

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 5/11 PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which recognizes the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

Recalling the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht, which states that the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action,

Fully convinced that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked with security in the regions of the Partners for Co-operation, and reaffirming our commitment to intensifying our dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and to strengthening our capacity to respond to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners and on the basis of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the democratic transition processes, political, economic and social changes that have taken place in some Mediterranean Partners in 2011,

Commending the voluntary reform processes undertaken by some Mediterranean Partner countries,

Recognizing that each country is different and has the right to develop its own political model, with respect for the universal values of human rights and dignity,

Agreeing that the OSCE's experience in different areas can be of interest and potential benefit to the Partners, while taking into full account their prime responsibility for making national political choices as well as their specific political, social, cultural and religious heritage and in accordance with their needs, goals and national priorities,

Reaffirming the readiness of the OSCE, through its executive structures, within their respective mandates in accordance with established procedures and when requested, to assist the Partners for Co-operation, as appropriate, in their voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society in Partners for Co-operation, in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years through dialogue and co-operation with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, including their enhanced participation in OSCE meetings and activities including the implementation of concrete mutual projects,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, as well as the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, which underlined the importance of enhancing the level of interaction with the Partners for Co-operation,

Reiterating support for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's co-operation with the Partners including through the holding of its annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and taking note of the work done by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in this respect,

1. Decides to enhance further the Partnership for Co-operation by broadening dialogue, intensifying political consultations, strengthening practical co-operation and further sharing best practices and experience gained in the development of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, in the three OSCE dimensions, according to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners;
2. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and established procedures, to engage in action oriented co-operation with the Partner countries in all three dimensions, taking also into account the annual conferences of Partners, by providing expert advice and exchange of information on best practices and experiences upon request of the Partners based on relevant OSCE decisions when required and invites the Partners to increase the level of their participation in the OSCE activities;
3. Decides, in the context of the Partnership, to increase the efforts to promote OSCE norms, principles and commitments through the contacts in co-ordination with other relevant regional and international organizations, particularly the United Nations notably through the sharing of best practices and experiences and through joint projects and activities in all three dimensions, as appropriate;
4. Calls upon the OSCE Chairmanship and the Contact Groups, together with the Secretary General, to strengthen and further develop regular high-level dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation, in order to enhance mutual understanding and ensure high-level political support and assistance for the Partners for Co-operation, taking into account their needs and priorities;

5. Calls upon the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to facilitate a broader participation of officials and civil society representatives of Partners for Co-operation in relevant OSCE events, as well as through the use of the Partnership Fund as appropriate;
6. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the OSCE Chairmanship, with exploring possible options for action oriented and results based co-operation with Partners, in co-ordination with the United Nations and other relevant regional and international organizations and institutions, and with making proposals, as appropriate, for further action by the Permanent Council;
7. Requests the Permanent Council to remain seized of the matter and to consider options for future engagement with the Partners for Co-operation at their request;
8. Encourages the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to share their experiences and contribute to the OSCE activities in all three dimensions, including through contributions to the Partnership Fund, as appropriate, in order to promote further engagement with the Partners for Co-operation;
9. Reconfirms its openness to considering future potential applications for partnership from interested countries, in line with Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001.