



Address of the Permanent Representative of Iceland, Ambassador Guðni Bragason at the Structured Dialogue on the Current and Future Challenges and Risks to Security in the OSCE-Area, at the IWG meeting on 28th February 2020.

Mr Chairman, I like to thank you for the work you have put into preparing for this year's programme of the Structured Dialogue, and especially for the exemplary consultations with participating States in the previous weeks.

Needless to say, Iceland supports the Structured Dialogue, and your programme of work and the overall approach. We believe that the SD is particularly important in view of uncertainties in the security structure in Europe.

The Hamburg Declaration of Ministers from 2016 provides for a comprehensive Mandate for the SD.

(Paragraph 4: „At the same time, we recognize the interrelation between CSBMs and conventional arms control, and the wider politico-military context. We welcome launching of a structured dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area to foster a greater understanding on these issues that could serve as a common solid basis for a way forward.“)

In this context we support the continuation of discussion on hybrid threats, including cyber security, and its many aspects, such as attempts to create uncertainty in the society and undermine trust and faith in democracy. The OSCE with its concept of comprehensive security is a good forum to address hybrid threats.

We emphasize the political part of the dialogue, also that the ownership of the Structured Dialogue is with the participating states and there is a need to avoid duplication with other OSCE fora.

Finally, Mr Chairman we wish you success in your work this year.