



## Stockholm Declaration

The Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the European Union met in Stockholm on 18 June 2018.

The Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives highlighted the significant human, social and economic capital of the Baltic Sea Region and the remarkable development of the region since the founding of the CBSS. Over the past quarter of a century, the CBSS has built a track record of sustainable results to the benefit of the entire region. In particular, the Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives recognised the achievements in areas of Sustainable Development, Youth, the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings, Child Protection, Civil Protection, and request the CBSS to further monitor progress and implement activities in these areas, supporting this work with the help of the CBSS Project Support Facility.

Looking forward, the Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives stressed the importance of CBSS remaining a vehicle to building trust and confidence in the region and committed to ensuring that the CBSS continues to be a relevant intergovernmental forum for political dialogue and practical cooperation between all countries around the Baltic Sea.

The Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives took note of the presentation by the chairperson of the CBSS Vision Group of its final report and expressed their appreciation to the individual experts for their valuable work. They stressed the need for more focus and flexibility in the work of the CBSS, enabling it to improve co-operation with other international fora and formats active in the region while avoiding overlapping. A reformed CBSS should deliver concrete results in areas in which the organisation is uniquely suited to add value. They further encouraged the incoming presidencies to drive the reform efforts with a view of reaching political agreement on a substantial roadmap for reform of the CBSS, with the goal of reaching tangible progress by 2020.

The Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives underlined the need to continue to work together for a more prosperous, environmentally friendly and well-connected region, which also has a potential to act as an example of cooperation, stability, progress, gender equality and sustainable development in a rapidly changing world.

The Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives expressed their gratitude to Sweden for its successful 2017-2018 Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and for organising this meeting.