Furthermore, the Forum organized a discussion on the Code of Conduct in the framework of a Security Dialogue. Last but not least, in order to further raise awareness of the Code as well as to promote its implementation, the FSC decided to hold an annual implementation discussion on the Code of Conduct, starting in 2012.

The general level of implementation of information exchanges in 2011 was stable and high, although less compliant in terms of timing than in previous years. FSC Chairs made extensive use of the Announcing and Reminding Mechanism in order to improve the availability of information among participating States. These efforts have resulted in somewhat greater compliance with obligations, although not all the participating States have as yet provided the information required.

Work also continued on supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In January 2011, the OSCE held a Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), which identified a broad range of possibilities in the context of which the OSCE can be instrumental. These recommendations, such as assisting interested participating States with drafting of their national action plans and fine-tuning of relevant

legislation, organizing further awareness-raising activities, and offering customized training courses, have all been put into practice already. In addition, a joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation was held in 2011, showcasing national progress on implementation of UNSCR 1540 and establishing a further role for the OSCE in implementation of the resolution as well as in support for the initiative to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994. Furthermore, in order to enhance co-ordination of non-proliferation efforts, a memorandum of understanding between the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs was signed in October 2011.

Finally, all three FSC Chairmanships in 2011 continued to work on strengthening co-operation between the FSC and the Permanent Council (PC) as part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Three joint FSC-PC meetings had been held by December 2011 to address cross-dimensional issues relevant to the work of both the FSC and the PC.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/1/10
10 March 2010

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/10
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/07, the term of office of the current Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Miklós Haraszti, will expire on 10 March 2010,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Miklós Haraszti,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Ms. Dunja Mijatović as Representative on Freedom of the Media for a period of three years with effect from 11 March 2010.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/2/10
22 July 2010

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 2/10
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the CSCE Helsinki Summit 1992 to establish a High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Considering that the first term of office of the current mandate of Mr. Knut Vollebaek comes to an end on 19 August 2010,

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of Mr. Knut Vollebaek as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for a period of three years effective from 20 August 2010.



**DECISION No. 3/10
TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT OSCE SUMMIT
AND REVIEW CONFERENCE**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Corfu Process of 2 December 2009 (MC.DOC/1/09) and the Ministerial Council Decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council of 2 December 2009 (MC.DEC/14/09),

Recalling the 1994 Budapest Summit decision that the review meeting before each Summit will be held in Vienna, and taking into account the practice of holding parts of the 1999 Review Conference in other venues,

Pursuant to the OSCE Rules of Procedure (MC.DOC/1/06), and recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 476 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Taking into account Permanent Council Decision No. 932 on the dates of the 2010 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) and Permanent Council Decision No. 933 on the topics for the second part of the 2010 HDIM,

Noting that the Annual Security Review Conference, the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting and the Economic and Environmental Forum were already held in 2010,

Decides that:

1. The next OSCE Summit will take place in Astana on 1 and 2 December 2010;
2. The Eighteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in 2011;
3. The Review Conference before the next OSCE Summit will take place in three parts, with distribution of working sessions between dimensions as indicated below:
 - (a) The first part will be held in Warsaw from 30 September to 8 October 2010;
 - (b) The second part will be held in Vienna from 18 to 26 October 2010, with focus (i) on the full range of OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension, (ii) on the full range of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension,

and (iii) on OSCE structures and activities; and will be arranged in parallel working sessions;

- (c) The third part will be held in Astana from 26 to 28 November 2010;

The Warsaw and Astana parts of the Review Conference will focus on the full range of OSCE commitments in the human dimension, including the topics selected by PC.DEC/933, and will be arranged in consecutive working sessions. The modalities of the annual HDIMs as set out in PC.DEC/476, will be, *mutatis mutandis*, reflected in the human dimension parts of the Review Conference. The 2010 HDIM shall be cancelled.

4. The Permanent Council shall adopt decisions:
- On the agenda, organizational framework, timetable and other modalities of the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana;
 - On the agenda, organizational framework, timetable and other modalities of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference;
 - On the budget for the 2010 Summit and Review Conference.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/4/10
23 November 2010

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 4/10
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2013**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Ukraine will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2013.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/5/10
29 November 2010

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 5/10
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Eighteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be convened in Vilnius on 6 and 7 December 2011.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/1/11
30 May 2011

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/11
REAPPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR JANEZ LENARČIČ AS
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS
AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the 1990 Charter of Paris and the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its second meeting in Prague in 1992 concerning the development of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

Noting that the term of office of the current Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, will expire on 30 June 2011,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to reappoint Ambassador Janez Lenarčič as Director of the ODIHR exceptionally for a period of three years with effect from 1 July 2011. This exception should not be construed as a change of the rules regarding the appointment of the Director of the ODIHR.

MC.DEC/1/11
30 May 2011
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Canada (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland):

“Mr. Chairperson,

I am honoured today to take the floor on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Canada on this very important issue and bring to your attention this interpretative statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

By exceptionally accepting in this case to make a reference to the 1990 Charter of Paris and the wording ‘reappointment’ instead of ‘extension’ as would have been the more appropriate word, we firmly underline that this does not mean consenting to any interpretation that would put in doubt the validity either of previous or future extensions of the terms of the heads of institutions.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/2/11
30 June 2011

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 2/11
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Third Meeting of the CSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm in 1992 to establish the post of Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/04 of 7 December 2004 on the role of the OSCE Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/08 of 22 October 2008 on the periods of service of the OSCE Secretary General,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, for his invaluable contributions to strengthening the OSCE and developing its activities, and for his unwavering dedication and integrity in the discharge of his duties,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides:

To appoint Mr. Lamberto Zannier as Secretary General of the OSCE for a period of three years with effect from 1 July 2011.

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON COMBATING ALL FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

I.

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, declare our strong and unwavering determination to combat human trafficking in all its forms.
2. We declare that human trafficking is a grave and heinous crime that violates human dignity and undermines human rights and fundamental freedoms and that feeds organized criminal networks.
3. We remain fully committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”
4. We reiterate the support of the participating States for the ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, as the international framework to combat trafficking in persons. Furthermore, we stress the importance of the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action (GA 64/293) to Combat Trafficking in Persons that fosters enhanced co-operation and co-ordination among all relevant stakeholders and promotes comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional, and international levels to counter trafficking in human beings, and welcome OSCE efforts towards its implementation.
5. We recognize the progress achieved to date by OSCE participating States individually and collectively to address this heinous crime. We recall our full adherence to the OSCE’s commitment to combating human trafficking and our strong resolve to implement that commitment through a multidimensional approach, as set forth in various OSCE documents, including Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/08 adopted in Helsinki in 2008, Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/07 adopted in Madrid in 2007, Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/06 adopted in Brussels in 2006, and Permanent Council Decision No. 557/Rev.1 on the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in 2003.

1 Incorporates a correction to the text.

6. We express grave concern that despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional, and national levels, trafficking remains a serious problem, the number of victims of human trafficking which have been identified and assisted remains relatively low and few traffickers have been brought to justice. We are deeply concerned that human trafficking for the removal of organs, for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as well as for the purpose of labour exploitation, including domestic servitude, remains a serious problem.

7. We acknowledge with appreciation the important role of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in assisting participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments. We value the Special Representative's close co-operation, in a co-ordinating role, with OSCE executive structures, in full respect with their mandates, including with the OCEEA; the Gender Section; the ODIHR including the Anti-Trafficking Programme unit and the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues; and with the Chairmanship-in-Office's Special Representative on Gender Issues, as well as, where appropriate, with the OSCE field operations. In the spirit of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, we appreciate the cooperation with parliamentarians of the participating States on combating human trafficking. In particular, we commend recent efforts by the OSCE to highlight trafficking for labour exploitation, including domestic servitude, as well as child trafficking and trafficking in persons for the removal of organs.

8. We promote and support multidisciplinary co-operation, cross-sectoral training and multilateral partnerships. We commend the initiatives taken by the OSCE Special Representative under the auspices of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons and take note of the 2010 Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on Unprotected Work, Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude; as well as the 2011 Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings for Labour Exploitation: Decent Work and Social Justice; and Joint OSCE/UNODC Expert Seminar on Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Human Trafficking.

II.

9. We recognize the need to enhance the criminal justice responses to human trafficking, including the prosecution of traffickers and their accomplices, while ensuring that victims are treated in a manner that respects their human rights and that they are provided with access to justice, to legal assistance, and to effective remedies and other services as applicable. We will explore investigative techniques such as financial investigations, improve information sharing relating to organized crime groups, and promote cross-border law-enforcement and judicial collaboration to identify effectively both traffickers and potential victims of human trafficking.

10. We recognize that adequate measures should be taken to ensure that, where appropriate, identified victims of human trafficking are not penalized for their involvement in unlawful activities to the extent that they have been compelled to do so. We urge participating States to implement comprehensive and appropriate measures on assistance to victims of trafficking in persons.

11. We will renew efforts to identify and assist victims of human trafficking taking into account especially vulnerable populations. As applicable, we will promote awareness-raising campaigns aimed at persons at risk of being trafficked and addressing the social, economic, cultural, political, and other factors that contribute to the vulnerability of being trafficked. We will increase and support prevention efforts by focusing on the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking and the goods and services that result from trafficking in persons.

12. We acknowledge the important role of civil society organizations in providing assistance and empowerment to victims of trafficking in persons.

13. We acknowledge that child protection systems need to be strengthened in order effectively to help prevent, identify, and respond to child trafficking in all its forms to provide appropriate assistance and protection in the best interest of the child to child victims of trafficking or those at risk of being trafficked, including through appropriate services and measures for the physical and psychological well-being as well as for their education, rehabilitation and reintegration.

14. We acknowledge that, in order to prevent trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation effectively, labour rights must be respected. We recommend the development and application of measures to improve labour practices and promote the effective enforcement of internationally recognized labour rights, by means such as labour inspections, monitoring of private employment agencies, and the development of other programs to support workers in exercising their labour rights.

15. We encourage participating States to work with the business sector to apply principles of due diligence and transparency in assessing and addressing risks of exploitation throughout supply chains and ensuring that workers have access to mechanisms for the redress and remedy of abusive practices. We encourage the dissemination and implementation of the newly adopted United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Similarly, we encourage governments to consider incorporating similar standards, including “zero-tolerance” policies, in government procurement of goods and services.

III.

16. We underscore that the OSCE provides a highly valuable platform for dialogue and enhanced co-operation among participating States for a comprehensive response to human trafficking in all its forms. With this in mind, we reaffirm our determination to implement OSCE commitments, including the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, to use relevant structures of the OSCE to the full, and to strengthen the OSCE’s partnership with other international and regional organizations, as well as with civil society.



Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 3/11
ELEMENTS OF THE CONFLICT CYCLE, RELATED TO
ENHANCING THE OSCE'S CAPABILITIES IN EARLY WARNING,
EARLY ACTION, DIALOGUE FACILITATION AND MEDIATION
SUPPORT, AND POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the 1992 Helsinki Document, the 1994 Budapest Document, the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, the 2009 Athens Ministerial Declaration and Decision on the OSCE Corfu Process, the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith,

Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Recognizing the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and its crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the OSCE area,

Reaffirming our commitment to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals,

Reaffirming further the pledge made at the Astana Summit meeting to increase efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and international law, and to prevent new crises as well as to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act,

Underlining the need for these agreed principles to be applied equally to all conflict and crisis situations in the OSCE area while recognizing that each crisis or conflict situation has its specific characteristics and therefore needs an approach tailored to the particular situation,

Recalling the commitment to uphold consensus as the basis for OSCE decision-making, and mindful of the need to preserve the OSCE's flexibility and ability to respond quickly to a changing political environment at the heart of the Organization's co-operative and inclusive approach to common and indivisible security,

Recognizing that threats to our security can stem from conflicts within States as well as from conflicts between States,

Taking into account the discussions aimed at improving the OSCE's capabilities within the framework of the Corfu Process, the preparation of the Astana Summit meeting as well as the V-to-V Dialogue,

Acknowledging the need for timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts, which requires, *inter alia*, a comprehensive early warning capacity across all three OSCE dimensions; timely, objective and verifiable information, also regarding the humanitarian and security conditions on the ground including during a crisis, as well as the political will to take early and effective action; making full use of existing OSCE instruments, mechanisms and procedures for addressing the various phases of the conflict cycle and the ability to create new ones when necessary,

Bearing in mind that the OSCE's ability to deploy civilian, police or unarmed military expertise rapidly is essential to effective conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Acknowledging the necessity to strengthen the OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts and the importance of preventing relapses into crisis or conflict,

Acknowledging the vital role, in building a sustainable peace, of dialogue facilitation and mediation as well as preventive and quiet diplomacy as instruments for early action, crisis management, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and confidence-building, while recognizing the contribution of OSCE mediators and special representatives in this regard,

Recognizing that a comprehensive, cross-dimensional response is required to address the multi-faceted causes of crises and conflicts and that this also demands co-operation and co-ordination between the participating States and among OSCE executive structures, including field operations within their respective mandates, and the Parliamentary Assembly as well as with international and regional organizations,

Emphasizing the importance of full implementation by participating States of the OSCE commitments in all three dimensions during all phases of the conflict cycle,

Reiterating that conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and peace-building must involve efforts to address violations of human rights and

fundamental freedoms, as well as intolerance and discrimination, and the absence of strong democratic institutions and the rule of law,

Recognizing that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as well as the rights of persons at risk of displacement or already affected by it, need to be effectively protected in all phases of the conflict cycle,

Taking into account that impediments to economic welfare and social development as well as threats to environmental security, including environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be potential contributors to conflict,

Reaffirming the significant role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325, and recognizing the important role of civil society,

Reaffirming also our full adherence to the OSCE decisions, commitments and principles pertaining to politico-military aspects of security, including, *inter alia*, the 1993 Document on Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations, the 1994 Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Vienna Document, the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers and acknowledging their importance to confidence- and security-building and conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Within the framework of the existing mandates of the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other executive structures, including as defined *inter alia* by the Porto Ministerial Decision No. 8/02 and other relevant OSCE Ministerial decisions, with the aim to enable timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts as well as strengthen mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts while avoiding the overlapping of their mandates and duplication of functions and responsibilities,

1. Decides, in anticipation of further steps in addressing the conflict cycle, to strengthen OSCE capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation on an operational level as follows:
2. Tasks the Secretary General to ensure that the Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) assumes the role and functions as the focal point for the Organization-wide systematic collection, collation, analysis and assessment of relevant early warning signals from various sources, co-operating and co-ordinating closely with other OSCE executive structures and the Parliamentary Assembly;
3. Urges the OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates to strengthen their exchange of information related to all phases of the conflict cycle and calls for enhanced co-ordination between them in this regard;
4. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairmanship to:
 - Provide early warning to the participating States by bringing to the attention of the Permanent Council any situation of emerging tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area,

complementing the early warning functions already contained in the existing mandates of all relevant OSCE executive structures;

- Suggest to the Permanent Council, after consulting the participating State(s) concerned, possible options for timely and effective response(s) to escalating tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area;
 - Consolidate, in co-ordination with other executive structures, the OSCE's early warning capacity in a more methodical, comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner within available resources;
 - Prepare a proposal on how to make better use of the possible contributions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in developing a more effective response to emerging crisis and conflict situations;
 - Prepare a proposal on how to enhance OSCE fact-finding, including expert team capabilities during emerging crises and conflicts and present it for consideration by the Permanent Council;
5. Agrees that participating States will share information, as appropriate, with each other and the Chairmanship at the earliest opportunity with regard to emerging crises or conflicts that threaten security and stability anywhere in the OSCE area;
6. Urges the Chairmanship to use its mandate to the full extent and to convene the Permanent Council without delay, including in special, reinforced or joint FSC-PC meeting if necessary, to consider early warning signals and possible response options, and in this context encourages the Permanent Council to:
- Welcome, as appropriate, the participation of the OSCE executive structures directly involved as well as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during Permanent Council debates on emerging and ongoing crisis/conflict situations which relate to issues that fall within their mandates;
 - Seek closer interaction with the Forum for Security Co-operation that will make its own contribution to this work within its competences and mandate;
 - Pursue follow-up to discussions in the Permanent Council on emerging crises and conflict situations;
 - Seek input of other international and regional organizations involved as well as external advice, as appropriate;
7. Encourages the Chairmanship to draw on past experience and lessons learned to organize thematic meetings devoted to a specific conflict in the OSCE area;
8. Expects the OSCE Chairmanship and the executive structures to take full advantage of their respective mandates to address all phases of the conflict cycle and urges the Chairmanship and participating States to use, swiftly and to the greatest extent possible, all available tools and procedures as applicable to a particular crisis or conflict situation; in this light, tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures, upon request by the Chairmanship and/or

decision making bodies, to provide advice on the use of existing instruments, mechanisms and procedures and to recommend those, as appropriate, to a given crisis or emerging conflict;

9. Tasks the Secretary General to designate a mediation-support focal point within the CPC;

10. Tasks the Secretary General, in close co-operation and consultation with the Chairmanship and executive structures, to prepare a proposal for consideration by the Permanent Council on how to maximize the continuity, consistency and effectiveness of OSCE engagement in conflict mediation and to strengthen the role of OSCE mediators. Among others, this proposal will aim at developing a systematic mediation-support capacity within the CPC covering, *inter alia*: (1) training and capacity-building within the OSCE structures; (2) knowledge management and operational guidance; (3) outreach, networking, co-operation and co-ordination with relevant local/national actors, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations; (4) operational support to Chairmanships, their special representatives, heads of field operations, and other relevant OSCE mediators;

11. Urges the Chairmanship, the participating States and the OSCE executive structures to ensure that post-conflict rehabilitation efforts are comprehensive, systematic and sustainable, including through the deployment, upon consent of host participating State, of expert teams as well as other forms of temporary presence on the ground tailored to the specific needs of a given post-conflict situation and based on the existing mandates and areas of expertise of relevant executive structures, in accordance with relevant decision-making procedures;

12. Calls on the participating States to develop rosters of national experts readily available for OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts as well as for other phases of the conflict cycle and to provide those experts with the necessary specialized training for them to be rapidly deployable to a crisis or conflict environment;

13. Urges the participating States, with the assistance of the executive structures, to make optimal use of OSCE instruments launched by previous OSCE documents such as Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) and tasks the OSCE executive structures to collect and analyse lessons identified from the use of such instruments in order to develop best practices;

14. Urges participating States to implement UNSCR 1325 by ensuring increased representation of women at all levels in conflict resolution and peace processes, and tasks the Secretary General in consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office to prepare a set of concrete recommendations in this regard, and present these for consideration by the Permanent Council;

15. Encourages participating States and, within the framework of their mandate, the OSCE executive structures to make greater use of confidence-building and confidence- and security-building measures (CBMs and CSBMs), including those involving civil society representatives, across the three dimensions of security, in all phases of the conflict cycle and as agreed by participating States directly concerned;

16. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their respective mandates and within the framework of relevant decisions of the OSCE decision-making bodies, to enhance their co-operation and co-ordination with other international and regional organizations, especially with their respective structures in the field, and with civil society organizations, to increase financial, technical and political efficiency and burden-sharing, reduce unnecessary duplication and promote the best use of available resources. OSCE executive structures should also develop lessons identified and best practices as regards co-operation and co-ordination with other international actors in the field;

17. Calls for increased efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act and international law. To that end, calls on the Chairmanship and participating States to pursue steps to strengthen OSCE capabilities in further addressing the conflict cycle;

18. Tasks the Secretary General to provide a report by 16 July 2012 as a first step to inform participating States on progress made and possible options for the way forward in the areas dealt with in this decision, including possible options on how to cover, if necessary, related expenses.



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MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 4/11
STRENGTHENING OSCE ENGAGEMENT WITH AFGHANISTAN**

The Ministerial Council,

Sharing the common objective of promoting long-term security and stability in Afghanistan, a Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE since 2003,

Convinced that long-term security and stability in Afghanistan has a direct impact on security in the OSCE region,

Acknowledging the primary role of the UN in international efforts in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, as well as the valuable contribution of relevant regional and international organizations and institutions actively engaged in assisting Afghanistan, *inter alia*, NATO, EU, CSTO, CICA and SCO, and underscoring the importance of co-ordination of these efforts and avoiding duplication, including through making best use of existing mechanisms for co-ordination,

Welcoming the Istanbul Process on regional security and co-operation for a secure and stable Afghanistan that was launched at the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan on 2 November 2011, as well as the results of the International Afghanistan Conference, held in Bonn on 5 December 2011,

Acknowledging the OSCE and its participating States' contributions as part of the UN-led efforts of the international community towards assisting Afghanistan in areas where the OSCE has its expertise and experience,

Stressing the particular responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan for long-term security and stability in the country, to be achieved through a process that is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-driven,

Supporting the on-going process of transition of responsibility, including for providing comprehensive security, to the Afghan authorities in the framework of the Kabul Process, and remaining convinced that progress to be made between now and 2014, when transition will be completed, will make a decisive impact on the future course of efforts underway in Afghanistan, and being confident that the OSCE can make a tangible contribution to this end, drawing upon its expertise and experience,

Acknowledging the central role that has been played by Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan in fostering co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan since 2007,

Referring to the Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability, which calls for intensified implementation of Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration, which acknowledges that security in the OSCE region is inextricably linked with the security of neighbouring regions, and underscores in particular the need to contribute effectively to collective international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan,

Recognizing the threat posed by illicit production, trade, trafficking and consumption of drugs originating in Afghanistan to international peace and stability in the region and beyond, and emphasizing the importance of co-operation with Afghanistan to counter this threat and to enhance border management co-operation between Afghanistan and its neighbours in ensuring comprehensive measures for drug control,

Commending the efforts by OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, the Secretariat and the field operations towards the implementation of Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 aimed at assisting Afghanistan in the fields of border security, police training, customs training, combating of drug trafficking, *inter alia* through the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and other training facilities in the OSCE participating States,

Acknowledging with appreciation the election support that has been provided to Afghanistan by four OSCE/ODIHR election support teams, in accordance with the relevant Permanent Council decisions and upon the request of the Afghan Government, and stressing the importance that we attach to the transparent, inclusive, free and fair elections in Afghanistan, in line with its national legislation and international standards,

Noting the relevance of the participation of Afghan officials and civil society representatives in OSCE events, and reaffirming the OSCE's readiness, within its mandate and available resources, to assist Afghanistan in its voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Welcoming the use of the Partnership Fund, in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 812, to foster closer relations with Afghanistan and to support increased participation by Afghan representatives in OSCE activities across the three dimensions of security,

Recognizing the important role of education for stability and development in Afghanistan, and in particular the contribution by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, which serves as a promoter of OSCE values,

Convinced of the importance of regional co-operation between Afghanistan and the OSCE participating States in Central Asia, and of the essential role of these participating States in helping to promote long-term security and stability in Afghanistan,

Welcoming bilateral and multilateral initiatives between Afghanistan and the regional countries that could contribute to the improved regional co-operation and enhanced trust and confidence,

Wishing to enhance the co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan,

1. Decides to further strengthen the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan across the three dimensions and on the basis of the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, pursuant to the request of the Government of Afghanistan;
2. Invites OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the efforts of the OSCE and international community, to promote the long-term security and stability of Afghanistan;
3. Tasks the Secretary General and executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and established procedures, with continuing ongoing projects and programmes of co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan and with developing a new package of activities across all three dimensions of security, in consultation with participating States and in co-ordination with the UN and other relevant international and regional organizations;
4. Tasks the Secretary General to act as a focal point among all OSCE executive structures, aiming at co-ordination and coherence of implementation of Afghan related projects and programmes in the OSCE area;
5. Calls upon the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to facilitate a broader participation of Afghan officials and civil society representatives in relevant OSCE events, including through the use of the Partnership Fund, as appropriate;
6. Recommends to Afghanistan to establish a fixed national focal point mechanism to facilitate co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan aimed at enabling better implementation of, and follow-up on, OSCE projects and activities;
7. Expresses the readiness to provide election support, at the request of the Afghan Government, as appropriate, especially in the light of the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Afghanistan;
8. Tasks the Permanent Council with remaining seized of the matter and with researching and evaluating options for further engagement with Afghanistan, upon its request;
9. Invites participating States to continue consultations in the framework of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation with a view to develop ongoing and new OSCE activities, across the three dimensions;
10. Tasks the Secretary General to regularly report to the participating States on the implementation of this decision.



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DECISION No. 5/11 PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which recognizes the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

Recalling the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht, which states that the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action,

Fully convinced that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked with security in the regions of the Partners for Co-operation, and reaffirming our commitment to intensifying our dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and to strengthening our capacity to respond to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners and on the basis of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the democratic transition processes, political, economic and social changes that have taken place in some Mediterranean Partners in 2011,

Commending the voluntary reform processes undertaken by some Mediterranean Partner countries,

Recognizing that each country is different and has the right to develop its own political model, with respect for the universal values of human rights and dignity,

Agreeing that the OSCE's experience in different areas can be of interest and potential benefit to the Partners, while taking into full account their prime responsibility for making national political choices as well as their specific political, social, cultural and religious heritage and in accordance with their needs, goals and national priorities,

Reaffirming the readiness of the OSCE, through its executive structures, within their respective mandates in accordance with established procedures and when requested, to assist the Partners for Co-operation, as appropriate, in their voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society in Partners for Co-operation, in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years through dialogue and co-operation with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, including their enhanced participation in OSCE meetings and activities including the implementation of concrete mutual projects,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, as well as the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, which underlined the importance of enhancing the level of interaction with the Partners for Co-operation,

Reiterating support for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's co-operation with the Partners including through the holding of its annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and taking note of the work done by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in this respect,

1. Decides to enhance further the Partnership for Co-operation by broadening dialogue, intensifying political consultations, strengthening practical co-operation and further sharing best practices and experience gained in the development of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, in the three OSCE dimensions, according to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners;
2. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and established procedures, to engage in action oriented co-operation with the Partner countries in all three dimensions, taking also into account the annual conferences of Partners, by providing expert advice and exchange of information on best practices and experiences upon request of the Partners based on relevant OSCE decisions when required and invites the Partners to increase the level of their participation in the OSCE activities;
3. Decides, in the context of the Partnership, to increase the efforts to promote OSCE norms, principles and commitments through the contacts in co-ordination with other relevant regional and international organizations, particularly the United Nations notably through the sharing of best practices and experiences and through joint projects and activities in all three dimensions, as appropriate;
4. Calls upon the OSCE Chairmanship and the Contact Groups, together with the Secretary General, to strengthen and further develop regular high-level dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation, in order to enhance mutual understanding and ensure high-level political support and assistance for the Partners for Co-operation, taking into account their needs and priorities;

5. Calls upon the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to facilitate a broader participation of officials and civil society representatives of Partners for Co-operation in relevant OSCE events, as well as through the use of the Partnership Fund as appropriate;
6. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the OSCE Chairmanship, with exploring possible options for action oriented and results based co-operation with Partners, in co-ordination with the United Nations and other relevant regional and international organizations and institutions, and with making proposals, as appropriate, for further action by the Permanent Council;
7. Requests the Permanent Council to remain seized of the matter and to consider options for future engagement with the Partners for Co-operation at their request;
8. Encourages the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to share their experiences and contribute to the OSCE activities in all three dimensions, including through contributions to the Partnership Fund, as appropriate, in order to promote further engagement with the Partners for Co-operation;
9. Reconfirms its openness to considering future potential applications for partnership from interested countries, in line with Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001.



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MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 6/11
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the importance of OSCE measures in combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and in contributing to the reduction and prevention of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Also recognizing the importance of OSCE measures aimed at addressing security risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), explosive materials and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area,

Taking note of the active role taken by the OSCE in international efforts based on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, 24 November 2000), the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1, 23 March 2011), and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DEC/2/10, 26 May 2010),

Recognizing the continuing importance of improving the management, security and safety of stockpiles of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition,

Also reaffirming the voluntary nature of the assistance provided by OSCE participating States in the reduction of SALW, in the destruction of surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition and in upgrading stockpile management and security practices of participating States that request assistance in this regard,

Noting the crucial importance of co-ordination and co-operation between different organizations and other relevant actors to the effective addressing of the aforementioned challenges, and with the intention of strengthening the OSCE's contribution to these efforts within existing resources and/or extrabudgetary contributions,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/48 entitled: “The arms trade treaty”,

1. Welcomes and takes note, within the Forum for Security Co-operation:
 - FSC Decision No. 2/10 on the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 26 May 2010 pursuant to Decision No. 15/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - FSC Decision No. 17/10 on an information exchange with regard to OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 24 November 2010 pursuant to Decision No. 15/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council and to the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW;
 - FSC Decision No. 3/11 on destruction of conventional ammunition as the preferred method of disposal, adopted on 23 March 2011;
 - FSC Decision No. 9/11 on the OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, to be organized for 22 and 23 May 2012, adopted on 28 September 2011;
 - The progress reports on the Continuing Implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on the Continuing Implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 15/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - The Special FSC Meeting on SALW export and brokering controls held on 28 September 2011 and the Chairperson’s report, including the survey of suggestions;
 - The ongoing development of an OSCE template of an end-user certificate for small arms and light weapons, taking into account FSC Decision No. 5/04 of 17 November 2004 that defines the standard elements of end-user certificates and verification procedures for SALW exports, and national practices of participating States;
 - The reporting template introduced by the CPC, for one-off information exchanges related to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, sample formats of national end-user certificates and/or other pertinent documents, present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW and for the annual information exchange on the points of contact on SALW and SCA;
 - The progress in and results of OSCE SALW and SCA projects aimed at providing assistance in the full implementation of relevant OSCE commitments;

2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2012, to:
 - Accelerate efforts to further implement the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
 - Annex all relevant FSC decisions to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and reissue as a consolidated record;
 - Take an active role in the Review Conference to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and develop the synergy between the UN and the OSCE in this area;
 - Ensure coherence and complementarity with the UN framework on SALW;
 - Follow discussions as encouraged in United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/48;
 - Review the OSCE commitments on controlling brokering activities in SALW in accordance with Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 8/04, 11/08 and 15/09 and FSC Decision No. 17/10, also taking into account the Chairperson's report on the Special FSC Meeting on SALW held on 28 September 2011;
 - Further facilitate appropriate border and customs co-operation, and promote activities to enhance customs procedures for preventing trafficking of illicit SALW;
 - Submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2012, on these tasks and on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
3. Encourages the participating States to continue providing extrabudgetary contributions to support FSC assistance projects on SALW and SCA, either to a specific project or by providing resources and technical expertise to the OSCE's comprehensive programme on SALW and SCA;
4. Tasks the Secretary General to continue efforts to enhance co-ordination and co-operation with other international and regional organizations in order to develop synergies, increase effectiveness and promote a coherent approach to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

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**DECISION No. 7/11
ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Decision V of the CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, which established the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), and reaffirming that the participating States will ensure that the efforts they make in the Forum to advance arms control, disarmament, confidence- and security-building, security co-operation and conflict prevention are coherent, interrelated and complementary,

Recalling Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 3 of 2001 on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue, which, *inter alia*, enjoined the FSC to be more closely connected with the overall OSCE work on current security issues,

Desirous of further building upon the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010), which acknowledges the Organization's significant role in establishing effective confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), reaffirms the commitment of the participating States to their full implementation and determination to ensure that they continue to make a substantial contribution to common and indivisible security, and states that conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized,

Welcoming intensified negotiations to update and modernize the Vienna Document and the decision to reissue the Vienna Document, adopted at the special FSC meeting in 2011,

Taking note of Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11 adopted in Vilnius in 2011 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition,

1 Incorporates corrections to the attachment to the decision.

Also determined to continue promoting and enhancing the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, including through an annual implementation discussion,

Welcoming the initiative to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994 and the OSCE contribution to facilitating the implementation in the OSCE area of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in close co-ordination with the United Nations' 1540 Committee to complement its efforts.

1. Welcomes and takes note, within the Forum for Security Co-operation:
 - The Vienna Document 2011, which has been issued under the “Vienna Document Plus” procedure, as well as ongoing negotiations on further adaptation of the Vienna Document;
 - The FSC decisions adopted in 2011 on the Vienna Document, on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
 - The progress report on Efforts in the Field of Arms Control Agreements and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Accordance with its Mandate as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - The progress report on Efforts to Further Improve the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - The progress report on the Efforts to Support Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in the OSCE region as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09, adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - The focused discussions in the Security Dialogue in 2011 on topical security issues. Noting that these discussions and exchange of views were on armed conflict of August 2008; the Dayton Peace Accords; the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the private military and security companies; the defence system reform in Serbia; the human rights and crisis management; the Montenegro demilitarization project; the OSCE melange project in Ukraine; the OSCE-UNDP capacity-building project in Belarus; the Central Asian programme for regional co-operation on mine action; perspectives for a new European security system; the general status of the Ottawa Convention; the modified UN reporting instrument on military expenditures; promoting co-operative security by NATO; NATO's role in security and stability in the Mediterranean area; and the security agenda of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the OSCE context;
 - The special FSC meetings on the Vienna Document 1999, CSBMs and conventional arms control, and on SALW brokering and export controls;

- The joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation and the joint FSC-PC meetings with the participation of the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United Nations Office at Geneva;
 - The OSCE High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine conducted in 2011, which examined changes in military doctrine deriving from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict and the emergence of new technologies;
 - The OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which provided a comprehensive platform for exchanging views on the policy issues, implementation practices and need for further dialogue, co-operation and assistance;
2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2012, to:
- Further promote the discussion in the Security Dialogue on current security issues;
 - Give further impetus to negotiations on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures with the aim of increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States;
 - Intensify the discussion on the annual information exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and examine its application in the context of existing political and military situation, in particular through a focused review during the first annual discussion on its implementation;
 - Explore ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994;
 - Support the ongoing activities in assisting in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information sharing on national progress and lessons learned in this regard;
 - Examine ways that it can assist in the implementation in the OSCE region of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on the issue of gender and security;
 - Submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2012 on its work. These reports should include efforts to improve further the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures, efforts to support non-proliferation and implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 in the OSCE region, and efforts in other areas, as appropriate.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Germany (also on behalf of Albania, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Ukraine):

“On behalf of Albania, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Czech Republic, and Ukraine, Germany would like to make the following interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure. The statement is made with respect to the Ministerial Council Decision on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, adopted by this 18th Ministerial Council of the OSCE.

We would, first of all, like to express our grateful thanks to the Lithuanian Chairmanship-in-Office, and the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship for their tireless efforts to bring the work of this Ministerial Council to a successful conclusion. We fully support the consensus that led to the adoption of this Decision, and the taskings that Ministers have endorsed in it. However, it is our view that the Decision falls short of what is necessary in terms of direction to the Forum for Security Co-operation.

In MC.DEC/16/09 the Forum was tasked with strengthening the Vienna Document. This decision led to a plethora of proposals being put forward by participating States to amend the text of the Vienna Document. A few decisions were taken – and these have been incorporated into Vienna Document 2011 adopted by the Forum on 30 November 2011. The technical and procedural nature of those proposals incorporated into VD2011, in contrast to the strategic update of the Vienna Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures that we believed was required, is clearly less ambitious than we expected. We had hoped that at this Ministerial Council we would be able to find an agreement in the Forum to take a more strategic and forward-leaning attitude to the continuing work on Vienna Document.

1 Incorporates corrections to the text.

We find ourselves in a position where even the subject of the documents under discussion in the Forum cannot be mentioned in today's Decision. We believe that the FSC should aim for concrete results in areas such as lowering the thresholds at which we are obliged to inform other participating States of our military exercises, increasing opportunities for verification activity, expanding the range of military activities on which we notify our partners, modernising and updating our exchange of military information, informing our partners of at least one below threshold military exercise every year, strengthening our risk reduction mechanisms as well as exploring ways in which we can enlarge the scope of CSBMs. We should do this with full regard to resource restraints and with the further aim of improving our overall level of implementation.

We had hoped for strategic direction that could lead to successful work on Vienna Document, to bring it into line with the realities of the political and military situation that pertains in Europe and across the OSCE space. These hopes remain unfulfilled.

We would like to register our concern at a time when arms control and CSBMs in Europe are under strain as never before, that we are unable to look up from our national agendas to engage on work that would benefit us all. We believe that with resolute commitment and focus this aim can be achieved soon and significant work completed to modernise the Vienna Document, so that it can make its proper contribution to peace and security for all participating States.

I ask for this interpretative statement to be duly registered by the Secretariat.

Other participating States are invited to adhere to this interpretative statement.”



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**DECISION No. 8/11
PROPER ROLE OF THE OSCE IN FACILITATION OF
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540**

The Ministerial Council,

Convinced of the threat that non-State actors such as terrorists and other criminal groups may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery and related materials,

Recalling OSCE commitments, in particular Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/06 supporting national implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 30 November 2007 and the Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation of 2 December 2009,

Reaffirming the commitment of the OSCE participating States towards fulfilment of the obligations of United Nations Security Council resolutions UNSCR 1540 (2004), UNSCR 1673 (2006), UNSCR 1810 (2008) and UNSCR 1887 (2009),

Duly noting UNSCR 1977 (2011), which established a new ten-year mandate for the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and encouraged the UNSC 1540 Committee to actively partner with regional and intergovernmental organizations to promote universal implementation of resolution 1540, while it recognized the importance of voluntary contributions to effectively resource the Committee's activities,

Welcomes the FSC Chairperson's progress report on efforts to support implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the OSCE region, with special acknowledgement of the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) of 27 and 28 January 2011, the Joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation of 13 July 2011, and the Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) that was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 27 to 29 September 2011, organized in close co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to promote capacity-building on national and regional levels to advance full implementation of UNSCR 1540;

Tasks the relevant decision-making bodies within their mandates to continue to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States, upon their requests, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540, in close co-ordination with the UNSC 1540 Committee to complement its efforts.



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DECISION No. 9/11
STRENGTHENING CO-ORDINATION AND COHERENCE IN THE
OSCE'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Ministerial Council,

Bearing in mind the evolving transnational threats and challenges to security, which may originate within or outside the OSCE region, and which the OSCE must address on the basis of its inherent strengths, namely its broad membership and its multidimensional concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Reiterating the determination expressed by Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyberthreats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings,

Mindful of Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and further stressing the need for close co-ordination among the Secretariat's thematic units, the institutions and the field operations, while taking into account the experience that has been acquired by the OSCE executive structures, and respecting their mandates,

Welcoming the progress that has been made in the implementation of Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability and taking into account the report by the OSCE Secretary General of June 2010 on the implementation of that decision,

Noting the attention given to strengthening common efforts to counter existing and emerging transnational threats and challenges and to utilizing the OSCE's expertise more effectively in the Corfu Process, the 2010 OSCE Review Conference and during the Astana Summit,

Cognizant of the need to better identify emerging threats and evolving interlinkages between various strands of transnational threats, to implement necessary and timely adjustments in the Organization's approach, as well as to develop effective forms of

interaction with other international actors on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit meeting in 1999,

Aiming at further strengthening co-ordination and coherence within the OSCE to address transnational threats, while at the same time in addition consolidating OSCE mandates in this area, with the aim of better translating political commitments into effective and sustainable programmatic action,

Cognizant of the fact that threats originating or evolving in adjacent regions may have an impact on the security and stability of the OSCE region and that, for that reason, there is a need to intensify co-operation also with the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation by identifying areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action,

1. Welcomes the proposals by the Secretary General included in the 2012 Unified Budget Proposal for the creation of a department to address transnational threats, consistent with the OSCE's mandates and within available resources, with a view to ensuring better co-ordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of the OSCE's resources in addressing transnational threats;
2. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the Participating States, with further intensifying efforts to promote more operational co-operation and co-ordination on issues related to transnational threats with Partners for Co-operation, other international and regional organizations and with the involvement of civil society, *inter alia* by convening joint expert meetings, sharing information and best practices and co-ordinating programmes and plans of action, when appropriate;
3. Further tasks the Secretary General acting as a focal point for Organization-wide programmatic activities that relate to countering transnational threats, to ensure co-ordination and coherence of action across all three OSCE dimensions, among all OSCE executive structures, while respecting their mandates;
4. Calls on the Secretary General to report regularly to the OSCE participating States, assessing the programmatic effectiveness and progress achieved in the activities that relate to countering transnational threats;
5. Invites the Secretary General, based on the experience to be gained in the implementation of this decision and bearing in mind the relevant OSCE decisions, to further explore possible options for strengthening co-ordination and coherence of action in the OSCE's work relating to transnational threats and to submit them to the Permanent Council, if needed and within available resources.



Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 10/11
PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN THE
ECONOMIC SPHERE**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitment of the participating States to implement fully Decision No. 14/04 on the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted at the Twelfth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Sofia, in 2004,

Taking into consideration the Secretary General's 2011 Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and its recommendations,

Recalling Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/09 on women's participation in political and public life,

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the Concluding Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (1990) and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003, with regard to promoting the equal rights of men and women to equal opportunities and participation in the economic sphere,

Recognizing that women's participation in the economic sphere contributes significantly towards economic recovery, sustainable growth and the creation of cohesive societies, and thus is essential to the security and stability of the OSCE region,

Noting with concern the continued inequities faced by women in the OSCE region in terms of labour market participation, including job segregation; disparities in access to social protection as well as quality, full-time employment; and the slow progress being made in efforts to overcome the pay gaps for equal work, resulting in women's reduced lifetime earnings and pensions and increased female poverty,

Concerned about the continued under-representation of women in economic leadership and decision-making processes in the public and private sectors,

Concerned also about the persistence of constraints on women's effective participation in the economic sphere, in particular with regard to access to and control over such economic and financial resources as loans and property and inheritance rights,

Recognizing the need for improved and systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data and conducting of studies on equal opportunities in the economic sphere as a basis for planning policy and action,

Recalling the need for economic and social policies aimed at addressing the root causes of the trafficking in human beings, especially to eliminate discrimination against women in employment and to address economic factors that increase the vulnerability of women to trafficking,

Recognizing the need to continue monitoring the implementation of existing commitments on eliminating discrimination against women and promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere, with the aim of identifying and exchanging good practices and developing effective approaches, including within the Organization and its executive structures,

Taking into account the Report of the UN Secretary-General on the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, focusing on women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance (A/64/93), and considering paragraphs 4 and 19 of the Outcome Document of the Review meeting of the UN Doha Declaration and Monterrey Consensus on Financing Development (A/CONF.212/L.1/Rev.1), which call on States to eliminate gender-based discrimination and promote women's economic empowerment to overcome the global economic crisis,

Recognizing that women may face additional barriers, beyond those based on gender, to their participation in the economic sphere,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Collect and analyse data to identify and address obstacles preventing women from fulfilling their potential in the economic sphere and, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to support non-governmental and research bodies in producing targeted studies, including on good practices;
2. Assess the allocation of budgetary resources for promoting gender equality in the economic sphere and take concrete measures that lead to women's equal opportunity for economic participation and equal access to social protection, and that support quality as well as full-time and/or self-employment;
3. Facilitate the development of women's entrepreneurial and other work-related skills, and, incorporate gender aspects, with particular attention to women, in migration policies, in order, *inter alia*, to prevent human trafficking and re-trafficking;
4. Initiate or strengthen policy and legal measures, including positive action measures as appropriate, that would facilitate and protect equal opportunity for participation of women in the labour market, including through the expansion of childcare and nursing facilities;

5. Identify concrete actions aimed at promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere and, where appropriate, establish effective national mechanisms for monitoring progress in this field, such as on closing pay gaps;
6. Promote the sharing of domestic work, and parental and caregiver responsibilities, by expanding paternity leave; promoting non-discriminatory employment policies and practices and equal access to education and training; taking measures to facilitate combining employment with family responsibilities; and seeking to ensure that any structural adjustment policies and programmes do not have an adversely discriminatory effect on women;
7. Support the development of the necessary environment for successful policy formulation and implementation through targeted information and awareness-raising activities regarding the benefits of measures taken to promote the equal opportunity for participation of women in the economic sphere and to combat the social exclusion of women and discrimination against them;
8. Introduce measures and engage in dialogue with the private sector to provide equal opportunities for women's professional advancement and to close pay gaps;
9. Develop and strengthen measures, as feasible, that lead to increased diversification in employment sectors that are traditionally male or female-dominated;
10. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.



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**DECISION No. 11/11
STRENGTHENING TRANSPORT DIALOGUE IN THE OSCE**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments related to transportation in the OSCE area, in particular those contained in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (1990), the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003), Ministerial Council Decisions No. 11/06 on future transport dialogue in the OSCE and No. 9/08 on follow-up to the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum on maritime and inland waterways co-operation, and other relevant OSCE documents,

Noting the attention given to the transport issues during the Corfu Process and the preparation of the Astana Summit, which reconfirmed the importance of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension for the Organization's comprehensive approach to security,

Recognizing the vital importance of secure transportation networks and of sustainable transport development to the enhancement of regional economic co-operation and to stability in the OSCE area,

Drawing upon the summary conclusions and recommendations of the 14th, 16th, 18th and 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forums and acknowledging the valuable contribution that they have provided to the OSCE's work in the transport field,

Recognizing the importance of the activities listed in the annex that were conducted in follow-up to the above-mentioned Economic and Environmental Forums,

Noting that landlocked developing countries face unique challenges related to their lack of access to the open sea, their dependence on transit services and difficulties related to market access and acknowledging that addressing the needs of landlocked developing countries is an immediate concern and requires a long-term process,

Welcoming the ongoing co-operation between the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and recognizing the importance of further strengthening targeted co-operation with other relevant international organizations and institutions,

Noting that progress has been made in the implementation of the aforementioned Ministerial Council decisions, while recognizing that additional efforts are needed to address existing challenges adequately,

1. Encourages the participating States to further develop co-operation and dialogue amongst themselves and with relevant international organizations on transport-related matters, notably by making the best use of the existing internationally recognized legal instruments they are party to, and standards and best practices available, with the aim of facilitating efficient, secure and sustainable transportation;
2. Calls upon the participating States to enhance, where appropriate, regional and interregional co-operation and the exchange of experiences and best practices to create and maintain sustainable, secure, integrated and uninterrupted transportation links amongst themselves, including in the maritime field;
3. Encourages the participating States to expand and enhance co-operation between landlocked, transit and non-landlocked countries, for the benefit of regional economic development including within the spirit of the United Nations Almaty Programme of Action;
4. Encourages the participating States to:
 - Intensify efforts aimed at facilitating secure transportation and trade, while preventing illicit trafficking in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and agreements to which the OSCE participating States are parties;
 - Further strengthen public-private partnerships in the transport field;
 - Share best practices, particularly in the field of border-crossing facilitation and sustainable transport;
 - Develop more effective national policies for cleaner and more energy-efficient transportation;
 - Promote the establishment of multimodal transport and logistics systems, including further development of Euro-Asian transport links and corridors;
 - Identify and tackle inland transport security challenges across the OSCE area and improve the co-ordination and effectiveness of national and international efforts in addressing these challenges;
5. Tasks the OSCE Secretary General, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and field missions, within their mandates, with assisting participating States upon their request in implementing the provisions of this decision;
6. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

OSCE activities in the follow-up to the 14th, 16th, 18th, and 19th Economic and Environmental Forums:

- The International Conference on the Prospects for the Development of Trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transportation through Central Asia till the year 2015 held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in October 2007;
- The International Expert Conference on The Safety of Navigation and Environmental Security in a Transboundary Context in the Black Sea Basin, in Odesa, Ukraine, in July 2008;
- The practical support provided by the OSCE Secretariat to the continuation of the Euro-Asian transport links – Phase I-II, Trans-European Motorways (TEM) and Trans-European Railways (TER) projects Master Plan as a contribution to the implementation in the OSCE region of the UN Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries;
- The various national and regional training and capacity-building activities organized across the OSCE region with a view to improving the implementation of relevant international legal instruments such as the UNECE International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and the WCO International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures;
- The regional training seminars on prevention and detection of illegal transboundary waste transportation and its disposal;
- The joint OSCE-UNECE Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective, in order to contribute to further awareness-raising and capacity-building in the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Vilnius 2011**

MC.DEC/12/11
7 December 2011

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Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 12/11
APPLICATION OF MONGOLIA TO BECOME A
PARTICIPATING STATE**

The Ministerial Council,

Welcoming the letter of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia (CIO.GAL/213/11 dated 28 October 2011), in which Mongolia applied to become a participating State and expressed acceptance of all OSCE commitments and responsibilities in their entirety,

Noting the views expressed to date on this matter, including at this Ministerial Council in Vilnius,

Tasks the incoming Chairmanship to take forward this request at the earliest opportunity.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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**DECISION No. 13/11
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Nineteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in the city of Dublin on 6 and 7 December 2012.

MC.DEC/13/11
7 December 2011
Attachment

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision adopted regarding the time and place of the next Ministerial Council, we note that we are very pleased to join consensus on this decision.

We hope to be able to confirm the attendance of our Secretary of State at an appropriate time in 2012.

We would ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.”



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
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**DECISION ON THE
OSCE CONSECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIPS IN 2014 AND 2015,
SUBJECT TO A SILENCE PROCEDURE EXPIRING ON
FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2012, AT 12 NOON CET**

The Ministerial Council,

Taking note of the joint statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and Serbia (CIO.GAL/241/11) and the principles of co-operation (MC.DEL/62/11),

Decides that Switzerland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2014;

Decides that Serbia will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2015.