



Statement of Ambassador Guðni Bragason, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1275th Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 16 July 2020.

Mr Chairman,

While Iceland aligns with the statement of the European Union, I would like to say few words in my own capacity and thank the Deputy Foreign Minister of Sweden, Mr Rydberg, for his presentation of the priorities of the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for the year 2021.

Welcome Sweden's emphasis on the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, all three dimensions and the important work of the autonomous institutions and the field missions. The concentrated work of all these bodies is needed to solve regional conflicts effecting millions of people in our area.

Preserving and promoting existing CSBMs and arms control instruments is essential for security in the Euro-Atlantic region. We welcome Sweden's emphasis on these issues, as well as on the Structured Dialogue and the modernization of the Vienna Document, and the focus within the First Dimension on transnational threats and cyber security.

Needless to say the issues dealt within the Third Dimension are enshrined in the values and policies of the Nordic Countries. We therefore welcome the focus on democracy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms, such as the right to freedom of expression and freedom of media.

I appreciated especially to hear that the environment and threats to the environment are included in the priorities. Due attention should be given to the work within the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Finally, Mr Chairman,

Promoting gender equality is especially welcome, such as the implementation on the UNSCR 1325 and promoting women's participation in conflict resolution, peace processes and the security sector. Also contributing to women's economic empowerment within the Second Dimension.