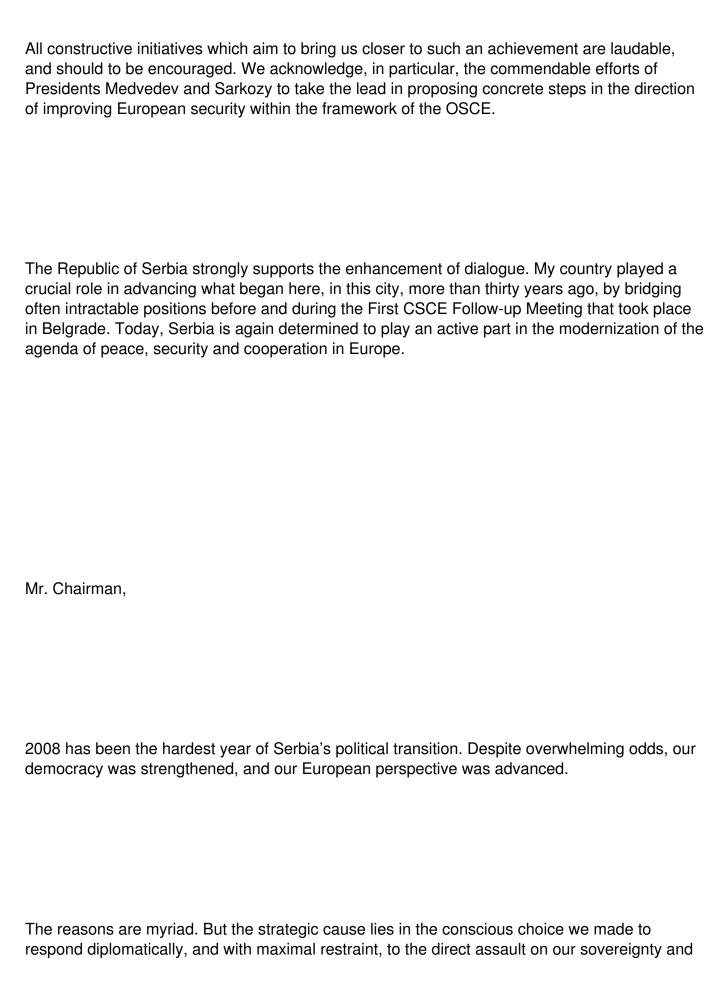
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Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Address to the Sixteenth Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Thursday, 04 December 2008.
security agenda.
Its fundamental merit has been the establishment of principles and values expressed in political commitments that keep serving as a multi-dimensional framework for relations amongst its participating States. Serbia will proudly and consistently continue to promote them in the conduct of our foreign and domestic policies.
Mr. Chairman,
This brings me to the fact that amongst participating States, the Republic of Serbia has the highest number of registered refugees and IDPs. More than 200,000 Serbs from Croatia and Bosnia have become citizens of Serbia, while another 74,000 remain registered refugees. Another 200,000 Serbs from Kosovo remain IDPs in northern and central Serbia.
I must underline that a sustainable and dignified solution to these issues cannot be found without full restitution of, or compensation for, seized or destroyed property.

The Republic of Serbia fully expects that the authorities in neighboring countries, such as Croatia, as well as those in our province of Kosovo, fulfill their obligations on these issues.
Mr. Chairman,
In pursuit of fuller regional cooperation, the Republic of Serbia has consistently advocated the strengthening of cooperation between the region's OSCE Missions.
The Palić, Ohrid and Sarajevo Processes are perfect examples of how the OSCE can assist countries to solve issues that are by their very nature regional in scope—and that, as such, require solutions that are themselves regional.
We do not believe that the Sarajevo Process—to which we attach particular importance—has been completed. This important regional question requires not only a regional answer, but also the continuing active involvement of the three international stakeholders to the Sarajevo Process: the UNHCR, the EU, and of course the OSCE.

Address to the Sixteenth Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Thursday, 04 December 2008.

Mr. Chairman,	
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now turn to more geo-strategic considerations.	
My country believes that the OSCE can and should position itself to better respond to the proving number of challenges we all face. This ought to include engagement at the Heads of	
State level.	
events of this past year in the OSCE space have made it clear that it is time for the participating states to engage each other in a frank and open dialogue about inclusive ways to bolster ecurity in the 21st century. I believe it is our duty to forge ahead with ideas and proposals	3
esigned to strengthen the implementation of the basic principles of our Organization.	

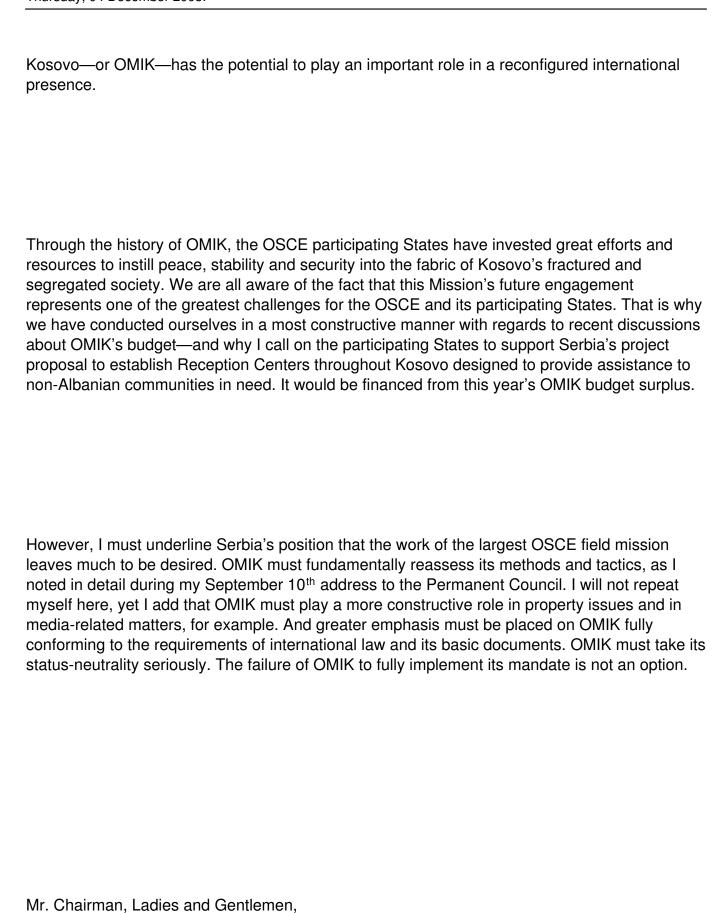


territorial integrity—in direct violation of our Constitution, the UN Charter, and the Helsinki Final Act, and against the will of the Security Council.
Mr. Chairman,
The way Serbia reacted to the February 17 th unilateral declaration of independence by the ethnic Albanian authorities in our southern province of Kosovo and Metohija, is a testament to the bedrock dedication of our democratic leadership to the peaceful and consensual resolution of disputes.
Through our actions and initiatives, we showed the region and the world that we are an indispensable anchor of stability and security in Southeast Europe.
I give you two examples.



United Nations after UDI to commence the reconfiguration of the international presence in our southern province.
Unfortunately, this process was set in motion without the approval of the Republic of Serbia—the host country of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. And it was launched without the endorsement of the Security Council—the only institution endowed with the power to legitimate changes in the composition of the international presence in Kosovo.
This set the stage for a crisis of legitimacy.
The Republic of Serbia again led the way in showing the constructive way forward. We took it upon ourselves to build a bridge across the divide, and we succeeded.
Mr. Chairman,

In this context, I underscore Serbia's longstanding position that the OSCE Mission in



If there is one thing I would like you to take away from my remarks today, it is that Serbia crucial player in the regional security we all have a stake in consolidating, and a proud democracy that has weathered enormous challenges against incredible odds.	is a
Ve are confident that through the continued practice of a grand-strategy of partnership and ngagement, Serbia—indivisible, democratic Serbia—shall become a member of the Eurlinion in the next few years.	
Vith our heads held high and our sovereignty preserved, Serbia will enhance its contribu he comprehensive pursuit of lasting peace, security and cooperation in Europe.	tion to
Γhank you very much.	