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At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Nikola Poposki made at the 19th Ministerial Council, Dublin, 6 – 7 December 2012, is being distributed to all delegations.



Republic of Macedonia

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ADDRESS

By

H.E. NIKOLA POPOSKI

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia

at the

19th MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Dublin, 6-7 December 2012

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the very outset, allow me to convey my sincerest congratulations to the Irish Chairmanship for excellent organization of the meeting and well - known Irish hospitality, and for the provided guidance, demonstrating political wisdom and dedication. Ireland assumed the Chairmanship in challenging times and set out three clear-cut, very important priorities, such as, conflict resolution, good governance and freedom of expression, be it online or offline. I would also like to use this opportunity to welcome Mongolia to the OSCE family and to express my gratitude to the Chairmanship in Office for its efforts to further expand the OSCE area of stability, peace and democracy.

Picking up where we left off in Astana, the Irish Chairmanship added a great weight to the relevant debate of OSCE future endeavors and I applaud you on the presented leadership in launching the Helsinki +40 process. This process is of great significance for our organization's portfolio and strategic focus, but concurrently, for our joint security landscape. Constructing wide-ranging, future-oriented and indivisible security architecture, pillared on collaboration and inclusiveness is an inevitable milestone that we all strive to attain.

I believe that the Republic of Macedonia, being an incumbent Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation, contributed to this common endeavor, in the political-military sphere. It is our common objective to augment the general course of action towards an indivisible Security Community and I am convinced that the future chairmanships of Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia will further advance the Helsinki + 40 process. I would like to believe that the opportunity of having three consecutive chairmanships ahead of us to conduct this process will be utilized in the best possible manner.

Mr. Chairman,

In the light of the joint efforts for strengthening our security and confidence-building measures, I would like to also stress out the importance of modernization and advancement of our security mechanisms. To this end, I would like to express my content that an important document on prior notification of major military activities, being a confidence and security-building measure in itself, was adopted under the Macedonian Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) Chairmanship. The latter provides evidence of our dedication to be an active contributor to the security of the OSCE area. I will urge the participating states to demonstrate responsibility and in constructive spirit to adopt the two significant FSC MC Decisions on issues relevant to the FSC as well as Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

The key features of our organization - its preventive, early warning and timely action must be further advanced. Protracted conflicts and new challenges, such as illegal trafficking in SALW and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction are continuing to threaten our societies and our common security. Thus, we support the further implementation on SALW related policies, as well as, consistent implementation on UN Security Council Resolution 1540. We must stay focused and further our efforts to address these threats accordingly. The OSCE toolbox contains many relevant mechanisms, although some of them need modernization to respond adequately to the new security context. Equally important, we must

consistently strive to adopt all relevant decisions aiming at alleviation of tensions and prevention of conflicts.

Commending on your balanced approach in addressing the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions of security, we are very much interested and hopeful that the OSCE Ministerial Council will adopt the respective decisions aimed to advance political and civil rights, such as freedom of media, peaceful assembly, association and expression, as well as combating racism and xenophobia. This will certainly contribute to the relevance of our Organization.

Likewise, we believe that the second dimension still needs more attention. In today's era of globalization, the nexus between the economic and environmental phenomena and conflict is hard to bypass. To this end, I would like to hail the institutionalization of the Economy and Environment Dimension Implementation Meeting. Addressing challenges such as good governance, energy security, gender perspectives are of great importance for our human security.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, Macedonia has the responsibility of chairing the SEECP. In the past 20 years, the OSCE has invested a lot of energy in strengthening the security of Southeast Europe (its first Mission was established in Skopje) and today we can conclude that there is a distinctly different security situation: the integration of the region in the Euro-Atlantic structures has accelerated, while the mutual security cooperation is intensive and focused on further reforms. Macedonia has decided to focus the concluding event of its Chairmanship, the SEECP Summit, on a specific and important topic in the field of security – disaster risk reduction.

At the same time, the strong security cooperation network established on several levels will continue developing and expanding. The economic cooperation in the region is reform-oriented and – on this point we agree with the Irish Chairmanship – it is particularly important that reforms lead to good governance and transparency. The new Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council, Mr. Goran Svilanović, has a considerable OSCE experience in this area, which will undoubtedly prove useful for his successful work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Macedonia remains devoted to its European agenda. We have undertaken comprehensive reforms to take in the best European standards and practices into the Macedonian society and improve the quality of life of our citizens. The European Commission recognized our efforts and recommended again, that accession negotiations should be opened.

In a week from now, a European Council meeting will take place in Brussels. Commencing the accession negotiations would further boost the reform momentum and strengthen the credibility of the most successful peace project in Europe.

At the end, Mr. Chairman, I would like to once again reaffirm our commitment to OSCE values and principles and to wish you a successful Ministerial conference and to our Ukrainian friends a successful Chairmanship in the year to come.