

Ukraine's OSCE Chairmanship in 2013 – contribution to strengthening security and cooperation in Europe

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- 1. Politico-military dimension**
- 2. Economic and environmental dimension**
- 3. Human dimension**

Distinguished colleagues,

It is my pleasure to address you today. As you are aware, on the 1st of January, 2013 Ukraine took over the rotating Chairmanship in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe from Ireland. Serbia will chair OSCE in 2015 after Switzerland's Chairmanship. Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia have already started their cooperation in this field. Taking this opportunity, I would like to give you a brief overview of the Ukrainian Chairmanship's priorities that have been recently introduced by the Foreign Minister of Ukraine in Vienna.

It is a great responsibility for Ukraine to lead the Organization and to guide joint efforts of the whole Europe towards the establishment of a common Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. This honorable mission is in full compliance with the OSCE goal to strengthen peace, security and co-operation in the entire area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Our objectives for 2013 are to continue work on important issues, where consensus so far proved elusive, despite focused and valuable efforts of the previous Chairmanships. The main goal is to strengthen the OSCE by promoting dialogue and co-operation as well as full implementation of commitments by all the participating States.

The OSCE capabilities among other international organizations are unique as it offers advantages and opportunities that stem from its origin comprehensive concept of security. The OSCE remains an indispensable platform for an inclusive dialogue among equal partners, bringing together different geographic, political and cultural backgrounds. Ukraine is strongly committed to the OSCE concept of comprehensive and indivisible security in Europe based upon agreed principles and commitments.

Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship's priorities will cover all three dimensions of the OSCE activities: politico-military; economic and environmental; and human.

1. Politico-military dimension.

Establishment of an effective security community requires continuous engagement, coordinated efforts and persistence in implementing our commitments. It equally calls for strategic guidelines, which are defined in the "**Helsinki+40**" concept, and could chart the direction on which all participating States agree to move on.

The "Helsinki +40" process requires our determination to work together in a result-oriented manner on key issues leading up to the OSCE anniversary in 2015. This process also requires sustained engagement, coordinated efforts and persistence in implementing our commitments.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship will pursue the "Helsinki+40" initiative in close cooperation with future Chairmanships, including Serbia's one. We've already established an informal "Helsinki+40" Working Group. Its first session will take place in early February. To advance the "Helsinki +40" process we will be guided by the principles of equal responsibility, inclusiveness and transparency.

Arms control mechanisms and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures remain crucial for maintaining peace and security in Europe. Regrettably, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe gradually forfeits its significance as the cornerstone of European military stability and predictability.

Ukraine will actively engage in the OSCE efforts to re-establish the conventional armed forces regime in Europe applicable to all OSCE participating States. We see merit in launching within the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation a dialogue aimed at discussing the role the conventional arms control can play in today's and future European security architecture. Taking into account current political and military realities, it should aim at further enhancing the overall level of security by promoting openness, transparency and co-operation. This could be of particularly relevance for those participating States that do not belong to any politico-military alliances, like Ukraine and Serbia do.

The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation welcomed efforts to update the 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation initiated by Ukraine in 2010. Ukrainian Chairmanship stresses the importance of completing this work as a joint contribution to the global non-proliferation efforts.

Peaceful **resolution of protracted conflicts** in the OSCE area also is in the focus of the Ukrainian Chairmanship. Unresolved conflicts continue to pose a

serious threat to our regional stability and remain a major concern to all participating States. Assisting the involved parties to find a political solution has to be the highest priority of the OSCE. Sustainable and long-term settlement of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area can only be achieved by peaceful means and on the basis of principles determined in the Helsinki Final Act.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship will focus its efforts on re-energizing existing negotiation formats and making use of other possibilities that are agreed by all parties concerned. It will also promote confidence-building measures and address humanitarian needs on the field.

First of all, Ukraine is strongly committed to contribute to the Transdnistrian settlement process in the “5+2” format (Moldova and the Transdnistrian region as negotiating parties, Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE as guarantors and the EU and the United States as observers).

The Geneva International Discussions remain an important platform for improving the security and humanitarian situation in the conflict areas in Georgia. We call upon the participants to engage more actively and constructively in this process, in which the Ukrainian Chairmanship has full confidence.

The situation around Nagorno-Karabakh settlement also requires close attention by the OSCE. Ukraine will provide its support to the efforts of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at re-energizing the negotiations on this conflict.

Kosovo issue remains unsolved for the long period of time and threatens peace, security and stability in the Balkans and the whole Europe. A sustainable dialogue is the only way to reach a long-term political solution of the Kosovo problem based on the principles of the international law and the UN Charter.

We must continue strengthening OSCE capacities and effectiveness in all elements of the conflict cycle, with a special emphasis on early warning and early action.

The participating States have been called to redouble their joint efforts to effectively **counter transnational threats** such as terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, weapons and drugs. The Ministerial Council decision on OSCE efforts to address these threats provides a coherent framework to do so and Ukraine will encourage its implementation.

In the first half of 2013 we would propose to hold thematic OSCE events on countering terrorism and combating the illicit drugs, as the OSCE can enhance synergies in this area. Ukrainian Chairmanship will also continue to support the important work of the Informal Working Group tasked to elaborate a set of confidence-building measures on cyber security.

2. Economic and environmental dimension.

Without addressing existing and potential challenges in economic and environmental sphere, including energy security, it is impossible to promote comprehensive security and to build lasting peace and stability in the OSCE region. This becomes even more relevant in the aftermath of the global economic and financial crisis with its lasting negative consequences. The Ukrainian Chairmanship will focus on promoting mutually beneficial economic ties within the OSCE area.

The topic of this year's OSCE Economic Forum "Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities in the OSCE region" will offer good opportunities to discuss energy and environmental challenges to security and to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy cooperation in the OSCE area. The environmental impact of energy-related activities, energy efficiency and utilization of renewable sources of energy will be in the focus of our Chairmanship's attention.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship will encourage the ongoing discussions on the prospects of adaptation of the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental dimension to the evolving economic and environmental situation.

We will also propose to explore the ways in which the OSCE could provide an added value to the development of the new trade and transport corridors, taking into account the importance of economic cooperation for fostering stability and security in the OSCE region.

3. Human dimension.

Ukraine is committed to the **Human Dimension** of security as the core of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security. However, the main challenge in this field is an efficient implementation of existing commitments undertaken by the participating States. Ukraine will promote the implementation of all commitments in the human dimension by all participating States, without exception.

We expect constructive and non-politicized discussions on a wide range of humanitarian issues. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring the freedom of media, fight against trafficking in human beings, youth education on the principles of tolerance and non-discrimination, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the area of cyber security, as well as constructive engagement of civil society in achieving these OSCE goals.

Free movement of people, freedom of association and assembly, protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, gender equality, inter-

religious dialogue in promoting freedom of religion or belief, democratic elections and election observation, will be of great importance in our agenda.

Ukraine is and will fully support the work of the OSCE key Institutions - the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, which are internationally reputable experts in the fields of human rights, national minorities and media freedom.

The Chairmanship also acknowledges the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in our region and appreciates the contribution of the OSCE **Parliamentary Assembly** in promoting the OSCE agenda, values and commitments.

We will support further strengthening of political dialogue and practical co-operation between the OSCE and **Mediterranean and Asian Partners** within all three dimensions. The Chairmanship will promote open and constructive discussions, including those to be held in the framework of the 2013 OSCE Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Conferences. Based upon the requests from the Mediterranean Partners, a number of regional initiatives in the fields of combating trafficking in human beings, counter terrorism and sustainable energy, we hope, will be implemented under our Chairmanship.

As dealing with global security challenges requires coherent and coordinated responses, Ukraine will work to promote more pragmatic and goal-oriented **cooperation with other international organizations**, including the UN, the Council of Europe and other regional and subregional organizations.

The **OSCE has to be a strong and effective regional security organization** making full use of its unique and comprehensive mandate. Ukrainian Chairmanship will support every effort aimed at transforming the OSCE into a full-fledged international organization responsible for maintaining and strengthening European security.

We will also further promote dialogue on strengthening the **OSCE legal framework**.

Attaching great importance to raising awareness of the OSCE among the **younger generations**, the Chairmanship is preparing to host an international event aimed at engaging youth representatives from all OSCE participating States and partners for co-operation.

Conclusions

The Ukrainian Chairmanship is strongly committed to work in the spirit of Helsinki to maintain a balanced approach across all three dimensions and to pursue the principles and aims of the Organization. We should and will facilitate dialogue

and consensus-building, yet achieving progress requires commitment and constructive engagement of all 57 participating States.

We look forward to working closely with future chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia in moving forward the “Helsinki+40” process aimed at bringing us closer towards making an effective and capable OSCE security community a reality.

In conclusion, let me once again reiterate our readiness to contribute to further strengthening security and cooperation in Europe.

Thank you for your attention.