



**Warsaw Declaration
Regional Responses to Global Challenges**

Meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers
of the Council of the Baltic Sea States
Warsaw, 8 June 2016

Deputy Foreign Ministers of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and a representative of the European Union met in Warsaw on 8 June 2016.

They

recalled the significance of the Copenhagen Declaration, as a foundation of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) in 1992, as well as the relevance of other Declarations such as the Riga Declaration on Reform of 2008, the Vilnius Declaration on a Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 and also the Decision on a review of the CBSS long-term priorities adopted in 2014;

reaffirmed the core role of the CBSS as a forum for all multilateral intergovernmental cooperation and dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region;

reconfirmed that the CBSS serves as a forum for political and policy dialogue in the region;

stated that political dialogue is of increased significance in the present challenging times;

recognised that the objective of such a dialogue is:

- to address long-term stability and prosperity;
- to strengthen Baltic Sea cooperation for the benefit of the people of the region;
- to enhance joint efforts to address the challenges and exploit opportunities for future cooperation;

emphasized that the impact of global challenges on the Baltic Sea Region, including irregular migration, terrorism, climate change, energy, maritime safety, health, demographic change, unemployment in particular with regard to young people, social and gender inequality, poverty and hunger, as well as water scarcity, requires a strong response by all CBSS Member States through enhanced regional synergy and cohesion;

therefore **proposed** to place further focus on issues of soft security, including the fight against trafficking in human beings, in particular in children, organised crime, as well as border management and nuclear and radiation safety and seek cooperation with CBSS Observer States on these issues to build confidence;

reiterated the importance of cooperation in civil protection as a means to strengthen resilience in the region against major emergencies and disasters;

recommended with respect to the challenging issue of migration that the CBSS Member States make use of existing networks, expertise and structures across the region.

recognised that with the adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the time has come to similarly renew the CBSS commitment to realise the vision of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region and took note of the *Declaration Baltic 2030: Renewing the Commitment to Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region* adopted by the high representatives of the CBSS government institutions responsible for sustainable development;

reiterated the importance of cooperation between young people in the Baltic Sea Region, including networking opportunities and dialogue as a means of generating regional identity and supporting peace and security for future generations;

recognised the important role of cooperation with governmental and non-governmental actors at sub-regional and local levels in areas of importance within the CBSS long-term priorities;

recalled the project orientation of the CBSS as adopted in the Riga Declaration of 2008 and called on the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) to explore ways and means of project support for the implementation of the long-term priorities of the CBSS;

welcomed the 9th Ministerial Meeting of Culture of the Baltic Sea States held on 16 September, 2015 in Gdansk, Poland, and the 1st Session of the Baltic Sea Region Science Ministers to be held on 16 June, 2016 in Krakow, Poland, and recommended further such ministerial meetings;

recommended that the incoming Icelandic Presidency explores possibilities for developing a vision for the Baltic Sea Region beyond 2020 reflecting global challenges and the opportunities facing the Baltic Sea Region and taking into account relevant actors in the region;

encouraged cooperation among CBSS Members in areas where mutual benefits and synergies can be achieved between the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Strategy for the Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal District of the Russian Federation and other relevant regional strategies and action plans;

expressed willingness to further strengthen cooperation between the CBSS and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC);

thanked the Finnish Presidency (2013-2014) and the Estonian Presidency (2014-2015) for their leadership and contribution to the implementation of the Vilnius Declaration and the renewed CBSS long-term priorities of Regional Identity, Sustainable & Prosperous Region and Safe & Secure Region;

expressed gratitude to Poland for its 2015-2016 Presidency of the CBSS with its priorities *Sustainability, Creativity & Safety* and for having taken an important step towards enhanced synergy and result-oriented cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region;

welcomed Iceland as the incoming Presidency for 2016-2017 which will focus on *Children, Equality and Democracy*;

welcomed Hungary as a new Observer State to the Council of the Baltic Sea States and looked forward to fruitful cooperation;

thanked Director General Jan Lundin for his six years of successful management of the CBSS Permanent International Secretariat and welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Maira Mora as the new Director General;

recognised the achievements listed in the Annex to the Warsaw Declaration and encouraged the CSO to further develop concrete policy responses to global challenges impacting on the Baltic Sea Region;

supported Iceland in preparation of a high-level meeting on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the CBSS in 2017.