



**Address by
H.E. Mrs Roksanda Ninčić
State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia
on behalf of OSCE Chairman-in-Office**

**2015 Annual Security Review Conference
23 June**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OSCE's Annual Security Review Conference serves to enhance dialogue and review security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States. It also offers a forum for participating States to discuss pressing security concerns in an open and frank manner. Against the backdrop of the crisis in and around Ukraine, now well into its second year, this Conference is again being held under rather specific circumstances.

When addressing this Conference last year, OSCE Chairman-in-Office H.E. Mr. Ivica Dačić emphasised the importance of constructive engagement and intensified efforts of the participating States, both at the political and operational levels. Together with Switzerland and Germany, our Chairmanship has worked hard to ensure the OSCE's leading role in the Trilateral Contact Group. Our backing for the Special Monitoring Mission, which is the most visible element of the OSCE response to the crisis in and around Ukraine, has been firm and consistent. The entire OSCE toolbox has been mobilized to address the crisis, as well as to support other critical steps that need to be taken in Ukraine in order to achieve a political solution. All in all, the OSCE has convincingly demonstrated that it can deliver.

Yet, despite these efforts, much work remains to be done and the situation continues to be highly volatile. In view of human suffering on the ground but also the wider implications that are being felt well beyond the OSCE region, it is crucial that we find ways to achieve complete cessation of hostilities and to begin rebuilding the trust and confidence that has been lost.

Serbia's Chairmanship, together with other members of the Troika, continues to support efforts dedicated to a peaceful resolution of the crisis. The continued and deadly

violations of the cease-fire are unacceptable. The fighting risks flaring up into something we will have great difficulty to control. All sides are called upon to fully and unconditionally respect the cease-fire and fully implement other provisions of the Minsk Agreements, including those regarding a verifiable and lasting withdrawal of heavy weapons. We are very concerned about a number of hotspots that account for the great majority of ceasefire violations. We fully support the SMM's offer to establish a 24 hour presence in some of these hotspots, notably Shyrokyne. At the same time, the parties should intensify their efforts aimed at re-invigorating the work of the JCCC. De-escalating the crisis and establishing an inclusive and sustainable political process on the basis of the Minsk Agreements will need to be well coordinated. More constructive engagement by the parties in the working groups of the Trilateral Contact Group is required to open the way for step by step progress on the political, security, humanitarian and economic questions that have been identified. We are convinced that visible progress in the Trilateral Contact Group would also set the scene for restarting discussions on broader issues of security in our region and the future role of the OSCE.

I want to use this opportunity to express our appreciation again to the outgoing Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini, for her tireless work in the TCG over the past year. At the same time, I extend our welcome to the new Special Representative, Ambassador Martin Sajdik, who will, we are certain, continue to fulfil this extremely difficult task in the same manner.

Our efforts to resolve the crisis in and around Ukraine are closely connected to the future of cooperative security and the importance of upholding our common values and principles. Despite the challenging circumstances, this 40th anniversary of the **Helsinki Final Act** should offer us considerable encouragement. After all, forty years ago political leaders found the courage to achieve a pragmatic compromise that served us well for decades at a time of much deeper divisions than we have today. Restoring trust and confidence among OSCE participating States while respecting our fundamental shared principles and commitments will take time but is without alternative. With this in mind, our Chairmanship has convened an informal high-level meeting in Helsinki next month to address the broader implications of the current crisis on European security, and on the OSCE in particular. Troika ministers will be there and we will look for common ground on how to move our security dialogue and cooperation forward.

As you know, the Troika has also enlisted the support of the **Panel of Eminent Persons** in this endeavour. The Panel has recently published an *Interim Report on Lessons Learned for the OSCE from its engagement in Ukraine* which has been well received and bodes well for the Panel's final report on broader issues of European security. Our Chairmanship is expecting this report to be ready by the end of the year. Discussion of these strategic issues will continue well beyond 2015. We therefore need to start thinking about an adequate format for such a discussion.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a highly opportune moment to **strengthen the Organization's capacity to prevent and respond to conflicts** and further develop the OSCE's capabilities with

regard to early warning, early action, crisis management, conflict resolution, dialogue facilitation and mediation, as well as post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation.

We should also seek to understand what impact the crisis in and around Ukraine might have on other conflicts in the OSCE area, the **protracted conflicts** in Moldova and the South Caucasus. We need to be alert to potential risks of escalation should current challenges and setbacks in the work of the respective negotiating formats remain unaddressed. Earlier this month OSCE Chairman-in-Office H.E.Mr. Ivica Dačić visited Baku, Tbilisi and Yerevan where he confirmed the support of our Chairmanship for the respective discussions within agreed formats. He also encouraged some of the ideas for small but concrete steps that have the potential to improve trust and confidence and eventually generate political will that is necessary to arrive at peaceful settlements. When discussing the OSCE's capacities to contribute to regional efforts at conflict prevention and conflict resolution, we should not shy away from considering support through operations with dedicated mandates, assets and resources. The strong added value of ensuring involvement of women and youth should also be given due attention.

We have long realised that the OSCE offers an excellent platform to tackle **transnational threats** like terrorism and various forms of organized crime and trafficking. Significantly, participating States have allowed a constructive atmosphere to prevail in this area of activity despite the overall divisive circumstances. Given the complex and growing challenges, it is very important that we sustain this spirit of cooperation.

Fighting terrorism has moved to the top of our agenda. In the wake of the Paris and Copenhagen attacks, the OSCE declared its resolute and unconditional condemnation of terrorist acts and reaffirmed its determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. This year we are paying particular attention to **violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism** as a key challenge threatening our region. In that respect, we appreciate that the Secretary General chose topic *Promoting dialogue to counter radicalisation and violent extremism* for OSCE Security Days event in May. Among other issues, the event shed light on the role of the media, the importance of education and the responsibilities of state institutions and religious and civil society leaders.

Furthermore, the OSCE-wide communication campaign *OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism* which has just been launched will help promote effective counter-narratives to radicalization and send a strong unified message against the forces of intolerance and extremism in our region. Finally, *OSCE Wide Counter-Terrorism Conference* at the end of June will focus specifically on countering the incitement and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and aims to contribute to further high-level discussions on the topic at the UN General Assembly in September.

Besides countering terrorism efforts, our Chairmanship is putting emphasis on a number of aspects related to other transnational threats. In line with our priority to involve youth in our work on various security issues, we are emphasizing the importance of preventive action against drug-related crimes, as well as preventive measures aimed at reducing drug abuse and dependence. The enhancement of mechanisms to cope with the increasing spread of **illicit drugs** amongst young people will be the focus of the *OSCE Wide*

Conference on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors in September.

Migration is also one of the priorities of our Chairmanship. We are committed to enhancing dialogue and co-operation in the field of migration governance in the OSCE region and with the Partners for Co-operation. We are also actively seeking progress in consolidating the OSCE's role and strengthening its tools in addressing migration related challenges. In this context, the 2015 Annual Police Experts Meeting, which took place end of May in Belgrade, was dedicated to improving multi-agency cooperation to respond to organized crime and trafficking in human beings linked to illegal migration in the OSCE area. In line with our Chairmanship priorities, the *15th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference* in a few weeks will focus on the people most at risk: combating **human trafficking** along migration routes.

In April, OSCE Chairman-in-Office H.E.Mr. Ivica Dačić attended the *Global Conference on Cyberspace* in The Hague and took part in strategic discussions on the many rapidly evolving challenges in cyberspace. In this context, particularly in view of the potential use of cyber capabilities in future conflicts, the OSCE's endorsement of the first ever set of regional CSBMs in the area of **cyber/ICT security** is not without significance. In building on this very positive first step, further progress towards implementation and continued work on a second set of measures could confirm the OSCE's pioneering role in this area. As such, the OSCE could eventually develop models of interest to other regional organisations or even the global context.

Promoting strong links with the **UN and other international and regional organisations** remains crucial to ensure that existing and emerging security challenges are addressed through complementary activities and to exchange know-how and best practices. Our Partners for Cooperation play a significant role in the OSCE's efforts to strengthen security in OSCE adjacent areas. The Chairmanship is committed to intensifying work with the Partners for Cooperation on issues of common interest such as migration, radicalization, organised crime and many others. We remain acutely aware these days that security in Europe is closely linked to security in the Mediterranean as a whole. We also continue to support on-going transition in Afghanistan, in particular by promoting regional initiatives in Central Asia and through effective co-operation on border security and management.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Arms control and confidence-and-security building measures remain vital for security in our region. The OSCE, particularly in the framework of the Forum for Security Co-operation, is well placed to make a major contribution in this field. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank Mongolia for the excellent cooperation during its FSC Chairmanship. We continue to work closely with Montenegro, in particular on issues where from a South-Eastern Europe perspective we see potential for regional cooperation, and look forward to the Norwegian FSC Chairmanship later this year.

In view of rapid technological change, new risks and challenges, we are keenly aware of the need to revitalize, update and modernize relevant OSCE documents. Meanwhile,

compliance with the principles and obligations stemming from these documents and their consistent implementation remains essential. As in other areas, a thorough discussion on lessons learned for the OSCE politico-military toolbox in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine, could be a useful point of departure for updating the OSCE's politico-military instruments. We are committed to continuing a comprehensive dialogue within the OSCE in order to maintain military stability, predictability and transparency, by updating and modernizing the Vienna Document, strengthening and implementing the Code of Conduct on Political-Military Aspects of Security, as well as OSCE documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

We are committed to strengthening and sustaining the OSCE role and capacities devoted to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and related resolutions in the OSCE area and recall the importance of cooperation and interaction among relevant international organisations in order to facilitate synergies and avoid duplications. We reiterate our commitment to the women, peace and security-agenda as established by UNSCR 1325.

Looking ahead, let me welcome the FSC intention to conduct a seminar on military doctrines at the beginning of 2016. We see this as a welcome indication that participating States are recognising the need to engage in the discussion on the future of conventional arms control. We should explore further openings for a tangible dialogue in this area.

Allow me to say a few words about **Security Sector Governance and Reform** which is gaining momentum on the international agenda and is of relevance also for the OSCE. As a founding member of the Group of Friends of SSG/R, Serbia is committed to promoting a cross-dimensional approach to SSG/R within the OSCE. In April, we organised an *OSCE Wide Conference on SSG/R* in Belgrade. We strongly believe that the OSCE should fully participate in the global debates on SSG/R which would also contribute to efforts toward reinvigorating the OSCE's role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dealing with the complex challenges that we are facing will only be successful if we join our efforts and manage to act on the basis of shared principles and commitments. This Annual Security Review Conference is a significant opportunity to discuss constructive solutions and to promote the OSCE's role as a unique platform for dialogue and joint action.

Thank you.