



**Statement by H.E. Dr Anže Logar,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia,
at the 28th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
Stockholm, 2 December 2021**

Mme Chairperson-in-Office, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be in Stockholm and to take part in this Ministerial Council.

Let me thank our host Minister Linde for the constructive and professional work during the Swedish Chairpersonship. You and your dedicated team deserve admiration for all your efforts. It was an honour for the Slovenian EU Council Presidency to provide our support in this process.

Conflicts and the use of violence in the OSCE area are increasing. There are violations of the OSCE principles and commitments, as well as the use of military force. Restoration of trust and political will is direly needed.

While we are sorry to see backward steps in arms control architecture, there are also positive elements when addressing issues such as transnational organised crime, cybersecurity and border management.

Speaking of the latter, we have to bring attention to the current developments on the external border of the European Union. Slovenia strongly condemns this and regrets that once again the weakest and the most vulnerable are the ones that suffer the most.

The crisis has shown the importance of the nexus between different dimensions of security: what started as blatant violations of human rights in Belarus, ended up as a transnational crisis that has elements of transnational organised crime.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world faces challenges that pose additional security risks. Climate change, in particular, is both a security challenge and a threat multiplier. This is why we keep underlining the importance of the concept of comprehensive security.

Last year, the OSCE faces many challenges and proved to be able to function and fulfil its mandate. In order to continue to do so, we will have to provide it with sufficient material, human and financial resources. This, of course, also means adopting the unified budget before the end of the year.

Slovenia is celebrating 30 years since gaining independence and becoming a democratic state. The OSCE is of particular importance for us, since it was the first international organisation that the Republic of Slovenia joined.

This is why we are so keen to see it succeed.

Now, let me pass the floor to my dear friend, High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission Josep Borrell.

Thank you.