



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2017
UNIFIED BUDGET PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

As delivered by Ambassador Steffen Kongstad
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 4 October 2016

Mr Chair,

The budget negotiations are always a painful process. They are mainly painful because we consistently fail to give the OSCE the resources it needs to tackle the challenges it is facing. Many years of negative growth in real terms is having an increasingly serious impact. We should rather make the budget exercise a collaborative effort to fulfil our common objectives. And, in our view, moving to biannual budgets would significantly improve the performance of the organisation.

We all seem to agree that the current state of European security warrants a more prominent role for the OSCE. What is missing is the logical conclusion that we need to invest more to get more.

We especially need to invest in the human resources that make up our organisation. If we want it to deliver on an appropriate quality level, we need to pay accordingly. Recent developments, with legal services losing almost its entire staff to the UN as just one of many examples, demonstrate the urgency of the situation.

To depend as heavily on secondments as OSCE does, is not healthy for any organisation that is supposed to serve the interests of us all.

We should all show willingness to find compromises. We are a diverse group of countries with widely diverging priorities. This must be respected, or we will risk dismantling what we all find valuable.

Norway's primary objectives this year, as last year, are to give the OSCE the necessary resources to meet increasing demands in the areas of crisis response and conflict management, and to strengthen the autonomous institutions.

Finally, Mr Chair, we look forward to the timely adoption of a sufficient budget under Austria's able stewardship of the ACMF.

Thank you, Mr Chair.