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STATEMENT BY MR. JEAN ASSELBORN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG, AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Bratislava, 5 and 6 December 2019

Mr. Chairperson,
Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Luxembourg associates itself fully with the statement made by the High Representative and Vice-President on behalf of the European Union.

I should like first to thank Miro (Minister Lajčák) for all the work he has done with his team. I think that this Chairmanship has been exemplary and will remain as a reference for the OSCE's future.

I should also like to wish every success to Albania, share its sadness after the terrible earthquake, and offer the assistance of Luxembourg in reconstruction. I also wish every success to Sweden and Poland for the future. Luxembourg naturally supports the Bratislava Appeal.

The international order based on respect for the rule of law is encountering enormous challenges today, and we should therefore redouble our efforts to promote truly effective multilateralism.

Mr. Chairperson,

I continue to be concerned at the worsening of the human rights situation in the OSCE area. We believe that all individuals should have the same rights, regardless of their origins, skin colour, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or identity, social situation or political convictions.

I need not remind you that the human dimension is an integral component of this Organization's concept of comprehensive, indivisible, co-operative and cross-dimensional security. We all know that true democracy cannot exist without a dynamic civil society and free and independent media.

It is therefore regrettable that we still face serious security challenges within the OSCE area. As has been said over and over, this applies both to the situation in Ukraine and to the frozen conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia and Transdniestria. I naturally welcome the OSCE's continued commitment.

Regarding Ukraine, I think that we share the optimism here expressed by Vadym and Sergey. I heard the same words yesterday by President Macron and Chancellor Merkel in London, so let us hope.

I should like to say a word about the role of women in peace and security. Luxembourg is convinced of the importance of the empowerment of women as shapers, builders and agents of peace. The association of women with the peace process widens the perspectives and fosters openness and diversity.

Mr. Chairperson,

Luxembourg also attaches particular importance to the modernization of the Vienna Document. We consider the recent project with the participation of 32 participating States to be a highly important tool contributing to the re-establishment of trust in the current security climate, which is a matter of concern for us all.

Finally, I welcome the efforts during the year by the Netherlands Chairmanship of the Structured Dialogue.

So thanks and all the best to the Slovak Chairmanship and to Miro, and once again good luck to the future Chairmanships.

Thank you.