



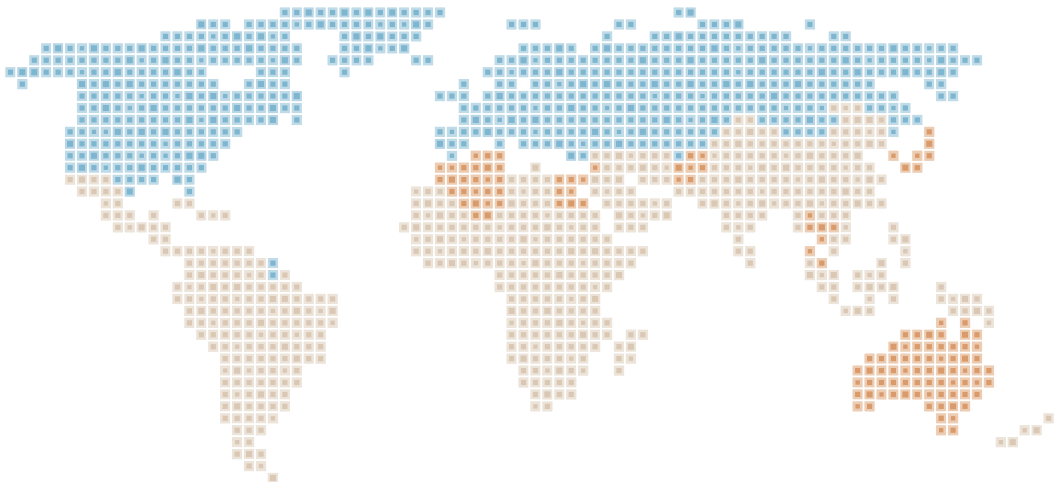
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Renewing dialogue, rebuilding trust, restoring security

The priorities of the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016





Germany is assuming the Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in turbulent times. We are taking on this job in full awareness of the crisis currently besetting Europe's security architecture and of the OSCE's central significance for our common security in Europe and of the role it could play.

45 years ago, Willy Brandt spoke of that "redeeming cooperation" which is necessary if we are to join forces and address the challenges of our time that affect us all. We can only do so successfully if we reaffirm the principles and foundations on which our security architecture is built. We ought to strengthen the OSCE and its institutions and instruments and draw on the expertise the organization has acquired in the course of decades spent working for peace and security. We will work to renew dialogue between the OSCE participating States in order to regain mutual trust and to restore common security.

By assuming the Chairmanship of the OSCE Germany is also assuming more responsibility for peace and security in Europe. We aspire to the vision of a space of indivisible security and cooperation in a spirit of trust, as enshrined in CSCE and OSCE documents ever since the Helsinki Final Act. It is my conviction that we will be able to turn this vision into reality and bring it to life if together we find the political will to do so. I look forward to serving as Chairperson-in-Office and I hope that together with the 57 OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation, we will in 2016 move closer to realizing this vision.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier

In assuming the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016, Germany is taking on *responsibility for security and cooperation in Europe* during one of the severest crises in Europe's security order since the end of the Cold War.

Germany wants to use its OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 to foster dialogue and restore trust, thus enhancing long-term security in Europe.

The motto of the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 is therefore

Renewing dialogue, rebuilding trust, restoring security

Europe is facing a large number of serious *threats* and *challenges*, some of which are new. They can only be overcome through joint cooperative action.

To this end, Germany wants to use, maintain and consolidate the OSCE as a cornerstone of European security.

- The CSCE/OSCE has always stood for *dialogue and confidence-building in Europe* – including and indeed particularly during times of great tension. As an organization, it has important *operational capacities* in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution.
- With its *comprehensive view of security* comprising a politico-military dimension, an economic and environmental dimension, and a human dimension, the *OSCE* is a cornerstone of Europe's *security architecture*. It has *strong independent institutions* – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media – and effective *field operations* in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

As Chair, Germany places utmost importance on strengthening the CSCE and *OSCE's principles and commitments* jointly agreed by all participating States since the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and on working towards their implementation in all States.

The following action lines and projects will shape Germany's commitment to its Chairmanship.



I. Crisis and conflict management

The German Chairmanship will put an emphasis on *crisis* and *conflict management* in the OSCE area.

This applies in particular to the conflict in and around *Ukraine*.

As OSCE Chair, Germany has political responsibility for the work of important OSCE instruments for resolving the conflict in Ukraine, in particular for the work of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk (OM) and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU). The German Chairmanship will also support the ODIHR and the High Commissioner on National Minorities' work in Ukraine. Germany will augment the OSCE's efforts in Ukraine by providing voluntary financial and staff contributions. There will be a focus on seconding personnel to the SMM. Germany will also support the ODIHR and PCU's National Dialogue projects, as well as activities aimed at clearing territories in the East of Ukraine from Explosive Remnants of War.



In addition, Germany will step up its activities to resolve other *protracted conflicts* in the OSCE area.

To this end, the OSCE Chairmanship will actively support the OSCE's current negotiating formats and mechanisms for the conflicts on Nagorno-Karabakh (the Minsk Process) and Transdniestria (5+2 Talks) and foster the Geneva International Discussions on the conflict in Georgia. The German Chairmanship plans to back up the work of these formats by promoting specific confidence-building measures and events, such as continuing the series of annual informal conferences on Transdniestria in Germany. The Special Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Southern Caucasus and the Transdniestrian Settlement Process will play a key role in this.

II. Strengthening the OSCE's capacities over the entire conflict cycle

The OSCE has proved in Ukraine that it can react rapidly to critical developments. At the same time, the crisis has revealed the urgent need to strengthen the OSCE's *capacities over the entire conflict cycle*.

*Germany will continue the efforts made to date to strengthen the OSCE in all phases of the **conflict cycle** (early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation). To this end, the German Chairmanship will launch a **structured dialogue process** on a series of key topics, including early warning and early action, strengthening the OSCE's operational capacities, dialogue facilitation and mediation, reconciliation processes and the further development of confidence- and security-building measures (particularly the Vienna Document), also with regard to their role in the conflict cycle.*

In line with the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, there will be a particular focus on women's participation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, with the aim of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Germany plans to concentrate on cooperation between the OSCE and other regional and international stakeholders.

*The German Chairmanship will also endeavor to make progress on the issue of the OSCE acquiring a **legal personality** under international law.*

III. Using the OSCE as a platform for dialogue

It must also be possible in the future to *designate the violation of OSCE principles and commitments* by participating States *clearly as such* within the OSCE framework. At the same time, the OSCE provides a *forum*, particularly at times of crisis, for maintaining channels of communication and safeguarding *dialogue*. This is why the German Chairmanship will also concentrate on topics with the potential to *bridge differences* and foster renewed *dialogue, trust* and *security* in Europe in the long term.

1. Dialogue on pan-European security issues

Since the Ministerial Council in Dublin in 2012, the OSCE participating States have conducted their dialogue on pan-European security in the “Helsinki+40 Process”, which ended in 2015. However, the issues discussed in this process remain as relevant and topical as ever, both for the OSCE’s operational ability to act and for the foundations of common security in Europe.

Wherever possible, the German Chairmanship plans to readdress these issues in informal dialogue processes. Germany aims to promote initial steps towards renewed substantive discussions on fundamental issues of European security, particularly at events in 2016 with a focus on the politico-military dimension. Recommendations by the Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project can also be included in these various discussions and processes.

2. Confidence- and security-building measures (CSBM) and arms control

Confidence- and security-building measures (CSBM) and conventional arms control are core tasks of the first dimension and vital components of military security. They have always been the key topics of the CSCE process and the OSCE. Because of their crucial importance to European security, it is particularly important to continue the dialogue among OSCE participating States, especially the dialogue on the Vienna Document and the CFE Treaty.

Germany will work closely in this field with the States chairing the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in 2016 (the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal).

*In 2016, Germany will continue – and if possible intensify – the talks on **revising and updating the Vienna Document**. During its OSCE Chairmanship, Germany wants to help prevent or overcome situations of escalation, to foster the use of confidence- and security-building measures, and to rebuild trust in the long term. To this end, Germany plans to put forward its own ideas on modernization, particularly with a view to enhancing the Vienna Document’s capacities, ability to withstand crises, provisions on transparency and verification mechanisms. A series of events on substantial advancements und implementation issues is planned.*

*In February 2016, a **High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar** will take place under the terms of the Vienna Document. This event will give military and civilian decision-makers from the entire OSCE area an opportunity to discuss strategic issues of military direction. Germany serves as co-coordinator. In addition to this seminar, it will raise public awareness and foster a broader security dialogue and the further development of CSBM during 2016.*

*Germany also plans to continue promoting the further **modernization of the Treaty on Open Skies** and its cooperative implementation. In this context, Germany will procure its own **national observation aircraft**. In addition, a **CFE Treaty review conference** is scheduled to take place in autumn 2016. We should make use of this opportunity to strengthen dialogue on the future of conventional arms control.*



The German OSCE Chairmanship will also support the OSCE's ongoing activities in the field of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Finally, a high-level outreach event on parliamentary control of the armed forces is scheduled to take place in Berlin within the framework of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

3. Addressing common threats

There is intense cooperation within the OSCE among the participating States as regards addressing *common threats and challenges*, e.g. in the fields of *international terrorism, radicalization, organized crime, the illicit drug trade, cyber risks* and *human trafficking*. In particular, the threat posed by international terrorism has now reached a new dimension, which affects all OSCE participating States.

The German Chairmanship will make targeted use of the OSCE formats in 2016 in order to find joint answers to these threats through greater cooperation, while fostering *cooperation* and *trust* in the OSCE area through this dialogue.

*To achieve this aim, the German Chairmanship will hold several conferences in Berlin in 2016, including a conference on *cyber security* in January, an event on *border-management issues* in April and the OSCE's annual *counter-terrorism conference* in May/June. The schedule of events will also include the OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting and, in October 2016, the annual conference on combating the threat of illicit drugs in Vienna. In addition, the German Chairmanship will support various training measures for international security authorities, e.g. at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe.*

*The conference with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners, which took place in Jordan under German chairmanship of the Mediterranean contact group on 20-21 October 2015, lent new impetus to the cooperation between the OSCE and its Partner countries on *radicalization, terrorism, migration and inter- and intra-faith dialogue*. This should be followed up in 2016.*

IV. Promoting sustainable connectivity and good governance in the OSCE area

Germany wants to *strengthen* the OSCE's *economic* and *environmental dimension* under the heading of "*sustainable connectivity*". The German Chairmanship wants to create impetus for greater economic exchange in the OSCE area and to further the removal of barriers to cross-border cooperation on business and the environment.

In view of the different economic order and integration systems in the OSCE area, the OSCE provides a useful platform for dialogue on common interests and better economic and environmental conditions. This includes topics such as the key sectors in transport infrastructure, investment conditions, customs cooperation, access to the labor market, regulation and administration or sharing experiences with environmental protection.

In holding a business conference with companies and trade associations from the OSCE area linked to the annual series of events of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Germany's main aim is to make use of the business sector's ideas and suggestions in the OSCE's work.

Good governance is a prerequisite for long-term sustainable connectivity and closer economic exchange. Germany will therefore highlight aspects of good governance in the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. The key issues here are the fight against corruption, better investment conditions and challenges in environmental governance and labor migration.



V. Focusing on the human dimension

The German Chairmanship will devote particular attention to the OSCE's human dimension, that is, to the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Adherence to and implementation of human dimension commitments is of vital importance to sustainable security and stability in the OSCE area.

Current deficits must be clearly stated within the OSCE. A devaluation – let alone a lowering – of these commitments must not be allowed. *Better implementation* of the commitments remains a necessity in all OSCE participating States. Germany will work closely on these issues with the OSCE institutions, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM), thus visibly strengthening them. In the human dimension, Germany will put a strong emphasis on actively including civil society and address its concerns.

The German Chairmanship will concentrate in particular on topics closely linked to the current crisis in the European security order. With regard to freedom of expression and the media, the focus will be on the role of the media and journalists

in times of crisis. A further focus will be put on the situation of minorities in times of crisis, their positive contribution to social integration and their potential to build bridges in international relations.

Germany will highlight tolerance and non-discrimination in 2016. The German Chairmanship will hold a conference on these issues in Berlin and continue the long-standing practice of appointing representatives on combating intolerance and discrimination. This field is of particular importance for States and societies in the OSCE area, especially with regard to the medium and long-term challenges of current developments concerning refugees and migration.

Germany will continue to focus in particular on combating anti-Semitism. Among other events, the Chairmanship is planning a meeting of Special Representatives on Combating Anti-Semitism from the OSCE States, with the aim of discussing effective strategies for combating anti-Semitism and sharing experiences. Combating intolerance and discrimination against Roma and Sinti is also a key issue for the German Chairmanship.

The Chairmanship is committed to strengthening the position of women and addressing the topic of gender as a cross-cutting issue. The Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues and the OSCE Secretariat's Gender Section will play an important role in this work.

The German Chairmanship will also focus on the rule of law. Activities will include an event on responsibility and accountability in the judiciary.

VI. Strengthening exchange between societies and the public

In order to counteract the risk of further alienation and a lack of communication between societies in Europe, we need to strengthen *transnational exchange between societies* and to actively involve *civil society*. This is why the German Chairmanship will maintain close contact with stakeholders from civil society on all areas of the OSCE agenda, with a focus on fostering youth exchange and young people's political participation.

Germany aims to make both the Chairmanship agenda and the OSCE's work and topics accessible to the public in a wide range of ways by working closely with foundations and academia and holding cultural side events in 2016. The OSCE Secretary General is planning an OSCE Security Days event in Berlin in June 2016 in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. The German Chairmanship will support and promote this event. The OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions and the Hamburg-based Centre for OSCE Research (CORE) will provide academic support to the German Chairmanship.

The German Chairmanship will also build on initiatives by Switzerland and Serbia to involve young people. In order to strengthen young people's voice in the OSCE, three Special Representatives on Youth and Security from the Troika countries of Serbia, Germany and Austria will be appointed. In addition, Germany will support two European Youth Parliament forums and hold a two-part Young Leaders Conference for young decision-makers from politics, business and civil society in cooperation with private foundations. A closing event with young people from all over the OSCE area will be held towards the end of the German Chairmanship. Ideally, this will include members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

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