

Second day of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting
MC(24) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

DECISION No. 5/17
**ENHANCING OSCE EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF
CONFLICT STEMMING FROM THE USE OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

The Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Noting the immense opportunities that information and communication technologies provide for social and economic development, and that they continue to grow in importance for the international community,

Recognizing that OSCE participating States benefit from an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communication technologies environment,

Reaffirming that efforts by OSCE participating States to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies will be consistent with: international law, including, *inter alia*, the UN Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Helsinki Final Act; and their responsibilities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing concern about the increase in significant incidents involving the malicious use of information and communication technologies, and stressing that these negative trends hold security risks for all OSCE participating States and their citizens, as well as public and private sectors,

Reaffirming Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/16 as well as Permanent Council Decisions No. 1106 and No. 1202 on measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and acknowledging the need for intensifying efforts to implement them,

Recognizing the work of the cross-dimensional Informal Working Group established pursuant to Permanent Council Decision No. 1039 under the auspices of the Security Committee,

Recalling the importance of communication at all levels of authority to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, noting steps taken and encouraging further progress to this end,

Reiterating in the context of security of and in the use of information and communication technologies the central role of the United Nations, and taking note of the continued relevance of the 2010, 2013 and 2015 reports of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security,

Welcoming the cross-dimensional work undertaken in 2017 by the OSCE Austrian Chairmanship, including the two high-level Chairmanship Conferences on “Cyber Security for Critical Infrastructure: Strengthening Confidence-Building in the OSCE” on 15 February 2017 as well as the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Cyber Security on 3 November 2017,

Recognizing the need to further enhance OSCE efforts to continue building trust and to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies,

Decides to:

1. Continue to implement all decisions on confidence-building measures adopted by the OSCE to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies to contribute to an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communication technologies environment in line with OSCE commitments;
2. Identify ways of strengthening and optimizing the work of the OSCE as a practical platform for reducing risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and at the same time continuing the work of the cross-dimensional Informal Working Group established pursuant to Permanent Council Decision No. 1039;
3. Encourage executive OSCE structures, within their mandates and available resources, to assist participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and to enhance pertinent national capabilities and processes;
4. Invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to enhance dialogue on efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies.