

Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, following briefing by Mr Eamon Gilmore, Tanaiste and Foreign & Trade Minister of Ireland & Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the United Nations Security Council on February 09, 2012

Thank you, Mr President.

2. I would also like to join other colleagues in welcoming H.E. Mr Eamon Gilmore, Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland to the Security Council. I also thank him for his comprehensive briefing on the activities of the OSCE and its priorities in the months to come.

3. Mr President, India supports the role of regional organisations in maintenance of international peace and security and their cooperation with the United Nations under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Article 54 of the Charter enjoins upon these organisations to keep the Security Council fully informed of their activities for maintenance of international peace and security. We, therefore, welcome the briefing by the OSCE's Chairman-in-Office.

4. Mr President, Minister Gilmore has covered a wide canvas of issues, several of them concerning our immediate and extended neighbourhood. Naturally, these are of great interest to my delegation. We appreciate the work OSCE has been doing for promotion of security in its politico-military, economic, environmental, and human dimensions. It has addressed a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental issues. They have contributed to managing some of the important problems in the post-Cold War world.

5. In the last decade or so, the OSCE has expanded its activities significantly in our neighbourhood under the Asian Partners for Cooperation (APC) and Asian Contact Group. We have noted OSCE's cooperation with the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), of which India is a member, on matters related to confidence building measures and preventive diplomacy. We also welcome OSCE's partnership with Afghanistan in border security management and electoral assistance.

6. Mr President, we wish great success to the OSCE in its efforts and activities towards promotion of understanding, peace and security among member and partner countries. We also extend our good wishes to the Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE and

to Minister Gilmore personally and hope that, under his stewardship, the OSCE will continue its important work.

Thank you, Mr President.

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