

**Second day of the Nineteenth Meeting**  
MC(19) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

## **DECISION No. 3/12 THE OSCE HELSINKI+40 PROCESS**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming its full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration Towards a Security Community, in which participating States recommitted themselves to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals,

Recalling the determination of our Heads of State and Government to work together to fully realize this vision, and their pledge to do all they can to assist the incoming Chairmanships in achieving progress,

Welcoming the initiative to launch the “Helsinki+40” process as an inclusive effort by all participating States to provide strong and continuous political impetus to advancing work towards a security community, and further strengthening our co-operation in the OSCE on the way towards 2015, a year that marks four decades since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act,

Stressing that this special anniversary represents a unique opportunity to reaffirm the participating States’ commitment to the concept of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, by recording practical results reflecting intensified efforts to fully implement OSCE commitments and to reconfirm and build upon the OSCE achievements across the three dimensions, and to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century,

1. Calls on the forthcoming Chairmanships of Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia to pursue the Helsinki+40 process on the basis of a co-ordinated strategic approach, adding a multi-year perspective and continuity to participating States’ work towards a security community;
2. Tasks forthcoming Chairmanships to facilitate this process by establishing an open-ended informal Helsinki+40 Working Group at the level of permanent representatives of all participating States;

3. Requests the current and incoming members of the Troika and forthcoming Chairmanships to propose the agenda of meetings of the Helsinki+40 Working Group;
4. Tasks forthcoming Chairmanships, assisted by the OSCE Secretary General, to regularly take stock of progress made under the Helsinki+40 process, and report to the participating States twice a year, before the summer recess and before the meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council;
5. Calls upon the Forum for Security Co-operation, within its mandate, to contribute to the Helsinki+40 process;
6. Calls on participating States to demonstrate commitment to the result-oriented process leading up to 2015.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

We thank the Irish Chairmanship for its initiative to launch the Helsinki+40 process to provide strategic guidance to the Organization and foster implementation of commitments over the coming three years.

We believe that the Helsinki+40 process must be absolutely clear with respect to the fundamental principles and assumptions that will underpin OSCE efforts to create a true security community.

- A “free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community” can be best achieved by the implementation of existing commitments;
- There can be no re-negotiation of the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE agreements;
- The strategic principles that guide Helsinki+40 work should be the existing Helsinki Final Act Decalogue of Guiding Principles;
- The comprehensive concept of security covers all three dimensions and we need to achieve results in each;
- Any new commitments must assist in the implementation of existing commitments and strengthen (not weaken) existing OSCE norms, principles, commitments and institutions to meet new challenges;
- Commitments regarding the protracted conflicts, including commitments to non-use of force must be fulfilled; respect for all basic Helsinki principles must be the foundation of our approach to the conflicts; and our goal must be to achieve tangible results;
- Civil society should have a voice/role in Helsinki+40 discussions;
- The role and autonomy of institutions should be strengthened and participating States should support their work to fulfil their mandates;

- Strengthening and adaptation of the OSCE does not require fundamental structural changes or a legal framework, but rather an alignment of resources with 21st century strategic priorities, and the political will to implement our commitments.

No element of the Helsinki+40 process should provide, in the name of “modernization”, “reform” or “de-politicization”, an opening to limit the effectiveness of the OSCE. In this vein, while we cannot support the call for discussions aimed at changing the OSCE’s “legal framework,” we believe that the OSCE’s effectiveness and efficiency can be improved by developing a multi-year budget and planning cycle, enhancing program evaluation and co-ordination with other international organizations. Work under the rubric of Helsinki+40 should reaffirm the OSCE’s historic role in addressing protracted conflicts, in crisis response, and in building military transparency. Finally, the fundamental goal of the Helsinki+40 process should be, by 2015, for the OSCE participating States to demonstrate concrete improvements in their implementation of existing OSCE commitments. We welcome the stated intention of the OSCE Troika to facilitate concrete work across all OSCE dimensions for 2015 and stand ready to support their efforts.

We would ask that this interpretive statement be attached to the decision just adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.”

MC.DEC/3/12  
7 December 2012  
Attachment 2

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Belarus:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the OSCE Helsinki+40 process, I should like to make the following interpretative statement on behalf of the Republic of Belarus.

In view of the fact that the Helsinki+40 process is designed to promote the realization of the goal of the 2010 OSCE Astana Summit to form a common and indivisible security community in the OSCE area, Belarus takes the position that one of its practical results should be the unconditional implementation by all participating States of the OSCE principles and commitments concerning the inadmissibility of the use or threat of the use of force, sanctions or any kind of restrictive measures. Without the confirmation of these commitments and without the complete rejection of an unacceptable practice of this nature, which undermines confidence and co-operation among the participating States, it will be simply impossible to build a genuine security community.

Belarus also firmly believes that questions regarding the comprehensive reform of the OSCE and its adaptation to today’s challenges should be at the heart of the agenda of the Helsinki+40 process.

I would ask that this interpretative statement be attached to this decision and included as an annex to the journal of the meeting.”

MC.DEC/3/12  
7 December 2012  
Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

“Mr. Chairperson,

Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joined the consensus on the draft Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Helsinki+40 process proceeding from the following:

This decision represents a unique opportunity for OSCE participating States to take the stock of the progress made in the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE fundamental documents.

We call the OSCE participating States to ensure that progress on this decision accommodates a number of legitimate security concerns expressed by the Republic of Azerbaijan in the course of its preparation, including, *inter alia*, decreasing OSCE’s role in the pan-European security architecture, resolving the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, addressing the increasing co-operation and co-ordination of the OSCE activities with military and defence blocks existing in the OSCE area and its impact on the security of participating States, who are not members of such security blocks, and providing adequate political and security guarantees to those non-members.

The Republic of Azerbaijan will consolidate its efforts to ensure that these issues are properly addressed and included into the final product of the Helsinki+40 process as well as in the course of upcoming informal discussions.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to request you to attach this statement to the decision we have just adopted and include it in the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting.”

MC.DEC/3/12  
7 December 2012  
Attachment 4

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Armenia:

“The delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement.

Armenia considers the Helsinki+40 as important initiative to establish trust and confidence among OSCE participating States and peoples, as well as to embark on the processes of historical reconciliation.

I kindly request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”