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**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTERS FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION ON THE
“HELSINKI+40” PROCESS AT THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Kyiv, 5 December 2013

The main goal of the “Helsinki+40” process in our view is the steady progress towards the strategic goal proclaimed at the OSCE Summit in Astana of forming a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security. The implementation of this objective would mean putting in practice the principle of the indivisibility of security proclaimed in the OSCE and the implementation by all OSCE participating States and their groups of the commitment not to strengthen their security at the expense of the security of others.

The “Helsinki+40” process is called to develop a strategic vision on the place and the role of the OSCE in the Twenty-First Century, to adapt the Organization to the new realities and to strengthen its tool-box for addressing pressing security challengers. We are convinced that comprehensive modernization of the OSCE is essential in order to enable the Organization to play an important role in building a security community.

We take the position that the OSCE continues to serve as a unique forum operating on the basis of consensus and the sovereign equality of States for the promotion of open dialogue, conflict prevention and conflict settlement, the achievement of reconciliation, the enhancement of mutual understanding and cooperation.

With a view to strengthen mutual trust within the Organization, all participating States should act on the basis of agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals through an open, frank and mutually respectful dialogue. Priority should be given to a unifying agenda, the advancement of shared interests and the achievement of reconciliation and harmony among peoples.

We attach particular significance in the “Helsinki+40” context to strengthening of the principle of consensus, consolidating the legal basis of the Organization by the adoption of an OSCE Charter, and streamlining the activities of its institutions and field missions.

We believe it is of fundamental importance to ensure a geographical and thematic balance in the OSCE's work and to apply uniform criteria when assessing the implementation by the participating States of their commitments. The logic of such co-operation completely rules out the use of any sanctions or restrictive measures between the members of the OSCE community.

The Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization commend the efforts of the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE in advancing the "Helsinki+40" process and filling it with a specific content.

We trust that this work will be stepped up during the Swiss and Serbian OSCE Chairmanships on the basis of a co-ordinated approach resulting in substantive decisions in 2015, the anniversary year of the Helsinki process.