

Statement on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice by Members of the International Steering Group

22 July 2010, Prishtinë/Priština, Republic of Kosovo

The International Steering Group (ISG) welcomes the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the question of Kosovo's declaration of independence. The ISG reaffirms its unfaltering support for the independence of a democratic, multi-ethnic Kosovo within its current borders, and calls on other states to recognise Kosovo. It notes Kosovo's continued commitment to, and significant progress in implementing the Comprehensive Settlement Proposal, and will continue to support Kosovo as it works to realize its European perspective.

The ICJ advisory opinion is an important opportunity for the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia to open a new phase in their relationship. The ISG hopes for a sincere, respectful and constructive dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo, as independent and sovereign states, to identify and resolve practical issues of mutual interest to the benefit of the people of both countries. The ISG welcomes the Government of Kosovo's willingness to engage on that basis, believing such dialogue and co-operation to be beneficial to long-term regional stability and European integration.