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Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and the International Organizations



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia  
to the OSCE and other International  
Organizations in Vienna*

To the Ambassadors of the OSCE  
delegations

Vienna, 27 June 2013

Dear Colleagues,

In view of the special meeting of the Permanent Council on 2 July 2013, we have the honour to send you hereby the joint work plan which will guide our consecutive chairmanships during 2014 and 2015.

Yours sincerely,

The Permanent Representative  
of Switzerland

Thomas Greminger

The Permanent Representative  
of Serbia

Vuk Žugić

Encl.

27 June 2013

**Joint Workplan  
of  
Switzerland and Serbia**

**INTRODUCTION**

Reaffirming our commitment to the "Principles of Cooperation" agreed upon at the Vilnius Ministerial Council (MC.DEL/62/11) and the Joint Statement made by our respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs in December 2011, we have prepared this Joint Work Plan for our consecutive Chairmanships of the OSCE for 2014 and 2015.

Our common goals are based on the firm determination to work together, guided by the participating States and in accordance with OSCE decisions, in order to consolidate peace, prosperity and democracy in the OSCE region, as well as to ensure the capacity of our chairmanships to respond to any situation. In this regard, we will seek to build on progress in realizing the common vision set out by the Astana Commemorative Declaration of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. All three dimensions and aspects of security are interlinked and are of equal importance. Stronger commitment and engagement is needed from all participating States, particularly in the implementation of our common commitments.

Both chairmanships will be conducted in an unbiased, transparent and co-operative manner, assisted by the Troika members and in close cooperation with all OSCE executive structures. For Switzerland and Serbia, our role represents both an opportunity and a challenge to steer the Organization towards the fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

We welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Decision No 3/12 „The OSCE Helsinki+40 Process“ last year in Dublin, which provides us with a framework to pursue a result-oriented process on the basis of a coordinated strategic approach, adding a multi-year perspective and continuity to participating States' work towards a security community. The Ukrainian Chairmanship has our full support in advancing this process. At the same time we will support Track II initiatives, as an important and complementary element of our overall activities.

Believing that this process can provide a platform for a new strategic agenda for the OSCE by the year 2015 and beyond, we have agreed upon a number of areas of work which could be conducive to improving the atmosphere of confidence among participating States and bring about an increasing convergence of views. We are confident that such an approach will take all of us much closer towards our shared vision of a common security community. Attainment of this goal will, more than ever, require the support and cooperation of all participating States.

Based on these considerations we have agreed on the following:

## **1. Cross-dimensional issues**

The OSCE's comprehensive and cooperative approach to security represents a major asset to the Organization, which needs to be preserved. We consider the organization's cross-dimensionality as its key strength and comparative advantage and to that end we are determined to continue addressing politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions as an integral whole. Reaffirming that the Helsinki Final Act and all other CSCE/OSCE norms, principles and commitments remain our common achievement and the foundation of our work, we will strive to enhance the effectiveness of cross-dimensional cooperation by building on the OSCE acquis to address new challenges and threats. With this in mind, we will take in particular the following steps:

- Analyze current and future threats and challenges as well as opportunities, with the view to re-sharpen OSCE's profile and to reinforce its response and its contribution to building the security community
- Strengthen and improve cooperation with civil society/non-governmental organizations and think tanks in each of the dimensions, including by the strengthening of the OSCE academic network
- Review and update the existing early warning, conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation toolbox, especially with respect to dialogue facilitation and mediation support
- Develop an action plan on youth and security from a cross-dimensional perspective, based on already developed activities within the OSCE
- Promote policies to combat trafficking in human beings, based on the recent OSCE initiatives and activities in this area
- Build upon the 2004 Gender Action Plan and develop an OSCE gender equality implementation strategy to further enhance gender mainstreaming and the implementation of all gender related commitments, including UNSCR 1325

## **2. Politico-military dimension**

The politico-military toolbox is crucial for conflict prevention, early warning and crisis management, as well as for building trust and confidence among participating States. The importance of adapting and strengthening the OSCE politico-military instruments in line with an evolving security environment has been one of the key outcomes of the Corfu Process, which has been recalled several times by successive Ministerial Councils. The Astana Commemorative Declaration acknowledged that conventional arms control and confidence and security building measures (CSBM) regimes remain major tools for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized. In co-operation and co-ordination with the FSC Chairmanships during 2014 and 2015, we are planning to contribute to these achievements and will make further efforts in the following areas:

- Enhance military stability, predictability and transparency by substantially updating and modernizing the Vienna Document 2011
- Improve the dialogue and exchanges of views on the conventional arms control and CSBMs regime

- Strengthen the OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security and enhance both its implementation and outreach
- Strive towards full implementation of the OSCE Plan of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons, strengthening of the assistance mechanism as well as commitments and projects on stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition.

### **3. Transnational Threats and Challenges (TNT):**

The 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration called for a greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and humans beings. In this context, the report of the OSCE Secretary General on the implementation of the decision No. 2/09 of the Athens Ministerial Council on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability as well as the decision No. 9/11 of the Vilnius Ministerial Council on strengthening co-ordination and coherence in the OSCE's efforts to address transnational threats have to be taken into account. We will therefore pursue in particular the following:

- Further operationalize the Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/12 on the OSCE's efforts to address transnational threats
- Further develop the OSCE's contributions to the ICT/Cyber Security field
- Enhance the OSCE's engagement with regard to law enforcement and criminal justice, as well as to its crossdimensional aspects
- Strengthen and develop further the OSCE border security and management efforts when addressing cross-border TNTs.

### **4. Dealing with conflicts across the whole conflict cycle**

Our Chairmanships will support all means to increase efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful manner, within agreed formats, and assist all endeavors to prevent the outbreak of new crisis situations. We intend to appoint special representatives for the existing protracted conflicts, with a mandate covering both consecutive periods of our chairmanships. At the Vilnius Ministerial Council in December 2011, participating States have set out the objective to strengthen the OSCE's capabilities with respect to all elements of the Conflict Cycle. Particularly, the OSCE's ability to respond effectively in situations of tension or crisis should be enhanced. Among our priorities will be to:

- Continue to conduct a structured dialogue among participating States to assist the competent OSCE bodies in their efforts to develop the required tools and capacities
- Support the practical implementation of dialogue facilitation and mediation in the field, including through strengthened mediation support capacities
- Strengthen regional cooperation, processes of reconciliation and dealing with the past
- Improve early warning by enhancing the analytical capacities of the OSCE structures

## **5. Economic and Environmental dimension**

We think that the OSCE should sharpen its role in the economic and environmental dimension, and particularly be active wherever these issues are relevant for conflict prevention and confidence building (including in areas like migration, water management, energy, climate change, disaster risk management, and transport). Thereby the OSCE should develop a stronger branding in the second dimension. We will concentrate on the following topics:

- Development of further actions based on the Dublin Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, including addressing stolen assets recovery
- Addressing global and regional environmental challenges in promoting security cooperation
- Taking up the issue of sustainable water management and water scarcity

## **6. Human dimension**

In the Astana Commemorative Declaration, the Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their commitment to the principles on which the OSCE is based. They also acknowledged that more had to be done to ensure full respect for and implementation of principles and commitments. Also at the Astana summit, the participating States stated that the commitments relating to the human dimension had to be safeguarded and strengthened and that greater efforts had to be undertaken to promote them. They emphasized the important role of civil society in assisting the participating States in ensuring full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. We view this declaration as guidance for our work plan in the human dimension. Therefore, we have agreed on the following priorities:

- Strengthening the implementation of all OSCE human dimension commitments
- Further updating and strengthening commitments, building on the work of previous Chairmanships
- Strengthening the links with civil society and promote its active involvement to ensure progress towards the participating States' shared objectives
- Follow-up the process of reviewing human dimension events and strengthening OSCE monitoring instruments

## **7. OSCE structures and capacities**

We intend to explore steps to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization's processes, structures and internal procedures in order to make them more responsive to current and possible future challenges. Challenging economic circumstances require the further improvement of long term planning whenever it is possible. It is a joint responsibility of all participating States to ensure that budget reductions do not undermine the overall capacity of the organization and to consider providing additional resources. Our Chairmanships stand ready to co-ordinate efforts particularly in the following areas:

- Striving to reverse the trend of zero-nominal growth, as well as support and assist the informal Working Group on Scales of Contribution
- Further examine ways in which the legal framework of the OSCE can be strengthened, including providing the Organization with international legal personality
- Continuing the work on the reform of the budget cycle, improving the annual programming by the field missions, and aim at multiyear strategic budgeting planning
- Strengthening the evaluation culture of the OSCE
- Strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization by promoting the interaction and cooperation between the Secretariat, the institutions and the field operations
- Strengthening the effectiveness of the field operations, including the strengthening of regional cooperation
- Improving the effectiveness of the special and personal representatives' mechanisms by enhancing their institutional support in order to enable them to better assist the participating States in implementing their commitments.

## **8. Partners for Co-operation**

Interaction with the partners should become more concrete and project-oriented. We shall strive to build on the present momentum and follow up on any expression of interest of other countries wishing to become partners of the OSCE. We will also aim to

- Deepen the dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners particularly by implementing measures identified at the Partners meetings and conferences, as well as by promoting track II initiatives
- Deepen and operationalize dialogue and co-operation with the Asian Partners, with a particular focus on possible security implications of the ISAF withdrawal from Afghanistan.

## **9. Parliamentary Assembly**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE has an important role. We appreciate the work done by the Parliamentarians in promoting the OSCE's values and commitments. The Parliamentary Assembly and ODIHR have complementary roles in elections observation and it is to be ascertained that they work hand in hand in order to strengthen the OSCE's impact. We will strive to enhance cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly.

## **10. Co-operation with International Organizations:**

Based on the Istanbul Platform for Co-operative Security of 1999, it is our intention to further develop the relations with other relevant regional and International Organizations which share the OSCE's goals and values with the aim of capitalizing on synergies. We will promote close cooperation by maintaining a regular dialogue with such organizations on different levels, including in the field. We stand ready to invite their representatives to OSCE meetings as well.

In order to achieve what is agreed in this Joint Work Plan, Serbia and Switzerland will further develop the modalities on their common activities. This work plan can be adapted taking into account future developments. We will strive to strengthen the effectiveness of the meetings of the Permanent Council and committee meetings, including the organization of joint events where possible throughout our chairmanships. In order to provide continuity, we will closely coordinate our positions regarding appointments.

In the course of the preparations for the consecutive 2014 and 2015 Chairmanships, our two ministries are already engaged in the planning of organizational activities which will include joint trainings and the exchange of diplomats. We are also ready to assist the networking of Swiss and Serbian institutions and NGOs with the aim of involving them closely in our preparations.

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