

Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting
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DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING OSCE EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COUNTER TERRORISM

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, condemn in the strongest possible terms all terrorist attacks that occurred across the OSCE area, neighbouring regions, and worldwide, in particular in 2016. We reaffirm our solidarity with victims of terrorism and emphasize the need to promote international solidarity in support of them and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect. We offer heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to the people and governments that have been targeted.
2. We condemn unequivocally and express outrage at the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians, numerous atrocities, persecutions of individuals and communities, *inter alia* on the basis of their religion or belief, by terrorist organizations, in particular by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Levant, also known as DAESH (ISIL/DAESH), Al-Qaida, ANF/Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.
3. We reaffirm that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any act of terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable regardless of its motivations, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization.
4. We underscore the central role of the United Nations in preventing and countering terrorism, and strongly reaffirm our commitment to take the measures needed to protect everyone within our jurisdictions against terrorist acts and the need for all actions to be conducted in compliance with the UN Charter, and all other applicable obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In accordance with these documents, we underscore the importance of our commitments under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also take note of the relevant good practices documents adopted by the Global Counterterrorism Forum.
5. We recall all relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of preventing and countering terrorism under the previous Chairmanships. We also take note of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and encourage OSCE participating States to consider becoming a Party to the Convention and to its Additional Protocol.

6. We stress that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), while respecting their obligations under international law, in particular human rights and fundamental freedoms. We strongly reaffirm our determination and commitment to remain united in preventing and countering terrorism, through increased international solidarity and co-operation and a sustained and comprehensive approach at all relevant levels, involving the active participation and co-operation of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations. We recognize that participating States should take measures, consistent with their OSCE commitments, and while ensuring national ownership, to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism. In this context, we recognize the need to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists, including public justification of terrorism, incitement and recruitment, and call on the participating States to act co-operatively to develop the most effective responses to this threat, in compliance with international law, including international human rights law.

7. We welcome the work done by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and stress that all participating States shall take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism and refrain from any form of financial support, in particular through engagement in favour of terrorist organizations in direct or indirect trade in natural resources, such as oil and oil products, in weapons, ammunition and spare parts, in cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific and religious importance. We also underscore the importance of co-operation among OSCE participating States to prevent and counter the recruitment of members of terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters. We will further reduce the threat of terrorism by preventing cross-border movement of persons, weapons, funds connected to the terrorist activities, in line with OSCE commitments.

8. We reaffirm that those who participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating terrorist acts must be held accountable and brought to justice on the basis of the principle *extradite or prosecute*, in compliance with the obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic legislation. We reiterate our determination and commitment to co-operate fully in preventing and countering terrorism, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in compliance with obligations under international law. We call on States to co-operate in efforts to address the threat posed by terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters and returnees, by *inter alia* developing and implementing, after prosecution, rehabilitation and re-integration strategies.

9. We emphasize the key importance of information-sharing, especially in the areas of foreign terrorist fighters, stolen and lost travel documents, firearms, and looted or stolen cultural property, such as antiquities and encourage all States to make full use of available multilateral and bilateral mechanisms and data exchange systems.

10. We stress the importance of co-operation among OSCE participating States, including by involving where appropriate, civil society, to prevent and counter terrorism. We also underscore the important role that civil society, in particular youth, families, women, victims of terrorism, religious, cultural and education leaders, as well as the media and the private sector can play in preventing VERLT, *inter alia* by countering terrorist and violent extremism messaging and offering alternatives to these narratives, including on the Internet, social and

other media. We encourage political leaders and public figures including from civil society and religious leaders to speak out strongly and promptly against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

11. We take positive note of the continued implementation of the “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism (#United CVE) campaign” and we recall that the UN General Assembly took note of the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations suggesting that States consider its relevant recommendations when developing, where appropriate, and as applicable in their domestic context, national and regional plans of action for preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

12. We welcome the activities pursued by the OSCE executive structures, including the OSCE institutions, within existing mandates and available resources, in support of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of preventing and countering terrorism, in line with the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security.

13. We invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to join us in affirming this declaration.