



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

BELGRADE

2015

**Twenty-Second Meeting of the
Ministerial Council
3 and 4 December 2015**

Statements and declarations by the Ministerial Council

Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Statements by delegations

Reports to the Ministerial Council

Belgrade 2015

4 December 2015

Original: ENGLISH

MC22EW70

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**I. STATEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS BY THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSNISTRIAN SETTLEMENT
PROCESS IN THE “5+2” FORMAT**

(MC.DOC/1/15 of 4 December 2015)

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:

Recall the Ministerial Statement on the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Basel on 5 December 2014,

Reiterate their strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for Transnistria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;

Underline the need to advance the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format as the only mechanism to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable resolution of the conflict and the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process. The sides should engage in it without interruption and should be represented by fully empowered political representatives;

Emphasize the need to achieve tangible progress in the negotiations on all three baskets of the agreed agenda for the negotiation process: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues;

Welcome the holding of two productive meetings of the leaders of the sides during 2015 and encourage them to move the process forward;

Express satisfaction with the commitment of the political representatives to meet on a regular basis and encourage the sides to increase the continuity and effectiveness of the process by agreeing at the beginning of the year on a calendar in the “5+2” format for the official negotiations in the framework of the Transnistrian settlement process for the whole year;

Invite the sides to implement existing agreed confidence-building measures and develop further measures in the framework of the negotiation process to the benefit of the people on the ground and further urge the sides to refrain from unilateral actions that could destabilize the situation in the region;

Call upon the mediators and observers of the OSCE, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the European Union and the United States of America to redouble their co-ordinated efforts and to make full use of their potential to promote progress in achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.

**DECLARATION ON THE
OSCE ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL EFFORTS IN
TACKLING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM**

(MC.DOC/2/15 of 4 December 2015)

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 1048 on the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, Permanent Council Decision No. 1049 on the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities, and other relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering illicit drugs, and taking note of the OSCE executive structures' efforts in implementing them in accordance with their respective mandates,

Willing to achieve targets and goals set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action in International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,

Taking note of the outcomes of the OSCE-wide conferences on tackling the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors, and of the relevant regional and subregional expert workshops, training courses, and awareness-raising and capacity-building events,

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations, in particular the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in tackling the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors,

Mindful of the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016),

Willing to support, within existing means, capabilities and commitments, the contribution of the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, to the preparation for UNGASS 2016, which will take stock of achievements and challenges in tackling the world drug problem,¹

Call upon participating States:

1. To contribute to the preparation for UNGASS 2016 being led by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, by supporting the following recommendations drawn up in accordance with the OSCE drug-related mandate:
 - (a) To comply with the provisions and effectively implement the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which together remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system;

1 In line with the OSCE commitments and as defined in Permanent Council Decision No. 1048.

- (b) To pursue a balanced, integrated approach to the world drug problem, in which reduction of both supply and demand, as well as international co-operation, are mutually reinforcing elements in narcotic drugs policy;
 - (c) To facilitate, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, partnership with the private sector in preventing the diversion of chemical precursors and in countering the trade in illicit drugs and their precursors;
 - (d) To facilitate co-operation, when appropriate, among public health, education sectors and law enforcement on a comprehensive approach to tackling drugs demand and supply reduction by raising awareness, especially among children and young people of the threat of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances with a view to reducing drug-related crime and promoting healthy living;
2. To underline that countering drug trafficking needs to be accompanied by efforts to fight corruption, money laundering and other forms of organized crime;
3. To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to engage actively in these efforts in line with our common and shared responsibility to tackle the world drug problem;

Call upon the OSCE executive structures:

4. To continue to promote within existing resources and mandates, in close co-operation with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board, and other relevant multilateral organizations the OSCE's efforts to tackle the threat of illicit drugs, the emergence and spread of dangerous new psychoactive substances and the diversion of chemical precursors and to extend relevant assistance to participating States at their request and in line with the three United Nations drug control conventions.

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON REINFORCING OSCE EFFORTS TO COUNTER TERRORISM IN THE WAKE OF RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS

(MC.DOC/3/15 of 4 December 2015)

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, are horrified by the deadly terrorist attacks against civilians that occurred across the OSCE area and in its neighbourhood in 2015; we offer heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to the people and governments that have been targeted, and wish a speedy recovery to those who were injured.

We condemn unequivocally and in the strongest terms all terrorist attacks, including the indiscriminate killing of civilians and the deliberate targeting of individuals and communities, *inter alia* on the basis of their religion or belief, in particular by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, also known as DAESH (ISIL/DAESH), Al-Nusrah Front (ANF), and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, which constitute a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security.

We reaffirm that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization.

We are committed to reinforcing our efforts to address the threat of terrorism, including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and to this aim to continue to fully implement OSCE commitments in the field of preventing and combating terrorism, as well as UN Security Council resolutions 2170, 2178, 2199 and 2249.

We recall that participating States shall prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, and shall refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists.

We reaffirm our commitment to remain united in combating terrorism and to work together to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, as well as to address the conditions conducive to its spread, through increased international solidarity and co-operation, in full recognition of the central role of the United Nations, and in accordance with the UN Charter and other obligations under applicable international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as through the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We underscore that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures, and are an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort, and note the importance of the respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism.

We reiterate our determination and commitment to co-operate fully in preventing and countering terrorism in accordance with our obligations under international law in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on basis of the principle of “extradite or prosecute”, any person who supports, facilitates, participates in or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

We stress that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and co-operation of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations, as well as, where appropriate, civil society, to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate terrorist threat.

We recall relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering terrorism, in particular Permanent Council Decision No. 1063 on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, and Ministerial Council Declaration on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014).

We are convinced that combating terrorism, in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments, requires comprehensive and sustained efforts, in addressing the manifestations of terrorism, as well as the various social, economic, political and other factors, which might engender conditions in which terrorist organizations could engage in recruitment and win support, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

We reaffirm the steadfast determination of the participating States to protect the fundamental principles on which the OSCE is based, and to implement all OSCE commitments, particularly those related to preventing and combating terrorism, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, to respecting human rights and the rule of law and to fostering tolerance and non-discrimination, mutual respect and understanding in our societies.

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON
PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND
RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM**

(MC.DOC/4/15 of 4 December 2015)

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recalling relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering terrorism, in particular Permanent Council Decision No. 1063 on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, and Ministerial Council Declaration No. 5/14 on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014),

Underscoring our resolute and unconditional condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism, and our profound solidarity with all the victims of terrorism,

Reaffirming the commitment of participating States to work together to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute terrorism-related acts, including their financing, and stressing their strong determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and that terrorism and violent extremism cannot and should not be associated with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion,

Expressing particular concern that youth, including children, are being radicalized to terrorism and recruited as foreign terrorist fighters, and recognizing the importance of working with youth to prevent and counter radicalization of youth to terrorism,

Strongly condemning manifestations of intolerance, including on the basis of religion or belief, reaffirming the will of participating States to foster tolerance and non-discrimination, mutual respect and understanding in their societies, and reaffirming our commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

Expressing deep concern at the fact that some serious crimes committed by terrorists or terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters, have targeted persons and groups on the basis of their ethnicity, religion or belief, and noting the role that discrimination and intolerance can play in fuelling violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,

Underscoring the commitment of participating States to take the measures needed to protect everyone within their jurisdiction against terrorist acts, and to take resolute action to counter terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters, including by fully implementing UNSCR 2170, 2178, 2199 and 2249, with regard to the terrorist groups identified therein, in support of our relevant OSCE commitments, and in compliance with applicable obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Strongly condemning the destruction of cultural heritage and religious sites, including the targeted destruction of UNESCO World Heritage sites, by terrorists, foreign terrorist fighters associated with ISIL and other terrorist groups,

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations in the international efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, and the commitment of participating States to the full implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Guided by our conviction that combating terrorism and violent extremism, in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments, requires comprehensive and sustained efforts, in addressing the manifestations of terrorism, as well as the various social, economic, political and other factors, which might engender conditions in which terrorist organizations could engage in recruitment and win support,

Reaffirming the commitment of participating States to exchange ideas and national best practices about their strategies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in order to enhance practical co-operation,

Taking note of the fact that radicalization to terrorism and recruitment by terrorists can take place in prisons, and therefore affirming the importance of elaborating and sharing, as appropriate, international guidelines on reintegration, rehabilitation and the prevention of radicalization to terrorism in prison,

Stressing that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, while respecting their obligations under international law,

Stressing the important roles that youth, families, women, victims of terrorism, religious, cultural and education leaders, civil society, as well as the media, can play to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, and to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in particular by fostering mutual respect and understanding, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among cultures, and by promoting and protecting human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratic principles and the rule of law,

Recognizing that UNSCR 2242 (2015) calls for the greater integration by States of their agendas on women, peace and security, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism which can be conducive to the spread of terrorism; recalling the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and taking note of the good practices documents on countering violent extremism adopted by the Global Counterterrorism Forum,

Recognizing the efforts of the 2014–2015 Swiss and Serbian consecutive Chairmanships of the OSCE, as well as previous Chairmanships, in fostering the link between youth and comprehensive security throughout the OSCE area, and in that regard taking note of the Serbian Chairmanship's conference on "Working with youth for youth: protection against radicalization", and the Ukrainian Chairmanship's OSCE Youth Summit,

Taking note of the outcome of the 2015 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Expert Conference on "Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters", convened by the Chairmanship-in-Office on 30 June and 1 July 2015 in Vienna, as well as the relevant Security Days events convened by the Secretary General,

Taking note of the launch of the communication campaign “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism” by the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretary General to reinforce the global efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and to highlight the OSCE’s multi-dimensional approach to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in line with the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism,

Call upon the participating States:

1. To further increase their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism in their countries, following a multi-dimensional approach, and in this regard to make use, as appropriate and where necessary, of the OSCE executive structures, including field operations within their respective mandates;
2. To strengthen their efforts to counter and suppress the financing of terrorism, in application of, and in compliance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including UNSCR 2199 (2015), and in support of OSCE commitments, underlining that any sources of income support the recruitment efforts and strengthen the operational capabilities to organize and carry out terrorist acts;
3. To adopt measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law, including with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, and to prevent such conduct;
4. To co-operate in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, through, *inter alia*, capacity-building, co-ordination of plans and efforts and sharing lessons learned, including in eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists, preventing the radicalization to terrorism, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals as terrorists, including as foreign terrorist fighters;
5. To consider, as appropriate, developing and updating national counter-terrorism strategies and action plans, including specific policies and measures to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in furtherance of OSCE commitments and in compliance with their obligations under international law, including human rights law;
6. To foster a comprehensive approach at all levels in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including co-ordination among national authorities, co-operation among participating States, and co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations;
7. To promote research and information sharing on the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and on how to counter them;
8. To encourage political leaders and public figures, including civil society and religious leaders to contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, by speaking out strongly and promptly against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;

9. To further promote public-private partnerships in countering terrorism, where appropriate, among public authorities, the private sector, civil society, members of, or representatives of religious communities, and the media, in line with, *inter alia*, Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/08, in order to counter incitement to terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
10. To enhance international co-operation and public-private partnerships to develop practical measures to counter the use of the Internet and other means for the purposes of inciting violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and for recruiting foreign terrorist fighters. Such international co-operation and public-private partnerships could foster communication efforts, including via social media, to counter violent extremist messaging, while fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression;
11. To consider developing community policing approaches to preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including at the local level, in accordance with national legislation and international law;
12. To encourage open and transparent intercultural, interfaith and interreligious dialogue and co-operation to contribute to, *inter alia*, enhancing tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, at the local, national, regional and international levels;
13. To take into account a gender perspective¹ in their efforts to counter terrorism and to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, with a focus on women's empowerment and the participation of women as well as men in these efforts;
14. To engage and empower youth, in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, *inter alia*, by:
 - (a) Creating an enabling environment and opportunities for youth to participate and engage voluntarily and freely in public life and in the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, the rule of law, tolerance, non-discrimination, dialogue, mutual respect and understanding, and to facilitate their access to social services;
 - (b) Supporting youth, which are willing to contribute to such efforts, through education in schools and higher education institutions;
 - (c) Supporting youth-led and youth-focused awareness-raising initiatives, including through the Internet and social media, to prevent and counter their radicalization to terrorism, and to promote respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, tolerance and non-discrimination;
 - (d) Promoting programmes to facilitate youth access to employment;
15. To consider supporting OSCE activities in all three dimensions of security, including through voluntary financial contributions, which contribute to the global efforts to prevent

1 Throughout this declaration, "gender perspective" is used in accordance with its meaning in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, while acknowledging the leading role of the United Nations;

16. To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage with us to strengthen our dialogue and co-operation in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in this context, preventing and countering manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, including on the basis of religion or belief, xenophobia, violence, as well as promoting interfaith, interreligious and intercultural dialogue, taking note of the Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace, and Security dated 22 August 2015, and to encourage the Partners for Co-operation to continue to make the best use of the OSCE principles, norms and commitments, as well as its relevant tools;

17. We encourage parliamentarians to continue to dialogue with a view to strengthening legislation essential in combating terrorism, promoting solidarity with victims of terrorism, and to encourage them to speak out strongly and promptly against intolerance, discrimination, terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism;

Call upon relevant OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates and available resources:

18. To continue their support to participating States, upon request, in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, following a multi-dimensional approach, including in relation to youth, as appropriate;

19. To facilitate the exchange of practical experiences and good practices, and, upon request, provide assistance as appropriate, *inter alia*:

- (a) To promote research and information sharing on the conditions conducive to violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and on how to counter them;
- (b) To develop, where appropriate, national counter-terrorism strategies and action plans, including policies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
- (c) To integrate a gender perspective in the context of preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, with a focus in particular on women's empowerment and the participation of women as well as men in these efforts;
- (d) To assist participating States in developing practical activities, in partnership with civil society and the private sector as appropriate, to support the elaboration of policies, approaches, and strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
- (e) To promote the sharing of best practices, as appropriate, and explore the possible elaboration of international guidelines on rehabilitation, reintegration and the prevention of terrorist radicalization in prisons;

- (f) To implement community policing approaches to preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (g) To promote co-operation among experts from government, civil society, academia, the media and the private sector to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (h) To strengthen the role of civil society, women, youth and religious leaders in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (i) To promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the rule of law, in the context of measures to prevent terrorism and to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (j) To address negative socio-economic factors in the context of preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (k) To encourage educational initiatives and other measures to promote tolerance and non-discrimination, non-violence, and to raise public awareness of, and counter xenophobic stereotypes, intolerance and discrimination, as part of efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (l) To recognize the role of the media in encouraging pluralistic debate and to encourage professionalism and voluntary self-regulation in the media, with a view to fostering tolerance of ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural diversity, and to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, while respecting the independence and freedom of the media;
20. To co-operate with the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations and initiatives, to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize synergies in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
21. To support the Partners for Co-operation in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by them, as stated in Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 on Partners for Co-operation, and in line with established procedures and when so requested;
22. We task field operations to report through the Secretariat to the Permanent Council by 26 May 2016 on their past, current, and possible activities, in accordance with their respective mandate, specifically aimed at supporting efforts in their respective host country to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, following a multi-dimensional approach.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In connection with the Ministerial Council Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism just adopted, and in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, the United States would like to make the following interpretive statement.

We reiterate that the OSCE’s efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism should be built upon its comprehensive approach to security, encompassing all dimensions and OSCE executive structures. This includes the OSCE Secretariat, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and field operations.

The OSCE participating States have repeatedly reaffirmed that counterterrorism measures must be consistent with human rights obligations and commitments. As such, we highly value ODIHR’s work in this regard, and in particular ODIHR’s Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism project that assists participating States promote, protect, and respect human rights in the development and implementation of anti-terrorism policies.

We applaud the OSCE’s launch of an organization-wide campaign, ‘OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism,’ that highlights the Organization’s multi-dimensional approach to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. We strongly support this campaign as it brings together all OSCE executive structures to reinforce global efforts against this threat.

Mr. Chairman, we ask that this statement be attached to the declaration we have just adopted and included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

DECLARATION ON YOUTH AND SECURITY

(MC.DOC/5/15 of 4 December 2015)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, recall the OSCE commitments relating to youth, built upon relevant provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

We take note of the efforts of the current and previous OSCE Chairmanships and stress the importance of promoting the implementation of the OSCE commitments on youth, particularly in the area of education and the role young people can play to support participating States in implementing OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

We recognize that youth and children require particular attention and that their needs, concerns and interests should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

II. DECISIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

DECISION No. 1/15
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
(MC.DEC/1/15 of 4 December 2015)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Twenty-Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Hamburg on 8 and 9 December 2016.

Attachment to MC.DEC/1/15

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“The United States looks forward to next year’s Ministerial Council in Hamburg and welcomes this decision by the Ministerial Council.

As we look toward next year we must express our deep disappointment that because of the apparent unwillingness of a few participating States to join consensus on many draft decisions consistent with OSCE principles and commitments, this year’s Ministerial meeting has produced few consequential and valuable decisions.

This is principally a symptom of the ongoing security crisis in the OSCE area precipitated by the ongoing occupation of and attempted annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and its abrogation of numerous OSCE commitments and violation of international law.

The crisis in European security fomented by Russia has been reflected in our work here in Belgrade. We thank the Chairmanship for its good faith efforts to mitigate this reality.

We recall that the SMM has yet to realize its full potential, as Russia-backed separatists continue to obstruct SMM access to territory under their control, including up to the Russia/Ukraine border, and to employ violence to threaten or intimidate SMM personnel. Consequently, the SMM is not able either to monitor the ceasefire fully or verify the withdrawal of weapons – both of which are essential to the Minsk implementation process. Russia-backed separatists deprive the SMM of the security guarantees needed to open new patrol bases near the line of contact and continue to jam the organization’s UAVs.

Like many other delegations represented at this Ministerial, we supported efforts to pass a clear Declaration in support of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, with the goal of a peaceful and sustainable resolution to the conflict. That Declaration also would have

affirmed the OSCE's response to the conflict, recognizing the contributions of the three OSCE field missions and the vital work of OSCE's independent institutions.

The reason is clear: Russia has consistently and repeatedly contravened OSCE principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter. It has been unwilling at this Ministerial to allow for a Declaration that accounts for the full extent of its actions in Ukraine. We also note that the only reason the SMM was needed in the first place was because of Russia's aggression against another participating State.

We appreciate the SMM's efforts to support full implementation of the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum, and the Package of Measures. We note that Russia still has not fulfilled its commitment to free hostages and Ukrainians detained for political reasons, including Nadiya Savchenko, Oleg Sentsov, and Oleksander Kolchenko. We also repeat our call to Russia and the separatists it backs to agree to modalities for free and fair local elections in the special status area that are held under Ukrainian law, in line with OSCE standards, and monitored by ODIHR.

We recall that the SMM's mandate clearly states that 'SMM members will have safe and secure access throughout Ukraine,' which includes Crimea. The United States reaffirms its commitment to the SMM, and even more fundamentally to Ukraine's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

I ask that this interpretive statement be attached to the decision and the journal of the day.

Thank you."

III. STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS

**OPENING STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SERBIA, AT THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**
(MC.DEL/66/15 of 1 February 2016)

Dear Ministers,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. We are glad that the OSCE/CSCE has returned to Belgrade again. We are proud to be able to host, here in Belgrade, once again, after 1977–1978, a high-level meeting of our Organization. We hope that you will be enjoying our hospitality.

The OSCE Chairmanship of the Republic of Serbia is aiming for consensus on substantive issues important for advancing co-operative security in our region. Although circumstances are complicated, we are convinced that, with political will, we will be able to conduct open, frank and constructive dialogue on all issues of common concern.

There is no doubt that the OSCE's most important task at this moment is to further de-escalate the crisis in and around Ukraine. As we assumed the Chairmanship early this year, the conflict had been in progress, causing many casualties. Meanwhile, the Package of Measures to implement the Minsk agreements has been signed. Four working groups have been established within the Trilateral Contact Group, and talks started on the implementation of the Minsk Package, showing certain results. The mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission was extended by a year; its stable financing ensured, and strengthening of its capacities enabled in both technical terms and with regard to human resources.

The efforts of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine – the SMM – and of many other parts of the Organization are aimed at establishing peace and stability in Ukraine. The ceasefire has generally been holding and the activities related to the withdrawal of heavy weapons have continued. In this context, I would like to underline the significance of the adoption of the Addendum to the Package of Measures pertaining to withdrawal of some additional categories of heavy weapons. There is no doubt that we have to do everything in our power to make the ceasefire last and thus prevent further violence.

The Trilateral Contact Group and its four working groups provide a critical mechanism for establishing a dialogue on complex political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian issues between the sides. This is an exclusive format enabling the sides to intensify their engagement aimed at the implementation of the high-level agreements adopted in the Normandy Format.

In carrying out its mandate, the SMM has shown the ability to continuously adapt to new challenges. This would not have been possible without both the political and practical support of all of us in the OSCE. I would like to thank all the participating States for their support to the SMM, especially in recruitment, provision of technical means and budget contributions, which has been vital to sustaining and strengthening the SMM's operative capacity.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Chief Monitor of the SMM and all the monitors for their personal courage and commitment, without which such a challenging mission would not be possible. I also thank the many other dedicated OSCE staff both on the ground, as well as in the OSCE Secretariat and institutions who are contributing to these efforts.

Dear colleagues,

Our determination to contribute to addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine, which has sharpened the already existing divisions among us, will largely determine our ability to revive an atmosphere that is conducive to working together towards a shared vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible security community in the OSCE region.

Although the crisis in and around Ukraine dominated the agenda of the Organization and our Chairmanship, there are still many other challenges to security in our region today. The so-called frozen conflicts remain unresolved, continuing to pose a serious threat to our common security. Therefore, we need to persevere and step up our efforts to revitalize the respective negotiation formats.

At the same time, transnational and global threats and challenges continue to undermine security in the OSCE region and beyond. Terrorism, organized crime and climate change, as well as the current migrant crisis require an urgent, decisive and co-ordinated responses by all of us. As we agreed, in weeks preceding the Ministerial Council, on condemning the terrorist attacks in Sinai, Paris and Ankara, I believe that we will remain united also in continuing our common fight against this global and growing threat. I strongly condemn these acts and express condolences to governments of the affected countries and families of the victims.

Our current divisions should not prevent us from taking part in addressing the challenges I already mentioned. In that respect, our Chairmanship, in co-operation with other participating States, invested large efforts in order to define the OSCE response to these serious threats. Enhancing OSCE engagement on these issues with other international actors, in particular our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, is vital to addressing these complex and often interconnected threats that affect all our participating States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Last January, when I presented Serbia's Chairmanship priorities at the Permanent Council in Vienna, I referred to the primary importance of rebuilding trust and confidence to create a positive agenda for the future. I highlighted some key words that should determine our action at this point in time more than ever before: dialogue and compromise, peaceful resolution of disputes, confidence-building, solidarity, responsibility and co-operation. In such complex circumstances, the issue of rebuilding consensus on European security must be our central concern. We tried to encourage constructive discussion during the Informal High-Level Meeting in Helsinki in July and on other occasions throughout the year. I am hopeful that the continuation of this debate here in Belgrade will take us at least a step further along the difficult road of rebuilding confidence.

I am convinced that the OSCE, with its inclusive membership and comprehensive concept of security, is the most appropriate forum for this discussion. In the year when we are marking the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and 25th anniversary of the Charter of Paris, we are deeply aware of the legacy that we have inherited. We should draw inspiration from the courage of those Cold War leaders who managed to draw up a new foundation for regulating relations between States despite an ideologically charged atmosphere of intense antagonism. I remain optimistic that, in time, we will manage to rebuild mutual trust and find our way back onto the right track.

Having said this, there is no question that our dialogue should be based on the full respect for OSCE principles and implementation of the commitments in all three dimensions undertaken by all OSCE participating States. There can be no compromise on the applicability of the fundamental principles and commitments that provide the foundation for co-operative security in the OSCE area. Assuring their effective implementation is the only possible basis on which trust and confidence can be rebuilt.

Serbia's Chairmanship has also sought to encourage effective and open dialogue within both regular OSCE meetings and the "Helsinki+40" Process. Despite difficult circumstances, in which it was conducted in the past three years, the informal Helsinki+40 Process dialogue has provided us with some useful ideas. In particular, let me highlight efforts to pursue discussions on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the OSCE that can provide significant building blocks for a future-oriented debate – a discussion we should continue to engage in.

We will also need to engage in a more in-depth discussion on building the capacity of our Organization in order to prepare it for adequate response in all the phases of the conflict cycle, as well as to link it closer with efforts of partner organizations, particularly with the UN, in line with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. From our part, we contributed to this goal by convening an informal discussion on OSCE peace operations, which many of you attended on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York. I believe that this important event was only the first of many debates that we must hold if we are to effectively prepare our Organization for future security crises that may face us in years to come.

Steering continued informal dialogue on the broader crisis of security and co-operation in the OSCE area, and on ways to strengthen the Organization's capacities to address security challenges across the three dimensions will certainly have to include the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as co-operation with the civil society. I am confident that such a comprehensive dialogue will bring us closer to fully respecting our principles and commitments.

This will be an important task for the incoming German and Austrian Chairmanships, and I wish them success in leading this dialogue in the next two years.

In conclusion, I particularly wish to thank Switzerland, our partner in consecutive chairmanships, for its close co-operation and support. I believe that this kind of co-operation can serve us as a useful experience and a role model for some future chairmanships.

Serbia will continue to be an active partner in this effort as a member of the 2016 Troika and beyond, as it strongly believes that our Organization can ensure an essential

contribution to consolidation of security and rebuilding of confidence in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian areas.

Thank you.

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

(MC.GAL/9/15 of 9 December 2015)

The Foreign Ministers of the 57 participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) met in Belgrade on 3 and 4 December 2015 in the midst of one of the most profound crises in European security since the end of the Cold War.

In my capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, allow me to summarize our deliberations, including informal discussions during a working lunch on 3 December, as follows:

Deep concern was expressed about the crisis in and around Ukraine, which was one of the central elements of discussion. There is a shared interest in responding as a community to the challenge of terrorism and violent extremism, which is having a profound impact on all of Europe and all of the Middle East. Recognition was given to the urgency of the migration and refugee crisis and its significant impact on a number of participating States and partners for co-operation, since the OSCE can play a valuable role in responding to the crisis.

While participating States disagreed on the root causes of the crisis in and around Ukraine, they expressed strong support for the continuous and broad engagement of the OSCE in the Ukraine crisis. They also expressed commitment to intensifying efforts aimed at further de-escalation and readiness to take additional steps in support of its settlement by peaceful means in full respect for the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

There was a broad agreement that consolidating the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine and taking further steps toward a lasting political settlement must continue to command the highest priority so as to avoid further loss of lives and human suffering and as an essential condition for progress in overcoming the wider crisis in European security.

It was underscored that the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine must be fully respected. Many participating States also considered that the crisis in and around Ukraine stems from violation of principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. There were different views as well.

The strong engagement of the Normandy Format, including at the highest levels, was recognized as instrumental to enabling the full and timely implementation of the Minsk agreements. All sides were urged to build on the progress achieved so far and to continue effective co-operation with the OSCE, notably within the context of the Trilateral Contact Group and its four working groups.

The significant contribution of the OSCE to reducing tensions and fostering peace and stability in Ukraine was widely praised. In particular, full support was given to the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, which plays a leading role in assisting in the implementation of de-escalation measures, thereby helping to ease tensions and achieve progress toward the peaceful resolution of the crisis. Ministers also called for full implementation of the Minsk agreements and unimpeded and unfettered access for the SMM.

Recognition was given to the significant role of the OSCE as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter in contributing to international peace and security in all three dimensions, as well as to promoting security and confidence in the OSCE area through confidence- and security-building measures. It was widely acknowledged that a strengthened OSCE could make an even greater contribution to addressing the threats and challenges facing the OSCE area, including a growing number of new and emerging threats to security, through its comprehensive approach encompassing the politico-military, environmental and economic, and human dimensions of security.

While acknowledging the persistence of divergent security threat perceptions, the participating States recognized that, especially at a time when the OSCE region faces an array of complex challenges to security that cannot be tackled by any single State alone, efforts to rebuild trust and confidence among the participating States must be intensified. Despite different views among participating States on how best to engage in constructive dialogue aimed at finding common solutions to these challenges, the importance of engaging in such a debate was not contested, and opportunities for co-operation in confronting these challenges together must be sought out and supported. Each conflict, both in the OSCE area and in the neighbouring regions, requires action based on solidarity and joint efforts, and respect for the culture of consensus. It is the only way that enables the creation of the conditions conducive to motivating sides in conflict to seek mutually acceptable solutions. The OSCE values run counter to unilateral actions that undermine the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Final Act.

It was affirmed that the OSCE engagement in Ukraine offers valuable lessons and demonstrates the critical importance of the OSCE as a forum for inclusive dialogue and joint action, particularly in times of crisis. There was significant support for stepping up efforts to strengthen the capacities of the OSCE as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation, and widespread commitment to taking further steps to strengthen OSCE capacities in addressing the conflict cycle.

The participating States recognized the need to undertake additional concerted efforts to push for settlement of the protracted conflicts, which will continue to endanger the daily lives of the populations concerned and to pose a security risk for the OSCE region as long as they remain unresolved. Noting the deterioration of the situation on the ground, a number of participating States called on the relevant parties to re-energize efforts to resolve these conflicts, including by ensuring the continuity of the established negotiation formats, and where possible, increasing the frequency of meetings, including at the highest levels, and participating in them in good faith. All parties were also called upon to refrain from the use of violence, reduce tensions and build confidence while taking full advantage of the role that the OSCE can play in supporting relevant initiatives.

It was widely acknowledged that the politico-military aspect of security represents an integral and key element of the concept of comprehensive security, which is the basis for all OSCE activities. There was a recognition of the need to foster military transparency by re-energizing efforts aimed at finding common ground for initiating dialogue on modernizing and updating conventional arms control regimes and confidence- and security-building measures as an indispensable element for rebuilding co-operative security in Europe.

Particular emphasis was given to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, and to countering radicalization and

violent extremism that can lead to terrorism. Continued efforts by the organization to address transnational threats and other significant threats and challenges affecting the OSCE region were endorsed by firmly opposing intolerance and discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities, ensuring freedom of religion and belief, and promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue. Deepest sympathy was extended to the victims of deadly terrorist attacks in Paris, Sinai, Ankara, Beirut and other parts of the OSCE region and beyond.

Similar commitment was expressed for continued efforts to fight organized crime and trafficking in illicit drugs, arms and human beings, and to address challenges stemming from instability in neighbouring regions, including those related to irregular migration flows into the OSCE region. Fighting corruption and supporting good governance must also continue in order to ensure political stability, sustainable development and security throughout the OSCE area. Continued exploration of the security risks associated with climate change and the security benefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation also received support.

The participating States reaffirmed their commitment to co-operate closely with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation in Asia and the Mediterranean region. There was a broad understanding of the need to intensify joint work on issues such as countering terrorism and addressing migrant crisis. In this regard, participating States stressed the need to work towards making this important co-operation more effective.

They also supported strengthening OSCE co-ordination and co-operation with relevant international organizations in accordance with the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security.

Numerous participating States acknowledged the important role played by civil society and independent media in helping to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, as well as in promoting good governance and the development of free and pluralistic societies. Many ministers particularly emphasized their support for the mandates and independence of OSCE's institutions.

The participating States once again recognized that the OSCE, with its comprehensive security concept encompassing the politico-military, environmental and economic, and the human dimensions of security, is uniquely placed to improve relations among participating States as well as to improve people's lives, collectively and individually.

Participating States reaffirmed their full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations signed seventy years ago, to the Helsinki Final Act signed forty years ago and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments in all three dimensions which were subsequently agreed, and which apply equally to all OSCE participating States. In this anniversary year, other important milestones were also recalled, such as the 1990 Charter of Paris and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration in which participating States recommitted themselves to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

The importance of fully respecting the fundamental principles enshrined in the OSCE's founding document, the Helsinki Final Act, which clearly define how States should behave towards each other and toward their citizens, and which remain indispensable for bridging the differences between us, was underscored.

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

(Annex 1 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

We should like to sincerely thank the Serbian Chairmanship, the Chairperson-in-Office Mr. Ivica Dačić personally and all the Serbian authorities for their hospitality in Belgrade, for the excellent organization of the Ministerial Council meeting and more generally for the comprehensive and balanced programme of work for the Organization in 2015.

Unfortunately, not all the decisions and documents, including some on the most pressing security problems in the OSCE area, were agreed upon. Nevertheless, it proved possible to adopt several important documents that set specific tasks for the Organization. Among these was a clear and substantive declaration on countering terrorism, which was initiated by the Russian Federation. All in all, a very important discussion took place at this Ministerial Council meeting, which confirmed the need to put aside anything that is not concerned with the fight against terrorism now that it is our chief enemy, especially anything that hampers this fight. We firmly believe that under the current circumstances the OSCE participating States must show the political will to step up common efforts to counter the new threats and challenges. The Organization needs to integrate itself smoothly into the global efforts to form a broad international counter-terrorism coalition without politicization and preconditions. It is important to pay attention to the eradication of the root causes of terrorism and to the inadmissibility of using extremist groups for narrow political purposes.

In that connection, it is as relevant as ever to find joint responses to other serious transnational challenges, including the drug problem on which a separate document has been adopted. We trust that it will also be possible to discuss this topic during the OSCE's customary conferences on the subject of transnational threats.

We look forward to continuing the informal discussions next year on various aspects of European security and the functioning of the OSCE, including in academic formats. The need to step up common efforts in this area is also confirmed by the fact that the Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project was unable to produce consensus recommendations to which all Panel members could subscribe. We regard the report presented on the margins of the Ministerial Council meeting as an interim stage reflecting the persisting differences of opinion in the Panel on the reasons for the emergence of the current European security crisis and the ways of resolving it.

We trust that the incoming German Chairmanship will continue the productive dialogue on general political and thematic aspects. We hope that a substantive discussion can also be launched in the OSCE on ways of linking integration processes in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region.

We regret that, owing to politicization by a number of countries, it proved impossible to reach agreement on a document on the role of the OSCE in settling the crisis in Ukraine. Nevertheless, the discussions held confirmed the important role of the Organization. It is important that an absolute majority of countries expressed the view that there is no alternative to a peaceful political process and the implementation of all the provisions of the Minsk Package of Measures endorsed by a United Nations Security Council resolution, including

constitutional reform, an amnesty, special status and local elections in Donbas. We trust that this unanimous understanding will provide a powerful incentive for Kyiv to reach agreement on compromise solutions through direct dialogue with Donetsk and Luhansk. We confirm our support for the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine as an important instrument in facilitating a settlement of the Ukrainian crisis.

It should be noted that it did not prove possible this year to adopt a single decision on politico-military issues. The reason for this lies in the attempts to politicize even the most innocuous drafts by “tying” them to the situation in Ukraine and in certain countries’ general policy of confrontation with Russia, which inevitably discredits and degrades the regime of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. Nevertheless, we are ready for substantive consultations on a new conventional arms control regime in Europe, if and when our partners put forward their proposals. We believe it necessary in the near future to work on improving the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 and creating the conditions needed to resume constructive discussions on the politico-military aspects of European security. Such conditions include renouncing power politics aimed at “containing” Russia, recognizing and respecting Russia’s interests, and resuming normal relations with our country. We regard the OSCE and the Forum for Security Co-operation in particular as a key platform for dialogue in this regard.

We regret that, owing to the unconstructive position of a number of European Union countries, agreement could not be reached on a declaration on the 30th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

We shall not dramatize the deadlock that has now set in regarding humanitarian decisions at the Ministerial Council meeting. The inability to adopt declarations on combating intolerance and discrimination against Christians and Muslims showed the excessive degree of conflict and politicization in the third basket, which makes it impossible to work properly and successfully on solving urgent human rights problems in the OSCE area. This is clearly illustrated by the long overdue need to revise the OSCE’s approaches and working methods in the human dimension. Reforming the human dimension, including a critical review of the activities of the so-called autonomous institutions, is one of the key tasks in improving the Organization’s effectiveness.

Despite their frequent sharp tone, the discussions held are evidence of the continuing need for the OSCE as a most important forum for dialogue and the development of decisions on the pan-European agenda. This asset of the Organization, expressed in its unique comprehensive approach to security and underpinned by the consensus rule, needs to be preserved and strengthened through serious reform, including the development and adoption of an OSCE charter.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the German Chairmanship every success in the difficult and highly responsible endeavour of developing consensus decisions and strengthening inclusive dialogue aimed at drawing up a unifying agenda.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

(Annex 2 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to the many delegations who offered condolences for the events in San Bernardino, California.

Mr. Chair, before reiterating some of the points made by Secretary Kerry yesterday, I want to make an administrative note. We note that this year we were unable to agree on the modalities concerning the participation of other international organizations, and therefore had to fall back on past agreed modalities. Under the circumstances, NATO elected not to make a statement. We stress that this year's practice does not set a precedent for future Ministerials.

Colleagues, in President Obama's Proclamation marking 40 years since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 and declaring yesterday as Helsinki Human Rights Day, he urged us to stand united on the importance of reinforcing a principles-based and rules-based order that can help us meet the challenges of the 21st century. As we prepare to leave Belgrade, we should all reflect on the wisdom embedded in the Helsinki Final Act, and in the commitments that followed in Copenhagen, Paris, Istanbul, Astana and elsewhere.

Three weeks ago, we saw terrorists strike in the City of Light, and since then we've seen the people of France – and the people of the world – come together with determination to reject the darkness of Daesh. The United States remains committed to combating terrorism with partners across the OSCE region; and we mourn the loss of innocents from Russia, Turkey, Britain and too many other places. As we mourn the loss of life, we should also appreciate the importance of the international system and of trust within it. And herein lies one of the challenges in what the distinguished Ambassador of the Russian Federation just said, that we should “put aside anything that does not have to do with counterterrorism.” Because you see, colleagues, it is often as we seek to forge a co-operative response in the wake of an event like the Paris attacks that we sense most acutely the loss imposed on all of us by actions that violate international law and abrogate the principles of Helsinki and the international system.

Russia's ongoing occupation of Crimea and support for conflict in the east of Ukraine have caused tremendous human suffering and have destroyed trust and confidence. The full implementation of the Minsk agreements – including the release of Nadiya Savchenko, Oleg Sentsov, Oleksander Kolchenko and others; including local elections in the special status areas, under Ukrainian law and with ODIHR observation; and the return of Ukrainian control over its border – these things are necessary not only to bring an end to the conflict and to pave a political way forward, but also to begin the long process of rebuilding trust.

As the Secretary made clear, we face and will continue to face global challenges. In Paris this week, leaders came together because climate change threatens security and livelihoods. We are working to defeat Daesh and we welcome the British and German moves this week to strengthen the coalition. Many of us are working both within and across our governments to respond to enormous human and security needs precipitated by refugee and migration flows. I could go on, but colleagues, the point is this: in the year 2015, we have too many shared challenges that strain the international system to be able to afford actions from

members of the international system that attack and undermine its foundational principles from within.

We can and should do more to bolster a rules-based order grounded in human dignity, including by working with civil society. Secretary Kerry met with a group of activists from across the OSCE area yesterday and they shared concrete ideas about how we can be more effective in tackling shared challenges and building stronger communities and countries. We should listen to them. The story of progress in the United States would have many, many fewer chapters without civil society. Even when those in government didn't like what was said, the work of activists and journalists pressed us to do better and our country is stronger for their efforts. And they've helped make us a better partner for those represented around this table too. We should all continue to hold each other accountable for our commitments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of expression, association, assembly and religion or belief. And we should stand with human rights defenders and independent journalists from Belgrade to Budapest to Bishkek, from Moscow to Ankara, from Minsk to Ashgabat.

We need to strengthen the OSCE too. As Secretary Kerry noted, it has become an unattractive habit of some participating States to attack the budget and mandates of the OSCE's independent institutions. These institutions are crucial parts of our early warning and conflict prevention systems. No one should be seeking to silence or undermine the independent work of ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, or the High Commissioner for National Minorities. It's fine to have a substantive disagreement with a particular statement or assessment – if a country has a credible argument, that delegation should present it. But when countries attack the institutions themselves, it suggests insecurity and the lack of a credible complaint. We have seen examples of this even since we arrived in Belgrade.

When the action returns to Vienna, we should assist the incoming German chairmanship and agree to a budget on time. We should negotiate efficiently the continued support needed for the Special Monitoring Mission, whose more than 600 courageous monitors are the eyes and ears of the international community. We have important work to do together.

After all, fulfilment of the vision founded on the Helsinki Final Act and elaborated in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe remains incomplete. We must make progress on building a Europe and Eurasia that is whole, free, and at peace. As we heard from Secretary Kerry and many other ministers, we need to rebuild military transparency in Europe through an intensive effort to update the Vienna Document in 2016. We cannot accept as permanent the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and the protracted conflicts in Moldova and Georgia. We welcome the statement by the heads of delegation of the Minsk Group co-chair countries and encourage maximum efforts toward a productive meeting between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan. We welcome also the consensus statement on the "5+2" negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process. We regret that it proved impossible to reach agreement on even a simple statement addressing the need for progress on the conflict in Georgia. The United States expresses its unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We fully support the Geneva International Discussions, call for the expeditious resumption of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, and remain committed to enhancing the role of the OSCE in facilitating progress on this conflict.

Forty years after Helsinki we must embrace its enduring promise with renewed urgency. Too many of our shared commitments to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to counter intolerance and hatred remain unimplemented. The failures of participating States to implement their OSCE commitments do not make the fundamental truth underlying the OSCE concept of comprehensive security any less true: States with governments that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, that foster shared prosperity through openness and good governance, and that respect the rules of the international system – including the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their neighbours – are States that are more stable, more resilient, and more innovative, and that are better partners and better able to provide a stronger future for their people.

Before concluding, allow me to thank, on behalf of Secretary Kerry and the entire US Delegation, Foreign Minister Dačić as well as Ambassador Šahović and Ambassador Žugić and their teams for the hospitality, for their patience, for your good cheer and for your hard work.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

(Annex 3 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As a Troika member, Switzerland has had a special commitment with regard to this Ministerial Council. Dear Serbian colleagues, in the name of the whole Swiss delegation, let me warmly thank you for the hospitality that you have shown to all of us throughout this week and for the management of this huge event under difficult circumstances. Above all, thank you, Chairperson-in-Office Minister Dačić, Ambassador Vuk Žugić and Ambassador Dejan Šahović, as well as the entire Serbian team in Vienna and Belgrade for your dedication in the service of the OSCE in a true spirit of seeking compromise on all issues on the table.

Looking back at our Troika membership, I can say that despite all the difficulties, we firmly believe that the OSCE is not only an organization for discussing issues of comprehensive security but it is also an organization that can address these issues and act on them across the three dimensions and in all phases of the conflict cycle, thereby making a difference for people on the ground.

Another crucial reason for this belief is the fact that the OSCE has been able to swiftly provide operational responses with a de-escalating effect to the current crisis in and around Ukraine.

There is now a large field presence in Ukraine that our Ministers have paid special tribute to during their interventions at this Ministerial Council.

Unfortunately, words were not followed by deeds, since we failed to produce a text in support of our monitors on the ground and in support of the fulfilment of their mandate. This would have been a minimum, since we also failed to adopt a broader text on the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Keeping the consensus on the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine will be of paramount importance throughout the next year.

It will be of no lesser importance to move the Minsk process forward. We thank Ambassador Sajdik and his team for their dedication to the Trilateral Contact Group.

We are also supportive of the close engagement of the Normandy format in the Minsk process.

What is positive is that we did not lose sight of other conflicts in the OSCE area during this Ministerial Council. Switzerland is pleased that we have adopted a Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transdnestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” format, which is a positive result for moving the process forward during the German Chairmanship.

Also, it is positive that we have adopted declarations on tackling transnational issues such as countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and efforts to counter terrorism as well as illicit drugs and youth and security.

Yet this is certainly not a time to be complacent. Despite the many positive ministerial comments on the commitment to co-operative security that we heard today and yesterday, the negotiations have often not been guided by the same co-operative spirit. We have to stress our disappointment that we could not adopt decisions on very important issues such as prevention of torture, gender equality, water governance, sustainable development, as well as on discrimination against Muslims, Christians and others.

In general, we are disappointed that consensus could not be found on important issues in the third dimension, which could have ensured better protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the citizens of the OSCE area. In many cases, this is a sad testimony to the shrinking democratic space in several participating States. Likewise, the growing unfounded and personal criticism by senior government members of participating States directed at the heads of our autonomous institutions is undignified and deeply alarming for us.

Also, we have just started to address the broader crisis of European security. Further intensive work on this issue is necessary in order to overcome the current crisis.

Let me conclude with two recommendations for the future.

Firstly, Switzerland believes that the co-operation with our Asian and Mediterranean partners must be enhanced, diversified and not only focused on common challenges but also on common opportunities.

Secondly, there has probably never been a time when the OSCE Troika was used as intensively as in the last three years. We have had very positive experiences with this, since the Troika is both a flexible and effective instrument, in particular for managing longer-term processes in the OSCE. We are of the opinion that this very positive practice should be continued in the future. This will significantly enhance the OSCE's capacity to respond consistently in connection with our common endeavours in the service of effective co-operative and comprehensive security in the OSCE area.

I request that the full text of this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

(Annex 4 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

The delegation of Luxembourg, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement.

We want to start by expressing our very warm “hvala” to our Serbian friends for the hospitality we have enjoyed here in Belgrade. We would like to thank your team for the tremendous work you have put into preparing and hosting this Ministerial Council, and for your tireless efforts in taking us through difficult discussions, this week and throughout this year.

We all know the context in which this meeting has taken place. It is the second Ministerial Council in which discussions have been overshadowed by the crisis in and around Ukraine. Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea and the continued destabilization of Eastern Ukraine continue to challenge the principles and commitments at the heart of the OSCE. There is agreement among us on the crucial role of the OSCE, but we deeply regret the failure once again to agree on common language on the resolution of this crisis.

The crisis in and around Ukraine has continued to demonstrate the OSCE’s relevance for European security. The principles and commitments of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris lay down the normative foundation of the European security order. We underline our strong political and practical support to the Special Monitoring Mission under the able leadership of Ambassador Apakan. We commend and support the work of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group. We commend the OSCE executive structures, notably the ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, for their invaluable work to address the crisis in and around Ukraine, including the human rights situation in Crimea.

The European Union supports all efforts that can lead to a politically sustainable solution to the crisis in line with OSCE principles and commitments, a solution that upholds respect for Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Restoring respect for the fundamental principles is crucial. We strongly support the efforts in the Normandy format to reach such a solution. We remain firm in our call on all parties to swiftly and fully implement the Minsk agreements and honour their commitments. We underline the Russian authorities’ responsibility in this regard. We encourage the participants in the Trilateral Contact Group and its sub-groups to show determination to achieve concrete progress. We furthermore reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which we will not recognize.

Mr. Chairperson,

Yesterday and today, almost every Minister called for united and comprehensive efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. In the wake of the recent terrorist attacks including in OSCE participating States, and in light of the number of young people that are being radicalized and recruited including in our area, it is important that we reached consensus on

reinforcing OSCE efforts to counter terrorism and on countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism, while respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

The conflicts in our immediate neighbourhood, human rights violations and the fear of persecution as well as poverty have led to unprecedented flows of refugees and migrants across Europe and its neighbouring countries. We have mobilized all instruments at our disposal to respond to this dramatic situation. But it is only through co-operation, solidarity and sharing responsibility that we will be able to effectively manage these flows, to provide protection to those who are entitled to it, and to address the root causes of the flows, while doing all we can to dismantle criminal networks and fight the impunity of traffickers. We also welcome the Mediterranean Conference recently held in Jordan which constituted an occasion to strengthen co-operation and dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners. We deeply regret that it was not possible to adopt a decision on the OSCE's response to the ongoing migration and refugee crisis.

The resolution of the protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova and Georgia and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a top priority for the European Union. We call on all parties to show the political will necessary to make progress in resolving them in 2016. We regard this as a core task of the OSCE. The status quo is neither acceptable nor sustainable. This and the risk of increased instability are stark reminders of how imperative it is to solve these conflicts. We reiterate our strong support for the Geneva International Discussions, the negotiations within the "5+2" format and the mediation of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group. In this context, we welcome today's Ministerial Statement confirming our commitment to advance efforts in reaching a settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. In addition, commitments regarding the withdrawal of Russian military forces should be honoured. We regret that it was not possible to adopt a statement on the conflict in Georgia.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union is committed to strengthening the OSCE as an instrument for security and co-operation. Every day, events throughout our area confirm that its comprehensive approach to security is the right one. There can be no sustainable security without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. The European Union is deeply concerned by the backtracking on these commitments in parts of the OSCE space. The signal sent on this deteriorating trend by the parallel civil society conference is heard loud and clear. We will work harder than ever to strengthen the respect for fundamental freedoms and to advance the implementation of our commitments in this regard. We strongly support the outstanding work carried out by our autonomous institutions, and their existing mandates – these institutions are our common asset that need to be defended under all circumstances. We condemn the attacks against these institutions by a small number of participating States. In this regard, we are deeply concerned by recent public criticism of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. We underline that the impartial work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media deserves the support of all participating States, and we expect the Chairmanship to lead by example. We also deeply regret that a few participating States have prevented the adoption of decisions on fundamental freedoms even though we recognize significant progress at this Ministerial Council in the negotiations on the issue of prevention of torture.

Our comprehensive security cannot exclude or marginalize half of our populations. Gender equality is a core value for us, and we regret that consensus could not be reached on an addendum to the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

We regret that no consensus could be reached on water governance, which we discussed throughout this past year's economic and environmental forum. It is also regrettable that we could not adopt a declaration in support of the Sustainable Development Goals to which we all previously subscribed in the United Nations.

Instruments of military transparency could play an important role today in fostering confidence and stability. In this context we are disappointed that despite our active and constructive engagement the participating States were unable to reach an agreement on a decision in the politico-military dimension. We remain committed to advance work and progress in the Forum for Security Co-operation. The Vienna Document has to be reissued next year, and we stress in particular the need to substantially modernize it to ensure its relevance in line with the evolution of our security environment.

The OSCE's southern region – the Mediterranean – should be kept on our agenda in 2016 as one area of priority. Events in the Middle East and North Africa, including Libya, represent a major risk to security in the Mediterranean region and the OSCE area as a whole.

We regret that consensus could not be reached on the modalities for this Ministerial Council, and in particular on which organizations to invite and the modalities of their participation. We regret that the practice of past years' agreed modalities was not implemented. As we made clear in our interpretative statement, we do not consider this year's practice a precedent for future Ministerial Council meetings.

This year was marked by the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. With the Helsinki+40 process effectively coming to an end, we support the efforts of the incoming Chairmanship to steer a future dialogue on security and co-operation in Europe, based on full implementation of OSCE principles and commitments.

We greatly appreciate Germany's readiness to assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE at this critical point in time. We look forward to working with you and your able team during your Chairmanship and we wish you every success. You can count on our full support. In this context, we join Minister Steinmeier's call for a timely adoption of the budget for 2016.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA,
CANADA, CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK,
ESTONIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND,
ITALY, LATVIA, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY,
POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA,
SPAIN, TURKEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

(Annex 5 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

Mr. Chairperson,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the following participating States: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America as well as my own country, Lithuania.

Mr. Chairperson,

Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation continue to play an important role in the achievement of our security objectives. Both the success and failure of these efforts can have a direct impact on our security environment.

We reaffirm our long-standing commitment to conventional arms control as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security and emphasize the importance of full implementation and compliance to rebuild trust and confidence. Russia's unilateral military activity in and around Ukraine has undermined peace, security, and stability across the region, and its selective implementation of the Vienna Document and Open Skies Treaty and long-standing non-implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) have eroded the positive contributions of these arms control instruments. We call on Russia to fully adhere to its commitments. We are determined to preserve, strengthen, and modernize conventional arms control in Europe, based on key principles and commitments, including reciprocity, transparency, and host nation consent.

We underscore the importance of substantially modernizing the Vienna Document to ensure its continued relevance in the evolving security environment, including through its substantive update in 2016.

Earlier this week, Montenegro was invited to begin accession talks to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We congratulate Montenegro on this historic achievement.

Mr. Chairperson,

The countries subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the journal of this Ministerial Meeting.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

(Annex 6 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, we should like to thank the Serbian Chairmanship for the good organization of this meeting and the warm hospitality shown to us.

On the eve of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting, Belarus, as one of the countries to have been most affected, presented a proposal for the drafting of a ministerial declaration to mark the 30th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Our aim was to draw the attention of the international community once again to the need for concerted efforts to deal with the consequences of this disaster.

Belarus made every effort to find a compromise version of the document that would satisfy everyone. In that connection, we should like to thank all of the delegations who supported the idea and the draft declaration.

We regret that the document proposed by Belarus was not adopted because of the position of some European partners, who insisted on the inclusion in the text of non-consensus wording that had no direct relationship to the substance of the declaration and which is within the competence of other international organizations.

We regard this situation as an example of the inability of our Organization to agree not only on acute political questions but also on completely neutral matters, whose importance and relevance, one would think, are not disputed by any participating State.

We are forced to note that actions such as these by some of our European partners not only fail to help strengthen the OSCE, the need for which has been mentioned a lot at this meeting, but also, on the contrary, undermine its authority as a platform for dialogue and co-operation.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND

(Annex 7 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union but we would also like to make a statement in our national capacity.

Finland deeply regrets that the OSCE participating States were not able to agree on an Addendum to the OSCE 2004 Gender Action Plan. We believe that an addendum to the OSCE Gender Action Plan could have had clear added value to address the gaps in gender equality within the OSCE context.

Gender equality is one of the top priorities for Finland and we would have liked to see OSCE participating States to agree on further advancing gender equality in the OSCE context. There have been ongoing discussions on this issue already for two years. Further steps are needed by the OSCE to advance gender issues. Women's rights are violated every day and it is our responsibility to promote equality also here at the OSCE.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

(Annex 8 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Canada would also like to make a short closing statement, in addition to the statement on fundamental freedoms and support to the OSCE autonomous institutions delivered by Montenegro a few minutes ago on behalf of 43 participating States, including Canada.

The Ministerial Council just adopted six decisions. We had hoped for more, in particular on important topics in the human dimension or of a cross-dimensional nature such as the OSCE's response to the ongoing migration and refugee crisis.

As Minister Dion said yesterday, the OSCE has its own role to play in reinforcing the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism by helping to prevent radicalization and violent extremism through an approach centred on respect for human rights, promotion of diversity as a strength, and inclusiveness. We are pleased that consensus could be reached on two decisions on this topic.

But clearly, on other topics, deep divergences persist among us, or are even growing.

In this context, we deeply regret that consensus remained elusive on a key decision related to a stated priority of the Canadian Government: gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Last year in Basel, we had joined consensus on a good decision on the elimination of violence against women on the understanding that a broader addendum to the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality would be adopted in Belgrade. Unfortunately, it proved impossible to reach consensus today on a text covering the full range of issues at play and ambitious enough to reflect global developments since 2004 due to attempts by some participating States to backtrack on previous commitments. For Canada, backtracking on these commitments is simply not acceptable.

Consensus could also not be reached on a text addressing the tragic situation fuelled by Russia in Ukraine and expressing our collective support for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM). Therefore, Canada wishes to reiterate here our full support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally-recognized borders (including Crimea) as well as our deep appreciation for the work of the SMM as it continues to face access restrictions primarily imposed by Russian-backed illegal armed groups.

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank you and the entire team of the 2015 OSCE Chairmanship for your efforts throughout the year and for your warm hospitality in Belgrade. Canada looks forward to working closely with Germany as it takes over the Chairmanship of our Organization in 2016 and to meeting in Hamburg next year.

I would ask that this statement be reflected in the journal of the day.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

(Annex 9 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,
Excellencies,

The delegation of Ukraine would like to start by expressing gratitude to our Serbian hosts, and personally to Minister Ivica Dačić, for the warm hospitality that we have enjoyed during our stay in Belgrade. We commend the efforts that the Serbian Chairmanship invested in preparing the Belgrade Ministerial, and indeed also the work of the Serbian Chairmanship throughout this challenging year, which has been done with dedication and persistence. We express our appreciation to the Chairmanship team in Vienna, led by Ambassador Vuk Žugić.

As our meeting in Belgrade draws to a close, we wish to emphasize the significance of the fact that our discussions have been dominated by the issue of ensuring compliance with the OSCE's principles and commitments. We greatly appreciate the firm stance of the OSCE participating States on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, which includes the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Despite the significant international efforts invested in resolving the crisis, which itself stemmed from Russian aggression against Ukraine, and despite the violations of fundamental principles of international law, in particular ones enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation have not ceased and the situation in the Ukrainian region of Donbas remains dire and fragile. The Russian Federation ignores repeated and insistent calls upon it to reverse the illegal occupation and annexation of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and to stop fuelling the conflict in Donbas and withdraw its servicemen, weaponry and fighters from the region.

We regret that our attempt to adopt a declaration regarding the crisis around Ukraine was not successful on account of the Russian Federation's failure to recommit to the fundamental principles of the OSCE, in particular on respect to sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, and non-use of force. This was supposed to be a document which would provide a strong impetus for the advancing of a political resolution of the crisis by peaceful means on the basis of OSCE principles that all of us, including the Russian Federation, have committed to abide by. Once again, Russia has not showed readiness to return to the tenets of international law.

We appreciate the OSCE's efforts to respond to the crisis and in particular greatly value the activities of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the work of the OSCE autonomous institutions. We very much regret that it has not proved possible to table and adopt a Ministerial statement on support for the activities of the Special Monitoring Mission, despite Ukraine's support of such initiative and intensive efforts undertaken to this end by the Serbian Chairmanship and the incoming Chairman-in-Office.

We reiterate that Ukraine is fully committed to implementation of the Minsk agreements in good faith as a basis for a sustainable and peaceful resolution of the crisis. It is important to continue to urge the Russian Federation, as a signatory of the Minsk agreements,

to abide by the agreements fully and to take practical measures to fulfil its commitments, thus allowing for restoration of peace in Donbas and of Ukraine's sovereignty over its territory, including control over the border.

We reiterate that there is an urgent need to address serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in occupied Crimea by, among other things, seeking unimpeded access to the territory on the part of the OSCE and other international organizations. Consistent grave violations target mostly the representatives of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian communities.

We urge Russia as an occupying authority to allow international organizations unfettered access to occupied Crimea.

Mr. Chairperson,

The present Ministerial Council has also focused on the challenge of combating terrorism, in particular in the light of horrifying attacks in recent times. We strongly support international efforts to combat terrorism, which viciously strikes many countries throughout the OSCE area, including Ukraine.

We have contributed to agreement on Ministerial declarations addressing the issues of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, and of combating violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

It is important to ensure that anti-terrorism efforts are not undertaken at the expense of fundamental values and principles.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE's persistent efforts to restore respect for its principles and commitments are the only efficient antidote to the recurrence of their flagrant violation in the OSCE area. Any compromise on the principles would further erode confidence in the ability of the OSCE to maintain a credible security environment in its area of responsibility. We are confident that this would not be in the interests of the OSCE community, including Russia.

We look forward to seeing the issue of ensuring strict adherence to the OSCE's principles and commitments kept at the top of the OSCE agenda in 2016 under the German Chairmanship.

We wish our German friends every success at the helm of the OSCE and are ready to closely co-operate with the Chairmanship on all aspects of the OSCE mandate, in particular on issues related to restoring respect for the Helsinki principles and numerous OSCE commitments.

The delegation of Ukraine kindly requests that this statement be attached to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

(Annex 10 to MC(22) Journal No. 2 of 4 December 2015)

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan thanks our Serbian hosts for their warm hospitality and their excellent organization of the Belgrade Ministerial Council. We express our gratitude for the tireless efforts of the Serbian Chairmanship in aiming to overcome many challenges in the OSCE.

We observe that the balance of the three dimensions of security has been undermined and that attempts are being made to use the human dimension to exert pressure on participating States.

The relevance of the OSCE executive structures and field presences is called into question when their mandates are ignored or violated and when there are serious deficiencies in their activities. We regret that the decision on the OSCE/ODIHR proposed by Azerbaijan was not adopted because of lack of commitment on the part of some delegations. Instead of engaging in dialogue, these delegations chose the practice of blaming and shaming. We condemn such an attitude and suggest that the delegations which refused to engage in dialogue should consider to what extent such an approach helps to restore trust or is in the interests of the OSCE.

I hope that the priorities of the German Chairmanship announced by Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier – dialogue, confidence, and security – will prevail next year, and in this regard we wish every success to the incoming German Chairmanship.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

IV. REPORTS TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

(MC.GAL/6/15 of 3 December 2015)

Mr. Chairperson,

As you warmly welcome all of us here in Belgrade today, I would like to thank you for your personal commitment and active leadership of the OSCE in 2015. I would also like to thank your dedicated teams in Vienna and Belgrade, led by Ambassadors Vuk Žugić and Dejan Šahović, for their hard work and excellent co-operation with the OSCE Executive Structures throughout the year.

Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

For almost two years now, the crisis in and around Ukraine has dominated the OSCE agenda. With the support of all of you, the Organization has played a critical role in facilitating the political process and de-escalating tensions, responding rapidly and flexibly to an unfolding crisis and adapting to the needs on the ground as the situation evolved. We proved to be an organization with real room for manoeuvre, trusted by all sides, ready to reach out and build bridges. But while we should all be proud of what the OSCE has accomplished, we must recognize that ultimately it is up to the sides to end the conflict and to engage in good faith in the hard work of restoring peace and stability. The OSCE can facilitate the process, but the sides need to deliver. The people on the ground, who have already suffered so much, deserve nothing less.

This has been a challenging year both politically and operationally for the OSCE. On the political side, the divide is starkly clear, with deep disagreements over the implementation of key principles, and over the consequences of their violation, but also with decreasing willingness to engage in a real dialogue on these fundamental issues.

On the operational side, we have faced many challenges on the ground. Following its speedy rollout last year, the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) quickly adapted to the rapidly evolving situation and took on new tasks under the terms of the Minsk agreements. The Mission has grown to 651 monitors, 519 of whom are working in the East. It has integrated new technologies into its work, including unmanned aerial vehicles and satellite imagery, and has evolved into a quasi-peacekeeping operation, deploying unarmed personnel with military background in a conflict zone to monitor the withdrawal of heavy weapons. SMM monitors are also facilitating humanitarian activities to help the local population, such as repair of water and gas lines and demining. But we also continue to face obstacles: first and foremost, we need unfettered access for our monitors to all areas covered by the mandate, with no exceptions. I would like to take this opportunity to salute the personal commitment and courage of our monitors, who are doing all that they can to facilitate peace and improve conditions for people living in the conflict zone.

Yet beyond the SMM, there are many other areas where it is important for the OSCE to remain engaged, and where our field operations are doing useful and important work. Their mandates are tailored to support the efforts of the host countries to implement their OSCE

commitments. Recently we have experienced pushback from some host countries, and this year our Office in Baku was abruptly shut down. Over time the needs of host countries evolve, and I will continue to engage with their governments to ensure that OSCE field operations are providing added value. But I would also argue that we need to think more creatively about possible new models for OSCE field operations, while not losing sight of the core mandate of our Organization.

The crisis in and around Ukraine has been a game-changer for the OSCE in more ways than one. In terms of resources, the crisis has had a significant impact on our financial requirements. The SMM has its own budget, but like all of our field operations, it is not self-sufficient. Field operations depend heavily on the central structures of the Organization for operational, administrative, legal, security and communications support, as well as for reporting and political advice. They require continuous, resource-intensive support to be able to deliver effectively. And even when field operations close down, as happened in Georgia and Belarus a number of years back, the other Executive Structures continue to provide significant support for follow-up activities as well as new projects in the former host countries.

At the Chairmanship's informal ministerial event on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, a number of you emphasized that the OSCE merits stronger support in terms of financial and human resources to ensure that the Organization can contribute even more effectively to strengthening security and stability in our region. Especially now, when the crisis in and around Ukraine continues to dominate our agenda and other critical threats and challenges face our region, we need your support to ensure that the 2016 Unified Budget is approved on time, before the end of December.

In this context, I would also like to mention a key structural constraint we face: the Organization's lack of legal personality. We owe it to our staff to provide adequate duty of care and to ensure that they have privileges and immunities to protect them. In an effort to address this issue, I have begun seeking bilateral standing arrangements with participating States. Until the participating States can reach consensus on the Organization's legal status, this seems to be a reasonable alternative.

Dear Ministers,

Over the past year challenges on the global agenda have also come to the fore in our region, with an impact on stability. Terrorism has become an everyday concern for citizens throughout the OSCE area. Attacks are becoming increasingly frequent, and I would like to offer my solidarity to the people of all countries affected. The Organization has been stepping up its efforts to prevent terrorism, including by increasing our attention to countering radicalization and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism. This year, we launched a campaign with the slogan "OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism" to highlight our work and to show that all of us – the Secretariat, institutions and field operations – are doing our part to help prevent terrorism. To date, over 3.5 million people have shown their support for our campaign on social media. One of the things we have learned about countering violent extremism is that we need to look at problems within our societies. We not only need to create effective counter-narratives that encourage vulnerable individuals to reject terrorism, but we must also step up our efforts to promote tolerance and non-discrimination. And this is also important because many of our participating States are dealing with unprecedented waves of refugees and migrants entering Europe. The sheer magnitude of this influx is putting tremendous pressure on national and regional efforts to manage the flow, straining

relations between some neighbours within our region, and feeding xenophobia. The OSCE has so far taken a three-pronged approach to the challenge, by addressing root causes such as conflict, poverty and climate change; tackling related challenges like human trafficking and organized crime; and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination to help ensure that our societies are inclusive. But we need a more coherent and co-ordinated approach, also to ensure synergies with the work of other organizations.

In a few days we will know the outcome of COP21, which may well be the international community's last chance to take effective action to stop climate change. Six weeks ago I held a Security Days event to stimulate constructive debate on how the OSCE could step up its efforts to address security challenges stemming from climate change. And in September, I participated in the Sustainable Development Summit, where I highlighted some of the key ways the OSCE's work supports many of the newly agreed Sustainable Development Goals. I would welcome your consensus on a declaration supporting the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Dear Ministers,

Many issues on the OSCE agenda require broad partnerships. This year we have enhanced our engagement with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, with whom we increasingly share common concerns. Our partnerships with other organizations are also important, above all our relationship with the United Nations. Together we are looking at ways to increase operational synergies between our organizations.

Especially when tensions and mistrust are high, Track II initiatives play an important role in fostering constructive discussion on critical issues. OSCE Security Days bring voices from civil society, academia, religious communities, media and youth into our debate. And the OSCE Academic Network and the New-Med Network continue to provide useful analysis and recommendations on key topics on our agenda.

I remain committed to continued close co-ordination with our OSCE institutions, including the Parliamentary Assembly. In this connection, I would like to thank Secretary General Spencer Oliver, who leaves a strong legacy after many years of service, and to congratulate his successor, Mr. Roberto Montella, who takes office next year.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to thank the OSCE staff. I am proud to work with such dedicated and hard-working people. Their tireless efforts in support of OSCE goals inspire me every day.

Next year our region will continue to face enormous challenges. I look forward to working with the incoming German Chairmanship to address them. You can continue to count on the commitment of our staff, as well as my own personal commitment, in assisting the participating States in implementing your decisions and supporting your efforts to strengthen security for individuals, families and communities throughout the OSCE region and beyond.

Thank you.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF
THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/2/15 of 27 November 2015)

Your Excellency,

As the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is a pleasure for me to inform you about the activities of the FSC in 2015.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted this year's FSC chairmanships, which in addition to Norway, are Mongolia and Montenegro. During 2015, the chairmanships continuously worked in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity, balance and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum's annual work programme.

The focus of the FSC's work in 2015 continued to be on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), particularly the Vienna Document 2011, small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000). Separate progress reports on further implementation of the commitments on those issues are annexed to this letter and contain more detailed information about developments in the FSC during 2014–2015 regarding these aspects of its work.

Even though the crisis in and around Ukraine remained the dominant topic of the FSC, initiatives put forward by delegations by November led to the adoption of seven decisions, which were designed to support the implementation of existing commitments and their further development. The FSC also contributed within its mandate to the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC).

The strategic discussion during the Security Dialogue emphasized the FSC's importance as a platform to address and discuss security issues. Specifically, an active dialogue took place on matters related to topical European security issues, including, *inter alia*, arms control and CSBMs, particularly the Vienna Document, Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the Arms Trade Treaty, military doctrines, UN Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000).

The FSC also contributed to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, held from 23 to 25 June 2015. The discussions during the Conference focused on the need for substantive modernization of the established mechanisms and regimes in the field of arms control and CSBMs. In addition, a call was made for a political platform based on the principle of the indivisibility of security and the establishment of a genuinely collective system of security. The urgent need for the adaptation of OSCE tools to match current security requirements on the ground was also highlighted. In this regard, it was mentioned that difficult times often provided good opportunities to identify the weaknesses of the

existing tools, and there were various initiatives that could set the stage for constructive debates.

Finally, all three FSC chairmanships in 2015 continued to work jointly with the Permanent Council (PC) on issues of relevance of both bodies as part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. To this end, three joint FSC-PC meetings have been held by November 2015 on regional dynamics of arms trafficking through the prism of border security in the Mediterranean region, best practices of gender equality in the armed forces, as well as on the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, in order to address cross-dimensional issues relevant to the work of both the FSC and the PC.

FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS AND CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

(Annex 1 to MC.GAL/2/15 of 27 November 2015)

1. Introduction and objective

This report provides an overview of the efforts undertaken in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and by the participating States in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) during the period from November 2014 to November 2015.¹ It reflects the discussions that took place and the decisions that were adopted in the FSC.

The report also addresses the information exchanged in the FSC between participating States on the implementation of agreed CSBMs, on normative initiatives and on developments in the Forum, as well as other related activities carried out in the OSCE such as regional initiatives. Detailed information on implementation can be found in the Conflict Prevention Centre's Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document and Other Measures, which was submitted to the 2015 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM),² and in the monthly and quarterly surveys provided.

2. Efforts by the FSC since the Basel Ministerial Council meeting

2.1 Decisions adopted

In the reporting period the participating States continued negotiations and discussions in the FSC with a view to updating and modernizing the Vienna Document 2011.

As of November 2015, the FSC had adopted four decisions on the Vienna Document, one concerning a High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, one related to the holding of the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) and one on the Heads of Verification Centres (HoV) meeting.

2.2 Heads of Verification Centres meeting

In December 2014, the eighth HoV meeting was held in accordance with FSC Decision No. 4/14. The one-day meeting served for the exchange of experiences and information on technical aspects of implementation. The meeting featured two working sessions on multinational co-operation in verification, and another on how to sustain and reinforce transparency and compliance with the Vienna Document in both the spirit and the

1 The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 13 November 2015.

2 FSC.GAL/14/15

letter. The outcomes were reported on at the 2015 AIAM by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), which chaired the HoV.³

2.3 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) was held in March 2015. It provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions, and assess the state of implementation of the Vienna Document. The following subjects were discussed: clarification of questions arising from such implementation; the implications of all information originating from the implementation of any agreed measures for the process of confidence- and security-building in the framework of the OSCE; and suggestions aiming at improvement of the implementation of CSBMs. At the meeting, more than 45 suggestions were made on ways of further improving the implementation of agreed CSBMs.⁴

2.4 Annual Security Review Conference

At the Annual Security Review Conference, which was held from 23 to 25 June 2015, the FSC provided input to working session IV on “Arms control and confidence- and security-building measures: challenges and opportunities”. During the session, it was stressed that a substantive modernization of the established mechanisms and regimes in the field of arms control was urgently needed. Furthermore, a call was made for a political platform based on the principle of the indivisibility of security and the establishment of a genuinely collective system of security.

The urgent need for the adaptation of OSCE tools to match current security requirements on the ground was also highlighted. In this regard, it was mentioned, that difficult times often provided good opportunities to identify weaknesses of the existing tools, and there were various initiatives that could set the ground for constructive debates.

The Parties to Dayton Article IV explained that in their experience, there have been visible achievements that even went beyond the stipulations of the agreement, and mutual trust has been restored. In general, delegations stressed the need for progress in the fields of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, especially for the updating and modernization of the Vienna Document 2011, in particular Chapters III, V and VI, underlining at the same time that the Vienna Document should be implemented in good faith.

2.5 Security Dialogues

On 18 February, a Security Dialogue entitled “European Security” was held with an input by the Defense Advisor to the United States Ambassador to NATO.

On 11 March, a Security Dialogue entitled “Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems” took place. Presentations were delivered by representatives of the Federal Foreign Ministry of Germany and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

3 The report is available under FSC.AIAM/9/15.

4 The survey of suggestions is available under FSC.AIAM/17/15/Rev.1.

On 18 March, a Security Dialogue was held with presentations by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to NATO on “Russia and the Future of the European Security” and by a representative of the Russian Ministry of Defence on “Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation: New Version”.

On 6 May, a Security Dialogue focused on conventional arms control and CSBMs, with presentations by the OSCE Secretary General, the Head of NATO’s Arms Control and Co-ordination Section, and the Principal Counsellor of the Department for Non-proliferation and Arms Control of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 17 June, a Security Dialogue was held with speakers from the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, the Benelux Arms Control Agency and the Russian Academy of Sciences on “The Effectiveness of the VD Regime and Regional CSBMs in Crisis Situations: Recent trends in implementation”.

On 23 September, a Security Dialogue was held entitled “Modernization of the Vienna Document: Evolution of Chapter X, Regional Measures” with a speaker of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

On 14 October, a Security Dialogue focused on military doctrines with speakers from the Swedish Armed Forces and the Norwegian Defence Commando Staff College.

On 21 October, a Security Dialogue was held on Nordic Defence Co-operation with two presentations on “Nordic perspectives on the current security situation in Europe and the importance of CSBMs and transparency”, delivered by speakers of both the Norwegian and Swedish Ministries of Defence.

Last but not least, several participating States made use of FSC meetings, in a spirit of transparency and confidence-building, to provide information about below-threshold military activities or military exercises.

2.6 Proposals of participating States for the Vienna Document

In addition, 24 proposals covering five chapters of the Vienna Document 2011 are under discussion in the FSC. They pertain to:

- Information on command organization and combat units;
- Information on locations of headquarters of attached subunits at battalion level or the equivalent;
- Information on military training establishments and military repair or maintenance facilities;
- Information on military transport aviation units;
- Information on land forces and air forces deployed outside the national territory;
- The notification of permanent changes in the command organization;

- Information on naval forces;
- Risk Reduction Mechanism for Consultation and Co-operation regarding activities of military forces giving grounds for supposing preparations for offensive military operations;
- The creation of OSCE inspections for clarification of military activities giving rise to concern;
- Timelines for the demonstrations of major weapon and equipment systems;
- The lowering of thresholds for prior notifications;
- The notification of deployment of multinational rapid-reaction forces;
- The notification of large-scale military transits;
- The goal of inspections;
- Enhancement of the inspection quotas;
- The definition of *force majeure*;
- The scale of the specified area for inspections;
- The beginning of an inspection;
- The duration of inspections and evaluation visits;
- Financial responsibility for inspections and for evaluation visits;
- Enhancement of the size of inspection teams and evaluation visit teams;
- Devices used during inspections and evaluation visits;
- Enhancement of the quotas for evaluation visits;
- The definition of adjoining sea areas;
- Establishing an informal group of experts entitled “Friends of VD Chapter III”.

3. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation in 2014–2015

During the reporting period, the OSCE participating States continued to implement the commitments contained in the Vienna Document 2011. The CPC maintained records of exchanges of information taking place as part of those commitments. They are regularly reflected in the CPC Monthly Reports and the CPC Quarterly and Annual Surveys on CSBM Information Exchanged.

3.1 Information Exchanges

The level of CSBM implementation under the Vienna Document 2011 in the OSCE area – as measured by the number of submissions under various information exchanges, such as the Annual Exchange of Military Information (AEMI), the Exchange on Defence Planning, or the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI) – has remained steady during the past five years. However, in terms of verification activities and requests for clarifications under Chapter III, the Vienna Document has repeatedly been in use on account of the situation in Ukraine.

By 13 November 2015, 55 participating States had provided information under the AEMI in 2015. This number is higher than in the previous year, when 54 participating States provided information. As regards defence planning and defence budgets, 43 participating States provided information on their defence planning in 2015, while 40 provided information about their defence budgets (last year 39 and 39). In addition, there are five participating States that have not submitted any information on their defence planning or defence budgets during the past five years. All five possess armed forces.

3.2 Verification activities under Chapter IX of the Vienna Document

In the reporting period, verification activities were also conducted under Chapter IX and Chapter X of the Vienna Document. By 14 November 2015, 94 inspections and 39 evaluation visits have been conducted, as have 18 regional inspections and 28 regional evaluation visits.

With regard to the situation in Ukraine, 26 countries have so far decided to send military inspectors and observers in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011. In all, they conducted 36 verification activities in Ukraine (6 inspections, 19 regional inspections, 3 evaluation visits and 8 regional evaluation visits). In addition, 15 countries conducted a total of 12 verification activities in the Russian Federation (6 inspections, 4 evaluation visits and 2 regional evaluation visits). This also attests to the continued trend to increasingly use Vienna Document Chapter X on regional measures.

3.3 Activation of Chapter III “Risk Reduction”

In 2015, the mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities under the Vienna Document’s Chapter III was invoked five times. All instances related to the situation in Ukraine.

In addition, with regard to the Voluntary Hosting of Visits to Dispel Concerns about Military Activities under paragraph 18 of the Vienna Document, one visit was held in 2015.

3.4 OSCE Communications Network

In 2015, 52 participating States were connected to the OSCE Communications Network; one participating State having military forces remains unconnected. The reliability of the Network remains very high, with the central servers in Vienna being available virtually 100 per cent of the time as there was zero system downtime other than for planned maintenance. In addition, 2015 saw an increase in participating States’ availability on the Network as obsolete hardware and software were replaced. This migration to new

technologies has alleviated issues persistent with a small number of participating States. End-user station (EUS) connectivity on the Network remains very high, with the availability of 36 participating States being 99 per cent of the time, and the overall availability of EUSs connected to the Network exceeding 98 per cent.

The custom-designed OSCE software applications used to process notifications (the Integrated Notification Application, INA) and to prepare annual information exchanges (the Automated Data System, ADS) were updated and provided to participating States for their use. During the year, modernization of the underlying infrastructure and data storage capabilities of both applications continued. The central servers stand ready to expand the capabilities of the Network to other programmatic areas of the OSCE while maintaining the high availability, reliability and security the participating States have come to expect of the Network.

During the past year, the Communications Network continued to fulfil its critical role in supporting response to the crisis in Ukraine. Participating States continued to use the Communications Network to exchange time-sensitive information and notifications pertaining to the Vienna Document 2011 and the Open Skies Treaty. The number of notifications distributed on the Network increased to over 250,000 messages, requiring 24/7 monitoring by staff.

The OSCE Communications Network remains a highly reliable, safe and secure tool for use by participating States in support of CSBMs and for complying with their mutually agreed commitments.

4. Other activities and regional initiatives

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek has facilitated communication between the Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence and the OSCE Communication Network for several years. Ministry of Defence representatives were able to participate in the 2014 Annual Exchange of Military Information (AEMI) Meeting, the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) that was held in March 2015, and the annual seminar on the Vienna Document and training event organized by the OSCE Centre in Astana in May 2015. The CSBM seminar in Astana served as a platform for participants to share information and experiences on the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011, including inspection of weapons and equipment systems.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supported national representatives to take part in the AIAM in order to broaden their understanding of OSCE confidence- and security-building measures and of the modernized Vienna Document. This step forward should enhance the future work and role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs personnel in the Council of Ministers Co-ordination Team on Implementation of the OSCE/UN Security Commitments. As a result, reporting on national practices should consequently be advanced in the future period and allow Bosnia and Herzegovina to follow the ongoing adaptation of the various information exchanges of the OSCE.

In December 2014, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat supported a visit of two Turkmen officials to the Belarus Ministry of Defence to discuss best practices in the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 in the area of military information exchange. In August 2015, the Centre facilitated the participation of two officials of Turkmenistan's Ministry of Defence at

a training course on international agreements on arms control, also organized by the Ministry of Defence of Belarus.

In May 2015, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organized a five-day training course on reciprocal inspection procedures under the Vienna Document for 19 officials from the Ministry of Defence of Turkmenistan. Experts from the Belarusian Ministry of Defence shared experiences in implementing international commitments in the area of arms control and presented the main provisions of the 2011 Vienna Document.

From 26 to 29 May the OSCE Programme Office in Astana co-organized, in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence and the OSCE Secretariat's CPC/FSC Support Section and with the support of the OSCE field presences in the region, a four-day regional training seminar for military officers on the practical implementation of the Vienna Document 2011. Some 50 military officers from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan discussed ways to ensure the implementation of the document's provisions in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus, the OSCE role in promoting regional security and the challenges it faces in this regard. Military and civilian experts from Belarus, France, Germany and Hungary, as well as representatives from the OSCE FSC Support Section and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) also shared their experience. On 29 May the participants conducted a simulated inspection visit to the 36th Air Assault Brigade base near Astana, and discussed their findings in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Document on compliance and verification.

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan continued its co-operation with the Ministry of Defence of Tajikistan on implementation of the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011. As a result of this co-operation, the Tajik Verification Centre was kept connected to the OSCE Communication Network and actively took part in the exchange of military information with the other participating States. On the same note, experts of the Centre were supported in taking part in a number of international events and inspections outside the country.

Following a request for assistance received from the Ministry of Defence of Albania to help with Albania's compatibility with the OSCE Communications Network, the OSCE Presence in Albania supplied a new computer system in 2015, to which the Integrated Notification Application would be dedicated, thus improving the annual information exchange between the Albanian authorities and the FSC regarding current arms control activities.

In addition, in March, June, September and November 2015, the CPC also provided regular lecturers and keynote speeches on the Vienna Document 2011 and CSBMs for courses of the NATO School in Oberammergau. Furthermore, the CPC sent a representative to a Vienna Document contact visit in Greece (September).

5. Conclusion

Confidence- and security-building measures and arms control remain an integral part of comprehensive security. The conventional arms control regimes play an important role in stability in the OSCE area and are key elements for the Transatlantic, European and Eurasian security architecture.

The crisis in and around Ukraine continues to put at risk the wider European security architecture. An increase in military expenditures, intensification of military exercises and relocations of units and formations have been observed in the OSCE area.

The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation demonstrated to be a useful platform for discussing politico-military security concerns, thus valuably complementing the OSCE Permanent Council. It served also as a forum for participating States to clarify their positions and to bring new issues to the agenda. The participating States have been able to decide a high-level agenda for the coming year, with the adoption of the decisions for the 2016 High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar and the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.

The year 2015 has seen a sustained use of the conventional arms control instruments and CSBMs in relation to the crisis in and around Ukraine. The Open Skies Treaty thanks to its high level of co-operative transparency remained a well-functioning instrument.

Also the Vienna Document 2011 has been actively used this year and continued to demonstrate its usefulness as a tool for dialogue in crisis situations. Chapter III “Risk Reduction” and Chapter X “Regional Measures” have been frequently referred to in discussions in the FSC and among the participating States.

The Vienna Document 2011 will be reissued in 2016. While no Vienna Document Plus Decisions were adopted in 2015, the 24 proposals published and sponsored by a large number of participating States demonstrate the potential and the necessity for developing and modernizing the Vienna Document 2011. The FSC Chairperson’s Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document and the participating States relaunched extensive informal discussions aiming at updating the Vienna Document, which will continue during the year 2016.

The OSCE Communications Network, which is a CSBM in its own right, continues to be a highly reliable tool.

The regional and subregional CSBMs and conventional arms control arrangements also represent important contributions to regional stability. The numerous regional agreements contributed to regional and subregional security, although the implementation of some of them has been suspended.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FURTHER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

(Annex 2 to MC.GAL/2/15 of 27 November 2015)

1. Introduction and objective

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security adopted at the Budapest Summit in December 1994 is a key normative document and as such a landmark in the field of security sector governance. In the Code of Conduct, the participating States agreed to reform their domestic politico-military affairs and to apply internationally agreed principles of democracy and the rule of law to their national security policies and doctrines. The Code of Conduct occupies a fundamental place in the body of normative documents developed within the politico-military dimension of the OSCE and remains unparalleled in other international organizations.

The present report highlights the progress achieved in efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct in 2015. The report addresses the 2015 information exchange between participating States on the implementation of the Code and efforts undertaken in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) since the meeting of the Ministerial Council in Basel. The report covers the period from November 2014 to November 2015.¹

2. Efforts by the FSC

In the year following the Basel meeting of the Ministerial Council in December 2014, the FSC continued to work towards enhanced implementation of the Code.

In January 2014, three participating States decided to co-sponsor a food-for-thought paper on voluntary additional information sharing on private military and security companies (PMSCs) as part of the annual Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct.² This was in response to the call of several participating States for voluntary information exchanges on PMSCs to strengthen confidence and security building in this area, since such companies may provide services that fall under the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

On 12 February 2015, a revised version of the "Working document on possible and non-exhaustive indicators to improve reporting on the OSCE Code of Conduct" was distributed by the FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct.³ The paper provides participating States with indicators that contribute added value and identifies possible gaps in their annual replies to the questionnaire on the Code of Conduct.

1 The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 13 November 2015.

2 FSC.DEL/2/15/Rev.1

3 FSC.DEL/29/15

From 10 to 12 March 2015, a conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct for OSCE participating States and the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation was held in Ulaanbaatar, organized by the Conflict Prevent Centre (CPC). The event was held pursuant to FSC Decision No. 1/08, which requests the OSCE Secretariat to organize at least one specialized seminar or workshop a year in order to facilitate better implementation, and to promote awareness and support outreach of the Code of Conduct. The conference was supported and co-sponsored by Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. The event was hosted by Mongolia as part of its FSC Chairmanship and opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as by the Minister of Defence.

The event brought together more than 50 high-level participants from 17 States who discussed the role of armed and security forces in democratic societies, challenges related to security sector governance, the respect of international humanitarian law by armed forces, and the importance of parliamentary oversight and civilian control of the security sector. Following the positive experiences of the conference in Malta for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in 2013, this was the first outreach event that included the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

On 29 April 2015, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which focused on the connection between the Code of Conduct and Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R). Professor Heiner Hänggi, Assistant Director and Head of the Research Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) pointed out that the Code of Conduct and the concept of SSG/R should be viewed as mutually reinforcing and stressed the relevance of the Code in providing normative guidance for participating States regarding governance and reform processes in the security sector. Mr. Slobodan Bošković, Project Adviser, South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), highlighted that questions related to the governance of the security sector become immediately relevant when addressing on the ground security concerns related to SEESAC's small arms programmes.

On 8 July 2015, the fourth Annual Implementation Discussion was held pursuant to FSC Decision No. 12/11, in which it was decided to “regularize a focused discussion on implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security by devoting an annual special one-day meeting to the Code of Conduct”.

The fourth Annual Implementation Discussion provided an opportunity for experts from delegations and capitals to discuss how to better promote and improve implementation, including the annual information exchange; to undertake an evaluation of the Code; and to examine its application in the context of the existing political and military situation.

During the meeting, several proposals were made on the development and implementation of the Code of Conduct. The suggestions included: continuing further outreach activities; conducting qualitative assessments and analysis of the information exchanged; continuing and enhancing voluntary reporting on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and PMSCs; considering the inclusion of reporting on the use of new equipment and its relevance to international humanitarian law; strengthening the reminding mechanisms to ensure reporting on an even higher level; and exploring further ways of

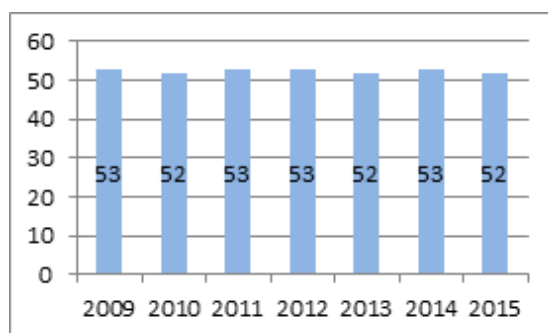
improving implementation. A survey of the suggestions made was prepared following the meeting.⁴

On 28 October 2015, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on the OSCE Code of Conduct entitled “Actors promoting democratic control of the armed forces – the role of ombuds institutions”. Dr. Hans Born, Deputy Head of the Research Division, DCAF, and Mr. Roald Linaker, Ombudsman for the Armed Forces of Norway, shared their experience and views on the indispensable role of the ombuds institutions in protecting the human rights of armed forces personnel and in the area of democratic control of the armed forces.

In addition, the FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct convened informal meetings of the Group of Friends in February, June and November 2015 to discuss topical issues related to the implementation and promotion of the Code. The Group of Friends was founded in July 2013 to exchange views and ideas on how to promote the Code of Conduct and to strengthen its implementation.

3. Information exchange

The OSCE participating States are committed to exchanging information annually on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in accordance with an agreed questionnaire (FSC.DEC/2/09). The level of commitment to the information exchange has always been high, and the great majority of participating States have regularly provided information about their efforts in implementing the Code (see graph below).



The annual Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct is a unique mechanism for fostering international transparency with regard to armed and security forces and their control by constitutionally established authorities. Since 2008, the replies have been published on the OSCE website, where they can be accessed by the public.⁵

A statistical report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was prepared by the CPC in July 2015.⁶ In accordance with FSC Decision No. 12/11, this report was based on the 2015 annual Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct and was limited to the provision of statistical data related to implementation. Common practices were highlighted in general

4 The survey of suggestions is set out in FSC.GAL/90/15/Corr.1.

5 <http://www.osce.org/fsc/86841>

6 FSC.GAL/80/15

terms only, and the report did not enter into comparisons of national policies or provide any assessment of implementation.

By 13 November 2015, 52 participating States had provided information on their implementation activities.

In 2009, the participating States agreed to update the format of the questionnaire. All the participating States that submitted replies used the new format.

Several replies included additional voluntary information. In accordance with the interpretative statement appended to FSC Decision No. 5/11, 33 participating States provided information on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Furthermore, in accordance with the interpretative statement appended to FSC Decision No. 2/09, nine participating States included information related to private military and security companies (PMSCs) in their 2015 returns.

In 2010, a reference guide on the Code of Conduct questionnaire was developed as a voluntary tool to facilitate the annual information exchange. In 2014, this was complemented by an additional voluntary working document on indicators for improving reporting, which was prepared following an OSCE-wide workshop held in Belgrade. This year, a revised version of this document was made available (see above).

4. Awareness-raising and outreach

At a side event during the 2014 Ministerial Council in Basel, the Swiss Chairmanship launched a commemorative study⁷ on the history, development, achievements and outreach of the Code of Conduct over the past 20 years since its adoption in Budapest in 1994. The publication contains forewords by the 2014 Chairperson-in-Office, Didier Burkhalter, and OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, as well as contributions by experts from participating States, the CPC and academia.

The year 2015 saw an increase in bilateral initiatives on awareness-raising and outreach of the Code of Conduct. Switzerland and Germany organized an outreach seminar for the southern Mediterranean region in September 2015, which was hosted by Tunisia. This seminar gathered together over 60 participants from the region to discuss the Code of Conduct and its provisions with regard to the democratic control of armed and security forces. The event demonstrated that interest in the Code of Conduct extends well beyond the OSCE area and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

In October 2015, a joint Serbian-Swiss workshop on the Code of Conduct was held in Belgrade as part of the work plan of the consecutive OSCE Chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia in 2014 and 2015. This event provided an opportunity to review more than 20 years of the existence and implementation of the Code of Conduct and brought together more than 60 participants from over 20 participating States, including OSCE Partners for Co-operation. The participants exchanged views and discussed the implementation of the Code, including norm setting, parliamentary oversight and outreach.

⁷ The study is available at <http://www.osce.org/cio/128961>.

In 2015 the CPC continued its activities in promoting and improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct across the OSCE area. In its Decision No. 1/08 on awareness-raising and outreach of the Code of Conduct, the FSC requested the OSCE Secretariat to organize, in co-operation with other international organizations or with participating States, at least one specialized seminar or workshop a year in order to facilitate better implementation, to promote awareness and to support outreach of the Code of Conduct. It also encouraged participating States to contribute extrabudgetary funds to make such events possible, and called upon the FSC Chairperson to engage the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

Previous regional seminars had been held in Kazakhstan for Central Asia (2008), Bosnia and Herzegovina for South-East Europe (2009), Belarus for Eastern Europe (2010), Ukraine for the Black Sea region and the Caucasus (2011), Latvia for the Baltic Sea region (2012), Malta for the Mediterranean region (2013), and Serbia for the OSCE structures (2014). This year's seminar took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and reached out both to the Central Asian participating States as well as to the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

On 8 July 2015, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) participated in the fourth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The ODIHR representative delivered a presentation on the protection of the rights of armed forces personnel. The Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel was highlighted in particular on this occasion.

The ODIHR also provided inputs on the rights of armed forces personnel during the OSCE conference on the Code of Conduct in Ulaanbaatar in March 2015, as well as at the joint Serbian-Swiss workshop on the Code of Conduct in October 2015. Participants at both events were briefed on the importance of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of armed forces and were provided with further insights on how to protect such rights and freedoms. The events in Mongolia and Serbia were complemented with so-called national tables, which provided an opportunity for representatives of participating States to present their national measures and tools for implementing the corresponding provisions of the Code of Conduct.

In 2014, the ODIHR continued its Human Rights Discussion Series for the Forum for Security Co-operation. This series is intended to brief members of the FSC on the latest issues that have an impact on the rights of servicemen and servicewomen. On 17 July 2014, the ODIHR organized the third event in this series, which focused on conditions of service and relevant human rights implications for military men and women, and their families, in peacetime, in operations, and after leaving the service. On 23 October 2014, the ODIHR organized the fourth event in the Human Rights Discussion Series, which focused primarily on the freedom of expression and association of men and women in uniform. Reports from both events in the FSC series were published in 2015.⁸

During the reporting period, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) continued to make a valuable contribution in connection with the Code of Conduct, reflecting its

8 Civil and Political Rights of Armed Forces Personnel: www.osce.org/odihr/135696?download=true
Conditions of Service and the Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces:
www.osce.org/odihr/150286?download=true.

unequivocal support for the Code of Conduct as also demonstrated by a number of pertinent declarations and resolutions adopted by the PA over the past few years.

At its Annual Session in Helsinki in July 2015, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution on “OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Awareness-raising, dissemination, better implementation and outreach”. In this resolution, the PA calls upon OSCE participating States and OSCE executive structures to bolster the Code of Conduct as a fundamental principle of security sector governance and reform. It also encourages participating States to support awareness-raising and dissemination of the Code in the whole OSCE area through workshops and seminars and to continue periodic discussions on better implementation and outreach. Furthermore, the PA declares its strong commitment to foster the implementation of the Code in all its aspects and to remain involved in discussions and activities of the participating States and in activities of OSCE executive structures related to the Code.

In addition to the Annual Session, the Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly continued to complement the important work of members of parliament in this specific field. PA members and staff of the OSCE PA Secretariat set out the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s perspective at several events. The PA Vice-President Roberto Battelli (MP Slovenia), as well as the OSCE PA Special Representative in Vienna participated in the OSCE-wide workshop on the Code of Conduct that took place in Belgrade in October 2015. On that occasion, the PA representatives elaborated on the importance of parliamentary oversight of the defence and security sector and provided insight into the positive contributions of well- managed lustration processes in maximizing the impacts of parliamentary oversight. One important point raised, besides those mentioned above, was the need for continued capacity-building both for members of parliament and for parliamentary staff in the field of democratic control of the security sector.

During the reporting period, the OSCE field operations were also actively promoting implementation of the Code through awareness-raising and training activities, as reflected in the following summaries.

In 2015, the OSCE Presence in Albania undertook a comparative review of Albania’s Code of Conduct submissions. This review resulted in a one-day workshop held in Tirana on 10 February 2015. The workshop was run by an international expert identified by the CPC and was aimed at familiarizing local drafters of the replies to the Code of Conduct questionnaire with best reporting practices.

The activities of the OSCE Office in Yerevan in the security sector remained focused on enhancing the capacities of State institutions to exercise democratic oversight over the security sector in compliance with the OSCE Code of Conduct commitments, by mainstreaming human rights within the Armed Forces, strengthening the role and impact of parliamentary oversight and facilitating effective involvement of civil society in these processes. In December 2014, the OSCE Office and the Armenian Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a comprehensive action plan for 2015 on the improvement of the human rights situation by strengthening the educational component on human rights and ensuring transparency and reduction of corruption in the armed forces.

The Office continued to provide comprehensive support in ensuring effective protection of human rights in the armed forces, as well as ensuring the open and transparent

activities of military institutions. A wide range of activities, implemented with the MoD within the framework of the Cooperation Plan for 2014, have had a tangible positive impact on the human rights situation in the army and have resulted in improved professional civilian control over the armed forces. According to official statistics, the number of accidents and violations of human rights in the armed forces has decreased. In particular, the number of cases of death due to the violation of rules has decreased by 50 per cent according to the MoD.

In 2015, the Office provided comprehensive support to the Parliamentary Committee on Defence, National Security and Internal Affairs in co-operation with DCAF. Several international seminars, round tables devoted to civil-military and police-public relations, defence sector management and financial oversight of the security sector were organized with the assistance of the Office. DCAF handbooks on defence management, financial oversight of the security sector and a number of key legal documents on security sector reform were translated through the support of the Office. The Office has also assisted the Committee in developing an official website.

A study tour to Germany was organized for the Committee members to learn about best practices in parliamentary oversight of the security sector. On the basis of the outcomes of the visit to Germany, the Committee is in the process of preparing amendments to be included in Armenia's package of constitutional reforms.

The 7th Review Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina's compliance with OSCE and United Nations security commitments in the politico-military field was held on 20 November 2014 in Sarajevo, organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Conference provided a forum for discussion and exchange of experiences and ideas in the politico-military sphere for a broad range of participants from various State security institutions. The participants agreed that the role of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security should be strengthened as an instrument for assessment and tool for improved governance in the security sector. It was therefore proposed that briefings on the OSCE Code of Conduct should be held for officials at all levels in all security sector institutions. The need to familiarize civil society with the OSCE Code of Conduct was also emphasized. This recommendation extends to non-governmental and civil society organizations, the media, various associations, and educational institutions. Participants were of the opinion that there should be more information about the Code in the media and concepts for additional educational programmes on the Code of Conduct and democratic oversight should be considered.

Furthermore, it was proposed that the regional peer-to-peer review on exchange of information on the OSCE Code of Conduct (Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC), October 2014) should serve as the model for analysing the Annual Exchange of Information on the Code of Conduct.

The Conference participants proposed that more intensive regional co-operation between States be initiated, together with organizations such as RACVIAC, aimed at improving implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Therefore, the three objectives of the 7th Review Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina's compliance with OSCE and United Nations security commitments in the

politico-military field were achieved and the Conference produced 23 recommendations and proposals for future progress to be implemented in 2015 and beyond.

A workshop on women, peace and security was organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2015. The workshop followed up on another recommendation by the 7th Review Conference. During the workshop, the Bosnia and Herzegovina reference list concerning women, peace and security in the questionnaire on the Code of Conduct was reviewed and discussed. Priorities for the year 2015 for implementation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 were also presented and discussed.

It was assessed that the analyses conducted during the workshop on the OSCE questionnaire and the implementation of the National Action Plan would contribute to increasing the comprehensiveness, co-ordination, awareness, ownership, and accountability of government activities on women, peace and security. The workshop further confirmed the value of voluntary reporting on women, peace and security in the framework of the annual Information Exchange. The voluntary additions to the questionnaire by Bosnia and Herzegovina have been improved as a result of this activity.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina provided support to enable the participation of one representative of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the fourth Annual Discussion on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Participation was considered to be very beneficial as it provided a rare opportunity for the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss how to promote and improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct, including the annual information exchange.

The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security has set the tone for a series of training courses on human rights and gender for the security and armed forces personnel of Montenegro as initiated by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. Following up on the first training of this kind for the Ministry of Defence and Army of Montenegro personnel, the XVII Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (CPF) brought parliamentarians from the whole region to Montenegro, from 27 to 29 April 2015, as well as the highest level OSCE representatives, to discuss human rights and gender in the security sector. The CPF Joint Declaration subsequently adopted recalled the relevance of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and highlighted the continued commitment of the whole region to the implementation of the Code.

From 10 to 12 March, the OSCE Office in Astana facilitated the participation of two officers from Kazakhstan's Ministry of Defence and National Defence University in the conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the role of armed and security forces in democratic societies, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In 2015 the Code of Conduct-related activities of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) included facilitating the participation of a Kyrgyz delegation and Centre staff in the Code of Conduct workshop conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in March 2015.

Serbia, as the 2015 OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, organized an OSCE-wide Conference on Security Sector Governance and Reform in Belgrade on 21 April 2015. The OSCE Mission to Serbia assisted in the organization of this conference. The main goal was to

raise awareness about the ongoing efforts of the OSCE in the area of SSG/R among participating States, the OSCE executive structures and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, international partners, in particular United Nations agencies and European Union and regional actors, as well as civil society and academia. The Mission related this activity to its overall efforts in raising awareness and strengthening the implementation of the Code of Conduct and its provisions with regard to the democratic control of armed and security forces.

5. Conclusions

The year 2015 has once again highlighted that the Code of Conduct has a very important role to play as a set of principles and guidelines on inter-State and intra-State behaviour that are of critical relevance for the governance of the security sector. This year saw an increase in awareness-raising and outreach activities and highlighted the comparative value of the Code of Conduct beyond as well as within the OSCE area.

In this regard, the outreach event to participating States from Central Asia and OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation in the first trimester of this year deserves special attention. The broad interest and attendance at this event underlines the value of the Code of Conduct, in terms of both its normative and functional elements.

Also, the initiatives taken at the bilateral level, with events organized and hosted by Germany, Serbia, Switzerland and Tunisia, complemented the previous efforts undertaken by the CPC and further enhanced the outreach and awareness of the Code of Conduct.

Although losing some of its previous momentum due to the changed geopolitical landscape, the fifth Annual Implementation Discussion was generally considered a success, highlighting once again the undiminished value of complying with all principles and norms set out in the OSCE Code of Conduct, particularly in the current security situation in the OSCE area. Several proposals on improving the implementation and outreach of the Code of Conduct were brought forward by expert speakers and participating States alike and are being followed up on by the FSC and other relevant bodies and authorities.

The information exchange in 2015 indicated a continued very high level of commitment, as reflected both in the number and also in the continuously improved quality of the replies. Again, many of the participating States provided voluntarily additional information on women, peace and security, and a growing number of States provided information on private and military security companies.

The efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct were also supported by initiatives of the FSC Chairmanships to promote the Code of Conduct in the framework of the FSC Security Dialogues in 2015. Two events dedicated to the topics of security sector governance and reform and to the role of ombuds institutions underlined and reiterated the continued relevance of the Code of Conduct in relation to today's security challenges and confirmed the significance of its wide-reaching provisions for the governance of security institutions.

Based on the increased co-operation and the continued interest of the Parliamentary Assembly in the Code of Conduct, the focus in 2016 in terms of awareness-raising and

outreach will be on parliaments and their invaluable role in the democratic control of armed and security forces. A dedicated OSCE-wide event in Berlin is envisaged in the first half of next year. At the same time, further avenues regarding outreach to interested Partners for Co-operation will be explored. Furthermore, several options for improving implementation and extending reporting on the Code of Conduct among the participating States are planned. These activities will be complemented by several Security Dialogues dedicated to the Code of Conduct. Finally, the fifth Annual Implementation Discussion will again provide a great opportunity for reviewing the status of the Code of Conduct and for making constructive proposals on how to strengthen its implementation.

FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

(Annex 3 to MC.GAL/2/15 of 27 November 2015)

Executive summary

This progress report provides comprehensive factual information on the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for the period from November 2014 to November 2015.

The reporting period saw the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) continuing to conduct its activities aimed at combating the proliferation of illicit SALW and preventing destabilizing accumulations. In this connection, the Basel Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 10/14 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, which gave participating States a general framework for the future work of the FSC, including formulas allowing for improvements both in the normative aspects and in the implementation of the existing commitments.

A variety of different initiatives from participating States were discussed during the reporting period on issues relevant to SALW, resulting in one decision in particular, namely, FSC Decision No. 2/15 on an OSCE meeting to review the implementation of OSCE practical assistance projects on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. At the same time several food-for-thought papers and proposals for draft decisions were circulated by participating States, on areas of interest such as: subsequent transfer (re-export) controls; the maritime transportation of SALW; the provision of assistance to OSCE Partners for Co-operation as outlined in the OSCE Documents on SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA); and diplomatic privileges and immunities for military personnel and experts while exercising their functions under OSCE SALW and SCA field projects.

The FSC held several Security Dialogues devoted to SALW and the Arms Trade Treaty in the reporting period. The FSC also held the Implementation Assessment Meeting on SALW and SCA to improve effectiveness in the implementation of projects. The practical assistance given to OSCE participating States through the implementation of SALW projects remains a key component of the work undertaken to improve security and stability in the OSCE area.

The present report notes the continuation of project activities in Belarus. During the reporting period, dialogue on SALW and SCA issues was also continued with Armenia, particularly with regard to physical security and stockpile management.

The matter of extrabudgetary contributions and fund-raising remains a core issue.

Finally, in line with its mandate, the OSCE Secretariat further enhanced its co-operation with other international organizations dealing with SALW-related issues. Formal co-operation agreements have been established to mainstream and enhance

co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the Joint Action Plan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Memorandum of Understanding.

1. Introduction

At the Twenty-First Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Basel, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), through its Chairperson, was requested to submit to the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) (MC.DEC/10/14).

The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) was adopted on 24 November 2000 and reissued on 20 June 2012 (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1). It sets forth norms, principles and measures to address the threat posed to the international community by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW. This was acknowledged by the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, which regards the OSCE Document on SALW as an important tool for combating threats caused by terrorism and organized crime, and underlines the importance of further strengthening its implementation.

In its activities, the OSCE aims to complement action at the global level. The OSCE Document on SALW also constitutes a substantial contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (United Nations Programme of Action on SALW).

2. Objectives

The present report is intended to provide an overview of the implementation of OSCE commitments on SALW; it also describes the progress made in the implementation of OSCE-related SALW assistance projects. It is primarily designed to serve as a basis for determining the status of implementation of the OSCE commitments on SALW. The report covers the period from November 2014 to November 2015 (the deadline for the inclusion of factual data having been 13 November).

3. Implementation assessment in respect of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA

In order to facilitate the implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), an Implementation Assessment Meeting was organized on 14 and 15 July 2015 in accordance with FSC Decision No. 2/15. The meeting brought together over a hundred national officials and representatives of international organizations. The meeting aimed to assess how well the relevant OSCE commitments were being implemented at the national level. The meeting's participants also discussed the effectiveness and efficiency of practical assistance provided by the OSCE in the areas of SALW and SCA. Finally, the issue of how future OSCE action

could best complement international efforts without duplicating them was examined, and the OSCE contribution to the United Nations SALW process and the way forward were also discussed. It was proposed that assessment meetings should be held every two years to review the existing challenges and jointly seek relevant solutions.

4. Normative aspects

The OSCE Document on SALW establishes the OSCE normative base for the development and implementation of national legislation, rules and procedures. The review of these norms and the development of supplementary and/or complementary decisions by the FSC constitute a core part of the FSC's regular work, which in 2015 centred on the following issues.

4.1 Proposals on SALW

The FSC is presently discussing several other proposals for draft decisions and food-for-thought papers on such issues as: introducing best-practice guidelines on subsequent transfer (re-export) controls for SALW; a system for the control of maritime trafficking in SALW; privileges, immunities and appropriate treatment of military personnel and experts while exercising their functions during SALW and SCA field projects and during their journey to and from locations of such projects; and enabling the provision of assistance to OSCE Partners for Co-operation using procedures outlined in the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. The proposals aim to further enhance the OSCE normative framework for comprehensive controls of SALW and facilitate the provision of practical assistance on this topic.

4.2 Informal Group of Friends on SALW

The work of the Informal Group of Friends (IGoF) on SALW continued in 2015.

The IGoF met several times in 2015, with the participation of over 30 participating States. It dealt with a number of issues, including: discussion of progress made at the national level in the implementation of OSCE commitments; contribution to other processes; outreach to other relevant international organizations and arrangements, such as the Wassenaar Arrangement; and further potential normative work on SALW.

In addition, the IGoF discussed a number of proposals, covering subjects such as:

- Record-keeping;
- Making the results of information exchanges public;
- Export controls;
- Status of personnel during assessment visits;
- Expanding the assistance mechanism to Partners for Co-operation;

- Introducing best-practice guidelines on subsequent transfer (re-export) controls for SALW;
- System for the control of maritime trafficking in SALW.

5. Implementation of existing commitments

5.1 Information exchanges on SALW

The OSCE Document on SALW commits the participating States to a number of standards which, if fully implemented, will assist States in their efforts to abide by many of the paragraphs on national implementation in the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW. Among other things, the Document on SALW established a mechanism consisting of transparency measures aimed at raising confidence and security and at further promoting trust among OSCE participating States.

The OSCE participating States exchange information on an annual and one-off basis on various matters related to transfer controls in respect of SALW and conventional arms more generally. These information exchanges are confidential between the OSCE participating States and can be discussed at FSC meetings, special seminars and conferences. The general level of implementation in 2014–2015 shows a slight improvement in comparison with previous years. However, the achievement of this response rate required extensive use of the FSC Chairperson's Announcing and Reminding Mechanism.

OSCE information exchanges relevant to SALW transfer controls include:

- Information exchange on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/13/97 and FSC.DEC/8/98);
- Questionnaire on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/20/95);
- Information exchange on small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section III, (F)1).

In addition, the participating States have agreed to provide each other with updates as follows, when necessary:

- Information exchange on national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national procedures for the control of manufacture of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national legislation and current practice in small arms export policy, procedures, documentation, and brokering controls (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section III, (F)2).

5.1.1 One-off information exchanges

Under the OSCE Document on SALW, the participating States agreed to share and submit updated information, when necessary, on the following matters: national marking systems; national procedures for the control of manufacturing; national legislation and current practice in export policy, procedures and documentation, also in control over brokering; small arms destruction techniques; and small arms stockpile security and management programmes.

FSC Decision No. 11/08 tasked the participating States with exchanging information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.

FSC Decision No. 12/08 requested the participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.

Detailed information about the number of participating States that exchanged one-off information can be found in Annex A to the present report.

In March 2011, the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) issued a revised template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11), with the suggested start date for reporting being 30 June 2011, in accordance with the deadline for reporting updated in the OSCE Document on SALW. By 13 November 2015, 13 participating States had provided updated inputs to the one-off information exchange on SALW in the new format.

In order to improve the quality and the quantity of updates provided, in July 2015 the CPC sent individual feedback letters to the relevant participating States. Since then, over ten participating States have answered the letters.

Currently, the OSCE and UNODA are studying possibilities for further reducing the SALW reporting burden on States by making the submission of the OSCE reports possible online, following the example set by UNODA for national reports on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW.

5.1.2 Annual information exchanges

In addition to exchanging information about existing norms and regulations, the Document on SALW requires the participating States to exchange data annually on exports to and imports from other OSCE participating States, as well as on small arms identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territories in the previous calendar year. An overview of this information exchange is displayed in Annex B.

According to the data exchanged, during the period from 2001 to 2014, OSCE participating States destroyed 16,160,028 items of SALW. Details are set out in Annex C.

6. Practical assistance on SALW

6.1 Overview

Implementation of the elements in the OSCE Document on SALW concerning requests from participating States for assistance in the destruction, management and security of stockpiles of SALW remains an essential part of the efforts of the Forum for Security Co-operation in this field.

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 16 requests for assistance from 11 countries relating to enhancing the management and security of stockpiles of SALW or to the destruction of surpluses.

6.2 National co-ordination bodies

In 2008, the FSC adopted Decision No. 4/08 establishing an OSCE Directory of Points of Contact on SALW and SCA as an additional tool for co-operation and co-ordination among the participating States on assistance projects relating to SALW and SCA. In line with the decision, the CPC established and maintained an aggregate database of points of contact provided by OSCE participating States and other parties to the directory.

6.3 Workshop on physical security and stockpile management of SALW in Armenia

As a concrete follow-up on the recommendations provided by the CPC on the results of the SALW Roundtable held in Yerevan in 2014, and at the request of Armenia, the Government of Armenia and the CPC, supported by the OSCE Office in Yerevan, organized a workshop seminar on physical security and stockpile management of SALW in Yerevan from 6 to 8 October 2015. During the three-day event, experts from participating States as well as from other international organizations presented best international and national practices and discussed voluntary SALW and conventional ammunition guidelines and standards elaborated at the United Nations. Subsequently, Armenia presented its national experience with regard to safe and secure storage of SALW and conventional ammunition. The presentations were followed by a visit to two ammunition storage sites belonging to the Ministry of Defence of Armenia. In the course of discussion following the visit, technical experts discussed concrete measures that could be implemented in order to alleviate the humanitarian and proliferation threat as well as to ensure the implementation of commitments on SALW and SCA by Armenia as regards safe and secure storage of ammunition. In particular, follow-up activities that could be undertaken in the framework of an OSCE assistance mechanism were discussed.

Further OSCE capacity-building events on small arms and light weapons conducted during the reporting period can be found in Annex D.

6.4 Inventory application software on SALW

Supported by European Union funds in line with the European Union Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP, the CPC continued implementing a project on improving SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile management and record keeping. In order to adapt the software to national needs, it has been translated into English and the local languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Tajikistan. The software was deployed in Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Moldova and Kyrgyzstan. Training is scheduled until the end of 2015 for officials from Georgia, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

6.5 Practical assistance projects

6.5.1 Republic of Belarus

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP, the two organizations continued the implementation of the project on capacity-building for SALW physical security and stockpile management in Belarus. During 2015, the UNDP, which is serving as the implementing agency for this project, is implementing the second phase of the project together with the Ministry of Defence. The project is funded by European Union Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP in support of activities to reduce the illicit trade in and excessive accumulation of SALW in the OSCE area. In 2015 the physical security upgrades at the storage site in Gomel were completed and funds were secured to finalize the security upgrades of the storage sites in Marijna Gorka and Hrodna.

7. Outreach and co-operation

7.1 Partnership and co-operation agreements with other international organizations

7.1.1 Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP

The OSCE continued co-operation with the UNDP following the signature of a new expanded Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP in 2013. The Memorandum foresees closer co-ordination and co-operation in the following areas:

- (i) Early warning, conflict prevention and reconciliation;
- (ii) Demilitarization and arms control;
- (iii) Confidence-building and community security;
- (iv) Good governance, anti-corruption work, rule of law, and judicial and legal reform;
- (v) Disaster risk reduction;
- (vi) Displacement;
- (vii) Activities in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security;
- (viii) Minorities;
- (ix) Environment, management of natural resources, and sustainable energy; and
- (x) Border management.

Since 2007, five large joint projects have been launched in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations: in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia. In 2014, the first co-ordination meeting was held between the OSCE and the UNDP to assess the implementation of the Memorandum, co-ordinate activities and discuss opportunities for closer co-operation in the framework of the Memorandum.

7.1.2 Joint Action Plan with the UNODC

In October 2011, the OSCE and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed a Joint Action Plan in order to improve synergies in the activities of the two organizations. The Plan specifically foresees joint development of policy and programmes. In December 2014, the Parties extended the Joint Action Plan until the end of 2015. It covers the following areas for co-operation and co-ordination:

The Parties will consider co-operating on awareness-raising, promotion and implementation in respect of:

- The United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition; and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- The decisions, taskings and recommendations emanating from their respective governing bodies;
- Specific regional initiatives, including in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe.

Furthermore, in view of, and as part of, the above, the Parties will consider developing partnerships in the areas of:

- Raising awareness regarding the ratification of/accession to the Firearms Protocol by OSCE participating States;
- Supporting specific initiatives aimed at the implementation of the Firearms Protocol and the relevant OSCE documents, in such areas of preventing and combating illicit trafficking in firearms/SALW and ammunition as: firearms/SALW record-keeping, standards for deactivation of firearms, and the establishment and maintenance of effective systems of export control for firearms/SALW in the OSCE area in the context of existing initiatives, projects and other activities;
- Providing technical assistance to countries, at their request, to help them comply with the requirements of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and
- Enhancing co-operation among representatives of law enforcement bodies, the judiciary and prosecution authorities for the purpose of countering illicit trafficking in firearms/SALW, including the tracing of illicit firearms/SALW.

Regular OSCE-UNODC staff talks were held in 2015 to discuss the implementation of the Joint Action Plan and to explore opportunities for closer co-operation in the framework of the Plan. Moreover, UNODC representatives were invited to give presentations at FSC meetings and specialized OSCE meetings on SALW.

7.1.3 Memorandum of Understanding with UNODA

In October 2012, the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding as part of their common efforts to further improve their mutual synergies.

In the Memorandum, it was agreed that co-operation should be strengthened in the fields of disarmament, arms control and conventional arms regulation, and in confidence-building and related issues, through:

- (a) Exchange of information and co-ordination of policies and activities;
- (b) Organization of joint activities;
- (c) Resource mobilization for joint activities;
- (d) Exchange programmes;
- (e) Common visibility strategy to support and promote joint activities; and
- (f) Synergies in the planning of meetings.

Since the signing of the Memorandum, the parties have collaborated (together with the UNODC and INTERPOL) on organizing the Inaugural Conference on Tracing of Illicit SALW in the OSCE Area, which took place in Vienna in May 2013. In 2014, the OSCE, UNODA and INTERPOL organized a regional follow-up event for Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in Istanbul, Turkey, on 12 and 13 May 2014. For further details, see Annex D.

Additionally, UNODA and the OSCE have launched practical joint initiatives in the following areas:

- Reducing the SALW reporting burden (further details on this initiative can be found in section 5.1.1);
- Roll-out of SALW record-keeping software to United Nations Member States outside the OSCE area (further details on this initiative can be found in section 6.4) – under discussion;
- Disarmament and non-proliferation education focusing on women.

7.2 Operational support and information exchange

The OSCE Secretariat holds annual staff talks with the United Nations to share information about the latest developments and new initiatives, both on the setting of norms and standards and on practical assistance in connection with SALW.

7.2.1 Co-operation and information exchange with other international organizations

Since 2010, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) has held regular consultations with the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), which involves over 20 relevant UN agencies and programmes that deal with SALW issues, including UNODA, the UNODC, the UNDP and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research. In 2015, regular meetings with CASA continued to result in exchange of information about ongoing and planned initiatives, to co-ordinate actions, and to seek synergies.

The OSCE Secretariat has initiated closer co-operation with the European Union with regard to funding for OSCE SALW activities. In 2015 the OSCE finalized a three-year programme established under European Union Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP in support of activities to reduce the illicit trade in and excessive accumulation of SALW in the OSCE area.

The OSCE also engages in regular co-ordination and information exchange with the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (WA). In February 2015, Ambassador Phillip Griffiths, Head of Secretariat at the WA, gave a briefing to the FSC. In January 2015, a CPC representative took part in the annual outreach briefing organized by the WA.

Furthermore, the OSCE Secretariat conducts biannual staff talks with NATO, at which issues related to the implementation of projects on SALW and conventional ammunition are discussed in detail. Such talks serve to promote the sharing of information and lessons learned, to avoid duplication of effort, to establish possible synergies, and to increase the effectiveness of projects.

Finally, the OSCE Secretariat holds bi-annual staff talks with the EU to exchange information and discuss a wide range of issues.

The CPC exchanges information with other international organizations on OSCE project activities and on normative achievements in the area of SCA. Since 2008, informal meetings have been organized with other international organizations to enhance co-ordination of efforts with regard to projects on SALW and SCA. The purpose of the meetings is to take stock of the projects relating to SALW and SCA being implemented by international organizations, to exchange lessons learned and best practices, and to co-ordinate ongoing and future activities. Such meetings are organized in accordance with the following modalities:

- The one-day informal co-ordination meetings are held twice a year;
- When applicable, the scope of such meetings may be expanded to accommodate relevant projects and issues outside the field of SALW and SCA.

7.3 Outreach to Partners for Co-operation

In response to MC Decisions No. 8/13 and No. 10/14 tasking to the FSC to “explore ways to enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on issues related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition”, the OSCE continued its outreach activities on SALW.

7.3.1 Conference on Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region through Information Sharing and Co-operation, Monaco, 1 and 2 June 2015

The Conference on Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region through Information Sharing and Co-operation was organized by FSC Support Section in co-operation with the Transnational Threats Department and the Principality of Monaco on 1 and 2 June in Monte Carlo.

The objective of the Conference was to stimulate and enhance international dialogue and the co-operative efforts of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and participating States to increase their capacities to identify and counter emerging transnational threats.

The Conference helped showcase the important role that regional approaches and effective co-operation mechanisms can play in addressing transnational threats. This event also helped stimulate and enhance international dialogue and co-operative efforts in the Mediterranean region.

Over 60 participants from the OSCE area and the countries of the Partners for Co-operation Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Morocco, the OSCE Secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, the International Organization for Migration, the European External Action Service, and the European Commission, as well as representatives from civil society and the private sector, shared experiences, views and good practices in finding ways to address irregular migration, trace illicit financial flows and assets emanating from transnational organized crime, improve seaport and airport security, and prevent illicit cross-border trafficking in weapons.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Normative work on SALW

The OSCE Document on SALW and the associated OSCE best practices continue to play an important norm-setting role in the OSCE area that in turn contributes to confidence and stability.

In line with MC Decision No. 10/14 and the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (2010), work continued both on fostering the implementation of existing commitments and also on looking into means of making the measures more effective and efficient, whether through harmonization or through gap analysis. On both tracks, co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations, play a crucial role in terms both of recognizing the leading role of the UN in managing the SALW control process and of ensuring the most efficient and effective use of resources.

In addition, dialogue on SALW with interested participating States has continued and new requests for assistance on SALW and conventional ammunition have been considered.

Although, through the FSC and the Informal Group of Friends on SALW, participating States have taken an active approach to further implementing the OSCE *acquis* on SALW issues, much remains to be done, and in some areas control measures are not in compliance with norms at the international level. Constant attention is required to assess implementation of the Plan of Action on SALW, to review the effectiveness of OSCE principles, norms, and measures, and to ensure that capacity and efficiency are satisfactory. Some first steps have been taken towards the streamlining and synchronization of SALW information exchanges with those at the UN.

8.2 Practical assistance on SALW

Measures undertaken in response to requests for assistance from an increasing number of participating States remain a key OSCE activity in the context of the practical implementation of the Document on SALW. Steps continue to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of SALW activity through regular regional co-operation and informal co-ordination with other international organizations.

Further periodic information-sharing or briefings on projects, both by the co-ordinator and by the actors involved, are intended to raise awareness and help mobilize resources from the participating States.

With more than 40 requests for assistance received since 2003, the assistance mechanism under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA is considered by the participating States as a reliable instrument for facilitating technical, financial and consultative support.

8.3 The future SALW work of the FSC

Activities undertaken in 2015 within the FSC and in other forums such as the United Nations provide a platform on which to strengthen efforts to combat the security challenges resulting from the illicit spread of SALW and destabilizing accumulations. Both in the OSCE area and in its neighbourhood, especially the countries of its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, SALW continues to pose a threat that could be minimized through better normative controls and project-based activities, in combination with associated co-operative and capacity-building activities. The Forum now has the opportunity to take stock of the implementation of its normative basis in the context of developments elsewhere, which could lead to very positive progress. The Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW, to take place in 2016, may provide SALW activities with new impetus.

9. Annexes

Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW, as well as on brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport

- Annex B: Overview of the annual information exchange on: export/import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed
- Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area
- Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2014 to November 2015
- Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW, as well as on brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport

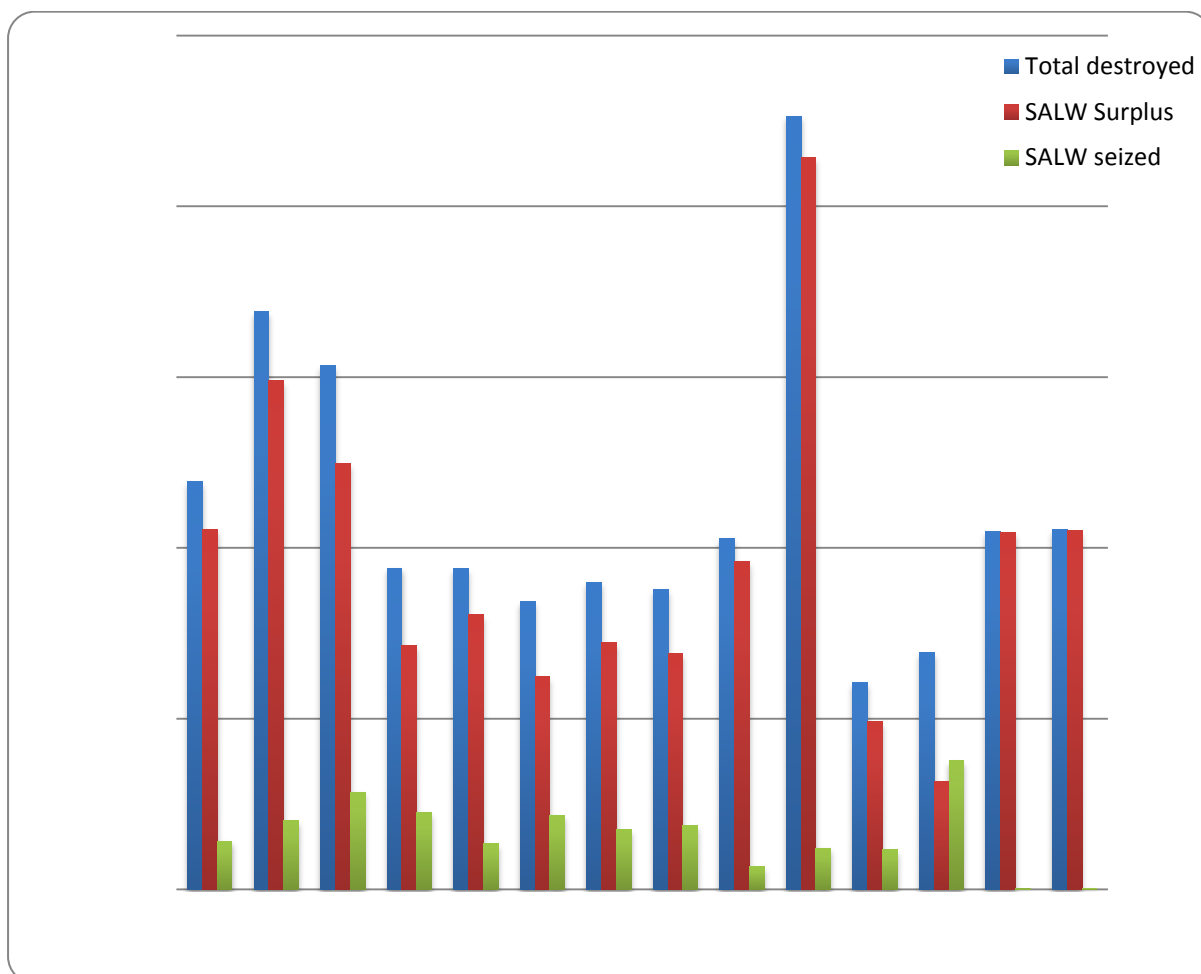
Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2014	Updates in 2015
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange on their national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms.	56 participating States	11 participating States	20 participating States
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange with each other available information on national procedures for the control of the manufacture of small arms.	56 participating States	10 participating States	19 participating States
Section III, (F)2 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States will exchange with each other available information on relevant national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering in small arms in order to spread awareness of “best practice” in these areas.	56 participating States	12 participating States	19 participating States
Section IV, (E)2 (starting from 30 June 2002)	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a “best practice” guide, designed to promote effective stockpile management and security.	54 participating States	11 participating States	18 participating States

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2014	Updates in 2015
Section IV, (E)3 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange information on their techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms. The FSC will consider developing a “best practice” guide of techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms.	55 participating States	11 participating States	19 participating States
FSC Decision No. 11/07 (by 25 January 2008)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to small arms and light weapons.	48 participating States	-	1 Participating State
FSC Decision No. 11/08 (by 30 June 2009)	The FSC decides that the participating States shall provide, as an update to the one-off information exchange established by Section III, part F, paragraph 2, of the OSCE Document on SALW, additional information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.	47 participating States	2 participating States	1 participating States
FSC Decision No. 12/08 (by 27 March 2009)	The FSC requests participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.	53 participating States	1 participating State	1 participating State
FSC Decision No. 17/10 (by 30 June 2011)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW.	n/a	9 participating States	18 participating States

Annex B: Overview of the annual information exchange on: export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures		
		2014	2015
Section III, (F)1	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange among themselves about their small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year. They also agree to study ways to further improve the information exchange on transfers of small arms.	40 participating States	43 participating States
Section IV, (C)1 Section IV, (E)1	The participating States agree that the preferred method for the disposal of small arms is destruction. The participating States agree to share available information on the category, subcategory and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territory during the previous calendar year.	29 participating States (excluding nil reports)	21 participating States (excluding nil reports)

Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area¹



Total destroyed:	1,055,094
Total surplus destroyed:	1,050,496
Total seized, confiscated and destroyed:	4,598

¹ It should be noted that in cases where a participating State has not differentiated between surplus and seized weapons, the statistics are reflected as surplus.

Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2014 to November 2015

Presentations related to SALW given in the context of the Security Dialogue of the FSC

FSC Chairpersons regularly invite guest speakers to address the Forum, also on issues related to SALW. In 2015, the presentations on topics related to SALW included the following:

- Presentation by Ambassador Philip Griffiths, Head of Secretariat, Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, on “The Wassenaar Arrangement: Recent Developments”;
- Presentation by Professor Keith Krause, Director, Small Arms Survey, on “The OSCE’s role in combating illicit trafficking and destabilizing accumulations of SALW and SCA”;
- Presentation by Mr. Jarno Sareva, Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), on “Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition – The OSCE’s role in the context of international norms and procedures”;
- Presentation by Dr. Gro Nystuen, Senior Partner at the International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI), Norway, on the Arms Trade Treaty;
- Presentation by Ms. Elli Kytömäki, Project Manager at SaferGlobe, on “Nordic Arms Transfer Controls and the Arms Trade Treaty: Strengths and Challenges”;
- Presentation by Dr. Paul Holtom, Deputy Director at the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies, Coventry University, United Kingdom, on “The OSCE and the Arms Trade Treaty”.

Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

The OSCE continued its active external co-ordination and co-operation with other regional and international organizations and civil society, also participating in events organized by other actors.

In 2015, representatives of the CPC continued to promote the OSCE's outreach activities by participating in events organized by other international and regional organizations. The seminars and workshops at which presentations were given are listed below.

OSCE/FSC participation in SALW-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2015		
Date	Title	Place
2–3 February 2015	Addressing Threats from Conventional Weapons in Libya	Wilton Park, United Kingdom
20–21 April 2015	ATT: Informal Preparatory Meeting for the First Conference of States Parties	Vienna, Austria
19–23 October 2015	UN First Committee	New York, United States of America

FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT ON STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

(Annex 4 to MC.GAL/2/15 of 27 November 2015)

Executive Summary

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 40 requests for assistance in the area of stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) from more than ten participating States.

This progress report provides factual information on the current status of implementation of projects under the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in the period November 2014 to November 2015. Furthermore, the report indicates specific areas where action or assistance is most critically needed. The following is a summary of results achieved during the reporting period.

In 2015, the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition submitted by participating States. Certain phases of the ongoing projects were completed in Albania, Moldova, Montenegro, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia. In response to the security threats increasingly affecting the local population in Ukraine, the OSCE developed a project to help the government in clearing the conflict-affected area in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine from explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Projects continued to be implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia. In Georgia, after the completion in 2013 of a pilot project for the destruction of 1,288 cluster bombs (RBK-250 and RBK-500), the OSCE launched a new project with the objective of disposing of 25,609 units of aircraft rockets and bombs and artillery shells.

In 2015, there was a decrease in the donor funding available for SCA projects as compared with the previous years. This continues a trend in evidence throughout the period 2012–2015 (excluding funding provided for the disposal of rocket fuel components).

To address this challenge, the OSCE Secretariat has developed the Repository Programme for the SALW and SCA projects and the Repository Programme for Ukraine. Donors are able to use these programmes in order to deposit funds that can only be released after a specific project has been developed, reviewed and approved by the respective donor. This solution allows the participating States to make long-term financial contributions to the OSCE for a certain region, country or project before the respective project(s) has or have been developed, and thus to set priorities and participate in shaping assistance in the area of SALW and SCA.

1. Introduction

The present progress report on the implementation of projects under the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) covers the past year's ongoing efforts to address the challenges posed by stockpiles of ammunition. This report is intended to provide a factual update on the implementation of the commitments regarding conventional ammunition agreed to by all the participating States under the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. It also describes the progress achieved in project activities on conventional ammunition carried out in response to requests for assistance from participating States. The report covers the period from November 2014 to November 2015.

The report is primarily designed to provide a survey of the status of projects, and to highlight the issues posing challenges to the successful implementation of the OSCE projects under the Document on SCA in the near future.

2. OSCE assistance pursuant to the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

Since 2003 the OSCE has received 40 requests for assistance in the area of SCA from more than ten participating States. The assistance requests focus on:

- Ensuring the safety and security of stockpiles of ammunition;
- Destruction of ammunition;
- Disposal of rocket fuel components;
- Clearance and disposal of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

In 2015, the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition submitted by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine and Tajikistan.

2.1 Projects under implementation

The OSCE Presence in Albania has been supporting the Albanian Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the implementation of its demilitarization plan since 2008.

On 27 May 2015, the second phase of the OSCE project on the disposal of hazardous chemicals was completed. The first phase of the project was aimed at chemical classification, sorting, packaging and storing. The second phase focused on shipping 116 tonnes of hazardous chemicals out of Albania for final disposal.

In 2015, the MoD developed an action plan on the destruction of stockpiles of conventional ammunition. The objective of the plan was to categorize the 486 tonnes of surplus ammunition.

After the completion of several joint demilitarization programmes with the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) and the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), the Albanian authorities started considering joint regional co-operation in this area. In November 2014, Albania and Montenegro entered into a bilateral agreement. As a result, 50,000 20 mm anti-aircraft ammunition rounds (approximately 17 tonnes) were demilitarized in an industrial way in Albania. This initiative may attract the attention of other players in the region and has the potential to result in joint projects that would require the support of donors.

Additional activities include the proposed disposal of 140 tonnes of napalm powder. After it was confirmed that in-country disposal is impossible, the OSCE Presence in Albania started packaging small portions of the napalm powder stocks to ensure safe storage. However, significant support from donors will be required in order to finalize repackaging, transport the napalm powder out of the country and dispose of it at a specialized disposal facility in 2016.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission achieved further results in the implementation of the project on the security upgrade of ammunition and weapons storage sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SECUP BiH).

The initial objective of upgrading basic security infrastructure, namely fences, gates, barriers and signs, has been met. The process of installing intrusion detection systems (IDS) – surveillance cameras, motion sensors, backup power supply, monitoring/server rooms, additional fencing and fire detection sensors – at the weapons and ammunition storage sites is still ongoing.

Implementation of the joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-OSCE Explosive Ordnance and Remnants of War Destruction Project (EXPLODE) is ongoing and is aimed at improving the safety of storage sites.

Additionally, in 2015, the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to support the European Union funded project entitled “Roll-out of SALW inventory software application”. In November 2014, the OSCE provided computers, printers and SALW inventory software to the Bosnia and Herzegovina MoD for testing purposes. Training was provided to MoD specialists in 2015 followed by the deployment of the software within the MoD.

Following the closure of the OSCE Mission to Georgia in 2009, the OSCE Secretariat and the MoD of Georgia conducted a number of technical assessments in 2010 with the aim of resuming demilitarization activities in Georgia. As a result, a programme on ammunition demilitarization and community security was designed.

After completing a pilot project on the destruction of aerial bombs in Georgia in June 2013, a follow-up project on ammunition disposal was initiated in January 2015. The project activities are supported by Germany, Switzerland and the United States of America and have resulted in the disposal of 307 tonnes of aviation bombs, rockets and artillery shells during the reporting period.

In Kyrgyzstan, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (CiB) facilitated the development of the national legal framework for the disposal of weapons, which was adopted in September 2015.

As part of the project on improving physical security and stockpile management within the MoD, the OSCE CiB organized the deployment of an electronic record-keeping system for weapons and ammunition. Training and equipment, including desktops and printers, were provided to 60 representatives of the MoD. Furthermore, the OSCE CiB provided assistance for the construction of one storage facility and the renovation of three existing MoD storage facilities in the north of Kyrgyzstan. The construction work should be completed by the end of 2015. Preparatory work for the construction of two new storage facilities and renovation of one existing storage facility in the south of Kyrgyzstan in 2016 is under way, including tendering.

The OSCE SALW and Conventional Ammunition Programme in Moldova, launched in 2009, comprises eight main projects. Four weapons system destruction projects have been successfully completed, with the destruction of 78 cluster bombs, 48 surface-to-air missiles and 105 250 kg air bombs, and the disposal of 19 air-to-air missiles that were located in Georgia. The OSCE Mission is working with the Moldovan MoD to maintain this momentum and elaborate further destruction plans for the coming years.

A project on refurbishing storage sites for SALW and ammunition in Florești, Cahul, Bălți and Chișinău was completed. In addition to these refurbishments, an anti-intrusion alarm system was installed in four storage areas at the Floresti depot. Anti-intrusion systems and video will be installed at the Bălți, Cahul and Chișinău depots as well.

As a result of the delay in the construction of a new depot, it was decided to prolong the refurbishment project, including the upgrade of a fourth depot in Florești, which was achieved at the end of 2014. Additional assessment visits to find temporary solutions to make all storage areas safer and ad hoc measures will be pursued.

The OSCE assisted the MoD in deploying an electronic record management system for weapons and ammunition by providing the software and equipment and by organizing two training courses for MoD personnel.

Threats to security posed by stockpiles of conventional ammunition in Montenegro have been further reduced through the safe and environmentally benign destruction of ammunition through the MONDEM¹ Programme. A total of 27.47 tonnes of obsolete unstable ammunition were safely and securely destroyed at the facilities of the “Poliex” factory in Berane, in the period from July through September 2015.

Under the Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management (CASM) in Serbia, 550 tonnes of white phosphorus-filled ammunition were safely disposed of in 2015. The white phosphorus could be used for civic industrial purposes, the shells have been rendered unfit for further use as military goods and the value of the phosphorus as the end product received by the supplier was used to partially defray the disposal contract price.

The delaboration and subsequent packing of the remaining lots of white phosphorus-filled ammunition and special chemicals ammunition for export was completed

1 Capacity Development Programme for SALW (Conventional Ammunition) Demilitarization and Safe Storage for Montenegro – joint partnership programme between the Government of Montenegro, the OSCE and the UNDP.

in Tehnički Remontni Zavod (TRZ) Kragujevac at the end of the first quarter of 2015. It will be disposed at a specialized facility in Spain.

Activities under the CASM component for the enhancement of the safety of the demilitarization process at the demilitarization facility TRZ Kragujevac were initiated in 2015. Anti-static floors were installed in the delaboration workshops and the detailed design of the CCTV system was completed.

The project has been extended until the end of 2016. It is planned to carry out all the outstanding project tasks within this time frame.

Project activities in Ukraine focused on strengthening the country's capacity for the safe clearance of the Black Sea and Sea of Azov coastal water areas of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unsafe ammunition.

Six dry dive suits and two underwater communication systems were provided to the Ukrainian authorities dealing with the humanitarian underwater demining, along with a thematic publication on international standards in this area. The equipment was also used for the clearance of water bodies including water intakes, hydropower plants and recreational sites in the Donbas areas recently affected by conflict.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, in co-operation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, held conferences in Geneva and Kyiv in April and June 2015, respectively, to foster better co-ordination among Ukrainian Government mine action agencies and international actors.

To assist Ukraine in the introduction and piloting of the Information Management System in Mine Action (IMSMA), the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine equipped five IMSMA stations at the State Emergency Service regional bases and headquarters.

The Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine produced 50,000 school notebooks and 5,000 booklets providing information about mine/ERW risks for distribution in the communities of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions affected by conflict and centres of internally displaced persons in other areas of the country.

In September 2015, the Project Co-ordinator conducted an initial needs assessment mission at the request of the Ukrainian Ministry of Infrastructure on assistance in response to explosive hazards in the national transport network including in the areas of the Donbas region affected by conflict.

Within the framework of the Repository Programme for Ukraine, the OSCE Secretariat developed a project to assist the Ukrainian Government in the clearance of ERW from the conflict-affected territories in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The assessment visit took place in March 2015, with field trips to the eastern regions of Ukraine.

The project focuses on providing the State Emergency Service of Ukraine demining teams with modern personal protective and detection equipment, as well as with training and assistance in developing standard operating procedures, in compliance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

The budget for the project is 1 million euros. It was fully funded by the German Government. Project activities started in July 2015. To date, the implementation framework has been established (personnel and project team), equipment procurement has been initiated and training planned. In September 2015, a study visit to Germany was organized for six Ukrainian specialists in the area of ERW clearance. New contacts were established with peers and experience was shared on the use of modern detection equipment, on general clearance operation procedures and personnel training.

2.2 Training

In Moldova, March 2014 saw the start of a comprehensive training programme for ammunition specialists on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM). The programme is being carried out by a team of international specialists in the framework of a memorandum of understanding between the Moldovan MoD and the OSCE Mission. After receiving thorough training in 2014, in 2015 the Moldovan trainers started to provide training, under the close supervision of the international team. At the end of this three-year programme on training the trainers, the Moldovan specialists will be able to conduct the training course by themselves for future specialists in all areas of PSSM. It is expected that by providing such training to the trainers long-term sustainability will be achieved.

With the overall aim of creating national SALW- and SCA-related programmes, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan is providing support in the development of national training programmes and the establishment of parallel classes on small arms PSSM. The OSCE activities focused on increasing the training capacities of the country's military and law enforcement structures in this field. Following the development of new training curricula on SALW/SCA physical security and stockpile management for the country's military education facilities in 2013–2014, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan conducted a training-of-trainers format workshop in September 2015. The training was delivered for the trainers from education institutions of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior and National Border Guards Services.

During five days of training, two international experts invited by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan provided the Tajik participants with necessary information and knowledge on the safe and secure stockpiling of small arms, light weapons and related ammunition. The workshop was also interesting for SALW/SCA storage facility personnel from the listed agencies, as well as from the General Prosecution Office, National Drugs Control Agency and Military Prosecutor's Office. A total of 30 Tajik participants took part in the workshop and enhanced their skills.

Based on a request to the OSCE from the country's Ministry of Defence on upgrading its central SALW storage facilities located in Dushanbe (2014), and with the overall aim of ensuring the security of arms stockpiles in Tajikistan, the OSCE developed a project proposal with a total budget of 454,500 euros. The main purpose of the project is to prevent the illegal proliferation of small arms and reduce the risk of arms smuggling.

The project was registered in early 2015 and, after several months of negotiations with potential donor countries, the United States Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement made a commitment in July 2015 to funding the project. Project implementation is to start immediately after a pledge letter is received from the donor(s).

From 12 to 14 November 2015, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan co-organized a regional conference hosted by Kazakhstan's Defence Ministry on demining operations in support of international peacekeeping forces. It brought together 30 technical experts, military officers, practitioners and non-government actors from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as experts from the United Nations Mine Action Support Team and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. They discussed current demining operations, the rules of engagement for international peacekeepers, technology and methodology in landmine removal and in addressing the threat from unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices. Experts shared best practices and presented safety and security procedures in accordance with international mine action standards.

From 25 to 28 August 2015, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, together with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana and Kazakhstan's Defence Ministry, organized a four-day OSCE regional seminar on Advanced Explosive Ordnance Disposal – Level Four. Some 40 military and civilian experts from nine countries discussed best practices in demilitarization, transportation, stockpile management and destruction of conventional ammunition and international ammunition technical guidelines. The event included a site visit to the Arys Demilitarization Centre near Shymkent, southern Kazakhstan. It was financed with support from the United States State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

In May 2015, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organized a five-day training course on reciprocal inspection procedures under the Vienna Document for 19 officials from the Ministry of Defence of Turkmenistan. Experts from the Belarusian Ministry of Defence shared experiences in implementing international commitments in the area of arms control and presented the main provisions of the Vienna Document 2011.

In December 2014, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat supported the visit by two Turkmen officials to the Belarus Defence Ministry to discuss best practices in the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 in the area of military information exchange. In August 2015, the Centre facilitated the participation of two officials from the Turkmenistan Ministry of Defence in a training course on international agreements on arms control, also organized by the Ministry of Defence of Belarus.

In December 2014, in co-operation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine held a seminar on international standards and best practices in ammunition safety and stockpile management attended by 14 practitioners from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Interior, and from the national Emergency Service.

In order to assist Ukraine in the introduction of the IMSMA, the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine conducted a training course that led to five staff members from the State Emergency Service, and two from the MoD obtaining IMSMA administration qualifications.

2.3 Projects and activities on the disposal of rocket fuel components

In December 2014, a comprehensive project on the disposal of rocket fuel components was developed and registered. The project envisages the disposal of rocket fuel

components (samin, TM-185 and mélange) in four countries – Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria and Kyrgyzstan. Each country has different volumes and types of the rocket fuel components.

In February 2015, an international tender was announced to select the supplier for providing services in relation to the disposal of rocket fuel components in accordance with the OSCE project. The technical proposals were evaluated in September 2015 and a financial evaluation and further contracting procedures are currently under way. In the meantime, donor funds have been made available for disposal activities only in Belarus.

In late 2014, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine supported assessments at the former Kalynivka and Tsenzliv rocket fuel facilities to help identify risks to communities and the environment stemming from prolonged toxic material storage and to recommend remediation measures by land users.

3. Co-operation and exchange of information

3.1 Co-operation with the United Nations

In 2015, the OSCE continued to develop and implement joint projects with the UNDP. In addition to two joint projects launched in Belarus and Montenegro, three new joint projects have been initiated in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

3.2 Exchange of information with other international organizations

Since 2008, the OSCE has engaged in exchanges of information with partner international organizations on OSCE project activities and on normative achievements in the area of SCA. Such co-ordination makes it possible to take stock of various SALW and SCA projects implemented by other international organizations and individual donors, identifying synergies and lessons learned and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

4. Conclusions

The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition complements the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted in November 2000. It has provided an example of what is useful and achievable at the regional level to enhance security, transparency and solidarity.

It continues to serve as an important framework for dealing with surpluses and stockpiles of ammunition, with a view to reducing the risk of destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation.

The assistance mechanism envisaged in the OSCE Document on SCA remains a vital tool for providing support to the OSCE participating States in the field of ammunition disposal and stockpile management.

Projects on the demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are among the most tangible, visible and successful endeavours in the OSCE's spectrum of operations.

Quite apart from their intrinsic value, the fact that their results are measurable and comprehensible means that they possess high public relations value and are therefore of great importance to the OSCE.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
EFFORTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)
IN THE OSCE AREA**

(Annex 5 to MC.GAL/2/15 of 27 November 2015)

1. Introduction and objective

This report provides an overview of efforts undertaken in the OSCE in the field of non-proliferation. In particular, it addresses the OSCE's efforts in facilitating regional implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and draws on discussions and reports on national progress presented in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The report covers the period from November 2014 to November 2015.¹

2. Mandate

In 2004, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, which aims at preventing non-State actors from acquiring and possessing weapons of mass destruction. The participating States of the OSCE, recalling their commitments in this regard, in particular the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation adopted in 1994, decided to call upon all the participating States to fully implement UNSCR 1540 by adopting a decision supporting its effective implementation (FSC.DEC/7/05/Corr.1).

The OSCE agreed to contribute as appropriate and in co-ordination with the relevant United Nations forums, based on the OSCE concept of comprehensive and co-operative security and the Organization's mandate as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council held in Athens in 2009, a Ministerial Council decision was adopted on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability (MC.DEC/2/09).

At the same meeting, Decision No. 16/09 (MC.DEC/16/09) was adopted, which called upon the FSC, in accordance with its mandate, to facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfilment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004).

By adopting the Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation, the participating States also pledged to facilitate implementation of UNSCR 1540 through the provision of effective assistance to States requesting it (MC.DOC/5/09).

¹ The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 13 November 2015.

In the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration: “Towards a Security Community”, the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States referred to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as an emerging transnational threat, noting that threats of this kind could originate within or outside the OSCE area (SUM.DOC/1/10/Corr.1).

In 2011, by adopting Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, the participating States of the OSCE expressed their commitment to the matter by tasking the FSC with exploring ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994, and also with supporting the ongoing activities designed to assist in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information-sharing on national progress and lessons learned in this regard (MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1).

On 4 December 2013, recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, the FSC adopted the updated OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation in FSC Decision No. 7/13, which was endorsed by a ministerial declaration on 6 December 2013 (MC.DOC/5/13).

Within the framework of Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/11 (MC.DEC/8/11), the FSC was tasked with continuing to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE’s contribution to assist participating States, at their request, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540, in close co-ordination with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), with a view to complementing its efforts.

In line with this tasking, on 22 July 2015, the FSC adopted a decision on the “OSCE’s role in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)” (FSC.DEC/4/15). In the decision, the FSC highlights the leading role of the 1540 Committee, and decides to strengthen the OSCE’s support in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540, including through effective assistance to participating States, upon their request, including in preparing national implementation measures.

3. Efforts by the Forum for Security Co-operation

3.1 Decision on Points of Contact on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and its implementation

On 14 December 2011, in FSC Decision No. 19/11 on Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 (FSC.DEC/19/11), the FSC decided to establish a complementary and voluntary directory of national and OSCE Points of Contact with the purpose of facilitating information-sharing, promoting best practices and strengthening relevant international information exchange networks (where appropriate), between participating States on issues related to the national implementation of UNSCR 1540.

To date, 51 participating States have provided detailed information to the OSCE on their national Point of Contact on UNSCR 1540.

The Second Annual Meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 was held in Belgrade on 27 May 2015, co-organized by the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE.

3.2 Appointment of the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues

Recalling the relevant OSCE Ministerial Council decisions and declarations, as well as the FSC Decisions No. 7/13 on the update of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and No. 4/15 on the OSCE's role in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and taking into account that the FSC is to serve as a forum to discuss issues relating to FSC Decisions No. 7/13 and No. 4/15 and to review them as appropriate, the Norwegian Chairmanship of the FSC, in close co-operation with the FSC Troika, appointed Mr. Vasily Pavlov, Counsellor of the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE, as the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-proliferation issues.

The Co-ordinator's main responsibilities are as follows:

- Facilitation of discussion in the FSC on the implementation of relevant Ministerial Council decisions as well as FSC Decisions No. 7/13 and No. 4/15;
- Preparation of proposals and food-for-thought papers, as appropriate, for the review and approval of the FSC Chairmanship and subsequent consideration by the FSC, related to the implementation of the relevant Ministerial Council decisions with regard to UNSCR 1540 and FSC Decisions No. 7/13 and No. 4/15;
- Remaining informed on developments in the area of non-proliferation, *inter alia* on UNSCR 1540 and its regional implementation, by, if required and possible, attending external events that are relevant to this mandate and reporting to the FSC as needed on the developments and fulfilment of the mandate;
- Co-ordination with the FSC Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat on the organization of meetings and events, associated with this mandate;
- Carrying out any other relevant duties and responsibilities as may be given by the FSC Chairmanship.

3.3 Informal Group of Friends on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

With the view of preparing an OSCE's contribution to the Comprehensive Review of the Status of Implementation of resolution 1540, an Informal Group of Friends of UNSCR 1540 (IGoF) has been set up in the FSC.

The IGoF is co-chaired by the delegation of Spain (2015/2016 1540 Committee Chair) and the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues.

A concept note on the OSCE's contribution to the Comprehensive Review has been prepared by the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-proliferation Issues (FSC.DEL/206/15).

3.4 Security Dialogues of the Forum for Security Co-operation

The FSC is one of the OSCE's two main decision-making bodies.

The FSC held the following Security Dialogues on non-proliferation and UNSCR 1540:

- (a) "Non-proliferation issues" and "The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". Speakers: Ambassador Cristian Istrate, Romania, and Mr. Cornel Feruta, IAEA.
- (b) "Status of implementation of UNSCR 1540 – challenges and perspectives". Speaker: Ambassador Roman Oyarzun Marchesi, Chair of the 1540 Committee.
- (c) "UNSCR 1540 regional implementation: co-operation between the OSCE and the IAEA". Ms. Rhonda Evans, IAEA.

4. Practical assistance

4.1 Assistance to OSCE participating States

Assisting the OSCE participating States in the comprehensive implementation of UNSCR 1540, while recognizing the need to enhance co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, has been the most important element of efforts by the FSC during the reporting period.

In particular, FSC Decision No. 4/15 on the OSCE's role in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (FSC.DEC/4/15) adopted on 22 July 2015 highlights the OSCE's role in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540, including through effective assistance to participating States, upon their request, including in preparing national implementation measures.

In 2015, the OSCE continued dialogue on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and non-proliferation, *inter alia* through assistance with the development and/or implementation of national implementation action plans on the resolution, with Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Serbia, Turkmenistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

4.1.1 National round table with Kyrgyzstan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540

On 17 December 2014, the OSCE executive structures, together with 1540 Committee Experts, and the UNODA, held a national round table with the Kyrgyz authorities to review the implementation status of their national implementation action plan on UNSCR 1540. A number of measures have been implemented since the adoption of the action plan; however, a number of crucial action points, including draft legislation on biological and chemical weapons conventions, are still pending. A further detailed assistance request has been sent by the Kyrgyz authorities to the 1540 Committee and the OSCE in this regard.

4.1.2 Meetings on the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Programme in Ukraine (ICSSP), including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)

The OSCE CPC, with support of the UNODA, the Ukrainian Chemists Union (UCU), and the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security in Poland (ICCSS), and in partnership with international partners, national governments, chemical industries, academia and civil society, launched an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Programme (ICSSP) in Ukraine to co-ordinate international co-operation in promoting awareness of chemical security and safety in Ukraine.

The ICSSP was inaugurated at the national round table on “Capacities in the domain of chemical safety and security in Ukraine and the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Programme in Ukraine, including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)” on 11 and 12 December 2014 in Kyiv. The round table brought together a multi-stakeholder audience from Ukraine and international partners, and the outcome was endorsed through the approval of a set of specific recommendations.

As a follow-up, the “Vienna meeting of the leading stakeholders and international partners on the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Programme in Ukraine (ICSSP), Including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)”, was held at the OSCE, with the support of the UNODA, from 24 to 26 February 2015. The national participants agreed on a road map for ICSSP implementation, and as the first stage of the programme, a “Comprehensive Review of Chemical Safety and Security” is currently being conducted. A report on the outcomes of the review will comprise of a number of chapters related to chemical safety and security in Ukraine, and is expected to be finalized by the end of 2015. Political support for the Comprehensive Review is ensured at the level of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and close government involvement is expected throughout the review process.

4.1.3 National round table with Uzbekistan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540

On 18 December 2014, Uzbekistan adopted its national action plan (NAP) on implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540. The plan was developed in partnership with relevant local stakeholder agencies, comprising the State Customs Committee, State Border Protection Committee, and the State Inspectorate “Sanoatgeotehnazorat”, as well as other ministries and departments involved in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and it provides for a comprehensive approach to countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, and their spread to terrorist organizations.

The action plan is the direct outcome of the support provided by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan to the host Government in consolidation of the efforts of the various national ministries and government agencies involved in the implementation of the resolution in Uzbekistan. The adoption of the action plan has created a basis for further engagement of the Project Co-ordinator with the host Government on its implementation.

Therefore, a co-ordination meeting with the authorities of Uzbekistan, the Project Co-ordinator for Uzbekistan, and the OSCE CPC took place on 10 March 2015 in Tashkent to establish national priorities and the necessary assistance that might be required for the effective implementation of the national implementation action plan.

4.1.4 Country-specific dialogue with Tajikistan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540

Following the establishment of a national inter-agency working group on development of the national action plan on implementation of resolution 1540, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, in co-ordination with OSCE CPC, has provided technical and expert assistance to the working group in order to promote timely finalization of the plan. Within the reporting period, two experts review meetings took place in Bishkek (18 and 19 December 2014) and Dushanbe (29 and 30 July 2015), in order to evaluate the progress made in elaboration of the plan, as well as compliance of its provisions with requirements of the resolution 1540. Experts from the OSCE, 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and the UNODA took part in the process and provided feedbacks and recommendations on further improvement of the plan.

Subsequently, a Vienna-based expert meeting took place from 5 to 7 October 2015, with the relevant Tajik national authorities, 1540 Committee Experts and UNODA, in order to finalize the plan.

Through the OSCE assistance, key representatives of the working group had an opportunity to participate in number of the OSCE-organized international events related to UNSCR 1540, in order to take part in discussions and gain new ideas for further enhancement of Tajikistan's NAP.

Based on the progress made so far towards finalization of the plan, it is expected that the NAP will be submitted to the Government by the end of 2015, for approval and ratification.

Once the national action plan is approved, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan will continue co-operation with the Government of Tajikistan on implementation of the plan.

4.1.5 Joint meeting with the Serbian Working Group on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540

The OSCE CPC, together with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and the UNODA, assisted the Government of Serbia in developing a national action plan on UNSCR 1540, which was adopted by the Government in 2012. It provided for a number of concrete actions that the Serbian authorities wanted to implement in the field of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, during the 2012–2016 period. Therefore, to review its current implementation status, the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited the OSCE CPC, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and the UNODA to attend a session of the working group established for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the resolution.

4.1.6 Joint Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 in Montenegro

The OSCE CPC, together with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and the UNODA, assisted the Government of Montenegro with the development of an Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNSC resolution 1540, which was adopted by the Government in June 2014. It provides for a number of concrete actions in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, within a time frame of 2014–2018. Therefore, to review its current implementation status, the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a request to the OSCE CPC in March 2015, on organizing a joint meeting with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts as well as the UNODA, within the format of the national working group, in order to discuss the implementation needs of Montenegro vis-à-vis its action plan, as well as a concrete assistance request submitted to the 1540 Committee in December 2014.

In order to facilitate the effective implementation of the action plan, relevant assistance providers registered with the 1540 Committee were invited to the meeting.

4.1.7 Workshop on the National CBRN Strategy and 1540 National Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova

The OSCE CPC, together with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and the UNODA, has been engaging with the authorities of Moldova on the development of its National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540 dealing with non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, since 2012.

As a follow-up to these activities, Moldova has now developed a national security strategy on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks, also as envisioned under the national action plan for the implementation of Republic of Moldova-European Union Association Agreement (2014–2016).

In order to finalize the strategy, the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited the OSCE, 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the UNODA, the European Union, the United States Embassy and the Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) for a joint meeting held on 8 and 9 October 2015 in Chişinău.

Additional follow-up meeting with the Moldovan authorities to finalize the national action plan on UNSCR 1540 and CBRN took place on 11 November in Chişinău. The Moldovan authorities envisage a thorough gap analysis and the subsequent adoption of a national security strategy by the Government by the end of 2015.

4.2 Awareness-raising and capacity-building events on UNSCR 1540

4.2.1 Peer review on UNSCR 1540 between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

The Kyrgyz authorities have developed a National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1540, which was adopted by their government in 2013. Tajikistan has followed the same path, and with the support of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the UNODA, and the OSCE CPC has been in the process of development of their NAP. In order to assist their efforts, peer review between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has been initiated, to provide a platform for sharing of effective practices between the two States, specifically on

border and export controls, physical protection measures of CBRN materials, etc. The first co-ordination meeting on the peer review took place in Bishkek, on 16 and 17 December 2014. Follow-up visits between the two States are currently in a preparation stage.

4.2.2 Meeting with non-governmental organizations on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan)

The meeting took place at the OSCE Centre in Bishkek on 18 December 2014, with the participation of a Kyrgyz non-governmental organization (NGO) on export control and non-proliferation, a Tajik NGO on export control and non-proliferation, the Kazakh Institute for Strategic Studies, and an Afghan NGO on human rights and eradication of violence. All representatives briefed the 1540 Committee Experts, and the UNODA and OSCE executive structures' representatives on their work related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in support of their respective national authorities. The role of civil society in this field has been discussed to involve outreach to media, and parliamentarians; devising a concept of comprehensive CBRN security culture; and research and analysis of regional concerns related to weapons of mass destruction. In addition, regional civil society non-proliferation network could be established, and its activities supported directly by the OSCE and UNODA, in order to enhance information sharing in Central Asia, including with Afghanistan and Mongolia.

4.2.3 Second Annual Meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540

The first meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 was held on 10 April 2014, in Vienna with the support of the Swiss Chairmanship. As the participants proposed holding the Points of Contact meetings on an annual basis, the Serbian Chairmanship together with the OSCE CPC, organized the "Second Annual Meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540", held on in Belgrade on 27 May 2015.

The Points of Contact meeting was well attended, by national Points of Contact, the representatives of OSCE field operations and international organizations. The conclusions of the discussion were as follows:

States are encouraged to provide effective implementation practices to the OSCE;

The OSCE should find a way to contribute to the 2016 Comprehensive Review of UNSCR 1540;

Proposal for the Points of Contact training on the resolution was welcomed, regionally and subregionally, and a host country for the training within the OSCE region is sought;

1540 Matrices and National Implementation Action Plans have been recognized as valuable tools for national authorities in implementation of the resolution, however both documents have very distinct purpose;

The OSCE's role in assisting participating States with elaboration of their NAPs was recognized by the States and the UNSC 1540 Committee Experts and such assistance should be continued;

Innovative regional activities, in the field of resolution 1540, specifically in data analysis and delivery systems were discussed;

The following specific proposals were made for the Points of Contact meeting to be held in 2016;

- Meeting to be organized thematically, concentrating on particular element of the resolution;
- To add a session on effective use of the PoC network;
- Collect data on 1540 implementation in the OSCE region for purpose of benchmarking;
- To finalize the Handbook of Best Practice Guides;
- Outreach to younger networks, specifically in Asian and CARICOM regions.

4.2.4 National outreach in Turkmenistan

Following last year's two-day workshop with Turkmenistan on UNSCR 1540, which was held in Ashgabat on 24 and 25 July 2014, the OSCE CPC, together with the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, organized a follow-up event in order to further raise awareness and interest in the Turkmen Government in the adoption of a national action plan on UNSCR 1540. The event, entitled "UNSCR 1540/Strategic Trade Controls and National Implementation Action Plans That Meet the Needs", was held in Ashgabat on 28 and 29 September 2015.

Twenty officials, including officials from the Ministries of Defence, National Security, and Internal Affairs, as well as from the State Border and Customs Services and the State Service to Protect the Security of a Healthy Society of Turkmenistan attended the event, in addition to international experts from the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, and the UNODC, and the Deputy Director of the Multilateral Department, Directorate for Political Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The latter shared its experience of developing of such an action plan, and stressed the importance of national co-ordination and prioritization of needs.

In order to further facilitate discussion, working groups on relevant subjects, such as legislative, operational and capacity-building measures, were included on the agenda.

The adoption of efficient national implementation action plans, incorporating legislative, operational and capacity-building measures, is essential in preventing the trade in weapons of mass destruction, and the workshop directly contributed to the exchange of effective practices in ensuring comprehensive implementation of resolution 1540.

5. Co-operation and co-ordination

5.1 Co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and the UNODA

In line with UNSCR 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), as well as FSC Decision No. 4/15 on the OSCE's role in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (FSC.DEC/4/15) adopted on 22 July 2015, which highlights the need to strengthen co-operation the UNODA, to support the leading role and global efforts undertaken by the 1540 Committee, the OSCE CPC has developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the UNODA. In October 2011, the two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on "Joint Implementation of Projects on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Means of Delivery, in Response to OSCE Participating States' Requests", with the goal of enhancing both organizations' capacities in the implementation of resolution 1540. The Memorandum has now been extended twice, each time for a period of two years, currently until October 2017.

The OSCE CPC, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and the UNODA co-operate and co-ordinate in assisting OSCE participating States (at their request) in the development and implementation of national implementation action plans on resolution 1540, as well as holding national and regional outreach workshops and technical meetings on the subject.

These collaborative efforts have led to a number of successful country specific dialogues, and development or adoption of a dozen National Implementation Action Plans and/or National Strategies (Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Serbia, Turkmenistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

5.2. Co-operation with international, regional and subregional organizations

Since the start in 2010 of an extrabudgetary activity on assisting OSCE participating States with the implementation of UNSCR 1540, the OSCE CPC has established extensive relations with the following international or regional, and technical organizations:

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW);
- Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)/Implementation Support Unit;
- Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO);
- European Union (EU);
- Interpol;
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);
- World Health Organization (WHO).

6. Conclusions and recommendations

In 2015, the OSCE continued to complement the efforts of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts in facilitating implementation of UNSCR 1540, at the regional level. The assistance to the OSCE participating States, upon their requests, in the implementation of resolution 1540, in close co-operation with international and regional organizations, academia and relevant think tanks, remained an essential part of the Organization's activities in this domain.

Its two-folded approach, consisting of the country-specific dialogue, and assistance in elaborating voluntary national implementation action plans, in partnership with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the UNODA and other relevant international stakeholders without duplicating their efforts, proved to be a valid and an effective mechanism, which gained recognition in the OSCE area and beyond.

The Second Meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 has become a good practice and a valuable tool to share experience and best practices as well as discuss possible future activities of the OSCE in the non-proliferation domain.

FSC Decision No. 4/15 on the OSCE's role in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) formalized the Organization's role in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540. Its adoption will strengthen the effectiveness of OSCE's support to participating States in implementing the resolution as well as its engagement with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the UNODA, and other relevant international and regional organizations, academia, industry and private sector.

The forthcoming Comprehensive Review of the Status of Implementation of UNSCR 1540 represents an ample opportunity for the OSCE to provide a tangible contribution to this process, thereby demonstrating its relevance as a platform for dialogue and assistance provider in the area of non-proliferation and strategic trade controls.

7. Attachments

Attachment A: Overview of events attended by OSCE/CPC in 2014–2015

OSCE/CPC participation in UNSCR 1540-related events		
Date	Title	Place
11–12 December 2014	Meeting on “Capacities in the domain of chemical safety and security in Ukraine and the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Programme in Ukraine, including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)”	Kyiv, Ukraine
16–17 December 2014	Preparatory meeting on peer review on UNSCR 1540 implementation between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
24–26 February 2015	“Meeting of the leading stakeholders and international partners on the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Program in Ukraine (ICSSP), Including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)”	Vienna, Austria
4–5 March 2015	Ad hoc seminar to promote cross-border co-operation in strategic trade control: Strengthening the adaptability and resilience of national trade control systems to regional security challenges	Kyiv, Ukraine
16 March 2015	Global Partnership Working Group meeting on Chemical Security	The Hague, Netherlands
22 April 2015	G7 Global Partnership Working Group Meeting	Munich, Germany
2–3 June 2015	Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)	Amman, Jordan
25–26 June 2015	Joint National Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540	Podgorica, Montenegro
29–30 June 2015	Seminar on Voluntary National Implementation Action Plans for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)	Zagreb, Croatia
28–29 September 2015	National Workshop on “UNSCR 1540/Strategic Trade Controls and National Implementation Action Plans That Meet the Needs”	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
5–7 October 2015	Expert meeting with the Tajik authorities on National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540	Vienna, Austria
8–9 October 2015	Workshop on the National CBRN Strategy and 1540 National Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova	Chişinău, Moldova

OSCE/CPC participation in UNSCR 1540-related events		
Date	Title	Place
19–23 October 2015	First Committee meetings and bilaterals with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and the UNODA	New York, United States of America
27–28 October 2015	Second Programme Committee Meeting for the 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions	Vienna, Austria
11 November 2015	Follow-up Workshop on the National CBRN Strategy and 1540 National Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova	Chişinău, Moldova
13 November 2015	Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting	Vienna, Austria

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
THE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 (2000)
IN THE OSCE REGION**

(Annex 6 to MC.GAL/2/15 of 27 November 2015)

1. Introduction and objectives

This report provides an overview of efforts undertaken in the OSCE in the field of women, peace and security (WPS). In particular, it covers the main discussions within the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on matters relating to: United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women and peace and security (2000); OSCE-wide activities in relation to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and in the area of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA); activities of the Gender Section and of the field missions; and events relating to UNSCR 1325 organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The report covers the period from November 2014 until November 2015.¹

2. Mandate

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 1325, which acknowledges and addresses the impact of conflict on women and women's participation in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, peace-building and post-conflict recovery. Over the past 14 years the Security Council has passed a number of subsequent resolutions, which together make up the WPS agenda and international policy framework, namely, 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013). The most recent subsequent resolution, UNSCR 2242 adopted on 13 October 2015, welcomes the efforts of regional organizations to implement UNSCR 1325 by such means as adopting regional frameworks, and encourages them to further pursue implementation.

The OSCE has demonstrated its recognition of the linkages between the WPS agenda and the pursuit of comprehensive security in many ways, notably through Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 on the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality; Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/05 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/05 on preventing and combating violence against women; Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/09 on women's participation in political and public life; and Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11 on elements of the conflict cycle.

In 2011 the Ministerial Council tasked the Forum for Security Co-operation to "examine ways that it can assist in the implementation in the OSCE region of United Nations

¹ The deadline for submitting input for the report was 13 November 2015.

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on the issue of gender and security” (MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1) in 2012.

In 2012, the Kyrgyz FSC Chairmanship for the first time appointed an FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325.

3. Forum for Security Co-operation

3.1 FSC Security Dialogues

In accordance with the tasking by Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, the FSC was actively engaged in promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in 2015.

On 25 February 2015, the FSC held a security dialogue on women, peace and security with a presentation on “Women and conflict – Challenges of implementing UNSC Resolution 1325” by Ms. Karin Nordmeyer, President of the UN Women National Committee, Germany. The second presentation was given by Ms. Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Office of the Secretary General, who spoke on “UNSCR 1325 implementation in an OSCE context”.

On 3 June 2015, the FSC held a security dialogue on the “Implementation of UNSCR 1325” which included presentations by Ambassador Byrganym Aitimova, Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on Gender Issues; Mr. Antti Häikiö, Ministerial Advisor, Civilian Crisis Management, Finnish Ministry of the Interior; and Ms. Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE.

Following this Security Dialogue, a joint FSC-PC meeting on the topic of “Gender equality in the armed forces: best practices” was held on 7 October 2015. The meeting included presentations by Rear Admiral Jonas Haggren, Head of Policy and Plans Department, Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters; Captain Anna Björsson, Gender Advisor and Project Co-ordinator for the Gender Coach Programme, Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters; Ms. Louise Olsson, Researcher and Project Leader for the UNSCR 1325 programme, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden; Brigadier General Slobodan Joksimović, Head of the Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of Defence, Republic of Serbia; and Ms. Hanna Helene Syse, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Defence, Norway.

The Co-ordinator provided the FSC with regular updates concerning developments in regional and international forums connected with the WPS agenda.

3.2 In the area of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

As in previous years, the implementation of UNSCR 1325 also received significant attention in connection with the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. During the OSCE-wide workshop on the Code of Conduct held in Belgrade from 26 to 28 March 2015, a panel was dedicated to “Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Serbia”. The lecture focused on the efforts of Serbia in implementing UNSCR 1325 in the light of government efforts regarding defence and security sector reform. The panel was followed by a fruitful discussion on the topic.

Moreover, the year 2015 also saw the updating of the Working Paper to Improve the Reporting on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (FSC.DEL/29/15). It includes specific indicators related to reporting on women, peace and security.

This year, 33 of the 52 participating States who submitted a report on the framework of the information exchange on the OSCE Code of Conduct voluntarily provided information on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, which covers 63 per cent of all reports. In comparison, in 2014, 36 out of 52 participating States (69 per cent) and in 2013 33 out of 53 (62 per cent) reported on women, peace and security. The number of reports therefore remains at a high level and demonstrates the continued interest in exchanging voluntary information on this issue.

The reports from participating States showed that a significant number provided training sessions and awareness-raising workshops on UNSCR 1325 and gender-related issues for armed forces personnel. Furthermore, a significant number of participating States have developed national action plans and related strategies to support their national implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Most reports also described the efforts undertaken to increase the participation of women in the armed forces and international peacekeeping missions.

While 12 participating States followed the suggested questionnaire format when reporting on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, the majority of input was provided in different individual formats, which made it more challenging to conduct a general analysis.

Several States provided additional statistical analyses and overviews of the employment of women in their armed forces.

3.3 In the area of SALW and SCA

Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/14 tasks the FSC to exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, on the impact of illicit SALW on women and children as well as on creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat illicit SALW.

During the reporting period, those responsible for OSCE project management duly considered gender issues as prescribed. Every OSCE project document in the area of SALW and SCA contains a designated clause on applying the UNSCR 1325 principles (e.g., equal opportunity recruitment for the staff).

For instance, the project on demilitarization of white-phosphorus-filled ammunition envisages the upgrade of the existing demilitarization facility in the city of Kragujevac in Serbia, where approximately 40 per cent of women are engaged in the process of delaboration of ammunition.

The SALW/SCA Project in Kyrgyzstan addressed the issue of achieving gender balance when hiring project assistants; and the project on explosive remnants of war

clearance in Ukraine engaged a female interpreter during the study trip to Germany to ensure that gender balance was maintained.

4. Gender Section of the OSCE Secretariat

In 2015, a number of activities were conducted in connection with the OSCE Study on National Action Plans on the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325, which was published in both English and Russian in November 2014. The Study concentrates on best practices and lessons learned during UNSCR 1325 application throughout the OSCE area. It also formulates recommendations for enhanced operationalization within the Organization and throughout the OSCE area. The Study highlighted areas where national action plans (NAPs) needed improvement, such as the need to allocate budgets for implementation, setting out clear short-term and long-term goals, and the need to monitor and evaluate NAP implementation.

During 2015 the Study was used to assist participating States to develop NAPs on UNSCR 1325. It was translated to Serbian, Montenegrin and Ukrainian and has been used in their processes either to update an existing NAP (in the case of Serbia) or to assist in the creation of new NAPs (Montenegro and Ukraine).

Furthermore, in May 2015 the Gender Section, together with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and UN Women, arranged for a workshop on the recommendations stemming from the Study and on the steps that need to be taken in order to create a Ukrainian NAP.

In September the Gender Section, in co-operation with the NGO Inclusive Security and the OSCE Mission to Serbia arranged a three-day assessment and workshop with both governmental and civil society counterparts to discuss updating the Serbian NAP and the next steps to be taken in this process. Both the OSCE and the NGO Inclusive Security will continue to provide support for this process during the course of 2015–2016.

In October, the Study was launched in Montenegro. The Gender Section and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro took the opportunity to raise awareness among local counterparts and arranged for discussions on the NAP process with both governmental and civil society counterparts.

Moreover, in April 2015 the Gender Section, in co-operation with UN Women and the Lithuanian Government, arranged for a regional conference and consultations in Vilnius in order for the OSCE area to feed into the UN-led Global Study on UNSCR 1325 implementation entitled “Preventing Conflict/Transforming Justice/Securing the Peace”. The Study additionally served as an input to the Global Study, which was commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General to commemorate the resolution’s 15th anniversary. The most important conclusions of the Vilnius meeting are:

1. National action plans should not be overly bureaucratized; a NAP is a living document that develops over time. Hence, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are of the utmost importance, as is the need to adapt to new circumstances. This is shown not least by the new security environment within our own area and the increase of radicalization on religious grounds. National action plans should reflect these developments.

2. The discussions also showed a need for greater involvement of civil society. Over time the resolution has become an important policy document that steers governmental implementation of the WPS agenda. However, UNSCR 1325 started out as a grassroots initiative, and some of the efforts and vision have been lost as civil society networking and activism have radically decreased since the 1990s. This is worrying, as both governmental and grassroots initiatives are needed if real change is to take place.

3. The resolution has had a real impact on how security is viewed across the OSCE area. More and more security institutions are including women in their ranks and gender analysis has had an impact on what is considered to be of national importance. For instance domestic violence has been recognized as a national security issue that the State needs to tackle – moving away from the inactive attitude of the past when it was viewed as a family matter.

On 13 October the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues presented the work of the OSCE on UNSCR 1325 at the Open Debate and High-Level Review held at the UN Security Council.

Throughout 2015 the Gender Section organized informal power breakfasts to discuss issues pertinent to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 such as the work of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), which works on strengthening women's rights and participation in international peace and security efforts; the Swedish experience of implementing the resolution both in its armed forces and in international peace forces; and the FSC Support Section's project on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Partnership in the OSCE Area.

5. Field missions

5.1 OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2015, in accordance with the Mission's Action Plan for Promotion of Gender Equality 2013–2015, the Mission continued to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina Gender Equality Agency, the two entity Gender Centres, and other government institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the implementation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina UNSCR 1325 Action Plan.

As part of the 7th Review Conference on Compliance with OSCE/UN Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina co-organized by the Mission and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 20 and 21 November 2014, it was recommended that Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions should consider their legal obligation to use non-discriminatory language in all of their documents and to adopt gender-responsive budgeting methods. It was also concluded that institutions should plan and implement special activities for improving gender equality, and integrate the gender dimension into the legal and institutional frameworks.

Statements were made on improvements needed in regulations related to women in the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces in order to address the problem of lack of career advancement opportunities (particularly in regard to the issue of availability and equality in training opportunities), and regulate women's rights in the armed forces during pregnancy

more precisely. The Office of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces Inspector General were appointed to monitor this initiative. The progress achieved on applying these recommendations will be analysed during the 8th Review Conference on Compliance with OSCE/UN Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina to be held in November 2015.

In March 2015, the Mission organized a Workshop on Women, Peace and Security in response to one of the recommendations of the 7th Review Conference on Compliance with the OSCE-UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which took place in 2014. During the workshop, participants reflected on the reference list concerning women, peace, and security, which Bosnia and Herzegovina voluntarily includes as an annex in its annual response to the questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The analysis of the questionnaire and the implementation of national actions plans was intended to increase the comprehensiveness, co-ordination, awareness, ownership and accountability of the government's WPS activities. During the workshop, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 was examined and recognized as a useful tool for integrating resolution provisions at both policy and strategic levels, and ongoing and planned government activities related to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 were presented. Moreover, the workshop confirmed the value of Bosnia and Herzegovina's voluntary reporting on WPS issues in the framework of the OSCE Code of Conduct annual information exchange.

In April 2015, the Mission supported the organization of the Regional Conference on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, facilitating the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro. The Conference offered an opportunity for representatives from the region to co-ordinate the planning of activities and strengthen co-operation. Because of similarities in challenges and obstacles, regional co-operation continues to generate mutually valuable support to institutions promoting gender equality, as well as producing the benefits of information exchange and joint planning. Building on the outcomes of the Regional Conference, the Mission supported the organization of a meeting between representatives of municipal administrations of Niš (Serbia), Bijeljina, Istočno Sarajevo, and Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in June 2015, during which municipal representatives shared their experiences and good practices in the process of localizing UNSCR 1325 action plans, and discussed future co-operation.

On 20 June 2015, the Mission organized a working-level meeting with members of the gender equality commissions (GECs) active in the Sarajevo area, with the aim of presenting the Bosnia and Herzegovina Action Plan for Implementation of UNSCR 1325 to the commission members and facilitating the discussion of their activities on the adoption of local gender action plans. Commission members welcomed the presentation of the Action Plan and concrete examples of activities that could be undertaken at the local level to increase general security and safety of women. Readiness was expressed by GEC members to incorporate some of the activities both in existing action plans and in those to be developed in the future.

From to 21 to 26 June, the Mission organized its first annual Youth and Security Summer School, which brought together students of security studies and political science from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The programme included a presentation and discussion on gender and security sector governance and reform (SSGR), which emphasized the principle that gender equality and gender perspectives lead to increased operational

effectiveness in security institutions. Summer School participants were introduced to UNSCR 1325 and the international legal framework pertaining to gender equality and the rights of women. This event once again illustrated the value of applying a holistic approach to security sector reform, with particular emphasis on cross-cutting issues such as gender in SSGR and the promotion of the perspectives of young women and men.

In June 2015, the Mission published the report “Combating Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Progress and Challenges”, which analyses criminal proceedings before the courts of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina between 2004 and 2014. The report examined progress and obstacles in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating cases of conflict-related sexual violence within the entity level and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina criminal justice systems. The analysis is expected to inform ongoing policy discussions regarding responses to conflict-related sexual violence and the delivery of justice to victims.

5.2 OSCE Mission in Kosovo²

On 15 June 2015, a revised Law on Gender Equality was promulgated. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMiK) is organizing round tables in all five regions to present the new provisions and mechanisms to monitor compliance with the law.

OMiK also monitors the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures for protection from domestic violence and is organizing round tables based on the findings. These findings will guide the development of the new Strategy and Action Plan for Domestic Violence in Kosovo.

In 2015, OMiK supported the establishment of a municipal co-ordination mechanism on domestic violence in five pilot municipalities. One hundred and eighteen municipal stakeholders were trained (57 female, 61 male) and terms of reference were created for the mechanism in order to facilitate efficient collaboration.

Training sessions and debates for Kosovo Serb high school students on promoting gender equality and preventing gender-based violence took place, with a special focus on boys.

OMiK, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Serbia, continued the facilitation of meetings for prominent women leaders from politics, academia, media and civil society in Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade. This year the co-operation created a “Follow Us” documentary and an action plan which includes a Dialogue Academy for young women seeking to be trained in team-building, dialogue and reconciliation, women in politics, and concepts related to gender equality.

The promotion of women’s participation in political decision-making continued through municipal and central-level women caucus groups (WCGs). Advanced training modules (on such topics as women’s access to property rights, budget scrutiny, and the like) were delivered to selected WCGs, which also benefited from the handing over of materials

2 All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.

and toolkits. A new WCG was established within the Assembly of Kosovo after the 2014 elections. For the first time the Kosovo-Serb majority northern municipalities (Leposavić/Leposaviq, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok and Zvečan/Zveçan) were also targeted and so far three out of four WCGs have been established. They receive enhanced support in the form of project-drafting, action plans and information-sharing visits. Furthermore, for the first time, a municipal gender equality committee was established in Kosovo.

A manual and a number of training modules on the subject “women’s access to property rights” were created, with the support of a media campaign. “Training of trainers” (ToT) sessions were provided for 96 participants. In addition, 100 participants across Kosovo took part in training courses on women’s access to property rights and housing. OMiK is also monitoring selected inheritance cases in Kosovo, at the same time assessing the ramifications of the cases involving women.

Training and workshops were organized for journalists from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South on the subject of reporting on reconciliation and conflict-related gender-based violence, including gender-sensitive reporting. Through the workshops OMiK also supported the formulation of a new Code of Conduct including principles on ethics related to gender-responsive reporting, gender discrimination, and hate speech in the media.

The promotion of equal access to justice continues, both in terms of women’s inclusion in the institutional structures and in the consideration and addressing of their justice needs.

Furthermore, the Mission organized and facilitated a second regional conference on women in the public safety sector, which was attended by around 40 participants (representatives of the security sector and legislative and governmental institutions). OMiK is also supporting a gender-balanced formation of the local public safety committees and Municipal Community Safety Councils, where security issues affecting women, men and children are to be handled and addressed equally. As part of its regular support, awareness-raising workshops to promote the enrolment of women and Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptian communities into the Kosovo police service were conducted. Currently, the number of women within the Kosovo police is decreasing and support is being provided to the Kosovo Police Women’s Association in order for this issue to be addressed.

5.3 OSCE Centre in Bishkek

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek (CiB) supports the efforts of the government of Kyrgyzstan in endorsing a gender perspective in the security field through a variety of interventions.

April 2015 saw the launch of a dedicated project on “Enhancing gender equality and women’s potential as conflict prevention agents in Kyrgyzstan: phase IV” which focused on women’s involvement in security and the sensitizing of security forces on gender issues. The project supports the network of the OSCE-established “Women Initiative Groups Network” in identifying vulnerabilities at grassroots level and addressing gender-based violence. The Network consisting of more than one hundred women from three southern provinces is conceived as a tool to support the implementation of the National Strategy to Achieve Gender

Equality 2012–2020 and the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 calling for a broader participation of women in post-conflict reconciliation and peace-building. The project also brought together governmental officials and civil society groups to discuss the role of women in promoting security and conflict prevention in the border areas of Batken province in June 2015. A dedicated research survey increasing the understanding of gendered upbringing and socialization of boys and girls will be completed by the end of 2015.

Throughout the year, law enforcement has been engaged in a series of capacity-building undertakings on UNSCR 1325. An assessment of the needs within the Ministry of Defence related to recommendations for the armed forces entailing gender awareness will be conducted by the end of the year. The assessment will lay the ground for the development of targeted capacity-building training courses. Finally, religious leaders were involved in the prevention of gender-based violence, as were community leaders, through a series of training courses throughout the south of the country.

The year 2015 has seen a number of achievements regarding women's participation in reforming law enforcement practices in the Kyrgyz Republic. This topic is understood in terms both of an approach and of an issue, and as such cuts across programmatic activities of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

As an approach, the CiB encourages the host-country partners, including the Ministry of Interior, to ensure gender awareness and sensitivity. In so doing, it has through its Police Reform Project under the Politico-Military Unit provided special support to those key fields of the police reform which are led by women. Among these is the new police performance evaluation system, which is considered to be the core of the police reform and is supervised by a woman police officer with the rank of colonel. The evaluation system has been developed and is now being piloted throughout the country with the continuous support of the CiB. In addition, the CiB has provided support to police reform in the area of a co-operation mechanism between police and civil society, which is entrusted to a senior female police officer.

As an issue, the CiB has started rendering assistance by bringing high-level female policymakers on board the police reform process. Consequently, national ownership of the female members of the parliament (MPs) has been ensured to promote parliamentary control over the police reform. Entrusted with monitoring and reviewing the executive power, parliament is to counterbalance government and its security institutions including law enforcement, in order to make sure that the State's scarce resources are used both effectively and efficiently and that laws drafted and amended adequately reflect both women's concerns and the new thinking about the security sector. The CiB will keep supporting the female MPs by building their capacity to understand and lead the security sector reform issues as well as by linking them to women's civil society organizations.

In addition, the Kyrgyz Association of Women Police (KAWP), established with CiB support in 2010 to promote women in the police force, has been provided with assistance to take part in the centenary and 53rd training conference of the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) in the United Kingdom. The CiB support has given the KAWP leader access to training sessions with leading criminal justice professionals and the opportunity to learn from colleagues from all around the world, representing both KAWP and the country at this the biggest of all IAWP events.

From 8 to 10 July 2015, a three-day regional training workshop on “Gender mainstreaming and conflict resolution in water governance” was jointly organized by the OSCE Gender Section and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) in co-operation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). It took place in Almaty.

The workshop trained more than 30 water professionals in gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive conflict resolution with a focus on water. The participants came from State agencies, NGOs, research institutes, water users associations and donor organizations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

During the workshop, international and regional experts shared their experiences on how to practically integrate a gender perspective in water governance at local, national and transboundary levels so that the different water needs and priorities of women and men are taken into account and women’s representation in decision-making is enhanced.

Furthermore, women are highly represented in the Peace Messengers (“Yntymak Jarchylary”) project. The “Peace Messengers” are impartial individuals who continue monitoring the situation on the ground even beyond the project completion in order to identify and prevent potential conflict and/or assist conflicting parties to find mutually acceptable solutions to the conflicts they are involved in.

Women constitute a significant and very important element of the Peace Messengers teams, which have a strong focus on gender balance and gender-mainstreaming through relevant activities. While the project has been phasing out in 2015, focus on gender balances was one of the core components in the composition of Peace Messengers teams. Subsequent activities, including ones with a focus on gender-based issues, are being considered to ensure the efficient operation of Peace Messengers in their communities.

5.4 OSCE Mission to Montenegro

On 6 October 2015, the Mission to Montenegro organized a presentation on the “OSCE Study on the National Action Plans on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325” in Podgorica. The 2014 study contains an analysis of the 27 national action plans developed in the implementation of the resolution in the OSCE area and was translated into Montenegrin in September 2015.

The event served as an opportunity to present the findings of the analysis and to offer tangible tools to revise and develop such plans in the future. In addition, the examples presented in the document aim at offering entry points for closer co-operation with civil society on implementing the WPS agenda. The presentation of the study brought together the most important stakeholders from the country. The key speakers included: Ms. Miroslava Beham, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues; Ms. Janina Hrebičkova, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Ms. Milica Pejanović Đurišić, Minister for Defence; Mr. Suad Numanović, Minister of Human and Minority Rights; Ms. Nada Drobñjak, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality and Mr. Mevludin Nuhodžić, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee for Security and Defence.

Furthermore, the event offered conclusions and recommendations on further practice (including the information that Montenegro will initiate the drafting of a national action plan), which will be shared with the participants and public.

5.5 OSCE Mission to Moldova

The Moldova National Programme on Gender Equality 2010–2015 includes a section entitled “Ensuring gender equality in the sphere of security, law enforcement and military service”. The OSCE Mission to Moldova has supported the evaluation of the programme. The main findings related to this section include a call to continue increasing the number and level of position of women in law enforcement and military service, to continue ensuring the right to equal treatment of women and men during military service, to encourage women to apply for and participate in peacekeeping missions, and to intensify efforts in gender-related training within the security forces and in the field of public order. In addition, in the absence of a national action plan specifically focused on UNSCR 1325, the Ministry of Defence has continuously implemented a range of activities in the area of human resources, recruitment and training.

In June 2015, as part of the annual “NATO week”, the Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in Moldova organized a conference on “Co-operation in a changing environment: The future of Moldova-NATO partnership”, including a session specially focused on “Implementation of the UN resolutions on women, peace and security”. Discussions focused on the advantages and disadvantages of developing a separate national action plan on women, peace and security for Moldova; panellists and participants shared experiences from different countries.

In October 2015, the Ministry of Defence initiated a process of self-assessment in relation to work in the area of women, peace and security, which is being conducted in consultation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). The self-assessment process is expected to be completed in 2016.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Defence regularly gathers agencies active in the WPS field from civil society, government agencies and international organizations, for discussions on how to advance the implementation of work. The Ministry works towards the objective of reducing the masculinity phenomenon for certain specialities and functions within the national army. During the academic year 2013–2014 of the Military Academy “Alexandru cel Bun”, 10 out of the 70 students who enrolled were women: 2 in the infantry, 2 in the artillery, and 6 in transmission.

5.6 OSCE Mission to Serbia

In 2015, the Mission to Serbia continued the training of 54 “police victim co-ordinators” with financial support from the Swedish National Police Board Programme in Serbia. The need for this training became clear through the adoption by the police in 2013 of its special protocol on police officers’ actions in cases of violence against women in family and intimate partner relationships. This arose from the Overall Protocol for Co-ordination and the National Strategy for Elimination of Violence against Women in Family and Intimate Partner Relationships.

The Mission plans to continue with this project in 2016, also through the Unified Budget, by supporting the organizational capacity at both headquarters and district level. Furthermore, there will be support for policy development and procedures of the specialized department for domestic violence which will be formed in the Serbian Ministry of Interior under the Criminal Investigation Directorate by the end of 2015. Special focus will also be placed on the utilization of legal frameworks and the processing of domestic violence cases, as well as on further development of risk assessment.

5.7 OSCE Office in Tajikistan

In 2015, the Office in Tajikistan continued its police reform project and included the assessment of gender-sensitive police units in five locations. The Office provided support for the activity of the working group on gender mainstreaming in police reforms, in order to strengthen the local referral system on domestic violence.

The Office in Tajikistan also discussed UNSCR 1325 with a group of Tajik female politicians. In order to mark the 15-year anniversary of the resolution, the capacity-building training session for female politicians on 30 October focused on UNSCR 1325.

5.8 OSCE Office in Yerevan

In 2015, the OSCE Office in Yerevan supported a project on UNSCR 1325 implemented by the NGO “Society Without Violence”. The activity aims to contribute to the preparation of a civil society monitoring report on the resolution, which will stimulate public discourse on WPS issues in Armenia and foster co-operation between civil society and the State on this topic. It also intends to draw the attention of relevant decision-makers to the possibility of developing a national action plan.

6. Co-operation with the ODIHR

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has a mandate to assist OSCE participating States in promoting women’s political participation, to monitor and report on women’s participation in electoral processes, and to provide expertise and support in order to strengthen democratic institutions for advancing gender equality, as described in the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted in 2004 in Sofia. In accordance with mandates in Ministerial Council decisions adopted in Ljubljana in 2005, the ODIHR supports participating States in focusing on the role of women in matters of peace and security at all levels, and in preventing and combating all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls.

In 2015, the ODIHR published comprehensive reports on Civil and Political Rights of Armed Forces Personnel and Conditions of Service, and on Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces. The reports are the outcome of the ODIHR Human Rights Discussion Series for the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) organized in 2014 on the issues of conditions of service and relevant human rights implications for military men and women, and freedoms of expression and association of men and women in uniform.

On 2 and 3 March 2015 the ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to Serbia contributed to the Conference of Women Parliamentarians from South East Europe entitled “Equal and

Empowered – Stronger Together” held in Belgrade, Serbia. The Conference was organized by the Serbian Women’s Parliamentary Network with the aim of boosting co-operation between women parliamentarians in the SEE region. The conference brought together around 150 representatives of parliaments, governmental structures, NGOs, academia and international organizations. During the conference participants presented and discussed gender equality trends and good practices in the region by focusing on the issues of women’s participation in politics and parliaments, women and security, social and economic position of women after the outbreak of the economic crises in 2008, and domestic violence. During the conference, women parliamentarians from 11 countries signed a Memorandum of Co-operation expressing their intention to co-operate in the development and implementation of the activities aimed at promoting gender equality in their respective countries and the SEE region.

On 16 and 17 April 2015, in co-operation with the NDI Regional Elections Administration and Political Processes Strengthening (REAPPS) Programme, the ODIHR organized an Interregional Forum on Women’s Leadership in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, which took place in Belgrade, Serbia. The Forum aimed at exchanging experiences of successful models and strategies for advancing the political participation of women as elected leaders, advocates, voters and agents for change in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The Forum brought together around 50 women politicians, mayors, parliamentarians, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), academics and women entrepreneurs from 15 countries. The Forum’s participants discussed emerging trends in gender equality in three regions from different perspectives such as women’s political participation, implementation of National Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, co-operation and trust among women politicians, business leaders and civil society activists, and women’s economic empowerment.

7. Conclusions

The fact that 2015 marks the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 has been highlighted by a number of high-level events in the international forums. The OSCE has proved to be a relevant actor in making contributions to complement the efforts undertaken on the global scale with regard to the implementation of the resolution.

The WPS agenda and the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the OSCE level is supported by the majority of the participating States. In 2015, the FSC continued to provide a suitable forum in which to discuss issues on the WPS agenda and to exchange views and best practices in this field. Various aspects of WPS were among the topics of discussion within the FSC, such as gender equality in the armed forces, women’s participation in peace processes, the role of regional organizations, and gender issues related to illicit trade of SALW. The activities of the field missions and the projects designed have increasingly been taking gender aspects into consideration. Women, peace and security has been highlighted as an important element in the OSCE’s approach to comprehensive security.

The broadening agenda and cross-dimensional nature of women, peace and security demand that the OSCE, and the FSC in particular, remain seized of the developments and continue to promote their activities in this field. This will also continue to raise the visibility of the Organization and highlight the OSCE’s relevance as a partner on issues related to women, peace and security.

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
CONTACT GROUP WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS FOR
CO-OPERATION TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/3/15 of 30 November 2015)

The 2015 Swiss Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group assisted the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship in its activities to promote an open and interactive dialogue between the OSCE and the Partners for Co-operation following a demand-driven approach and responding to the interests and priorities of the Asian Partners. The focus of this year's work with the Asian Partners was to identify areas for concrete joint activities and opportunities for enhanced institutional exchange between the OSCE and Asian security mechanisms.

During the course of the year, five meetings of the Asian Contact Group were held in Vienna. Each meeting focused on a topic proposed by one of the Asian Partner countries. The meetings provided a valuable platform for information exchange and dialogue between OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners. The subjects of the five meetings were jointly selected by the Chairmanship and the Asian Partners and gave a broad overview over topics of interest to the individual Asian Partner countries.

The first meeting of the Asian Contact Group was held on 13 March 2015 and was dedicated to the situation on the Korean peninsula and the Republic of Korea's unification policy. The first presentation on "The Situation on the Korean Peninsula – the Republic of Korea's Policy for Peace and Unification" was held by Mr. Kim Yong-Hyun, Deputy Director General for North Korean Nuclear Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. It was followed by a presentation of Ambassador Fred Tanner, Senior Adviser to the OSCE Secretary General, on the topic of "German Unification, Détente Policy and the Building of Confidence and Security in Europe". The main conclusions of the meeting were that the denuclearization and peaceful unification of Korea are essential to creating stability in the region, and that dialogue and confidence-building measures (CBMs) are central to achieving stability and a climate of trust and predictability. The OSCE was referred to as an excellent platform for the facilitation of dialogue and trust-building.

The second meeting of the Asian Contact Group on the topic of cybersecurity took place on 20 April 2015. Mr. Henry Fox, Director of Cyber and Space Policy Section, Strategic Issues and Intelligence Branch at the International Security Division of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade presented on "Cyber Confidence-Building: The ASEAN Regional Forum experience". Mr. Ben Hiller, Cyber Security Officer at the Transnational Threats Department of the OSCE Secretariat held a presentation on "Promoting Interregional Confidence-Building to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of ICTs". Both speakers highlighted the importance of confidence-building measures in the area of cybersecurity, while the first set of OSCE cyber CBMs was referred to as an important step forward. The speakers suggested pursuing an enhanced co-ordination of activities of the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as well as organizing a specific cybersecurity event with the Asian Partners.

The third meeting of the Contact Group was held on 19 May 2015 on the topic of the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai and its outcome for the OSCE. Mr. Kaoru Saito, Director of the Disaster Preparedness and International Co-operation

Division at the Disaster Management Bureau of the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan and organizer of the Sendai Conference, held a presentation on “World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management in Japan”. A second presentation on “Disaster Risk Reduction: The global ‘Sendai’ momentum from a Swiss perspective” was held by Mr. Philipp Beutler, Deputy Head of the Multilateral Division at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Esra Buttanri, Senior Environmental Affairs Adviser in the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) informed about “Disaster Risk Reduction in an OSCE context”. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was described as an important guideline for the work of the OSCE. The speakers noted that preventive measures and investment, interregional co-operation and political will are central for effective disaster risk reduction. It was also noted that disaster risk reduction should be included into the international development agenda.

On 1 and 2 June 2015 the 2015 OSCE Asian Conference took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the OSCE, the conference focused on “The Changing Global Security Environment and Visions of Multilateral Security Co-operation in Asia”. For the first time, the event was attended by several ministers, with the Foreign Ministers of Korea, Switzerland and Thailand delivering keynote addresses at the opening of the conference. The three thematic sessions reflected the OSCE’s three dimensions of security. More specifically, discussions in the first session focused on how to counter evolving threats such as foreign terrorist fighters and terrorism and violent extremism and how to enhance co-operation among regional organizations to promote tolerance and non-discrimination. The second session focused on potential areas of co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners, more specifically on global efforts and regional co-operation to enhance disaster risk reduction and best practices on developing confidence-building measures in the area of cybersecurity. The third session explored the relevance of the Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Paris Charter for co-operative security in Asia as well as possibilities for strengthening institutional co-operation between existing security mechanisms in Europe and Asia as well as co-operation with new regional initiatives, including the Northeast Asia Peace and Co-operation Initiative (NAPCI). All topics were discussed with a view as to how to enhance and strengthen co-operation and exchange between the OSCE and the Asian Partners.

The role of NAPCI in Northeast Asia and the importance of multilateral security co-operation, including between the OSCE and NAPCI, was the topic of a side event organized by the Republic of Korea on 2 June.

The Swiss Chair and the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE issued a perception paper, which was consulted with the Asian Partners and which outlines the main conclusions of the 2015 OSCE Asian Conference. It was distributed to OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation under PC.DEL/1553/15.

The fourth meeting of the Asian Contact Group took place on 11 September 2015 on the topic “From CSBMs to Conflict Prevention – OSCE and ASEAN Experience”. Ambassador Arthayudh Srisamoot, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the OSCE and former Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs in the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed the participants on “Development of ASEAN Confidence-Building Measures, Preventive Diplomacy and Areas for Co-operation”. Dr. Pierre von Arx, Head of Security Policy at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE held a presentation on

“The Development of OSCE CSBMs”. The meeting showed that CSBMs and CBMs are regarded as a central tool for conflict prevention both by the OSCE and by ASEAN, and that an exchange in this area between the two organizations would be beneficial. Furthermore, Ambassador Song Young-wan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OSCE made a presentation on the achievements and follow-ups of the OSCE Asian Conference in Seoul. It was noted that there is potential for concrete co-operation between the OSCE region and Asia, for instance in the areas of counter-terrorism, disaster risk reduction and cybersecurity.

The fifth meeting of the Contact Group was held on 16 October 2015 on the topic “Afghanistan in Transformation”. Ambassador Ayoob M. Erfani, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the OSCE, held a presentation on “Afghanistan’s Decade of Transformation and Gender Dynamics”, followed by a presentation on “The Afghan Refugee Solutions Strategy – Why Now?” by Mr. Ayaki Ito, Deputy Director of the UNHCR Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in Geneva. It was noted that Afghanistan had made great progress in terms of democratic development and gender equality since 2001, but that support by the international community in the areas of consultation, training and equipment was still needed. Also with regard to the Afghan refugee situation, the speakers emphasized the importance of support by the international community for Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, as well as the need for combining humanitarian and development measures to create favourable conditions for voluntary returns. It was highlighted that the OSCE could positively contribute to the transformation process of Afghanistan through its experience and expertise, for instance in the area of gender equality.

In 2015, the OSCE-Asian Partnership for Co-operation celebrated its twentieth anniversary. On this occasion, the OSCE Secretariat published a booklet on “The OSCE Asian Partnership for Co-operation – Reflections and Perspectives”, illustrating the history of the Partnership, compiling relevant documents and showcasing a series of concrete projects realized through this co-operation. The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE provided the funding for the publication and together with the Office of the OSCE Secretary General/Section for External Co-operation organized the official launch of the publication on 5 November 2015 in Vienna, followed by a reception.

The Asian Contact Group meetings in Vienna and, in particular, the OSCE Asian Conference in Seoul have highlighted the potential and interest in further strengthening the Partnership through promoting exchange and common projects in specific thematic areas such as counter-terrorism, disaster risk reduction and cybersecurity, and to further strengthening and institutionalizing the co-operation mechanisms between the OSCE and Asian co-operative security mechanisms such as ASEAN/ARF, NAPCI and the Trilateral Co-operation Secretariat.

In this context it would be worth following up on the suggestion of organizing a cybersecurity seminar with the Asian Partners.

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
CONTACT GROUP WITH THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS
FOR CO-OPERATION TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF
THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/5/15 of 1 December 2015)

The 2015 German Chairmanship of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group has worked together closely with the Mediterranean Partners on fostering an intensified dialogue. Moreover, major steps have been taken by the Chair to strengthen and deepen practical co-operation. The liveliness and substance of the Partnership has been underlined by well-attended, timely and extensive discussions during the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Jordan and at the meetings of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group (MCG) in Vienna, and by the active involvement of representatives/experts from Mediterranean Partner countries in various OSCE conferences, seminars and workshops, including their participation in concrete projects throughout 2015.

In its work programme for 2015, which was the fruit of close consultation with Partners and important stakeholders, the German Chairmanship reflected the overarching objective of an “attractive Partnership” for both sides, that is to say, for the Mediterranean Partners and the OSCE participating States alike. Principal topics for the meetings in Vienna and the Mediterranean Conference were identified as follows: terrorism and radicalization, migration (in the light of different cross-dimensional guiding questions), energy, and interfaith/interreligious dialogue.

The 2015 OSCE Mediterranean Conference

The highlight of the Partnership, the annual Mediterranean Conference, was held on 20 and 21 October in Jordan under the title “Common Security in the Mediterranean Region – Challenges and Opportunities”. Thanks to Jordan’s generous hospitality, Germany realized its goal of having the Conference held in the southern Mediterranean, six years after the last OSCE Mediterranean Conference to be held in the region.

The Conference focused on important issues such as countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, the role of interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and addressing current challenges related to migration. It brought together around 225 participants from 44 Mediterranean Partner countries and OSCE participating States, including 16 foreign ministers and deputy foreign ministers, a number of important representatives of international organizations such as H.E. António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, H.E. William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, and H.E. Fathallah Sijilmassi, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, and representatives of civil society, academia and the media. At the opening of the Conference, keynote speeches were delivered by H.E. Nasser Judeh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, and H.E. Ms. Roksanda Ninčić, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia (available under <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/194846>, PC.DEL/1391/15, CIO.GAL/163/15). The Conference was covered by 96 representatives from the media, mostly from the region.

For the first time, the Mediterranean Conference served as a platform for high-level political discussions on common security challenges between foreign ministers and high-ranking representatives from capitals, and international organizations. Thereby, the discussion demonstrated that the “inextricable link” of security in Europe and the Mediterranean region is not just an abstract notion; this became a lead-theme throughout the discussions.

The high-level meeting provided both participating States and Mediterranean Partners with the opportunity to jointly reflect on fundamental political questions related to the conditions, structures and tools of co-operative security and confidence-building, and on certain elements of the CSCE and OSCE processes and mechanisms that are of special interest in other regions of the world. Furthermore, the Conference brought forward suggestions and ideas on how to strengthen the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, not by mere declarations but, rather, through a more structured type of co-operation, and on how to facilitate a more substantive dialogue with the Partners.

The concluding statement by the Chairman of the Contact Group was distributed on 27 October under PC.DEL/1434/15. The consolidated summary was circulated under SEC.GAL/206/15 on 30 November.

Meetings of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group

As proposed in the work programme for 2015, six meetings of the MCG were held in Vienna during the course of the year. The topics for the meetings were selected in close co-operation with the Partners and the OSCE Secretariat. The German Chair strongly encouraged and supported contributions from Partner capitals. Experts from the OSCE Secretariat were also present at all the meetings – on the panel or as observers – in order to guarantee a genuine dialogue and to inform the MCG about projects and activities of special relevance to the Mediterranean Partners. The thematic discussions were thus mostly initiated by a speaker representing a general/international point of view, followed by a Partner’s point of view and finally by the OSCE perspective, creating a combination that stimulated lively and often interactive debates.

- The first meeting, held on 27 February 2015, took place in the wake of the 7 January terrorist attack on the offices of “Charlie Hebdo” in Paris and was dedicated to the issues of freedom of the media and countering violent extremism and radicalization. The discussion was initiated through statements by Ms. Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Dr. Rubina Möhring, President of the Austria branch of Reporters Without Borders, and Dr. Mansour El-Ganady, founder of Market Insight and Red Cross Culture Exchange Ambassador. Moreover, presentations were delivered by the three Committee Chairs on elements of their 2015 work programmes of special relevance to the Mediterranean Partners.
- At the second meeting, on 27 March, the MCG discussed the topic of counter-terrorism and the issue of addressing the conditions conducive to radicalization as well as its impact on our societies. Dr. Gudrun Harrer, Chief Editor of the newspaper *Der Standard*, and Mr. Moussa Al-Hassan Diaw, co-founder of the “Netzwerk

sozialer Zusammenhalt”, contributed their own perspectives, the one being more academic and the other more practical in nature.

- The meeting on 8 May focused on “International migration, human trafficking and refugee protection in the Mediterranean”, with remarks by Ms. Diane Goodman, Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe of the UNHCR, Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and Mr. Marcin Pruss of the European Commission Directorate for General Migration and Home Affairs.
- The fourth meeting, on 19 June, was dedicated to the implementation of the counter-terrorism declarations on kidnapping for ransom (MC.DOC/6/14) and foreign terrorist fighters (MC.DOC/5/14) adopted at the 2014 OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Basel. Introductory remarks were delivered by Ms. Dana Benvenisti-Gabay, Director of the Regional Security and Counter Terrorism Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel, and Mr. Alexey Lyzhenkov, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats. The preparations for the 2015 OSCE Mediterranean Conference constituted another important item on the agenda.
- “Sustainable energy: Advancing stability and security in the OSCE Mediterranean region” was the title of the fifth meeting, held on 18 September, which featured presentations by Ms. Teresa Ribeiro, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean in charge of Energy, Mr. Abdellaziz Hajjani, Head of the Department of Energy at the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, Morocco, and Mr. Yurdakul Yigitgüden, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.
- The sixth and final meeting took place on 20 November with a focus on the positive potential of migration for economy and stability in the Mediterranean region. Introductory remarks were made by Ms. Christiane Kuptsch, Senior Specialist in Migration Policy, Labour Migration Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO), Professor Ghazi Gherairi, Secretary General of the International Academy of Constitutional Law, Tunisia, and Ms. Teresa Albano, Economic Affairs Officer, OCEEA. Furthermore, the meeting considered the outcome of the 2015 OSCE Mediterranean Conference and the way ahead, with a presentation by the incoming Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, Ambassador Christian Strohal, Austria.

Apart from the meetings at ambassadorial level, the German Chairmanship organized several contact points meetings and a number of informal meetings to consult with the Partners prior to important decision-making or major events, such as the Mediterranean Conference. In addition to the direct exchange of views on current issues of common interest, the German Chairmanship kept Partners extensively informed on a regular basis.

Co-operation beyond meetings: Projects

Besides meetings, practical co-operation took place in the context of a number of fruitful projects and various workshops with the Partners in all three dimensions, the latter being partly financed by the Chairperson of the Contact Group and including the workshops on “Gender-sensitive Labour Migration Policies: Awareness Raising in the Mediterranean Region and Eastern Europe”, Malta, from 7 to 9 October, and on “Border Security and Counter Cross Border Criminal Activity in the Mediterranean Region”, Avila, Spain, from 20 to 22 October. In addition work was carried out on substantial studies such as the field study on sustainable energy for the OSCE Mediterranean Partners, which is intended for completion in spring 2016.

Contributions to the Partnership Fund facilitated, among other things, support for the participation of representatives/experts from the Mediterranean Partners in numerous OSCE conferences, seminars and workshops in 2015, notably the Security Days on Building Bridges, Vienna, 21 and 22 May; the Conference on Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region, Monaco, 1 and 2 June; the Annual Security Review Conference, Vienna, 23 to 25 June; the 15th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, Vienna, 6 and 7 July; and the meetings of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Vienna on 26 and 27 January, and in Belgrade from 11 to 13 May.

Germany also promoted and contributed financially to the forward-looking project “Placement of young diplomats from the Mediterranean Partners in the OSCE Secretariat” (Project no. 1101636), facilitating placements for a period of four months during the timeframe 2015–2016. The first placement period (September to December 2015) has seen one Moroccan young diplomat and two Tunisians being placed in the OSCE Secretariat, where training and assessments have given them familiarity with the OSCE’s commitments, values, standards and practical work.

As an important outreach activity, Monaco, Belgium and Germany funded the translation into Arabic and French of the booklet “The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership for Co-operation – A Compilation of Relevant Documents and Information”, the original English version of which had been launched in December 2014 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group. Both translated versions were officially presented at the last MCG meeting on 20 November 2015.

In conclusion, the 2015 German Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship, the OSCE Secretariat, the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation for their commitment, support and co-operation in the framework of the Mediterranean Partnership 2015.

REPORT TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE OSCE IN 2015

(MC.GAL/4/15 of 1 December 2015)

Introduction

1. From the 1973 Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), to the 1994 name change decided by the Budapest Summit, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) evolved over time to its present composition of 57 participating States, decision-making bodies and structures operating in 22 States as well as projects and mandated activities carried out in additional others.
2. The politically binding nature of the 1975 Helsinki Accords has been followed thereafter in the ensuing documents and decisions over the 40-year history of the CSCE/OSCE. The consequent absence of a recognized international legal personality for the OSCE has been the object of various efforts, since at least 1993, to secure across the OSCE region legal status, privileges and immunities for the Organization, its officials and the representatives of its participating States. These efforts have resulted in an incomplete patchwork of legal arrangements established by legislation or other national measures, memoranda of understanding or exchanges of letters between host States and the OSCE or, in one case, a United Nations Security Council resolution and mission-level regulations.
3. In 2009 the open-ended Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE (IWG) was established to foster the necessary dialogue among participating States on this topic.
4. Convinced of its importance, the Serbian Chairmanship prepared for the 2015 IWG meetings and extended the mandate of Ambassador John Bernhard as Special Adviser to the Chairperson-in-Office and Chairperson of the IWG. Taking into account the outcome of the 2014 IWG meetings¹, the aim of the Chairmanship was to maximally reduce the number of options for strengthening the legal framework in order to focus deliberations only to those deemed to provide a basis for further discussion and possible consensus. However, as per request of the States participating in the work of the IWG the number of options was kept at four. The four options tabled in 2015 (attached hereto) are the following:
 - 4.1 Option 1: Adoption of the 2007 Draft Convention on International Legal personality, Legal capacity and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE (2007 Draft Convention). The 2007 Draft Convention was drawn up by an informal Working Group at expert level under the Spanish Chairmanship.² Three footnotes were inserted during its elaboration at the request of certain participating States, making the conclusion of the 2007 Draft Convention conditional upon the existence of a "Charter of the OSCE". Though the 2007 Draft Convention continues to enjoy very broad support among participating States, its adoption and signature have not been possible for the past

1 MC.GAL/5/14/Corr.1, dated 3 December 2014

2 CIO.GAL/48/07/Rev.6, dated 23 October 2007

seven years. This first option consists of: (a) removing the three footnotes from the 2007 Draft Convention; (b) adopting the text; and (c) opening it for signature to interested participating States;

- 4.2 Option 2: Parallel or consecutive adoption of a Constituent Document for the OSCE and the 2007 Draft Convention (“Draft Constituent Document”). In 2012, the Irish Chairmanship submitted a draft Constituent Document to participating States³. The draft was a short, technical text which illustrated concisely the functions and structure of the OSCE as it presently stands. The draft did not change the character of the OSCE as it has evolved by consensus or the mandate and attributions of its various bodies. After the circulation of the draft, a number of delegations submitted written and oral proposals on the text at that time. In order to facilitate further discussion, the Serbian Chairmanship incorporated some of those proposals into a revised draft Constituent Document and circulated it for consideration by the IWG in 2015.⁴ The changes to the draft Constituent Document (in track changes for ease of reference) included new provisions on reservations and denunciation and also concerned the existing provisions on OSCE commitments, decision-making and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
- 4.3 Option 3: “Convention Plus” or “OSCE Statute.” This option involves the reopening of the 2007 Draft Convention with a view to including therein provisions that are of statutory/constitutional character for the OSCE, so that the new document (colloquially called “Convention Plus”) would contain provisions necessary for a Statute of the OSCE (e.g. functions and structure of the OSCE) in addition to the provisions on privileges and immunities contained in the 2007 Draft Convention. Due to its nature as a statute, the elaboration of the “Convention Plus” would also necessitate some amendments to the final provisions of the 2007 Draft Convention, including the consensus requirement for its entry into force. In 2014 the Swiss Chairmanship had circulated a draft “Convention Plus”/Statute.⁵ Taking into account the intervention of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the meeting of the IWG held on 15 October 2014, the Serbian Chairmanship incorporated into the earlier draft suggested revisions to draft Articles 1(f) [addition], 1(k) [deletion], and 18 [addition]. Relevant additions were also inserted in Articles 13(4) and 23(b). The revised draft was recirculated in track changes as a Chairmanship non-paper,⁶ reflecting all changes made to the text of the 2007 Draft Convention in 2014 and 2015. In order to minimize the potentially adverse consequences of a wider re-negotiation of the 2007 Draft Convention, in considering this option the participating States could clearly define the scope of intervention into the text of 2007 Draft Convention, indicating that only amendments or additions necessary for its transformation into a statute be subject to further negotiations.

3 CIO.GAL/68/11, dated 12 June 2012

4 Attachment 2 to CIO.GAL/46/15, dated 8 April 2015

5 CIO.GAL/173/14, dated 2 October 2014

6 Attachment 4 to CIO.GAL/46/15, dated 8 April 2015

4.4 Option 4: Implementation of the 1993 Rome Council Decision through signature and ratification of the 2007 Draft Convention. In 1993, Ministers meeting in Rome adopted the Decision on Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities⁷ (“1993 Rome Council Decision”), noting the importance that all participating States provide appropriate treatment for CSCE institutions and their personnel, missions and the representatives of participating States. To assist national legislatures with harmonizing the rules to be applied, the Rome Council adopted the provisions and recommended that they be implemented. The Decision consequently left it to each participating State to determine the best means for implementing the relevant commitments at national level. The 1993 Rome Council Decision remains an ongoing commitment for OSCE participating States. In 2014 it was proposed that the 1993 Rome Council Decision could be implemented, *inter alia*, through signature and ratification of the 2007 Draft Convention without the footnotes attached. In this option, the 2007 Draft Convention would serve as a multilateral agreement among the participating States interested in implementing in this manner their commitments under the 1993 Rome Council Decision. This option was summarized in a non-paper circulated by the Swiss Chairmanship in 2014.⁸

5. To consider further the above four options, three meetings of the IWG were convened in 2015. The proceedings are reported below.

Activities of the Informal Working Group

First meeting: April 2015

6. The first meeting of the IWG in 2015 was held on 15 April. For discussion purposes, the Chairmanship had prepared and circulated in advance⁹ slightly revised versions of Options 2 and 3. The revised Option 2 reflected earlier discussions and proposals submitted in respect of the non-paper circulated by the Irish Chairmanship (i.e., the Draft Constituent Document for the OSCE).¹⁰ The revised Option 3 reflected earlier discussions and proposals submitted in respect of the non-paper circulated by the Swiss Chairmanship (i.e., “Convention Plus” or “OSCE Statute”).¹¹

7. The meeting was opened by the Chairmanship. Under the standing agenda item “Update on the operational consequences of the lack of a clear legal status of the OSCE,” the Secretariat presented an overview of the purpose of the grant of privileges and immunities to international organizations and to the international civil service. The patchwork system of national measures for OSCE legal status was discussed, along with its consequent gaps which do not relieve the OSCE of its duty of care as an employer and the right of OSCE officials under the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules to functional protection. As an example, the rapid

7 CSCE/4-C/Dec.2, dated 1 December 1993

8 CIO.GAL/173/14, dated 2 October 2014

9 CIO.GAL/46/15, dated 8 April 2015

10 CIO.GAL/68/12, dated 12 June 2012

11 CIO.GAL/173/14, dated 2 October 2014

deployment of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) was examined and the sharp focus it drew to the operational issues which can arise for the OSCE in such circumstances. It was noted that for the first three weeks after deployment, the SMM was operating with no legal status or legal capacity and for the first 12 weeks, the SMM members enjoyed no functional privileges and immunities. It was also noted that 12 weeks was an exceptionally short time period in which to accomplish: (a) the conclusion of an agreement; (b) ratification by parliament; and (c) entry into force. It was considered that it might not be possible to replicate such a short timeframe in every instance.¹²

8. An update was provided on the 14 responses received from participating States to the Survey of National Implementation Measures adopted by OSCE participating States.¹³ The Chairmanship invited participating States that had not done so, to submit their replies to the Survey to the Secretariat.

9. Following this, the Special Adviser to the Chairmanship presented the four options which had been retained for consideration by the IWG. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to an exchange of views on the options and possible further proposals.

Second meeting: July 2015

10. The second meeting of the IWG was held on 15 July 2015, upon invitation of the Chairmanship,¹⁴ with the aim of examining and discussing the four options for strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE.

11. The meeting was opened by the Chairmanship. Under the standing agenda item, "Update on the operational consequences of the lack of a clear legal status for the OSCE," the Secretariat presented a discussion of the impact on OSCE project implementation. Projects are part and parcel of the security and co-operation mandate and are implemented in places where the OSCE has an executive structure and also in countries where the OSCE does not have an established presence. Such activities include core activities of the project, capacity-building, workshops, trainings, etc., as well as other operational activities such as procurement of goods and services for project purposes. The planning stage for project generation can entail visits by OSCE officials for evaluation and needs assessment. The project agreements (e.g., implementing partner agreements, cost-sharing agreements, project memoranda of understanding, project registration) may be subject to the domestic law of conclusion. This raises: financial issues (indirect taxes and customs duties which may amount to 18–23 per cent of the total project funding in localities where the OSCE does not enjoy exemption); staff issues (i.e., functional protection of OSCE officials, project staff and participants in the project activities (trainings, workshops etc.)); and issues related to protection and inviolability of OSCE premises, archives and assets. In the absence of corporate (OSCE) legal personality, liability could arguably fall to the OSCE officials involved (project managers, personnel or the head of the executive structure implementing the project), the authorities of the beneficiary country, or all participating states jointly and severally. While the OSCE successfully implements projects, the uncertainties regarding

12 Published as SEC.GAL/76/15, dated 22 April 2015

13 Survey issued as CIO.GAL/152/14, dated 29 August 2014

14 CIO.GAL/99/15/Rev.1, dated 30 June 2015

legal status of the OSCE make project implementation more expensive, more cumbersome and riskier.¹⁵

12. Following this, the Delegation of the Netherlands (Ms Annemarieke Vermeer-Künzli, Legal Counsel, International Law Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) provided an overview and discussed the Netherlands Act of 31 October 2002 and Order of 29 May 2006 which established the legal personality, privileges and immunities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and OSCE officials. It was pointed out that in addition to the HCNM and the OSCE officials employed there, the Act grants functional immunity to all OSCE officials who may be present in the Netherlands on official business. It was also pointed out that the territorial limitation on the privileges and immunities granted in the Act are necessarily, as national legislation, only enforceable in the Netherlands while the High Commissioner and her staff spend a large part of their time on duty travel elsewhere. In drafting the legislation, which in content is similar to a host State agreement, it was considered unacceptable to treat the OSCE differently than other international organizations. For the purposes of the Act, HCNM was considered to be an organ of the OSCE. In contrast to other cases however, the privileges and immunities were granted directly to HCNM, not derived from the original beneficiary, since OSCE does not have that status.

13. An update was provided on the 16 responses received from participating States to the Survey of National Implementation Measures adopted by OSCE participating States. Additional responses were encouraged.

14. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to an exchange of views, led by the Special Adviser of the Chairperson-in-Office, on the four options under consideration for strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE.

Third meeting: October 2015

15. The third meeting of the IWG was held on 5 October 2015, upon invitation of the Chairmanship,¹⁶ with the aim of consideration in more detail of the four options for strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE.

16. The meeting was opened by the Chairmanship. Under the standing agenda item, “Update on the operational consequences of the lack of a clear legal status for the OSCE,” the Secretariat presented a discussion of the possible issues which could arise, due to the legal status of the OSCE, if it were to proceed with peace operations. It was recalled that the previous week the Chairmanship had convened a Ministerial event on the topic of “OSCE Peace Operations” in the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 1 October 2015. In relation to the four topics considered at that event,¹⁷ the Secretariat pointed out that the legal obstacles that the OSCE status may give rise to in deploying an eventual peace operation could potentially be significant and might not be overcome with political willingness. It was foreseen in the 1994

15 Published in SEC.GAL/204/15, dated 27 November 2015

16 CIO.GAL/139/15, dated 16 September 2015

17 CIO.GAL/141/15, dated 4 September 2015; summary of proceedings published in CIO.GAL/161/15, dated 22 October 2015

Budapest Decision II on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that OSCE peacekeeping would involve a UN Security Council resolution. While such a resolution adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter might be sufficient to allow potential contributing States to authorize the secondment of military personnel or the loan of technology or equipment, it might not overcome national impediments to the conclusion of an agreement with the OSCE to receive them. It was clarified that “peace operations” does not necessarily mean peacekeeping. It also includes the more readily recognizable needs for effective operations, including: (a) a military field hospital operated by military personnel; unmanned unarmed aerial vehicle systems operated by military analysts; and small police contingents to assist in rule of law, particularly in post-conflict rehabilitation. Experience had shown that obtaining such services commercially comes at a premium price, is not always optimal, and gives rise to potential residual liability issues for the OSCE. Given the seriousness of the possible legal obstacles which could frustrate or delay the implementation of a mandated OSCE peace operation, and recalling that Permanent Council Decision No. 1117 of 21 March 2014 tasked the Secretary General with deploying to Ukraine within 24 hours, the Secretariat suggested that it may be advisable for participating States to scrutinize their respective legal systems to identify possible national impediments and possible solutions enabling legal arrangements to realize a mandated peace operation.¹⁸

17. In respect of responses received from participating States to the Survey of National Implementation Measures, it was reported that none had been received since the IWG’s previous July meeting. Additional responses were encouraged.

18. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to an exchange of views, led by the Special Adviser of the Chairperson-in-Office, on the four options. Option 4 was examined. Considering that consensus had been reached on the 1993 Rome Council Decision, which remains a valid commitment, a view was expressed that Option 4 is not ideal but for States which under their domestic systems require a treaty in order to provide a legal status to the OSCE, it could be a way forward if there continues to be no consensus in respect of Options 1, 2 or 3. According to another view, Option 4 was not considered a viable way forward.

Other relevant developments

Helsinki+40 Supplementary Seminar

19. On 27 April 2015 the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) convened a Helsinki+40 Supplementary Seminar on “The OSCE’s Lack of Legal Status – Challenges in Crisis Situations.” Upon invitation, the Chairmanship, the Special Adviser to the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretariat participated as panellists and discussed the question of legal status for the OSCE, the implications for Ukraine and the ways forward for strengthening the legal framework. The proceedings, including a food-for-thought paper by the Secretariat, were published on the website of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.¹⁹

18 Published in SEC.GAL/205/15, dated 27 November 2015

19 <http://www.oscepa.org/parliamentary-diplomacy/helsinki40/seminars/seminar-4-diis-copenhagen-april-2015>

Conclusion

20. In conclusion, the Chairmanship notes that in 2015, the options under consideration have been reduced from six to four. It encourages these efforts to be continued with the aim of reducing the options even further. The OSCE at 40 is mature and, despite its status, is ever more expected to face challenges. Legal status, privileges and immunities for the organization, officials and delegations is what was called for in the 1993 Rome Council Decision. Such a grant is routinely given to other international organizations under public international law. Regulating the legal status of the OSCE would help to achieve the vision of 40 years ago: security and co-operation. Serbia will continue to invest in this ultimate goal for participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

List of reference documents

1. Option 1: Draft 2007 Convention on International Legal personality, Legal capacity and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE (CIO.GAL/48/07/Rev.6, dated 23 October 2007)
2. Option 2: Chairmanship Non-paper on a revised Draft Constituent Document (CIO.GAL/46/15, dated 8 April 2015)
3. Option 3: Chairmanship Non-paper on a revised possible “Convention Plus” or “OSCE Statute” (CIO.GAL/46/15, dated 8 April 2015)
4. Option 4: Non-paper on option consisting in the Implementation of the 1993 Rome Decision through signature and ratification of the 2007 draft Convention (CIO.GAL/173/14, dated 2 October 2014)