



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 UNIFIED BUDGET PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 8 October 2015

Mr Chairman,

The OSCE's budget situation is increasingly dire. Persistent cutbacks and negative growth has plagued the Unified Budget since 2003. This year's budget proposal continues the trend of real negative growth. At the same time, our organisation is becoming increasingly important for European security and stability.

In order to answer greater demands and fulfil its more prominent role, the OSCE needs more resources, not less. We must always strive for efficiency, but this cannot become our primary objective. Let us stop eroding our organisation and not risk being left with an empty shell.

Mr Chairman,

The Secretariat, the field missions and the autonomous institutions will no longer be able to deliver the top quality products we expect if we consistently fail to give them the resources they need. One example is the understaffing of the Conflict Prevention Centre, which poses a direct security risk for our people in the field. If there is a lack of planners, there will also be a lack of contingency plans. If there is a lack of operational support staff, the field operations will not get the support they need. Since security is a top priority, we must allocate the required resources.

Mr Chairman,

As we are embarking on this year's budget negotiations, I urge colleagues to be open and honest about their goals. Norway's primary objectives are to give the OSCE the necessary resources to meet increasing demands on the organisation's crisis response and conflict management capacity, and to strengthen the autonomous institutions.

Norway places a special emphasis on our institutions. We strongly support the modest and necessary increases suggested in the Unified Budget Proposal. There is no doubt that their continuous and unbiased work within their respective fields has made the OSCE region more stable and secure.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I hope all participating States share my view that we need a stronger organisation. In order for us to achieve that, we must stop insisting on red lines and zero nominal growth. This should not be a race to the bottom, but a cooperative effort to fulfil our common objectives. I wish Germany every success in guiding us to the adoption of a sufficient budget – on time.

Thank you, Mr Chairman