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STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

AT THE 17TH MEETING
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

DECEMBER 1ST AND 2ND, 2009
ATHENS

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Mr. President of the Hellenic Republic,
Mr. Chairman in Office, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Greece,
Mr. President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,

Let me start by expressing my appreciation to the Government of Greece for the organization of this 17th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE.

The Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE will surely leave more than one milestone in the history of our organization. We welcome the Greek initiative of setting up the Corfu Process which has given us the opportunity to re-invigorate the commitments taken and the principles subscribed at the outset of this Organization and it is our sincere hope that - after 7 years of absence – we will be able to adopt a Political Ministerial Declaration.

We are here to re-confirm the validity of the OSCE principles and to re-affirm the importance of the concept of comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security. This is the only way to tackle the problems and the new threats to security in our Euro-Atlantic-Euro-Asian OSCE area. Even for a small country like San Marino, the concept of comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security is vital. We are all called to do our part.

Transnational threats are challenges for all, but the same can be said of internal conflicts.

We, Ministers, are here to re-affirm our commitment to continue working on the basis of an efficient multilateralism. We must work to reach the goal to prevent and cure internal conflicts in our area and to re-establish trust and confidence that have gone lost in the last decades. A different perception of our commitments has brought this Organization on the brinks of disaster, we must fight in order to re-construct the spirit it was built on.

We are called to face many problems in Europe: unresolved conflicts, slow democratization process, incomplete building of the rule of law, lack of protection and disrespect for human rights (including minority rights), hindered fundamental freedoms and the trafficking of arms feeding terrorism.

Finally, we have to cope with the environmental challenges and the social, natural and economic consequences of climate change.

The OSCE is a unique Organization because it comprises countries that are very different and belong to different cultural areas. It is an ideal forum to discuss security issues in the three dimensions: political-military, human and economic-environmental.

The first dimension involves even those countries - like ours - without armaments. Every Country can contribute to respect for international law, cooperating against transnational organized crime and terrorism.

The human dimension remains, for a small Country like ours, a precious environment, not to be underestimated in an organization dealing with security issues.

Respect for all individuals and for all peoples, for freedom, justice and peace remains at the basis of a balanced and forward-looking society.

The economic-environmental dimension plays an important role: climate changes endanger all peoples' security, their livelihood and survival.

Our Republic supports the strengthening of the legal status of the OSCE through a Convention, in order for the Organization to be able to play its role properly and freely and to safeguard adequately its personnel and activities.

Mr. Chairman,

The Corfu Process started under your Chairmanship represents an innovative, informal tool, to openly and frankly dialogue among us and to find new solutions.

In the OSCE we have a number of mechanisms and effective tools that can bring us to the full implementation of our commitments and to the observance of the guiding principles.

One of the most efficient tools are the Field Missions and the Electoral Observation Missions. We salute their activities and their zeal.

We must recognize, however, that some of these mechanisms are not up to date and we need to re-evaluate them - or even suppress some of them and create new and appropriate ones. That should not scare us. It is part of the flexible and changing nature of this Organization.

We consider favorably the proposal to organize an OSCE Summit in 2010, after an attentive and careful selection and elaboration of the issues to be dealt with.

Mr. Chairman,

We are confident that the Organization will continue working in the right direction, towards an OSCE area where human rights are highly valued and respected, where the rule of law covers all aspects of life, where the trafficking in human beings or weapons is not a possibility and where cooperation and dialogue represent all Participating States' approach to any difficulties.

We wish full success to the future Chairmanship of Kazakhstan and assure that the Republic of San Marino will fully and unconditionally support the principles and commitments of the OSCE and the work of this Organization, also developing cooperation activities together with a group of States of comparable dimensions.

To work on rebuilding confidence and trust, re-establishing and maintaining peace and dealing with the new transnational threats is what our citizens expect from us. Let us not disappoint them.

I thank you for your attention.