

## **OSCE Call for Action: Reaffirming a Common Purpose comments and follow up issues**

The OSCE Call for Action initiative, in garnering a high level of participation, was also an opportunity to solicit comments and proposals by the signatories.

Many of the comments focused on the human dimension, the added value of the principles promoted by the OSCE and the need to address effectively the lack of implementation of commitments. The importance to ensure a continued engagement of the civil society was emphasised. More broadly, the relevance of the Paris Charter call for human rights and democracy, as well as the need to continue upholding the rule of law, as critical aspects of security were highlighted, together with the need for greater attention to transparency. A special focus should be devoted to election observation activities, an area of excellent cooperation between the ODIHR and Parliamentarians.

The importance of identifying more clearly the agreed objectives of the action of the Organization in light of current challenges and the added value of the OSCE and possibly considering out-of-the-box initiatives was raised. For instance, the need to consolidate efforts and develop a common strategy in the fight against COVID-19 and other global challenges was underlined.

There was general agreement that the Organization should be better resourced to be able to perform its functions effectively, but this would need a clearer vision on the key shared objectives. According to some, there should not be a separate call for financing some of the executive structures, but the allocation of the resources should take into account the role of each of the executive structures in contributing to achieve the key agreed objectives.

A number of signatories pointed out that a select few OSCE participating States blocking the reappointment of effective leaders have not been held to account for it. They should be, since their decision has damaged the Organization as a whole. The same applies to past blockages of mandates of field operations. According to some, this might also call for a discussion on the use (and perceived misuse) of the consensus rule.

Finally, in the context of the discussion on the profile of the organization, a strong call was heard for regular Summits which would encourage attention to the Organization by political leaders of the participating States. It was also suggested to strengthen the network of civil societies organizations (the example of Atlantic Committees was mentioned), for instance by re-launching or revitalising the role of national Helsinki Committees.