



Second day of the Twenty-First Meeting
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**DECLARATION ON THE
OSCE ROLE IN COUNTERING THE PHENOMENON OF
FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
2170 (2014) AND 2178 (2014)**

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Reaffirming Permanent Council Decision No. 1063 on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, and other relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering terrorism, and reiterating our strong support for the OSCE's comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism activities,

Recalling our commitment to work together to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute terrorism-related acts, and reaffirming our strong determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion,

Expressing our deep concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs)¹ as described in UNSCR 2178, namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their State of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the provision or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict,

Concerned that foreign terrorist fighters increase the intensity, duration and intractability of conflicts, and also may pose a serious threat to their States of origin, the States they transit and the States to which they travel, as well as States neighbouring zones of armed conflict in which foreign terrorist fighters are active and that are affected by serious security burdens, and noting that the threat of foreign terrorist fighters may affect all regions and States, even those far from conflict zones,

Declaring our intention to take resolute action to counter foreign terrorist fighters in full implementation of UNSCR 2170 and 2178, and in compliance with our OSCE

1 The denomination of persons as "foreign terrorist fighters" is without prejudice to the legal status under applicable national and international law, in particular international humanitarian law.

commitments, and with all obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations and its entities, as well as other relevant actors, in countering foreign terrorist fighters, in particular the OSCE's work to promote a community policing approach on preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and taking note of the development of good practices and tools such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum's recommendations that encompass countering violent radicalization and the flow of foreign terrorist fighters,

We call upon the participating States:

1. To co-operate fully in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice foreign terrorist fighters, on the basis of the principle of "extradite or prosecute", in accordance with their obligations under international law and their OSCE commitments concerning the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism;
2. To enhance international co-operation among States in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism, including with regards to foreign terrorist fighters;
3. To prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters through effective border controls and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents, to exchange information in this regard, and to implement Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 7/03, 4/04, 6/06 and 11/09 on travel document security while fully respecting our obligations under international law, including refugee and human rights law including to ensure that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts;
4. To enhance international co-operation to counter the use of the Internet for the purposes of inciting violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism and for recruiting foreign terrorist fighters, and to exchange information about this threat in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/06 on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes, while fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and freedom of expression;
5. To further promote public-private partnerships with civil society, the media, the business community, and industry in countering terrorism, in line with, *inter alia*, Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/08, in order to counter the incitement, recruitment, and travel of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as to prepare for and mitigate the threat posed by their return;
6. To support and inform each other about our specific efforts to counter the threat of foreign terrorist fighters and to continue to exchange good practices, strategies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in order to enhance practical co-operation;
7. To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage with us in these efforts;

We call upon the OSCE executive structures:

8. To facilitate thematic discussions in the OSCE, in a manner complementary to the ongoing efforts at the UN, focused on the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, in order to improve the understanding of the phenomenon, to exchange experiences and good practices, and to promote a comprehensive and coherent response;
9. To offer assistance in capacity-building activities to the requesting participating States, in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 1063, and to organize, where appropriate, regional and subregional events to identify potential weaknesses in international legal and operational co-operation mechanisms in order to foster better co-operation and co-ordination nationally and internationally;
10. To continue to promote OSCE efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including through community policing approaches to preventing terrorism, in particular at the local level;
11. To facilitate, in close co-ordination with partner organizations such as the United Nations and other relevant actors, a coherent approach and tailored national assistance, upon request, to take account of, *inter alia*, the comprehensive set of good practices contained in the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Hague – Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon in order to assist interested participating States with the practical implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism legal and policy framework and to complement the work of the relevant United Nations counter-terrorism entities in these areas;
12. To support requesting participating States in the implementation of their commitments regarding travel document security and border management and to facilitate technical assistance in this field by Interpol and other relevant international organizations to requesting participating States.