

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

1. The Foreign Ministers of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) met in Hamburg on 8-9 December 2016 against the background of fundamental security challenges, transnational threats and violent conflicts in the common space between Vancouver and Vladivostok.
2. The OSCE Ministerial Council addressed the current situation in depth. Ministers deplored the violation of international law and common principles and commitments in relations between OSCE participating States.
3. While discussions highlighted marked differences, at the same time Ministers stressed the OSCE's significance as a cornerstone of the European security order, all the more in such difficult times, and acknowledged its experience and capacities in jointly and comprehensively addressing both existing and emerging threats and challenges facing participating States and their peoples.
4. Ministers also recognised the OSCE's ability to search for common paths to bridge dissent, rebuild trust and restore security. In this context, the work of the Secretariat, the OSCE's autonomous institutions and field missions in fulfilling their respective mandates effectively and continuously was widely commended, while the dedication of the women and men serving them was saluted.
5. Tribute was paid to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its members in facilitating dialogue across lines of division, fostering confidence-building and engaging in active mediation in conflict situations.
6. Ministers underlined the crucial importance of honouring the canon of common principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Charter for European Security and the Astana Commemorative Declaration in order to promote comprehensive and cooperative security, stability, democracy and prosperity throughout the OSCE area.
7. The issue of unresolved regional conflicts as a predominant concern was highlighted. All sides of these conflicts in the OSCE area should contribute more actively and more constructively to de-escalation and peaceful settlement, supported by the OSCE and other international actors.
8. Focusing on the crisis in and around Ukraine, Ministers called upon all sides to meet their commitments swiftly and comprehensively. They recognised the central role played by the OSCE within the Trilateral Contact Group and expressed their strong support for the indispensable work undertaken by the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, including in supporting the full implementation of the Minsk agreements.
9. In its response to this crisis, the OSCE demonstrated its ability to act quickly. At the same time, the conflict proved the need to further develop the OSCE's capabilities in order to face multidimensional and complex situations across the entire conflict cycle adequately.

Ministers therefore discussed ways to strengthen the OSCE sustainably through the best use of its broad range of instruments, in particular with regard to early action, conflict resolution and reconciliation. These efforts must be accompanied by the granting of a firm international legal status to the organisation and the provision of skilled human resources and adequate funding based on fair burden-sharing between participating States.

10. With regard to transnational threats and challenges such as terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism and cyber issues in all three dimensions, Ministers acknowledged the joint efforts and initiatives being pursued within the OSCE to face these phenomena. In this context, the irrevocable determination to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law was emphasised. The importance of deepening dialogue and enhancing cooperation with Mediterranean and Asian partners to that end was underlined.
11. Ministers referred to the important role the OSCE can play to contribute to global efforts in addressing large movements of migrants and refugees. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was highlighted as a comprehensive guiding document in this regard. The interest to enhance discussions on the situation of internally displaced persons in the OSCE area was also put forward.
12. Numerous Ministers further underlined the essential role of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBM) and conventional arms control that reflect today's technological, military and political realities. Modernising the Vienna Document must be seen as a prerequisite for rebuilding trust and restoring security in the OSCE area. In this regard, the concept of a structured dialogue on security and arms control was identified as a possible way forward.
13. Sustainable economic connectivity and good governance are further means to enhance confidence-building, stability and security in the OSCE area and beyond. An inclusive approach, comprising the private sector, and based on our common principles and commitments, is crucial to that end.
14. The indispensable role of the human dimension within the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security was frequently highlighted. Sustainable security in the OSCE area cannot be achieved without full respect for fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Promoting tolerance within and between our societies strengthens our resilience against crises and conflict.
15. Cooperation and common action in implementing commitments in the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. They should therefore be strengthened. To that end, participating States will continue to benefit from the experience and the dedicated work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media.