



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

K Y I V

2013

Twentieth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

5 and 6 December 2013

Statements and declarations by the Ministerial Council

Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Statements by delegations

Reports to the Ministerial Council

Kyiv 2013

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ENGLISH

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

DECLARATION ON FURTHERING THE HELSINKI+40 PROCESS

(MC.DOC/1/13 of 6 December 2013)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, reaffirm our full adherence to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith.

We also reaffirm our full adherence to the Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community, in which the participating States recommitted themselves to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals. This security community should unite all OSCE participating States across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region, free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security.

We reconfirm our engagement and strong commitment to further develop the Helsinki+40 process, launched by the Ukrainian Chairmanship in accordance with the Dublin Ministerial Council decision, as an inclusive effort by all the participating States to provide strong and continuous political impetus to advancing work towards realizing the vision of a security community, and further strengthening our co-operation in the OSCE on the way towards 2015, a year that marks four decades since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

We reiterate that this special anniversary represents a unique opportunity to reaffirm the participating States' commitment to the concept of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, by recording practical results reflecting intensified efforts to fully implement OSCE commitments and to reconfirm and build upon the OSCE achievements across the three dimensions, and to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

We acknowledge the advancement of our Helsinki+40 deliberations under the Ukrainian Chairmanship and note the positive spirit of discussions in the framework of the open-ended informal Helsinki+40 Working Group. These deliberations contribute to strengthening trust and confidence among the participating States, by reconfirming and advancing those agreed principles on which the OSCE is based and reaffirming the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative approach to security.

We call on the forthcoming Chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia to continue pursuing this process on the basis of a co-ordinated strategic approach to guiding participating States' deliberations over the next two years.

We encourage the forthcoming Chairmanships to further stimulate a result-oriented dialogue among the OSCE participating States in order to advance the process through concrete follow-up to the discussions. We also encourage the Secretary General to assist the Chairmanship as needed within his mandate. We welcome the intention of the forthcoming Chairmanships to seek further contributions to the process by the OSCE executive structures, including institutions, and also by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

We call upon the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, within its mandate, to further contribute to the Helsinki+40 process.

We welcome that the forthcoming Chairmanships will further intensify contacts with the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, other relevant organizations and partners, academia, non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society to provide contributions to the Helsinki+40 process.

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE OSCE'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

(MC.DOC/2/13 of 6 December 2013)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, recognizing the evolving nature of transnational threats in the OSCE region and beyond, and the necessity to provide collective and effective international responses, co-ordinated and founded on a cross-dimensional approach, recalling previous relevant MC Decisions, *inter alia*, Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/12 "OSCE efforts to address transnational threats",

Commend the activities of the OSCE participating States in strengthening co-operation on addressing transnational threats in areas such as counter-terrorism, fight against organized crime, trafficking in human beings and in illicit drugs, police-related activities and border security and management, as well as development of confidence-building measures (CBMs) as defined by the Permanent Council Decision No. 1039, which all contributed to enhancing the OSCE's profile in countering transnational threats;

Welcome Permanent Council Decision No. 1106 of 2013 on the "Initial set of OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies" which aims to enhance inter-State co-operation, transparency, predictability, and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation, and conflict that may stem from the use of ICTs in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 1039 "Development of Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies";

Underscore the significance of the progress achieved in establishing confidence-building measures in the field of security of and in the use of ICTs, which complements the UN efforts in this thematic area and emphasize the importance of implementing this initial set of OSCE confidence-building measures by the OSCE participating States on a voluntary basis and of further developing them, as appropriate;

Welcome also the efforts of the OSCE participating States under the guidance of the OSCE Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office and supported by the relevant OSCE executive structures in achieving progress in implementing the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities, the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, as well as the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept;

Note that the aforementioned documents establish a solid basis for the OSCE's work in the field of countering transnational threats and underline the importance of their full and continued operationalization and integration in OSCE activities;

Encourage the OSCE participating States and relevant executive structures within their mandates and established procedures to intensify efforts to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in addressing existing and emerging transnational threats and to continue dialogue in this field, including at focused and result-oriented OSCE-wide thematic conferences to be held as appropriate and preferably annually;

Invite the OSCE participating States, where needed with the support of the relevant OSCE executive structures, to further develop co-operation with the UN and other relevant international and regional organizations on the basis of 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security, as well as with the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for co-operation, with a view to further strengthen the OSCE capacity in countering transnational threats, including with the engagement of civil society.

Attachment to MC.DOC/2/13

**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 Russian Federation:

“In connection with the declaration adopted on strengthening the OSCE’s efforts to address transnational threats, the Russian Federation wishes to state the following:

In joining the consensus on this declaration, the Russian Federation would like to stress the importance of the practical implementation of the conceptual OSCE documents that are mentioned in the declaration and are concerned with countering transnational threats: in particular, combating illicit drugs and terrorism. Holding annual OSCE conferences on counter-terrorism and combating the threat posed by narcotic drugs, financed by the Organization’s Unified Budget, is a necessary tool for the implementation of these decisions.

I request that the text of this statement be attached to the adopted declaration, and that it be included in the journal of today’s meeting.”

**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**

(MC.DOC/3/13 of 6 December 2013)

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 negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process in the “5+2” format adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin on 7 December 2012;

Reaffirm their strong determination to achieve a comprehensive, just and viable resolution of the Transdniestrian conflict exclusively through negotiations, on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;

Welcome the constructive work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format throughout the current year, and the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process;

Encourage efforts by all participants in the negotiation process to achieve compromise solutions;

Express satisfaction that the meetings of the Permanent Conference have been held in conjunction with regular direct contacts between the sides at various levels, including at the political level, and encourage the continuation and diversification of such contacts;

Reaffirm the importance of building confidence and trust between the population on both banks of the Dniester River as a key element of the comprehensive settlement, and in this regard welcome progress achieved in 2013, *inter alia*, in the spheres of freedom of movement and environmental protection, in solving the safety problems of the residents of the cities of Ribnița and Rezina, as well as in prolongation of the agreement on railway cargo transportation through the Transdniestrian region, and encourage the sides to take advantage of all trade and investment opportunities;

Underline 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;

Call upon the sides to intensify their efforts with regard to confidence- and security-building measures and to refrain from unilateral actions that could lead to deterioration of the security situation in the region;

Encourage the sides to build on the progress achieved since the effective resumption of the official work of the negotiation process in the “5+2” format in 2011 in order to resolve outstanding problems, including by removing obstacles to the free movement of people, goods and services, and to fully implement the decisions agreed in the negotiation process;

Call upon the mediators and observers of the OSCE, Russian Federation, Ukraine, 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 Transdnistrian conflict.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

(MC.DOC/4/13 of 6 December 2013)

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

Welcome the Joint Statement by the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries and the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia of 5 December 2013 and their agreement to continue working together on a just and peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of what has been already achieved;

Welcome the recent resumption of high-level dialogue between the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and express the hope that upcoming meetings will advance the peace process;

Encourage the sides to consider measures that would reduce tensions in the region.

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE
UPDATE OF THE OSCE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
NON-PROLIFERATION**
(MC.DOC/5/13 of 6 December 2013)

The Ministerial Council welcomes the decision of the Forum for Security Co-operation No. 7/13 of 4 December 2013 on the Update of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation.

II. DECISIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

DECISION No. 1/13
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA
(MC.DEC/1/13 of 6 March 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Considering that the first term of office of the current Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, comes to an end on 10 March 2013,

Underlining the important contribution of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to the promotion of the freedom of expression and free media in the OSCE area,

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of Ms. Dunja Mijatović as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media until 11 March 2016.

Attachment 1 to MC.DEC/1/13

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 Russian Federation:

“While joining the consensus on the OSCE Ministerial Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, for a second three-year term, we should like to make the following statement.

We take the position that the activities of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media should be carried out in strict accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity and transparency in line with the mandate established by Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997. We expect the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to take a balanced and impartial approach to the discharge of her commission with regard to the entire OSCE area. It is our conviction that the Representative’s task is to monitor that freedom of expression is ensured in the media, and this task does not extend to other areas of activity.

The Russian Federation assumes that the term “media” used in OSCE documents means “mass media”, which includes forms such as printed periodicals (press), television and

radio broadcasting and electronic media, including those disseminated via the Internet. Other definitions of the media connected with a change in the ways of producing, sharing and disseminating mass information and the appearance of new types and means of communication require additional agreement and approval by all the participating States.

In the light of the above, the Russian Federation urges the OSCE participating States and the Chairmanship to begin work on updating the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, which was adopted more than 15 years ago, with a view to bringing it into line with the present-day realities and tasks in this area.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the Ministerial Council decision adopted and to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council."

Attachment 2 to MC.DEC/1/13

**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:

In connection with PC.DEC/1074, and under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, the United States wishes to make the following interpretive statement:

"The United States disagrees with the interpretive statement just made by the delegation of the Russian Federation. We wish to express our strongest support for the efforts of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to defend and promote freedom of expression through all media, including the Internet and other new technologies. This approach is absolutely consistent with the Helsinki Final Act, which calls upon participating States to 'promote and encourage the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms,' and with the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to 'advocate and promote full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media.' We reject any call to parse or restrict this broad mandate, or indeed any effort to qualify established OSCE Human Dimension commitments that protect and promote the fundamental freedoms of citizens and members of civil society groups throughout the region."

I request that this interpretive statement be attached to the decision and included in the journal of the day.

DECISION No. 2/13
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON
NATIONAL MINORITIES

(MC.DEC/2/13 of 17 July 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the CSCE Helsinki Summit 1992 to establish a High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Considering that, in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/10, the mandate of Mr. Knut Vollebaek as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities will expire on 19 August 2013,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Knut Vollebaek, for his contribution to the work of the OSCE and to developing the activities of the OSCE,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Ms. Astrid Thors as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for a period of three years with effect from 20 August 2013.

DECISION No. 3/13
FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE, RELIGION OR BELIEF
(MC.DEC/3/13 of 6 December 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming past CSCE/OSCE decisions on the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, in particular as recognized by the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1983 Madrid Document, the 1989 Vienna Document, the 1990 Copenhagen Document, the 1994 Budapest Document and the 2003 Maastricht Document,

Recalling the international human rights provisions contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international obligations of States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other international human rights instruments relevant to the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

Committed to ensuring respect for and enjoyment of the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief for all,

Emphasizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice, as well as not to have or profess any religion, to change one's religion or belief, and the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief, either alone or in community with others, and in public or in private, through teaching, practice, worship and observance. The freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are consistent with international standards,

Reaffirming the commitments of participating States to respect, protect, and ensure the right of everyone to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

Emphasizing the link between security and full respect for the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

Deeply concerned by continuing acts of intolerance and violence against individuals and religious or belief communities on the basis of thought, conscience, religion or belief around the world,

Emphasizing that freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and all other human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing the importance of fostering a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities as well as between believers and non-believers,

Calls on participating States to:

- Fully implement OSCE commitments on the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;

- Fully implement their commitments to ensure the right of all individuals to profess and practice religion or belief, either alone or in community with others, and in public or private, and to manifest their religion or belief through teaching, practice, worship and observance, including through transparent and non-discriminatory laws, regulations, practices and policies;
- Refrain from imposing restrictions inconsistent with OSCE commitments and international obligations on the practice of religion or belief by individuals and religious communities;
- Promote and facilitate open and transparent interfaith and interreligious dialogue and partnerships;
- Aim to prevent intolerance, violence and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief, including against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions, as well as against non-believers, condemn violence and discrimination on religious grounds and endeavour to prevent and protect against attacks directed at persons or groups based on thought, conscience, religion or belief;
- Encourage the inclusion of religious and belief communities, in a timely fashion, in public discussions of pertinent legislative initiatives;
- Promote dialogue between religious or belief communities and governmental bodies, including, where necessary, on issues related to the use of places of worship and religious property;
- Take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals or religious or belief communities on the basis of religion or belief, including against non-believers, by public officials in the conduct of their public duties;
- Adopt policies to promote respect and protection for places of worship and religious sites, religious monuments, cemeteries and shrines against vandalism and destruction.

DECISION No. 4/13
ENHANCING OSCE EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT
THE ACTION PLAN ON IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF ROMA
AND SINTI WITHIN THE OSCE AREA, WITH A PARTICULAR
FOCUS ON ROMA AND SINTI WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN
(MC.DEC/4/13 of 6 December 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, including the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/08 on enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/09 on enhancing OSCE efforts to ensure Roma and Sinti sustainable integration,

Recalling the commitments made in those documents and in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality relating directly to the situation of Roma and Sinti women and girls, and acknowledging the importance of their implementation in all policies addressing the situation of Roma and Sinti,

Recognizing that various efforts such as the development and implementation of national action plans and strategies as well as creation of specific programmes and policies aiming at improvement of situation of Roma and Sinti have been undertaken in the OSCE area and the implementation of these initiatives at the local level is essential for their fulfilment,

Taking note of the findings and priority action recommendations contained in the ODIHR's second status report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, released in 2013,

Taking note of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting that took place on 7–8 November 2013 on Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti,

Concerned that Roma and Sinti continue to be the targets of racism and bias-motivated violence in the OSCE area,

Noting, in this context, that Roma and Sinti women and girls are particularly vulnerable to multiple forms of discrimination, as well as to violence and harassment,

Recognizing that education is key to opening up greater opportunities for equal participation in the social, political, economic and cultural life for Roma and Sinti, including Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, in particular girls, to exercise their rights and to promote their full inclusion,

Convinced that the participating States should seek to provide Roma and Sinti with opportunities to contribute to the policies that affect them and that Roma and Sinti should be

partners and share responsibility for implementing those policies designed to promote and facilitate their integration,

Recognizing that Roma and Sinti women's rights and equality between men and women, in particular, need to be supported and promoted by State policies and institutions, with the active involvement of Roma and Sinti women,

Considering that Roma and Sinti youth and children will in the future be the main stakeholders in promoting inclusion for Roma and Sinti people and communities, as well as promoting their full participation in the social, civic, political, economic and cultural life of the societies in which they live,

Calls on participating States to:

1. Enhance their efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, including through better monitoring and assessment of the strategies, policies and measures regarding Roma and Sinti integration;
2. Prevent further marginalization and exclusion of Roma and Sinti and address the rise of discrimination and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti, including against Roma and Sinti migrants, by:
 - 2.1 Enhancing their efforts to promote tolerance of and combating prejudices against Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.2 Unequivocally and publicly condemning any violence targeting Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.3 Countering negative stereotypes of Roma and Sinti in the media taking into account relevant OSCE freedom of the media commitments;
 - 2.4 Enacting or strengthening, where necessary, legislation and policy measures to address discrimination and bias-motivated crime against Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.5 Building the capacity of law enforcement agencies and personnel to identify, collect data, investigate and prosecute hate crimes against Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.6 Taking necessary measures to ensure access to effective remedies for victims of discrimination and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti, through judicial, administrative, mediation and conciliation procedures;
 - 2.7 Enhancing the participation of Roma and Sinti in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of the policies that affect them, including by fostering Roma and Sinti political participation and by supporting voter education among Roma and Sinti;
 - 2.8 Promoting inclusive dialogue within society in order to raise awareness of the role that intolerance and discrimination against Roma and Sinti can play in threatening social cohesion, stability and security;

- 2.9 Addressing the root causes of discrimination and intolerance against Roma and Sinti, including through enhanced comprehensive educational and awareness raising efforts to tackle prejudice and promote mutual respect and understanding;
- 2.10 Supporting civil society in their efforts to represent and provide assistance to Roma and Sinti victims of hate crimes and discrimination;
- 2.11 Taking necessary measures to increase Roma and Sinti active participation and ownership to promote their social inclusion;
- 2.12 Taking measures to ensure the security, well-being and health of Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, including by addressing domestic violence, early marriages and trafficking in human beings, including, where necessary, by providing access to rehabilitative support;
3. Focus their efforts and the necessary resources on education as an important factor for improving the situation of Roma and Sinti and promoting their greater social and economic integration by means that could include:
 - 3.1 Taking active measures to ensure equal access to and participation for Roma and Sinti youth and children in education at all levels in State-provided education, including at the early education, primary and secondary school levels;
 - 3.2 Addressing the high dropout rate for Roma and Sinti secondary school students, and paying due attention to the specific problems faced by Roma and Sinti girls in that regard, while taking active measures to encourage participation of Roma and Sinti youth in higher levels of education;
 - 3.3 Promoting greater access and taking appropriate measures to facilitate enrolment for Roma and Sinti students in tertiary education, including through scholarship programmes;
 - 3.4 Promoting development of Roma and Sinti integration programmes at the national and local levels, including education programmes and supplementary study courses, *inter alia* on Roma and Sinti culture and history;
 - 3.5 Renewing efforts to eliminate segregation of Roma and Sinti in education at all levels;
4. Take active measures to support the empowerment of Roma and Sinti women, including by:
 - 4.1 Stepping up their efforts to ensure that Roma and Sinti women can enjoy and exercise their human rights and increasing efforts to combat discrimination against them at all levels, including, where necessary, in the areas of education, employment, health care and housing, and engaging in partnership with Roma and Sinti civil society organizations and Roma and Sinti people to this end;
 - 4.2 Promoting the effective and equal participation of Roma and Sinti women in public and political life, including through the promotion of women's access to public office, public administration and decision making positions;

- 4.3 Encouraging equal access for Roma and Sinti women to employment, internships and mentoring opportunities;
- 4.4 Targeting specific measures, where appropriate, aimed at promoting equal access to and participation in education for Roma and Sinti girls at all levels;
- 5. Encourage the relevant OSCE executive structures to enhance their activities meant to build the capacities of Roma and Sinti women and youth organizations, with a view to promoting empowerment, education and non-discrimination among Roma and Sinti women and youth, and to encourage the participation of Roma and Sinti women on an equal footing with men in all areas of their interest;

Calls for continued co-ordination within the OSCE and co-operation with relevant international actors with the goal of enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area;

Encourages the OSCE PA to continue its efforts aimed at improving the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

DECISION No. 5/13
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT
OF ENERGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE OSCE REGION
(MC.DEC/5/13 of 6 December 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments related to environment and energy in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks, the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security, adopted at the Madrid Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2007, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/09 on strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration,

Acknowledging the link between energy-related activities and the environment,

Stressing the importance of reducing the negative impact of the environmental footprint of energy-related activities,

Noting the impact of energy production, transportation and consumption on the environment and its transboundary nature,

Recognizing that a responsible and sustainable management of natural and energy resources can improve the environment, curb climate change, boost economic growth and contribute to security and stability,

Acknowledging that affordable, diversified reliable and sustainable energy supply is an important precondition for sustainable development and that energy resources can contribute substantially to economic growth if managed responsibly and transparently,

Noting that the environmental footprint can be improved through participating States pursuing energy diversification coupled with more environmentally sustainable energy options, with a focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency, when developing their respective national energy policies,

Highlighting the comparative advantage of the OSCE as a platform for broad political dialogue on issues relating to improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, complementing existing bilateral and multilateral activities and initiatives creating synergies *inter alia* with the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy of UNECE,

Recognizing that good governance, transparency and anti-corruption measures as well as the involvement of civil society and the private sector in decision- and policy-making processes at all levels lead to greater accommodation of environmental concerns related to energy production, transportation and use and noting in this respect activities and principles of the EITI and other multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives,

Recognizing that the increasing interdependence between energy producing, consuming and transit countries in the OSCE area requires co-operative dialogue,

Being aware that the use of renewable energy sources, low carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures contributes to reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and offers economic opportunities,

Aiming at supporting further development and use of new and renewable sources of energy including sharing best practices and technology in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities,

Emphasizing the importance of regional and subregional co-operation, where appropriate, on improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, in order to strengthen security and stability,

Drawing upon the relevant summary conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Twenty-First OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region”,

1. Encourages participating States to make best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices, *inter alia* on good governance and transparency in the energy sector renewable energy and energy efficiency, new technologies, technology transfer, green growth;
2. Encourages participating States to continue to promote high standards of transparency, accountability and good governance in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including by advocating and reinforcing good environmental governance in planning, financing and the implementation of energy-related activities;
3. Calls on participating States to engage civil society organizations in the development of policy recommendations as well as the design, implementation and evaluation of projects related to sustainable energy and the environmental impact of energy-related activities;
4. Encourages participating States to promote modernization and technological innovation in the energy sector, in particular with a view to enhancing environmental sustainability and improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including through public-private co-operation;
5. Encourages participating States to promote multi-stakeholder co-operation among governments, international, regional and non-governmental organizations, civil society, the business community, academia, development agencies and financial institutions in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including through the promotion of public-private partnerships and technological innovation aiming at sharing best practices among participating States;
6. Encourages participating States to explore the OSCE’s possible role in supporting the UN post-2015 development agenda as it may relate to the environmental footprint of energy activities, and in the UN/World Bank Sustainable Energy for All Initiative;

7. Encourages participating States to mainstream a gender perspective¹ in the elaboration and implementation of projects and policies related to energy sustainability, and to ensure for men and women equal opportunities for access to resources, benefits and participation in decision-making at all levels;
8. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to continue fostering, where appropriate, international co-operation, *inter alia*, through supporting relevant international and regional legal instruments, conventions and protocols related to improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities and to support, upon request, their implementation by participating States thus contributing to transparency, accountability and good governance in the field of energy in the OSCE area;
9. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to further follow the cross-dimensional aspects of the environmental impact of energy-related activities when exacerbated by natural or man-made disasters, and to assist participating States upon their request in making best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices on these aspects;
10. Tasks the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their mandates and with a view to strengthening security and stability in the OSCE region, to promote sustainable energy and foster, where appropriate, transboundary co-operation;
11. Tasks the OCEEA and the OSCE field operations, within their mandates and upon request of the host country, to continue supporting awareness raising on the impact of energy-related activities on the environment, and facilitating the involvement of civil society, academia and the business sector in respective decision making processes, including through the Aarhus Centres and other multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives;
12. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

1 “Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.” See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-Second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1), Chapter IV, paragraph 4.

DECISION No. 6/13
PROTECTION OF ENERGY NETWORKS FROM NATURAL AND
MAN-MADE DISASTERS
(MC.DEC/6/13 of 6 December 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments related to energy contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/09 on strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration,

Recalling the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security (MC.DOC/4/07), which underlines the linkages between environmental risks, and natural and man-made disasters and security in the OSCE region,

Noting Permanent Council Decision No. 1088, on the theme, agenda and modalities for the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area”, with a particular focus on preparedness, emergency response and recovery related to environmental challenges,

Taking positive note of the Good Practices Guide on Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection from Terrorist Attacks Focusing on Threats Emanating from Cyberspace,

Noting that, for the purpose of this Ministerial Decision only, the term “energy networks” does not refer to nuclear energy installations or gas and oil infrastructure,

Recognizing that energy networks can be vulnerable to risks posed by natural and man-made disasters,

Noting that protection in relation to energy networks refers to activities aimed at ensuring their functionality, continuity and integrity intended to deter, mitigate, and neutralize a threat, risk or vulnerability,

Recognizing the need for uninterrupted functioning of energy networks and taking into consideration the severe consequences of possible disruptions,

Noting with interest the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and any subsequent post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction,

Taking into consideration the potential environmental challenges associated with damage to energy networks,

Underlining the importance of co-operation among the participating States on energy and environment, with a view to strengthening security and stability,

Recognizing the need to strengthen dialogue and co-operation on security and safety of energy networks,

Considering the importance of good public and corporate governance, market transparency and regional co-operation in the energy sector, while taking into account the interests of all concerned,

Convinced that more effective co-operation by all the OSCE participating States on an equitable, mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory basis to counteract threats and challenges caused by natural and man-made disasters can make a crucial contribution to security, stability and prosperity in the OSCE region,

1. Encourages the participating States to consider necessary measures, including the identification and assessment of risks, countermeasures and relevant procedures, at the national and local level, to increase protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters;
2. Encourages participating States to make best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices on strengthening the security and safety of the energy networks in the OSCE region;
3. Encourages the participating States to more effectively co-ordinate measures to increase the protection of energy networks, including at the early stages of planning;
4. Invites the participating States to facilitate co-operation and partnerships between public and private entities in order to enhance the protection of energy networks;
5. Encourages the participating States, in the context of attaining sustainable development, to implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster preparedness and risk reduction, in order to obviate adverse effects on energy networks;
6. Tasks the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to identify opportunities for co-operation with international organizations and regional organizations and agencies in the field of protection of energy networks against natural and man-made disasters and to facilitate discussions on possible areas for co-operation;
7. Tasks the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to facilitate the exchange of good practices, technological innovations and the sharing of information on effective preparedness for, and responses to, disaster risks to energy networks without duplicating activities already carried out by other relevant international organizations;
8. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

Attachment to MC.DEC/6/13

**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 Lithuania on behalf of the European Union:

“We would like to underline that, the inclusion of a preambular paragraph excluding energy installations as well as gas and oil infrastructure from the scope of application of this decision, considerably reduces its remit.

In this context, we believe that this decision should be regarded as the starting point for us to continue to work towards broadening the scope of our future discussions on these non-nuclear issues.

We would ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.”

DECISION No. 7/13
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
(MC.DEC/7/13 of 6 December 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the relevant OSCE commitments of the years 2000 to 2008 and the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of Human Trafficking,

Reiterating the strategic value of the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings which provides the participating States with advanced recommendations on actions to be taken at the international and national levels in the field of prosecution, prevention and protection, and guides the activities of the relevant OSCE executive structures,

Deeply concerned by the significant growth in all forms of THB, both transnational and internal, and reiterating the particular need to take more vigorous measures to address the challenging current and emerging THB trends and patterns,

Endorses the adoption of the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later by Permanent Council Decision No. 1107, and considers the Addendum: One Decade Later to be an integral part of the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Attachment 1 to MC.DEC/7/13

**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 Russian Federation:

“We join in the consensus concerning the OSCE Ministerial Council decision on combating trafficking in human beings and should like to make the following comments.

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual or labour exploitation, including trafficking in children and trafficking for the purpose of obtaining organs, tissues and cells, has taken on global proportions. A comprehensive approach is required to combat this threat, including preventive measures, effective crime investigation, prosecution of the perpetrators, protection of victims and establishment of socio-economic conditions that would make it impossible for trafficking in human beings to take place.

We note that the draft Addendum to the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings will make it possible to broaden the scope of the OSCE’s commitments in this area, in the first instance with respect to combating forms of trafficking that involve sexual

exploitation, including the exploitation of children, and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of obtaining organs.

At the same time, it is regrettable that the decision does not reflect some new forms of trafficking that present a real threat to health and life, notably trafficking for the purpose of obtaining human tissue and cells. This reduces the effectiveness of the efforts by OSCE participating States to confront new challenges and threats, develop appropriate policies and identify suitable ways of reacting.

The Russian Federation is of the opinion that in combating all forms of trafficking in human beings the OSCE should give due attention to the investigation, collection of information and exchange of effective experience in preventing trafficking for the purpose of obtaining human tissues and cells.

We are also of the opinion that in preventing trafficking in human beings, additional vigorous measures are needed to eliminate the demand for “human traffic” in countries that are main recipients of this traffic.

We request that this statement be attached to the Ministerial Council decision and to the journal of the today’s meeting of the Ministerial Council.”

Attachment 2 to MC.DEC/7/13

**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 Holy See:

“The consensual adoption of the Addendum to the ‘OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later’ does not mean that non-consensual publications or tools mentioned in the text are official documents of the Organization. Therefore, they must not be considered endorsed by all participating States.

According to the above mentioned, the Holy See expresses its reservation in regards to Article 5 under Chapter III entitled ‘Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings’, subtitle ‘Actions for Institutions and Bodies’ and does not agree with each single tool or all their parts developed or used by the Gender Section of the OSCE Secretariat.”

DECISION No. 8/13
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES
OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

(MC.DEC/8/13 of 6 December 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the importance of OSCE measures aimed at combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and at contributing to the reduction and prevention of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Willing to complement and thereby reinforce the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, particularly by promoting co-operation, transparency and responsible action by participating States in the export and import of SALW,

Taking note of the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty,

Noting the United Nations Security Council focus on addressing the threats arising from illicit SALW and their destabilizing accumulations, and the importance of regional organizations to those efforts,

Noting the commitments contained in the outcome documents of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which took place from 27 August to 7 September 2012 in New York, relating to the Programme of Action and to the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, and taking note of the active role taken by the OSCE in this area,

Recalling FSC Decision No. 8/08 and noting ongoing activity in the United Nations General Assembly on related issues,

Taking note of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) where relevant to the mandate of the FSC,

Acknowledging the important work the OSCE has accomplished in establishing recognized standards and best practices in SALW management and security and a possible contribution the voluntary use of other international standards could make in this regard,

Recognizing the continuing importance of OSCE measures aimed at addressing security risks and safety of stockpiles of SALW, SCA, explosive materials and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area,

Also reaffirming the voluntary nature of the assistance provided by the OSCE participating States in the reduction of SALW, in the destruction after registration of surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition and in the upgrading of stockpile management and security practices of participating States that request assistance in this regard,

Also reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1, 20 June 2012), the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1, 23 March 2011), and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DEC/2/10, 26 May 2010),

1. Welcomes and takes note, within the Forum for Security Co-operation's activities since the 2011 Ministerial Council, of:

- The reissuance of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and supplementary decisions as a consolidated record pursuant to Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11;
- The progress reports on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, as submitted to the Nineteenth and Twentieth Meetings of the Ministerial Council;
- The OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Expert Level Session on Stockpile Management, Surplus Reduction and Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- The ongoing efforts of the FSC on improving the implementation of commitments set out in the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW;
- The focused discussions in the Security Dialogue on topical security issues related to small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition on such issues as OSCE assistance projects, work to strengthen co-operation in the field of SALW and SCA, consideration of the possible impact of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), capacity-building, action to address challenges related to SALW/SCA in Central Asia, consideration of the mapping study on the OSCE SALW commitments and also methodologies to assist and improve the annual exchange of information on SALW imports and exports;
- The progress in and results of OSCE SALW and SCA projects;
- The inaugural conference on tracing illicit small arms and light weapons in the OSCE area, jointly organized with UNODA, UNODC and Interpol on 23 and 24 May 2013 in Vienna;

2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2014, to:

- Strengthen efforts aiming to ensure full implementation of existing measures and commitments set out in the OSCE Document on SALW, the OSCE Document on SCA, and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW;

- Intensify efforts to further implement the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects;
 - Ensure coherence and complementarity with the relevant United Nations framework, *inter alia*, taking account of the outcome documents of the Second Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW;
 - Discuss issues arising from SALW and SCA projects including, *inter alia*, issues pertaining to personnel and resources from participating States involved in such projects, with the aim of facilitating procedures for providing assistance to the OSCE participating States under the SALW and SCA mechanism;
 - Ensure the timely and full submission of OSCE SALW-related information exchanges, while making use of the reporting template introduced by the CPC for one-off information exchanges related to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, including sample formats for national end-user certificates and/or other pertinent documents, regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW and the annual information exchange on the points of contact on SALW and SCA;
 - Develop voluntary guidelines for compiling national submissions of information for the above-mentioned exchange, in order to improve the utility and relevance of the information provided;
 - Explore ways to review and, where appropriate, supplement the 2012 OSCE Document on SALW, the 2003 OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on SALW, as well as the 1993 CSCE Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers;
 - Exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, on women's contributions to security and the possible impact of illicit SALW on women and children;
 - Explore ways to enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on issues related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
 - Take an active role in the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;
 - Submit progress reports, through its Chairperson, to the Twenty-First Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2014 on these tasks and on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
3. Invites the participating States to:
- Continue providing extrabudgetary contributions to support FSC assistance projects on SALW and SCA, either for a specific project or by providing resources and technical expertise to the OSCE's comprehensive programme on SALW and SCA;

- Continue within the Security Dialogue discussions on the possible implications related to the prospective entry into force of the ATT.

DECISION No. 9/13
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
(MC.DEC/9/13 of 6 December 2013)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Twenty-First Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Basel, Switzerland, on 4 and 5 December 2014.

III. STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS

**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE,
THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE, AT THE
TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**
(MC.GAL/8/13 of 5 December 2013)

Mr. Prime Minister of Ukraine,
Dear ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure as the Chairperson-in-Office to welcome you all in Kyiv for the Twentieth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

As you have probably noticed, our premises are located close to the Dnipro river. It has played a crucial role in the life of our people since ancient times. It was the Dnipro river that offered its waters for ships under different flags, sailing “from the Varangians to the Greeks” on the famous trade route which flourished ten centuries ago.

As the ability to build bridges and operate ferries across large rivers was existential for the nations’ survival in the ancient times, so dedication to building bridges remains an imperative for any country chairing the OSCE, including Ukraine.

Eleven months ago I took the office with a firm determination to promote common vision, common goals and common actions, to bridge divergences and to strengthen trust and confidence, so that we all could further move towards a shared vision of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

Today I would like to share with you some of my reflections of Ukraine’s experience at the helm of the OSCE.

In 2013 we have succeeded in a number of common actions, each being a step towards making the OSCE area more united and secure as well as increasing the relevance of our Organization.

Your active engagement in the Helsinki+40 process, launched this year, allowed to accumulate already at this stage a number of interesting ideas on how to chart the Organization’s future activities.

The Chairmanship, in particular, encouraged the participating States to reflect on strengthening the OSCE effectiveness and efficiency. It appears to be a complex and cross-cutting challenge for the Organization.

We had substantial discussions on improving the working methods of the OSCE bodies, in particular of the Ministerial Councils, bringing to them more interaction and “dialogue spirit”.

The second year of the process will play a key role in defining ways to translate those ideas into reality. I believe that efforts to implement the Helsinki+40 Roadmap, prepared by

three consecutive Chairmanships of Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia will be instrumental in this regard. Ministers Burkhalter, Mrkic and myself intend to present this document today.

For its part, the Declaration on Furthering the Helsinki+40 process will allow us to register the progress achieved and to demonstrate the strong engagement of capitals to the process.

It is an encouraging sign for the OSCE that we are starting the Ministerial Council meeting with a number of agreements already reached. We should continue to depart from viewing Ministerial Councils as the only catalyst for generating necessary political will to come to agreement.

Dear colleagues,

This year we have strengthened the OSCE contribution to global efforts on combating transnational threats by agreeing on an initial set of confidence-building measures in the area of cyber/ICT security.

We succeeded in finalizing our work on updating 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. I strongly welcome this important step in my both capacities, as the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Foreign Minister of Ukraine, which two decades ago made its conscious and historic choice to renounce the nuclear weapons.

We have progressed in our discussion on strengthening the OSCE response to the plague of human trafficking in the OSCE region. By adopting the Addendum to OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings we will enhance the effectiveness of the anti-trafficking endeavours in the OSCE area.

Nowadays the energy security issues cut across the global security dialogue. The best way to address the challenges in this area is to improve technology and increase environmental friendliness of the energy-related activities. I am pleased that deliberations on the matter within the second dimension have demonstrated the readiness to elaborate a common vision on how the OSCE should act, by adopting relevant Council decisions.

We have worked tirelessly this year to take forward the OSCE *acquis* in the human dimension. Despite the existing divergences, we were able to agree on a balanced and relevant programme of the third dimension activities.

By preparing a balanced set of draft decisions in the third dimension, the Chairmanship has encouraged the participating States to demonstrate a constructive approach and to reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

We believe the Kyiv Ministerial Council offers us an excellent opportunity for reaffirming and updating our commitments in the human dimension.

Distinguished participants,

We also remained committed to further strengthening political dialogue and practical co-operation of the OSCE with our Partners for Co-operation across all three dimensions.

Taking keen interest in the developments in the Southern Mediterranean, the OSCE has made its multi-dimensional toolkit available to its Mediterranean Partners. Extension of this toolkit to Libya, which applied to become a Partner for Co-operation, would enhance the security and stability in the region.

We all recognize the need to strengthen our engagement with Afghanistan, especially in the light of significant transitions underway in this country and ISAF withdrawal in 2014. I strongly welcome the recent decision on deployment of ODIHR election support team to Afghanistan.

The Declaration we have tabled for this meeting, will further contribute to collective international efforts aimed at long-term security and stability in Afghanistan.

A number of presidential and parliamentary elections took place in the OSCE in 2013. It was of an utmost importance that ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly renewed their co-operation in the area of election observation.

I would also like to mention the timely extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, as well as the appointment of a new High Commissioner on National Minorities. I encourage all participating States to act in the same constructive spirit in the year to come, while appointing a new Director of the ODIHR.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Among the threats that remain in the focus of the OSCE for many years, protracted conflicts take a particular place. We've put the issue of their settlement high on our Chairmanship's agenda.

Since the beginning of the year I visited all participating States affected by the protracted conflicts, encouraging the sides to further work on finding sustainable and long-term political solutions.

We tried to fill the existing negotiation formats with a more constructive spirit. Despite a challenging atmosphere it was possible to reach compromise solutions on a number of topical issues within the "5+2" talks on the Transdniestrian settlement with five rounds held this year. Two meetings of the Prime Minister of Moldova and the Transdniestrian leader, to which the Chairmanship invested a lot of facilitating efforts, also conducted to reaching compromise.

Co-chairing the Geneva International Discussion and supporting the efforts of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs were also among our key tasks throughout the year. I highly welcome the November meeting of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, organized for the first time since January 2012.

Conventional arms control is another challenging issue, necessitating fresh solutions. Therefore we have initiated discussions on the role conventional arms control and CSBMs could play in the current European security architecture. I believe the Forum for Security

Co-operation is well placed to continue the focused discussion on conventional arms control in 2014.

Distinguished participants,

The Chairmanship has laid a necessary groundwork for a constructive ministerial dialogue here in Kyiv. We have prepared a balanced framework for decisions, focusing on pertinent issues and reflecting priorities of different participating States.

Therefore I would like to encourage you to work together constructively to finalize a meaningful set of decisions that will be beneficial for the entire OSCE area.

Thank you.

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE,
THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE, AT THE
TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/11/13 of 6 December 2013)

Dear ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Two days of intensive work are behind us. I hope you have found these days in Kyiv both pleasant and productive.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship has done its best to create a constructive atmosphere that was conducive to dialogue and reaching agreements.

All contributions, made in this hall, clearly indicated that our Organization remains relevant and instrumental framework for comprehensive security dialogue in the region.

I am delighted that we have succeeded in building consensus around a number of important decisions. Kyiv Ministerial Council has provided the OSCE with a solid input to the common efforts on strengthening trust and confidence in our co-operation.

We reaffirmed our strong engagement in the Helsinki+40 Process.

We will continue to work together towards more effective and efficient OSCE on the way towards the 40th anniversary of Helsinki Final Act. To this aim we need to revitalize the spirit of co-operation that inspired the signing of the Final Act, the Paris Charter and other landmark documents of the OSCE.

Protracted conflicts were an important part of our work during the year and of our deliberations here in Kyiv.

The Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations in the 5+2 Format contains a strong signal on our joint determination to achieve progress on the whole agenda of the talks with the aim of reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict.

With regard to Nagorno-Karabakh, the ministers endorsed the new dynamics in the bilateral dialogue at the highest level between Azerbaijan and Armenia. We hope that this joint support will assist in reinvigorating the negotiation process.

I welcome the OSCE readiness to step up efforts to combat human trafficking, endorsing Addendum to the 2003 OSCE Action Plan. The document will contribute to fostering global action aimed at eradicating this modern slavery.

We were able to adopt important decisions within the politico-military dimension, enhancing our *acquis* in the areas of non-proliferation and transnational threats. I would like to particularly highlight the contribution to this end of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

We also agreed on strengthening the OSCE mandate in the area of energy and environment. Particular focus on promoting energy efficiency and renewables proves that the OSCE keeps up with the times.

I am very pleased to underscore that, after a significant pause, we have succeeded in adopting decisions in the human dimension. We clearly pointed out the OSCE remains relevant and instrumental across all dimensions of security without any exception.

Our ministerial meeting was preceded by the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference, engaging 80 NGO and academia representatives from across the OSCE region. The dialogue with civil society should be maintained and developed.

Unfortunately, we have not been able once again to agree on political declaration, despite the efforts of the Chairmanship.

I must also say I would have been happier if we had adopted the entire human dimension set of decisions. The Chairmanship worked very hard to facilitate the negotiation process and my feeling was we came close to reaching compromise on broader scope of issues.

I do believe we can further capitalize on the groundwork made in the run-up to Kyiv in the areas of freedom of media and freedom of movement.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank you for your participation at this meeting and for your co-operation and support to the Chairmanship throughout the year.

My warmest words of gratitude and appreciation go to the Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and his able team for their dedicated assistance and advice.

I would like to thank my Special and Personal Representatives, heads of missions, heads of institutions and all staff from the OSCE family who work on a daily basis to promote the principles and goals of the Organization.

It is important to mention the tireless efforts of our Ukraine OSCE teams in Kyiv and Vienna, to whom I extend my special gratitude.

Finally, I would like to convey my best wishes of success to the incoming Swiss Chairmanship and to the next Chairperson-in-Office, my Swiss colleague Didier Burkhalter.

Wishing our Swiss friends every success in their endeavours, I would like to assure that Ukraine, as a member of the OSCE Troika in 2014, will provide full support for their fruitful Chairmanship.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

(Annex 1 to MC(20) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2013)

In connection with adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make the following statement:

We express our thanks to the Ukrainian Chairmanship and H.E. Ambassador Algayerova, Chairperson of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee for their tireless efforts to build consensus around the present decision.

We are in view that there is a need to bring focus on neutralizing risks from nuclear energy networks which are located in natural disaster prone zones, fall short of relevant safety standards and represent serious threats to security of OSCE area.

The 2007 OSCE Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security recognized that environmental impact of natural and man-made disasters, such as Chernobyl accident may have a substantial impact on security in the OSCE region and acknowledged that they may be more effectively addressed within the framework of multilateral co-operation.

In this regard, we continue to believe that the OSCE is a very useful platform for promoting transparency measures and dialogue on risks associated with nuclear power plants. Integrating these activities into the OSCE economic and environmental dimension will contribute to building confidence and strengthening comprehensive security in the OSCE area. To realize it, we invite the participating States to continue discussions on these issues in the coming years.

I request this statement to be attached to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

(Annex 2 to MC(20) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2013)

In regard to the adoption of the decision on the protection of energy networks from man-made and natural disasters the delegation of the Republic of Armenia would like to state the following:

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia reiterates that the issue of nuclear energy, being of a highly technical and specific nature, does not belong to the agenda of the OSCE. The whole spectre of the nuclear energy, including the nuclear safety and security, is being covered by the IAEA and should continue to be the case. The Republic of Armenia does not see any merit for the OSCE's involvement as it has been reconfirmed by the adopted decision.

At the same time the oil and gas infrastructure, transcending multiple borders, particularly invites co-operation within the OSCE and close scrutiny in regard of environmental impact.

We would like to request that this statement be attached to the journal of the Ministerial Council.

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Annex 3 to MC(20) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2013)

Let me from the outset thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office for the hospitality we have enjoyed during our stay in Kyiv. We would like to thank your hard-working team, as well as the Secretary General and his dedicated staff for making this Ministerial Conference a success.

Our meeting took place during challenging times in Ukraine. We hope that political dialogue among the stakeholders will bring results, leading to reducing tensions and resolution of the political crisis. In this process, OSCE principles and commitments, including the right of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as the safety of journalists, should be upheld without any reservation. We also repeat our commitment to the right of our partners to freely choose the level of ambition and goals to which they aspire in their relations with all their partners. The EU's door remains open.

Over the past year, we have worked hard to strengthen and implement our OSCE objectives, principles and commitments. During the preparations for the Ministerial Council, the European Union approach was to engage constructively with all partners, and to focus on the proposals of the Chairmanship. We appreciate the decisions agreed in all dimensions of the OSCE as well as on cross-dimensional issues, such as the decision on combating trafficking in human being. We welcome the Helsinki+40 Declaration and look forward to continuing our work towards the Astana vision of a security community. We regret that it was not possible to reach agreement on the Declaration on Afghanistan. At the same time, we are disappointed that it was not possible to agree yet that Libya can become an OSCE Partner for Co-operation.

We welcome the positive outcome in the first dimension with a Ministerial decision on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles on conventional ammunition and the Declaration on the Updated OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. However, we express our disappointment that for the second year, participating States were unable to agree on a decision on FSC-related issues; nonetheless the EU remains committed to advance further the FSC work, in particular on the modernization of the Vienna Document, and on women, peace and security. We strongly welcome the decision adopted by the Permanent Council on an initial set of confidence-building measures on cybersecurity, enhancing the toolkit of the OSCE in this important area.

In the economic and environmental dimension, we welcome the adoption of the decision on improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region, a priority for the Ukrainian Chairmanship which the European Union has supported from the outset. We furthermore welcome the decision on the protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters as a step which requires a broader focus than the decision entails.

We welcome that after two years of absence, it was possible to reach consensus in the human dimension. The important decisions on freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, and on enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, with a particular focus on Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, will strengthen our human dimension commitments. All

participating States now need to implement them fully. At the same time, we regret that due to the strong opposition of some participating States it was not possible to reach consensus on the draft decision on the protection of journalists despite earlier agreement on this issue in other international fora. The EU was ready to do so again. Especially here from Kyiv, it would have sent a powerful signal that violence, harassment and intimidation of journalists cannot be tolerated. We call upon all participating States to fully implement the international standards on safety of journalists. We showed our constructive attitude also when discussing freedom of movement and human contacts in the OSCE area on which we did not reach consensus.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the Ministerial Statement issued today on the “5+2” process and we pay tribute to the commitment and creativity shown by the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office. We also welcome the Ministerial Statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We regret that it was again not possible to agree on a statement on the Geneva International Discussions.

At the same time and for the past ten years, we have not been able to agree on a political declaration which acknowledges the realities of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE region. We deplore that we were not able to do so this year again. However, this should not stop us from doing our utmost to resolve these conflicts, including by building confidence. We owe it to the citizens of our region, and the European Union stands ready to continue our strong support to these efforts.

We welcome the recommendations of the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference which was organized by the Civic Solidarity Platform here in Kyiv before the Ministerial Council. These recommendations clearly document alarming trends as regards fundamental rights in the OSCE region and include a number of innovative proposals on how to strengthen implementation of human dimension commitments.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, I want to pledge our support to the incoming Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and wish the new Chairmanship every success.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be annexed to the journal.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Serbia¹, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia and Andorra align themselves with this statement.

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

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

(Annex 4 to MC(20) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2013)

At this significant moment for Ukraine, you have hosted and led us through a productive Ministerial. Allow me to comment on some of the progress we've made together, as well as a few missed opportunities.

The Ministerial Council sent a strong message of support for the work of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and Armenia and Azerbaijan toward a just and peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We welcome the Ministerial Statement relating to the Transnistrian conflict in Moldova, even though it does not address all the issues relevant to this Organization's work to promote a political settlement of the conflict, since it is focused exclusively on the "5+2" talks. We need to continue to focus on Summit commitments relating to Russian military withdrawal from Moldova and the need to transform the current peacekeeping force into a genuinely multinational presence. Transnistrian authorities' reported efforts to limit the movements of OSCE mission personnel are unacceptable and unhelpful.

We should have had a statement on Georgia. As we meet, fences are being built to divide people rather than bring them together. Consideration of the protracted conflicts is not optional content for the annual meeting of OSCE Ministers – development of a way ahead on Europe's protracted conflicts should be in the forefront of our work, now and in the future.

We welcome the update of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, which reflects the great progress States have made in this sphere since the first version, and the Ministerial decision on small arms and light weapons, that provides impetus to the important work of the OSCE to secure or reduce inventories of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. We regret, however, that participating States could not support a clear, direct call for the modernization of the OSCE's gold-standard collection of confidence- and stability-building mechanisms, the Vienna Document.

The U.S. worked very hard in chairing the Informal Working Group that produced the first-ever cyber CBMs and we are committed to taking this work forward.

Though we are not making a declaration on Afghanistan at this Ministerial, the 2014 transition in Afghanistan still offers the opportunity to leverage the OSCE's expertise and field presences, and to build new models of co-operation to reinforce comprehensive security in the region.

In the last 10 years, the OSCE has emerged as the premier platform for partnership in fighting human trafficking – and the Addendum to the Action Plan will pave the way for future success.

We are pleased that this Ministerial Council adopted two second dimension decisions. Energy, environmental and economic issues are clearly tied to issues of political and human security, and we are ready to do more work in this area.

We are pleased to add to the OSCE's established commitments on the fundamental freedom of religion and belief. This will complement efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination throughout the OSCE space.

The adoption of a draft decision on Roma and Sinti is timely given the unfortunate uptick in violence against Roma, as well as hateful rhetoric from political leaders. Ten years after the original OSCE-wide action plan on Roma and Sinti, we welcome this renewed focus.

In many parts of the OSCE region, journalists have been threatened, beaten or even killed because of the work they do online and offline, because they exercised their freedom of expression. I am particularly disappointed that the Russian Federation was the only delegation unable to join consensus on the Chairmanship's last draft of a decision on protection of journalists. That was, in my view, a missed opportunity for the Russian government to reaffirm its commitment to protect journalists in a country where many journalists, courageous people like Anna Politkovskaya, have been murdered.

The pioneering advancements of the OSCE over the past forty years did not come from one year to the next, and they did not come without opposition. Yet the principled and determined pursuit of comprehensive security by many participating States, and the inspiration OSCE commitments to universal principles gave to courageous citizens, ultimately shaped historic transitions and political progress.

The U.S. and others will continue to insist on the safety of journalists and defend freedom of expression. We will keep pressing for protections of human rights and fundamental freedoms online and offline. We will keep defending embattled civil society. We will keep drawing the attention of the international community to human rights abuses. We will continue to work for the resolution of protracted conflicts. We will keep pushing to modernize the Vienna document and enhance regional security. We will keep supporting citizens in their fight against corruption and their quest for economic opportunities and jobs that come from open, free economies based on rule of law. We are motivated by the universal aspirations of individuals across the OSCE space to live in dignity, freedom, prosperity and security. We are committed for the long haul.

Colleagues, last night the world lost a hero whose patience, principle, and persistence inspired countless millions. Nelson Mandela's unshakeable confidence in universal values motivated his quest for justice and his leadership as the first democratically elected leader of his country. It is fitting that we in this hall, as we reflect on our commitments, remember him as someone who saw right so clearly and did so much to advance freedom and dignity for so many. As he said, "A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones." His life's work will continue to be an example to all of us.

As Assistant Secretary Nuland noted yesterday, this Ministerial comes at a historic moment. The eyes of the world are on Ukraine, and not because of the participants in this Ministerial, but because of the many thousands of people whose hope for a better future warms Maidan even as snow blankets the city. Many around this table have reflected on events here. They have called for the protection of rights and the rejection of violence. Some have talked about how this Organization and the international community can support a way forward that reflects the aspirations of the Ukrainian people.

Civil society has also made recommendations about how the OSCE could help build trust needed for political progress, and asked all of us, including the Chairmanship, to support the OSCE's potential contributions on the ground.

The Ukrainian government will either meet Ukrainian citizens' demands for reform, justice and the chance to shape a future in partnership with Europe, or it will disappoint them. The United States continues to stand by the people of Ukraine and their aspirations for a European future with freedom, opportunity and prosperity.

President Yanukovych and other senior members of the government have pledged to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of Ukrainian citizens, and to investigate and bring to justice perpetrators of violations. Those promises must be kept – not just while citizens are demonstrating in streets and squares and ministers are gathered in Kyiv – but over the long term. I have heard from civil society their concerns that once ministers leave town, they will be more vulnerable. The world will be watching how the coming days and weeks unfold and will measure leaders by how they keep the promises they've made and fulfil their obligations to the Ukrainian people.

I would like once again to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office for your hospitality, and to offer my thanks to you, Foreign Minister Kozhara, and your team and, of course, Ambassador Prokopchuk and his team for your tireless efforts over the last year.

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

(Annex 5 to MC(20) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2013)

We should also like to thank the Chairmanship for their hospitality and the wonderful conditions for holding this meeting of the Ministerial Council.

A cross-cutting theme of the Ministerial Council meeting was that of exploring ways of forming an equal and indivisible security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok, in line with the tasks set by the 2010 Astana Summit. We note that the process of reflection included considering the possibility of bringing various integration processes within the OSCE area together under the umbrella of our Organization. This topic genuinely has a great deal of potential because it reflects the original purpose of the OSCE, which was founded to eliminate dividing lines throughout Europe.

In this connection, we appreciate the Helsinki+40 process, which started this year, aiming to bring us closer to achieving the goal of a “security community” and to breathe new life into the Organization. We have just adopted an important declaration on its further development, which is the main political document emerging from this meeting. We trust that the discussion will move to another level next year: finding practical ways to revitalize the Organization and increase its effectiveness.

We regret that it has not been possible to adopt a declaration on Afghanistan.

We welcome the adoption of the declaration on transnational threats as a substantive step towards bolstering the OSCE’s endeavours to resolve the pressing problems of the continent: specifically, combating drug trafficking and terrorism. These issues will be amongst the priorities of the Russian presidency of the Group of Eight (G8) in 2014. We note the positive outcome of work to finalize an initial set of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies.

We note with satisfaction the progress made regarding politico-military aspects of security. The adoption of decisions on small arms and light weapons and on the update of the Principles Governing Non-Proliferation shows a positive trend in the area of “hard security”. We trust that the constructive dialogue on these issues will continue.

This year, the unifying potential of the economic and environmental dimension was confirmed. The Ministerial Council has also acquired valuable assets in the form of documents on the environmental footprint of energy-related activities and on the protection of non-nuclear energy infrastructure from natural and man-made disasters. The approval of these texts was a good example of constructive work based on the common interests of all countries.

Unfortunately, work on the human dimension once again revealed major problems. We are deeply disappointed that it has not been possible to reach agreement on such fundamentally important issues as freedom of movement in the OSCE area. We see a link between this and the fact that several States are not prepared to fulfil their political commitments to simplify visa regimes, as prescribed in the Helsinki Final Act. We strongly

urge them to reconsider their positions. We trust that dialogue within the OSCE on this topic will continue.

The Russian Federation has been an active participant in discussions regarding the draft decision on the protection of journalists. We believe that media professionals genuinely require protection when carrying out their duties. Certain differences of opinion meant that it was not possible for us to adopt a decision in this regard. Nonetheless, the Russian Federation calls upon participating States to devote the greatest attention to this issue.

We are pleased that during the meeting of the Ministerial Council, decisions were adopted on combating trafficking in human beings, on freedom of religion, and on improving the situation of Roma and Sinti. We hope that their implementation by all participating States will contribute to the creation of a common humanitarian community in the OSCE's zone of responsibility.

We believe that the Ukrainian Chairmanship has been a successful one. We should like to congratulate our Ukrainian colleagues. They have genuinely strived to act as an "honest broker", and have had a balanced approach to reflecting the priorities of all participating States in the agenda of the Organization.

We wish our Swiss and Serbian colleagues, who will take up the baton of Chairmanship in 2014 and 2015, every success in this difficult arena. For our part, we intend to consistently support efforts towards unity in our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.

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

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

(Annex 6 to MC(20) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2013)

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chairperson, the Republic of Moldova welcomes the adoption by the Ministerial Council of a number of important ministerial documents in all three dimensions.

In particular we welcome the Ministerial Statement on the Work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” Format. We believe that this statement is an important step in generating political will and building a common approach among participating States towards this conflict. By adopting the Ministerial Statement we reconfirm the key role of the OSCE in this process.

Let me highlight some important elements of the document. The Ministerial Statement reaffirms strong determination of all OSCE participating States to achieve a comprehensive resolution based on sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for Transnistria. This is a very clear answer of the international community to the rhetoric regarding separation which is coming from Tiraspol. The document underlines the need to achieve tangible progress on all three baskets of the agreed agenda of the 5+2 negotiations. Let me stress in this regard that opening of the discussions on the political aspects of the conflict resolution – so called “third basket” – becomes an increasing necessity.

The document calls for intensification of the efforts aimed at promoting confidence- and security-building measures and underlines the need to refrain from unilateral actions that could lead to deterioration of the security situation in the region. This is a very timely appeal since we continue to hear about some worrying developments around the Latin-script schools in the region. Moreover, the document sets a number of priorities for future, in particular the need to continue work on ensuring freedom of movement of people, goods and services, as well as encourages the sides to take advantage of all trade and investments opportunities. Emerging Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between Moldova and the EU is indeed such an opportunity. An important issue that could have been reflected in the statement is support to the OSCE Mission which experiences an increasing pressure from the Transnistrian structures.

Mr. Chairperson, let me point out that the political context in which the Transnistrian settlement process is taking place is much more complex and a number of issues go beyond the framework of the 5+2 talks. A broader picture includes issues of our longstanding concern such as unfulfilled commitments regarding the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova and the issue of transformation of the existing peacekeeping arrangement into a multinational, civilian mission.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all delegations for the constructive work.

Mr. Chairperson, I request this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you.

IV. REPORTS TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE, CHAIRPERSON OF THE
TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/2/13 of 29 November 2013)

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 2013.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted this year's FSC Chairmanships, which in addition to Luxembourg, are Liechtenstein and Lithuania. During 2013, the Chairmanships continuously worked in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity, balance and efficiency in the implementation of their working programme.

The focus of the FSC's work in 2013 continued to be on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security building measures (CSBMs), 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 2012–2013 regarding these aspects of its work.

Initiatives put forward by delegations had by November led to the adoption of five decisions, which were designed to support the implementation of existing commitments. The FSC also contributed within its mandate to the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC).

Furthermore, the FSC Chairmanships of 2013 provided to the Chairmanship-in-Office an overview of the initial input of the FSC Chairs towards the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/12, which reflects the activities of the FSC, notably the Security Dialogues, from January to November 2013 (FSC.DEL/183/13/Rev.1).

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, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, United Nations Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000).

The FSC also contributed to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, held from 19 and 20 June 2013. The Discussions during the Conference focused on enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States, including Astana Commemorative Declaration and recent Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 6/11, 7/11, and 8/11. The session also provided an opportunity to exchange views on issues related to arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in the OSCE area, such as the Vienna Document 2011, affording an opportunity to address outstanding challenges and opportunities at a strategic level.

Finally, all three FSC Chairmanships in 2013 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, one joint FSC-PC meeting had been held by October 2013 on Challenges linked to Afghanistan after 2014 to address cross-dimensional issues relevant to the work of both the FSC and the PC.

FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TWENTIETH 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/2/13 of 29 November 2013)

1. Introduction and objective

This report provides an overview, in chronological order, of the efforts undertaken in the FSC in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), during the period from November 2012 to November 2013.¹

The report also addresses the information exchanged in the FSC between participating States on the implementation of agreed CSBMs, normative initiatives and developments in the Forum, as well as other related activities carried out in the OSCE. The report reflects the discussions that took place and the decisions adopted in the FSC. Detailed information on implementation can be found in the Conflict Prevention Centre's (CPC) Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 and Other Measures, which was submitted to the 2013 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM).²

2. Efforts by the FSC since the Dublin Meeting of the Ministerial Council

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

In December 2012, a Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres was held. The Meeting served to exchange experiences and information on technical aspects of implementation. For the first time, the Meeting of Heads of Verification Centres was held during one full day and consisted of three parallel informal working groups. The working groups discussed: (1) current challenges and shortcomings in the implementation with regard to visits to airbases, visits to military facilities and demonstrations of new types of major weapons and equipment systems; (2) inspections and evaluation visits; and (3) implications of budgetary cuts and declining resources. A great number of suggestions were made which were reflected in the CPC's report to the 2013 AIAM.³

In January 2013, Mongolia presented its national security strategy and defence policy during an FSC Security Dialogue. In February 2013, Ukraine presented its new military doctrine and new national security strategy, and Kazakhstan made a presentation on its armed forces in the modern environment.

1 The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 15 November 2013.

2 FSC.GAL/15/13.

3 A report on this meeting is available under FSC.GAL/160/12.

In February 2013, a Security Dialogue was held in the FSC on the topics of the Vienna Document 2011, CSBMs and conventional arms control. The participating States recognized a growing interest for these topics and expressed their readiness for a constructive exchange of views and discussions. The Vienna Document 2011 has been widely recognized as an important tool for the participating States, which should be steadily modernized. The ultimate goals of the confidence- and security-building measures anchored in the Vienna Document 2011 are military predictability and transparency.

The twenty-third Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting was held in March 2013. The Meeting provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions and assess the state of implementation. At the meeting, more than 50 suggestions were made on ways of further improving the implementation of agreed CSBMs.⁴

On 13 March 2013, the FSC adopted Vienna Document Plus Decision No. 1/13 on changes in the context of the accession of Mongolia to the OSCE. It was specified that the zone of application for CSBMs will not extend to Mongolia's territory, unless the Ministerial Council determines otherwise, and in that regard, Vienna Document commitments that apply only to the zone of application will apply to any Mongolian forces in the zone but not to the territory of Mongolia.

The FSC also adopted Vienna Document Plus Decision No. 2/13 to update the reference in the Vienna Document 2011 with regard to the title of the United Nations Instrument for Standardized International Reporting of Military Expenditures.

In March 2013, a presentation was given by Germany on the reorientation of the *Bundeswehr*.

In July 2013, a Security Dialogue was held on the new French defence strategy.

On 17 July 2013, the FSC adopted Vienna Document Plus Decision No. 4/13 on the duration of visits to air bases. The duration of such a visit was limited to up to 24 hours, which will allow for a better combination of events within a country but also with neighbours.

In 2013, the FSC also held a series of three Security Dialogues on the role conventional arms control and CSBMs can play in contemporary and future European security architecture.⁵ In May 2013, an FSC Security Dialogue was held on arms control in Europe and on the role of arms control in the context of threats and challenges to European security, which included speakers from academia. In October 2013, a second Security Dialogue was held on "Security in a new decade; shaping of security and arms control in Europe". The third and last Security Dialogue was held on "Arms control in Europe" in November 2013.

These Security Dialogues gave the opportunity to academia to present thought-provoking ideas. The discussions demonstrated that the existing arms control

4 The survey of suggestions is available under FSC.AIAM/25/13.

5 In line with FSC.DEL/20/13.

regimes are mutually reinforcing. The Vienna Document 2011 on CSBMs complements the existing legally binding regimes, but cannot substitute them. Thus, the negotiations on specific regimes have to be conducted within the respective dedicated forums, while the Security Dialogues offer a platform for exchanges of views.

Furthermore, in March 2013, an informal Security Days Event on conventional arms control in Europe was organized by the OSCE Secretary General in Vienna. The Secretary General reported to the FSC on this event on 14 March.⁶

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.

In addition, 22 proposals and draft decisions covering five chapters of the Vienna Document 2011 are under discussion in the FSC. The suggestions 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 as regards 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;

6 SEC.GAL/52/13.

- 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.

3. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation

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

The level of CSBM implementation under the Vienna Document 2011 in the OSCE region remained relatively steady during the past five years, 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).

By 15 November 2013, 55 participating States had provided information under the AEMI in 2013. For defence planning and defence budgets, the numbers are significantly lower. So far, only 47 participating States have provided information on their defence planning in 2013, while 49 have provided information about their defence budgets. In addition, there are four participating States that have not submitted any information on their defence planning or defence budgets during the past five years.

In the reporting period, verification activities were also conducted under Chapter IX of the Vienna Document 2011. By 15 November 2013, 84 inspections and 38 evaluation visits had been conducted. Those numbers are comparable to last year's numbers, which were 81 and 34, respectively, by 16 November 2012.

In 2013, no activity took place under Vienna Document 2011 Chapter III – Risk Reduction.

In 2013, 51 participating States were connected to the OSCE Communications Network; two participating States having military forces remained unconnected. The reliability of the Network remained very high, with the central servers in Vienna available 99.9 per cent of the time. In addition, 2013 saw an increase of participating States availability on the Network as they replaced obsolete equipment. This migration to new technologies alleviated issues that were persistent in a small number of participating States. Over half (36) of the participating States are now available at least 99 per cent of the time, and the overall availability of all the end-user stations connected to the Network exceeds 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, many technological upgrades were approved and performed on the central servers as well as on the Communications Network end-user stations. Bandwidth to the central servers was increased and equipment was upgraded to meet modern standards and the potential for expanded capabilities of the Network. Furthermore, approving and implementing technologies for use on the end-user stations shall bring all aspects of the Network to a contemporary infrastructure and will increase availability, reliability and security.

In 2012, the Communications Network incorporated the use of the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea and in 2013 integrated this Document into INA to formalize the Parties' notification processes. The Document joins another regional agreement, the Dayton Peace Accords, as well as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Open Skies Treaty, and the Vienna Document 2011, using the Communications Network to exchange information in order to enhance transparency amongst participating States.

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

In February 2013, the CPC participated by video conference in the Fifth Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) for the Organization of American States (OAS). On this occasion, the Vienna Document 2011 was presented as one of the most sophisticated CSBMs of the OSCE.

From 25 to 27 June 2013, the Office in Tajikistan conducted an introductory workshop on OSCE CSBMs for eight high-ranking officers from Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence, led by two Major-Generals. The delegation was headed by the Deputy Head of the Department on International Military Co-operation and included the Chief of the Education Department and other officers from Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence.

The activity was carried out in co-operation with experts from the Verification Centre of Tajikistan's Ministry of Defence. During the three-day event, the Afghan participants were familiarized with the OSCE instruments on arms control and confidence- and

security-building, as well as provisions of the Vienna Document 2011. The workshop also served as an excellent platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas on future co-operation in the area of arms control and CSBMs. The Tajik Verification Centre has improved its skills through the many years of OSCE support and is equipped with skilled personnel and conditions to independently undertake activities on the Vienna Document 2011.

In September 2013, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Co-operation, with the participation of the CPC, organized a course entitled “Confidence- (and Security-) Building Measures (C(S)BM): Oversight and Building Integrity, Expanded” in Budva, Montenegro, which included presentations on challenges related to the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek has facilitated a communications linkage between the Ministry of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic and the OSCE Communications Network for several years. The Ministry of Defence representatives were able to participate in the Vienna Document 2011 annual seminars and training events organized by the OSCE Centre in Astana. The CSBM seminars in Astana served as a platform where participants were able to share information and experience on aspects of the implementation of Vienna Document 2011, including inspection of weapons and equipment systems. In addition, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek supported the participation of a representative of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence verification unit in the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting held in Vienna on 4 and 5 March 2013 and in the biannual Meeting of Heads of Verification Centres in Vienna in December 2012.

In addition, the CPC also provided regular lecturers on the Vienna Document 2011 at courses of the NATO School in Oberammergau in February, September and November 2013. The CPC also lectured at the Annual Exchange of Military Information Course in June 2013 at the NATO School.

In November 2013, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supported a CSBM seminar that was held in Sarajevo. The seminar is part of the continued efforts to increase confidence and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina and within the OSCE region through enhanced openness, transparency and predictability. Bosnia and Herzegovina, with support by the OSCE Mission, utilizes a wide variety of tailored instruments to achieve this aim in the military field. Seminar presentations, discussions on the modernization of the Vienna Document 2011 and the preparation of data for the information exchanges have contributed to advancing skills and the performance of the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces in the field of arms control and verification regimes, and have helped to further build confidence.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina also supported participation of the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the 2013 AIAM as a part of efforts that contribute to the general objective of improving compliance with OSCE politico-military commitments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and advancing the information exchanges. The activity supported greater involvement of the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in achieving competent understanding and implementation of CSBMs and of the Vienna Document 2011 and strengthened their role in the Council of Ministers Co-ordination Team on Implementation of the OSCE/UN Security Commitments.

The Centre in Astana, in co-operation with the Defence Ministry and the Secretariat's FSC Support Section, from 21 to 24 May 2013, organized a four-day regional training

seminar for military officers on the practical implementation of the Vienna Document 2011. Nearly 40 military representatives from Belarus, France, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan took part in the seminar to discuss developments in the field of confidence- and security-building measures. The seminar included theoretical exercises and a simulated inspection visit to the 36th Air Assault Brigade near Astana. The participants carried out the evaluation in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011 on compliance and verification.

In co-operation with Kazakhstan's Defence Ministry, from 16 to 19 September, the Centre also jointly organized two visits to military bases under the Vienna Document 2011. Throughout the four-day event, some 50 military officers from 29 participating States were able to visit the 610th Air Base located in Karaganda and the 36th Air Assault Brigade located in Astana. This was the first time that officers from Mongolia had taken part in an air base visit in the framework of the Vienna Document 2011. Representatives of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia were also invited to visit the military installations in Karaganda and Astana. The visit aimed to promote the sharing of information, including details on the number of air sorties and the types of missions conducted, to enhance mutual trust and transparency.

5. Conclusion

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

Discussing CSBMs and conventional arms control is also understood as a process, not only as an end in itself. In that regard, 2013 confirmed that the OSCE represents an appropriate venue for exchange of views and discussions. The Security Dialogues of the FSC and the Security Days gave opportunities to academia to present thought-provoking ideas. The increased exchanges of views in 2013, as well as the growing sharing of information on military activities and policy within the Forum for Security Co-operation, have improved the climate of confidence.

The discussions conducted in 2013 demonstrated that the existing arms control regimes are mutually reinforcing; the Vienna Document 2011 on CSBMs is complementing the existing legally binding regimes, but cannot substitute them. Thus, the negotiations on specific regimes have to be conducted within their respective dedicated fora, while the Security Dialogues of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Security Days are offering a platform for exchange of views. The participating States recognized a growing interest in these topics and expressed their readiness for constructive exchange of views and structured discussions.

The Vienna Document 2011 has the value of politically binding the 57 participating States of the OSCE. It is recognized as an essential tool of the politico-military dimension in the hands of the participating States and should be continuously modernized. The ultimate goals of the confidence- and security-building measures anchored in the Vienna Document 2011 are military predictability and transparency, which enhance stability within the OSCE region.

The Vienna Document 2011 continues to be a well-balanced instrument with a high level of implementation. It also has significant potential for development, as illustrated by the 22 proposals published and sponsored by a large number of participating States. The updating and modernization of the Vienna Document 2011 is an ongoing process; in 2013, the Forum for Security Co-operation adopted three decisions, complementing the ten decisions taken since the start of its modernization.

Throughout 2013, the FSC engaged in active discussions on a great number of proposals, taking into consideration issues concerning both the improvement of current implementation modalities and the development of new CSBMs. Also, the AIAM 2013 afforded an important opportunity to discuss these issues at a strategic level. As strategic issues are taken up, further modernization requires in-depth discussions before comprehensive negotiations are conducted.

The regional and subregional dimension of conventional arms control is also an important aspect which has been taken into account. The numerous regional agreements also largely contributed to regional and subregional security and stability in 2013.

For example, the active implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, which was adopted under the Article IV of Annex 1-B to the Dayton Peace Agreement, has made an immeasurable contribution to confidence- and security-building and is considered as a good illustration. The OSCE Communications Network, which represents a CSBM in itself, continues to be a highly reliable tool and has been further expanded to support regional confidence-building.

FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TWENTIETH 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/2/13 of 29 November 2013)

1. Introduction and objective

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

This report highlights the progress achieved in respect of efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct. The report addresses the information exchange between participating States on the implementation of the Code and efforts undertaken in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and covers the period from November 2012 to November 2013.¹

2. Efforts by the FSC

Since the Dublin meeting of the Ministerial Council in December 2012, the FSC has continued to work towards enhanced implementation of the Code.

On 27 February 2013, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on “Human rights and fundamental freedoms in the armed forces – including women’s access to combat positions”, which included a speaker from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). FSC members were encouraged to analyse current security sector policies and consider lifting any remaining ban on servicewomen’s access to front-line positions, which has a discriminatory effect on their careers. This FSC Security Dialogue served as the launch for a series of ODIHR events in 2013 to discuss human rights and gender with members of the FSC in Vienna. The first event, entitled “Armed Forces and Women’s Access to Combat Positions”, was held on 19 April 2013. The discussion focussed on the details of developing and implementing a policy that grants women full access to all positions and roles in the military, including combat positions. Speakers came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Moldova, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Turkey and the United States of America. Approximately 60 participants were present and comments from the floor were supportive and demonstrated interest on the part of the FSC.

1 The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 15 November 2013.

In March 2013, a presentation was made on the strengthening of compliance with international humanitarian law in the framework of an FSC Security Dialogue, with a speaker from Switzerland.

On 10 July 2013, the second Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct was held in Vienna. The meeting was organized 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 second Annual Implementation Discussion provided a unique opportunity for experts from delegations and capitals to discuss how to promote and improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct, including its annual information exchange; to undertake an evaluation of the Code; as well as to examine its application in the context of the existing political and military situation.

During the meeting, a great number of proposals were made on the development and implementation of the Code of Conduct. The suggestions pertained, *inter alia*, to a strengthened outreach of the Code of Conduct, increased co-operation with other international and regional organizations, enlargement of the scope of the annual questionnaire, a qualitative assessment of the yearly information exchange, the development of model answers and the inclusion of the issues of women, peace and security in the annual information exchange.

Several participating States also called for a stronger involvement of OSCE field operations in promoting the Code, for the development of a compilation of practical examples of the democratic control of armed and security forces, and for the development of an overarching institutional framework for OSCE security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) activities. A survey of suggestions was established pursuant to the meeting.²

The FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct held informal consultations which led to the creation of an Informal Group of Friends in July 2013. This Informal Group of Friends serves to exchange views and ideas on how to promote the Code of Conduct and to strengthen its implementation.

On 14 October 2013, the ODIHR organized the second event in the series entitled “The Role of Ombuds Institutions in Protecting Human Rights of Armed Forces Personnel”. Key topics discussed were exercising independent oversight, handling complaints and setting up independent ombuds offices for the armed forces. The keynote address, delivered by H.E. Elisabeth Rehn, Minister of State of Finland, focused on mainstreaming human rights and gender in the security sector. The event brought together speakers from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Finland, Germany, Georgia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Serbia, and the United Kingdom. The presentations fostered a rich discussion amongst the 60 participants in the event.

On 6 November, the FSC organized a Security Dialogue on human rights of armed forces personnel and the role of ombudspersons, with the participation of the Director of the ODIHR. The OSCE comprehensive concept of security, and an approach to security centred on the individual were emphasized. It was also noted that the main responsibility to protect the rights of women and men serving in the armed forces lies with the military itself. Key

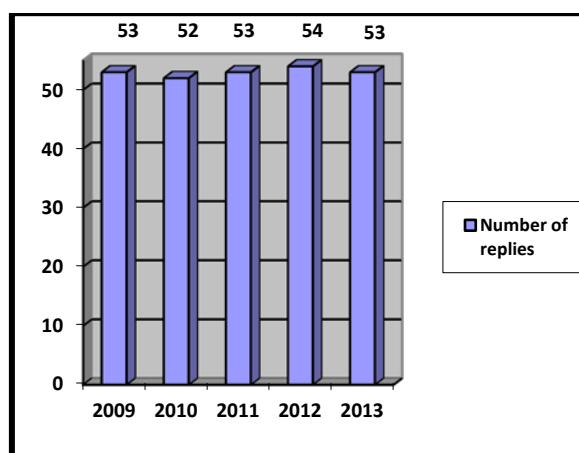
2 The survey of suggestions can be found under FSC.GAL/85/13.

factors that can enable ombuds institutions to effectively protect human rights in the armed forces were discussed.

In November 2013, a Security Dialogue took place on private military and security companies (PMSCs). It was pointed out that only three participating States had provided voluntary information on PMSCs in their 2013 annual information exchange.

3. Information exchange

The OSCE participating States have agreed to exchange information annually on the implementation of the Code, 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 OSCE participating States provided information about their efforts in implementing the Code of Conduct (see graphs below).



The annual information exchange is a unique mechanism for fostering international transparency with regard to armed 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.³

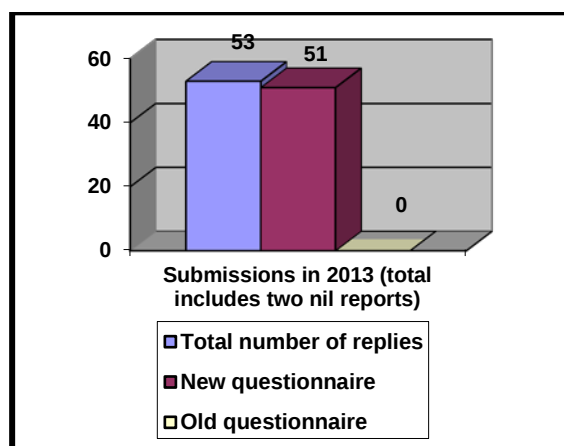
A statistical report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was prepared by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) in July 2013.⁴ In accordance with FSC Decision No. 12/11, this report was based on the 2013 annual information exchange under the Code of Conduct and was limited to the provision of statistical data related to implementation. Common practices were highlighted in general terms only, and the report did not enter into comparisons of national policies or provide any assessment of implementation.

In 2013, by 1 November 2013, 53 participating States had provided information on their implementation activities.

3 Please visit: <http://www.osce.org/fsc/86841>.

4 FSC.GAL/77/13.

In 2009, the participating States agreed to update the format of the questionnaire. For the first time since then, 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, 35 participating States provided information on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security (2012: 27 participating States). Furthermore, in accordance with the interpretative statement appended to FSC Decision No. 2/09, three participating States included information related to private military and security companies (PMSCs) in their 2013 returns (2012: five participating States).

In 2010, a reference guide on the Code of Conduct Questionnaire has been developed as a voluntary tool to facilitate the annual information exchange. On 10 July 2013, translated versions in all OSCE official languages have been provided by the Secretariat to the participating States.⁵

4. Awareness-raising and outreach

FSC Decision No. 1/08, on awareness-raising and outreach, tasked the OSCE Secretariat with organizing, in co-operation with other international organizations or with participating States, at least one specialized extrabudgetary seminar or workshop a year in order to facilitate better implementation, to promote awareness and to support outreach in respect of the Code of Conduct. The decision also encourages participating States to contribute extrabudgetary funds to make possible such events, and calls upon the FSC Chairperson to engage the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

In accordance with this decision, from 11 to 13 September 2013, the CPC, in co-operation with the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, organized the sixth Regional Conference for the Mediterranean Region in Malta. The Conference was attended by high-level participants from ministries of foreign affairs, defence or interior of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The participants also included representatives of the

Northern Mediterranean participating States, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the ODIHR, and academia.

The Conference was opened by the Foreign Minister of Malta and focused on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in the region and on the outreach of this key normative document. In particular, the democratic control of armed and security forces, parliamentary oversight, security sector reform, and the respect for international humanitarian law were discussed. Previous regional seminars were held in Kazakhstan (2008), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2009), Belarus (2010), Ukraine (2011) and Latvia (2012). The seminars were funded by Austria, Germany and Switzerland through extrabudgetary contributions.

In 2013, the CPC was also very active in promoting and improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct across the OSCE region.

In February 2013, the CPC participated by video conference in the Fifth Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) of the Organization of American States (OAS). On this occasion, the Code of Conduct was presented as one of the most advanced CSBMs in the OSCE toolkit.

In March 2013, the CPC helped to organize a meeting of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, where the Arabic version⁶ of the Code of Conduct was presented. This translation was provided as a contribution in kind from Germany and Switzerland, pursuant to the request by the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to the OSCE Secretary General. In May 2013, the CPC presented this Arabic version of the Code of Conduct to the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

On 19 July 2013, a joint Partners Contact Group meeting was held which focused on the Code of Conduct and included presentations on security sector reform in the Mediterranean region and Afghanistan as well as the respect for international humanitarian law.

In September 2013, the CPC participated in a training event organized for members of the parliamentary assembly of Kosovo.⁷

During the reporting period, the OSCE field operations were also actively promoting implementation of the Code through awareness-raising and training activities:

The OSCE Office in Yerevan is promoting the implementation of the Code of Conduct as a key activity. The Ministry of Defence over the past two years has become significantly more transparent in dealing with non-combat deaths and displays a genuine political will to improve the situation. In December 2012, a comprehensive action plan for 2013 on the improvement of the human rights situation, strengthening of the educational component on human rights, as well as ensuring of transparency and reduction of corruption in the armed forces, was signed between the Office and the Ministry of Defence. The Office's activities in this area during the reporting period were based on this plan.

6 <http://www.osce.org/ar/fsc/99216>.

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

The Office in Yerevan strives to enhance democratic control of the armed forces through increased transparency and accountability by working with the Ministry of Defence, civil society and parliament. The human rights situation in the armed forces is closely monitored. With civil society, the Office is working on several projects aimed at assisting the Ministry of Defence in its efforts to improve the human rights situation in the armed forces. These projects relate to provision of legal advice for future conscripts and their relatives on military service issues, delivery of lectures on military psychology for high school students, as well as the elaboration of a new textbook on military sociology.

In 2012, there were parliamentary elections in Armenia and the new Standing Committee on Defence, National Security and Internal Affairs was formed. The Office has established good working relations with this Committee, and the members of parliament fully understand the important role of the Committee in the civilian and democratic control of the overall security sector, and support the reforms in the security sector. The Committee has expressed a strong political will to co-operate with the Office and other international organizations with a view to strengthening its capacities aimed at boosting security sector reforms.

At the Office's initiative, the Government of Armenia has applied to the Government of Austria to support the organization of a security sector reform (SSR) course for relevant officials in Armenia. The Austrian side kindly extended support and provided the training in June 2013, with the backing of the CPC. This was very important, since it creates a sound background for elaborating an SSR strategy. It is also worth mentioning that, due to the Office's direct assistance, the Committee has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) for the period 2013–2015 and several parliamentary hearings and international seminars related to effective oversight of the armed forces in Armenia have been jointly organized by DCAF, the Office and the Committee.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina remained very active in promoting the Code of Conduct. In November 2012, the fifth Politico-Military Review Conference took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the implementation of politico-military commitments under the OSCE and the United Nations. The event afforded an opportunity to recognize achievements and current challenges and to identify solutions for an overall improvement in implementation.

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a decision establishing the Co-ordination Team for the Implementation of the OSCE/UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 2013. The Team will co-ordinate the activities for preparing information exchanges, and will analyse and monitor the implementation of the politico-military commitments.

In reference to the implementation at the regional level, it has been agreed that Bosnia and Herzegovina should be an initiator of the regional gathering of the parliamentary defence and security committees, with the assistance of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the CPC. The Regional Seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for Parliamentarians was held from 23 to 25 October 2013, in Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Seminar brought together the chairpersons of defence committees of the region and focused on current developments in the realm of parliamentary oversight and democratic control of armed and security forces. The

event constituted an excellent opportunity to identify synergies, challenges and opportunities, as well as to exchange information on best practices among parliamentarians of the south-eastern European region on the implementation of the Code of Conduct with regard to democratic control. This extrabudgetary project was supported by Germany and Switzerland.

Pursuant to the conclusions of the fifth Review Conference, the Ministry of Defence initiated the development of a concept for the improvement of the integration of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina into civil society. The concept focuses on adequate democratic control of the armed forces, respect of the human rights of armed forces personnel and adequate presentation of the armed forces and their activities in the public. The draft concept is to be adopted in 2014.

As a follow-up to the Review Conference, training on the Code of Conduct for lecturers in police education was also held in April 2013. The event provided a good forum for presenting the Code of Conduct to the relevant representatives of the police education system. The importance of the Code's provisions and principles for the creation of an appropriate, democratic and accountable security sector to which the police forces are integral was emphasized.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) has continuously called for more progress on the Code of Conduct, confirming its support for full implementation in several resolutions over the past years. This year, the OSCE PA was active in engaging parliamentarians in discussions on the Code of Conduct throughout the OSCE region. In September 2013, Makis Voridis, Chair of the OSCE PA's Committee on Political Affairs and Security, addressed the Regional Conference for the Mediterranean Region held in Malta. He emphasized the OSCE PA's commitment to parliamentary oversight of military affairs.

In October 2013, Roberto Battelli, Special Representative on South-East Europe, represented the OSCE PA at the Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians, held in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the opening session, he gave a speech outlining the position of the OSCE PA on the Code of Conduct, stressing the support given by the OSCE PA in the early stages of drafting of the Code of Conduct. He further discussed the congruence of the calls by the OSCE PA for democratic oversight of military affairs and the emphasis in the Code of Conduct on democratization and transparency in the armed forces.

5. Conclusions

In 2013, it was once more proven 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.

A highlight of the year 2013 was the translation of the Code of Conduct into Arabic, provided by Germany and Switzerland, as well as the Regional Conference for the Mediterranean Region held in Malta from 11 to 13 September. This high-level Conference brought together the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) and the OSCE participating States of the Northern Mediterranean region. The Conference was hosted by the Government of Malta and opened by its Foreign Minister, Mr. George Vella.

The Conference was carried out with the support of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, in co-operation with the Maltese Diplomatic Academy, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), DCAF and the OSCE PA. The Conference participants generally agreed that the Code of Conduct remains a relevant and valuable document in the current security and political environment.

The broad and high-level representation of practically all the Mediterranean countries at the Conference in itself testifies to the continued relevance of the Code of Conduct in setting guidelines for civil-military relations in and beyond the OSCE area. The League of Arab States also displayed a genuine interest in the Code of Conduct at the Conference and expressed its gratitude for the presentation of the translated version at its headquarters in Cairo earlier in May.

The second Annual Implementation Discussion on the Code of Conduct, held in July 2013 in Vienna, provided an opportunity for the participating States and experts to exchange experiences and to share their views on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in the current political and military situation, as mandated by the Ministerial Council in Vilnius and FSC Decision No. 12/11. The second Annual Implementation Discussion, on 10 July 2013, was generally considered a success, and a great number of proposals were made for improving the implementation and outreach of the Code of Conduct. For the next meeting, in 2014, it was also proposed that more time should be planned for discussions and that the agenda could reflect more closely the structure and content of the Code of Conduct.

One day later, at the first meeting of the Informal Group of Friends, it was recommended that increasing use should be made of FSC Working Group A to provide information about and to discuss issues relating to the Code of Conduct. The participants welcomed the presentation of the Swiss food-for-thought paper on development of a compilation of practical examples for the democratic control of armed and security forces. It was suggested that the document should be non-prescriptive and serve as a helpful reference for participating States. More meetings of the Informal Group of Friends, if possible, one every three months, are foreseen in 2014.

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 2013. In particular the series of discussions on human rights issues which the ODIHR organized during the year were very successful. These events contributed significantly to the discussions in the FSC. Further discussions in 2014 on topical issues related to human rights in the context of the Code of Conduct will be very much welcomed.

Regarding the information exchange in 2013, a continuing very high level of commitment could be observed in terms of the number as well as the improved quality of replies. Again, a great number of participating States voluntarily provided additional information on women, peace and security, and a few States provided information on private and military security companies. This certainly enriched the 2013 annual information exchange in terms of quality. Several participating States stated that an agreement should be reached among all the OSCE participating States to include information on women, peace and security as an integral part of the Code of Conduct Questionnaire.

In the spring of 2014, an OSCE-wide workshop in Belgrade is foreseen. This workshop will make it possible to increase the internal coherence of the OSCE, its field operations, institutions and Secretariat in supporting and promoting the Code of Conduct and its effective implementation in the OSCE area.

This workshop will be the first of its kind. Serbia, as the incoming holder of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2015, is optimally placed to host this event and to share its priorities with regard to the Code of Conduct.

The translation of the Code of Conduct into Arabic, and a possible event in 2014 in a country of the Southern Mediterranean Partners could contribute further to the positive momentum in the Arabic world.

Also, presentations on best practices and country-specific implementation experiences would constitute promising avenues.

In this respect, a peer-to-peer review among regional OSCE countries could serve as an excellent opportunity to increase transparency and to contribute to confidence-building.

Last but not least, the third Annual Implementation Discussion, in July 2014, will serve as an important opportunity to discuss the Code of Conduct in the light of its twentieth anniversary and to address its implementation in a balanced, structured and focused manner.

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

(Annex 3 to MC.GAL/2/13 of 29 November 2013)

Executive summary

This progress report provides comprehensive factual information on the status of implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for the period from November 2012 to November 2013.

During the reporting period, the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) conducted its activities aimed at combating the proliferation of illicit SALW and preventing destabilizing accumulations. Although the Forum remained focused on the full implementation of agreed SALW-related commitments, including through the means of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, it also conducted a review of its commitments in the light of other global instruments, such as the UN Programme of Action on SALW, the International Tracing Instrument, the UN Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and had preliminary discussions about whether any updating of OSCE documents or commitments would be necessary.

In this period, the FSC held four Security Dialogues devoted to SALW, and other activities were conducted in other formats and venues. These included expert-level training on enforcement of brokering controls, commodity identification training in military and dual-use goods and an inaugural conference on tracing of illicit SALW that was jointly organized with UNODA, UNODC and INTERPOL. In addition, the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) was represented at the Group of Government Experts meeting in Geneva in April 2013, during which the OSCE best practices were presented. Alongside these formal steps, the Informal Group of Friends on SALW resumed its work and is capitalizing on the impetus generated by the aforementioned activities. Among other things, this has resulted in a number of participating States taking the initiative on proposals that are being actively discussed.

The level of implementation of annual SALW information exchanges remained stable during 2013. Following the issuing of an updated template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11), by 15 November 2013, 28 participating States had provided information in the new format, which facilitates comparability and comprehensiveness with respect to the information provided.

The practical assistance given to OSCE participating States through the implementation of SALW projects remains a key component in the work undertaken to improve security and stability in the OSCE area. The present report notes the continuation of project activities in Belarus and the Kyrgyz Republic, the completion of implementation of the National SALW Strategy in Montenegro and the request for assistance in the destruction of SALW in Albania. The total amount of pledges for OSCE SALW projects during 2012–2013 amounted to 870,000 euros. The extrabudgetary contributions and fundraising remain a core issue.

Finally, in line with its mandate, the OSCE Secretariat has further enhanced its co-operation with other international organizations dealing with SALW-related issues. In addition to the formal co-operation agreements already in place with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the OSCE Secretariat has updated a Joint Action Plan with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which will further promote effective planning and efficient use of resources.

1. Introduction

The OSCE Document on 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 makes a substantial contribution to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (UN 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 2012 until November 2013.¹

3. Inaugural conference on tracing illicit SALW in the OSCE area

The Inaugural Conference on Tracing Illicit Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the OSCE Area was organized and conducted by the OSCE Secretariat jointly with INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on 23 and 24 May 2013 in Vienna, Austria.

The event brought together over 150 representatives from law enforcement agencies responsible for tracing illicit SALW internationally, investigators, prosecutors and experts from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, as well as representatives from other intergovernmental organizations, international think tanks, non-governmental organizations and academia to discuss the importance of the tracing of illicit SALW and associated challenges.

1 The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 15 November 2013.

The event was extremely successful and provided an opportunity for discussion on the following issues:

- The international legal framework, key definitions, as well as the elements of the “life cycle” of SALW and its relevance to international tracing activities;
- Lessons learned from international tracing activities, including in relation to firearm identification, record-keeping, data access, transnational communication and timely responses;
- Legislative and investigative approaches to make it possible for investigations and prosecutions to use tracing data;
- The framework for international co-operation and development of a number of initiatives and tools at the international/regional levels to facilitate tracing of SALW/firearms (such as iARMS).

4. Mapping study on SALW commitments

In September 2013, a CPC consultant produced a mapping study of OSCE commitments on SALW, which was circulated under reference number FSC.GAL/90/13. The study aims to facilitate discussion among the participating States on the coherence of the OSCE regulatory framework on SALW with other international agreements and commitments, with a view to demonstrating the relative effectiveness of the Organization’s SALW commitments and providing food for thought on future work.

The idea of a mapping study on SALW commitments in the OSCE area was put forward during a meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW (IGOF) in February 2013, and is in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11, which tasked the FSC to “Ensure coherence and complementarity with the UN framework on SALW”.² The study was a step in the process to improve the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW³, as within it, the participating States agree “to work on the further development of the document in the light of its implementation and of the work of the United Nations and of other international organizations and institutions” (Section IV, paragraph 3).

In particular, the report:

- Took stock of international agreements/commitments on SALW applicable in the OSCE area;
- Identified areas in which the OSCE regulatory framework is not in conformity with such international agreements and/or commitments;

2 OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11.

3 OSCE FSC, 2000: OSCE Document on SALW, adopted on 24 November 2000, FSC.JOUR/314, and reissued pursuant to FSC Decision No. 3/12 on 20 June 2012, see FSC.JOUR/692.

- Presented issues in which the OSCE regulatory framework is more advanced than other international agreements and/or commitments;
- Made operative suggestions to the participating States on how they could, if seen relevant and desirable, further develop the OSCE's work on normative SALW control.

The report focused on several specific areas of SALW, including manufacture, marking, record-keeping and tracing, transfer controls, stockpile management, surpluses and destruction, and cross-cutting issues such as gender, law-enforcement co-operation and transparency, where it provided for a comparative analysis and drew conclusions about possible follow-up.

The summary of the suggestions put forward in the study is attached as Attachment A. The mapping study was presented by the CPC consultant during the Security Dialogue on 25 September 2013.

5. 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 issue for the FSC's regular work, which in 2013 centred on the following issue.

5.1 Best practice guide on annual information exchange on SALW exports to/imports from other participating States during the previous calendar year

The FSC is currently considering a food-for-thought paper on the development of a best practice guide on annual information on SALW exports to/imports from other participating States during the previous calendar year.

The proposed best practice guide would provide guidance to the experts engaged in compiling the information exchanged and would aim to overcome reporting fatigue, to increase the number of participating States regularly reporting on SALW exports/imports, and to improve the clarity of the data reported and its utility, thus enhancing the CSBM value of the information exchange.

The proposal stems from the analysis of States' submissions on imports/exports of SALW in reference to the OSCE Document, 2009–2011, made by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

5.2 Implementation assessment meeting on SALW and SCA

The FSC is also discussing a food-for-thought paper on the introduction of regular and periodic review meetings on the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the Principles of Conventional Arms Transfer. Implementation could be assessed, in part based upon the annual exchange of information which is due at the end of June each year.

A specific meeting could be devoted to these topics, bringing SALW and SCA experts together and allowing not only an implementation assessment but also, a review of provisions and a discussion of updates. Part of these meetings could be devoted to assistance and project implementation, where detailed updates on existing projects and their challenges would be presented, together with discussions on issues associated with implementation and co-operation with other international organizations or NGOs.

5.3 Food-for-thought paper: SALW export control system – a review of the OSCE commitments

Finally, the FSC is also considering a food-for-thought paper on the topic: “SALW export control system – a review of the OSCE commitments”. The purpose of the paper is to provide the participating States with some proposals stemming from different internationally recognized references in order to promote future discussion.

5.4 Informal Group of Friends on SALW

The work of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW (IGOF) resumed in January 2013 with the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Simon Macrory-Tinning of the United Kingdom as its chairperson.

Under the leadership of the chairperson of the IGOF, the Group met seven times in 2013, with the participation of over 30 participating States. The IGOF dealt with a number of issues, including discussion of the OSCE vision of SALW work, planning and supporting of future events, contribution to other processes and further potential SALW normative work. In order to structure the work of the Group, the chairperson produced an informal list of ideas on the basis of the Plan of Action on SALW (2010) and other proposals (FSC.DEL/67/13/Rev.2).

In addition, the IGOF discussed a number of proposals, such as: record-keeping; making the results of information exchanges public; export controls; and a mapping study.

6. Implementation of existing commitments

6.1 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 UN 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 promotion of trust among OSCE participating States.

The OSCE participating States exchange annual and one-off information 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 2012–2013 has slightly improved 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).

6.1.1 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, and 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 Attachment B.

In March 2011, the CPC issued a revised template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11), with the suggested start of the reporting on 30 June 2011, in accordance with the deadline for reporting updated in the OSCE Document on SALW. By 15 November 2013, 28 participating States had provided updated inputs to the one-off information exchange on SALW in the new format.

6.1.2 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 Attachment C.

According to the data exchanged, during the period from 2001 to 2012, OSCE participating States destroyed 13,363,603 items of SALW. Details are contained in Attachment D.

6.2 Awareness-raising

The CPC organized a number of training events and workshops. In 2013, the OSCE organized the following events:

- Regional training on enforcement of brokering controls on SALW (jointly with the EU and the United Kingdom);
- Commodity identification training on military and dual-use goods (jointly with the United States of America and the EU long-term programme).

In addition, the FSC hosted a number of guest speakers and presentations on SALW-related topics. A detailed overview of these activities as well as other activities related to the promotion of OSCE SALW initiatives is attached as Attachment E.

7. Practical assistance on SALW

7.1 Overview

Implementation of the elements in the OSCE Document on SALW addressing requests from participating States for assistance in tackling the issues of 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 14 requests for assistance from 10 countries relating to enhancement of the management and security of stockpiles of SALW, or

destruction of surpluses. In 2013, Albania submitted a new request for SALW surplus destruction.

7.2 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.

7.3 Assistance on export control legislation

In 2013, the CPC, jointly with the German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) acting on behalf of the EU, started providing assistance to interested participating States in updating their export control legislation on SALW. In 2013, the OSCE and BAFA initiated a country-specific dialogue with Moldova on export control legislation for military and dual-use goods. Following the request for assistance by Moldova in 2011 and the first country-specific dialogue conducted at the expert level in March 2012, the OSCE and BAFA organized a follow-up visit from 21 to 23 January 2013 to present the EU experts' recommendations for the update of the Moldovan export control legislation on military and dual-use goods.

The EU experts presented detailed legal recommendations for the export-control legislation.

The recommendations were well received by the national participants from the ministries of economy, foreign affairs, defence, customs and national security services. Furthermore, potential for co-operation on this issue was explored with the United States Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program being implemented in Moldova.

7.4 Inventory application software on SALW

Supported by EU funds in line with the EU Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP, the OSCE (the CPC) started a project on improving SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile management and record-keeping in eight participating States. In 2013, the specialized SALW and ammunition inventory application developed by the Belarusian Ministry of Defence with support by the OSCE and UNDP was presented to eight interested participating States from South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Following the presentation, a testing period was launched, aiming to identify compatibility requirements and further the technical upgrade of the software. In parallel, the software was translated into three other languages (English, Moldovan and one of the common languages used in the SEE).

7.5 Practical assistance projects

7.5.1 Republic of Belarus

Based on 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 (PSSM) in Belarus. The UNDP, which is serving as the implementing agency for this project, is currently implementing the second phase of the project together with the Ministry of Defence; this second phase is currently focusing on two large storage sites, in Gomel and at Kolosovo, and one smaller site, in Marjina Gorka. The project is funded by the EU Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP in support of activities to reduce the illicit trade in and excessive accumulation of SALW in the OSCE region.

7.5.2 Kyrgyz Republic

Following the request submitted by the Kyrgyz Republic to the FSC in 2008 for assistance in enhancing the management and security of stockpiles of SALW, a project was designed, the implementation of which commenced in 2012.

In 2013, the activities focused on updating the project document, setting up the necessary legal framework and launching the practical implementation.

Following the signing on 2 August 2013 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the SALW and SCA Programme in Kyrgyzstan between the OSCE and the Kyrgyz Government, the following activities commenced:

- Destruction of the SALW and creation of national SALW demilitarization capacities;
- Physical security and stockpile management training for the SALW and CA stockpile managers in the Ministry of Defence;
- Improvement of the national regulatory legal framework for SALW management.

At the end of August 2013, a PSSM course was conducted for the Ministry of Defence executives. During this course, 19 officials were trained on the OSCE's best practices for effective management of SALW and conventional ammunition. Two other PSSM courses are planned in December 2013 for junior staff serving at storage sites. During this period, the OSCE and Ministry of Defence destroyed 51 MANPADS and 97 anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs).

The project is partially funded by the EU Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP in support of activities to reduce the illicit trade in and excessive accumulation of SALW in the OSCE region. Other donors to the project include Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

7.5.3 Montenegro

The OSCE Mission to Montenegro, together with the Ministry of the Interior of Montenegro and the UNDP Country Office Montenegro, and with the support of the CPC, organized a workshop on development of a national SALW strategy and the SALW Action Plan for Montenegro, from 17 to 19 December 2012. The workshop produced a draft National Strategy of Montenegro on SALW.

At the request of the Government of Montenegro, the CPC provided expert comments on the draft strategy. The document was adopted by the Government of Montenegro on

4 July 2013 as the “Strategy for the Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Plan of Action 2013–2018”.

In the Strategy, the Government of Montenegro refers to the OSCE as its key strategic partner and emphasizes its commitments to relevant OSCE Documents, including also the OSCE Document on SALW.

7.5.4 Tajikistan

For information regarding the OSCE activities on SALW and SCA in Tajikistan, please see the FSC Chairperson’s Progress Report on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (MC.GAL/02/13, Annex 4).

8. Outreach and co-operation

8.1 Partnership and co-operation agreements with other international organizations

8.1.1 MoU with the UNDP

In line with the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the Outcome Document of the Second Review Conference, which encourages regional organizations to co-operate, and to develop and strengthen partnerships for sharing resources to combat illicit SALW, the OSCE developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2006 provides a non-exclusive framework for technical co-operation for the implementation of SALW and conventional ammunition projects.

Since 2007, five large joint projects have been launched in the framework of the Memorandum: in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Building on the co-operation initiatives established between the OSCE and UNDP on SALW and SCA, in October 2013, the OSCE Secretariat and UNDP signed an expanded Memorandum of Understanding that foresees closer co-ordination and co-operation in the following areas:

- Early warning, conflict prevention and reconciliation;
- Demilitarization and arms control;
- Confidence-building and community security;
- Good governance, anti-corruption, rule of law, and judicial and legal reform;
- Disaster risk reduction;
- Displacement;
- Activities in support of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security;

- Minorities;
- Environment, management of natural resources, and sustainable energy;
- Border management.

8.1.2 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 April 2013, the Parties extended the Joint Action Plan to cover the period of 2013–2014. The Plan covers the following areas for co-operation and co-ordination:

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

- The UN 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 those in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe.

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

- Raising awareness regarding the ratification of/accession to the Firearms Protocol by the OSCE participating States;
- Supporting specific initiatives aimed at the implementation of the Firearms Protocol and the relevant OSCE Documents, in the areas of preventing and combating illicit trafficking in firearms/SALW and ammunition, including firearms/SALW record-keeping, standards for deactivation of firearms, 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 UN Security Council resolution 1540, on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- Enhancing co-operation among representatives of law enforcement, the judiciary and prosecution authorities for the purpose of countering illicit trafficking in firearms/small arms and light weapons, including the tracing of illicit firearms/small arms and light weapons.

In May 2013, the OSCE jointly with UNODC, UNODA and INTERPOL organized an Inaugural Conference on Tracing of Illicit SALW in the OSCE Area. The OSCE and UNODC also invited each other to various SALW events.

8.1.3 MoU with the UNODA

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

In the Memorandum of Understanding, 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;
- (f) Synergies in the planning of meetings.

Since the agreement of the Memorandum of Understanding, the parties organized jointly (also together with UNODC and INTERPOL) the Inaugural Conference on Tracing of Illicit SALW in the OSCE Area in Vienna in May 2013.

8.2 **Operational support and information exchange**

The OSCE Secretariat holds annual staff talks with the UN 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.

8.2.1 Co-operation and information exchange with other international organizations

Since 2010, the 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 the UNODA, the UNODC, the UNDP and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research. In 2013, regular meetings with CASA continued to exchange 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. The first project proposal for funding a number of normative and project-related activities, with an implementation time frame of 36 months, was approved by the European Union on 25 October 2012, with the sum of 890,000 euros.

The first instalment has already been received, and the implementation of the agreed activities is under way.

The OSCE also maintains regular co-ordination and information exchange with the Wassenaar Arrangement. In 2013, the CPC and the Head of the Wassenaar Arrangement exchanged letters in which they agreed to improve co-ordination, also through participation in each other's events and regular technical co-ordination meetings.

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 biannual 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 (see also Attachment F).

Since 2008, informal meetings have been organized with other international organizations to enhance co-ordination of efforts with regard to projects on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. 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.

8.3 Outreach to Partners for Co-operation

On 8 November, a special meeting devoted to SALW was organized by the Irish Chairmanship of the Asian Partners Contact Group. During the meeting, Australia made a statement illustrating the importance of the adoption of UNSCR 2117 on SALW. Head of the Wassenaar Arrangement made a presentation on SALW controls in the context of Arrangement.

Expert presentations were also delivered by UNODC, the chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and a representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre highlighting possible areas of engagement with the Asian Partners.

9. Conclusions

9.1 Normative work on SALW

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

In line with the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (2010), work continued both on fostering the implementation of existing commitments and also on looking into making the measures both effective and efficient, variously through harmonization and 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.

During the period from November 2012 to November 2013, concrete capacity-building activities were conducted on the tracing of illicit SALW, enforcement of brokering controls of SALW and commodity identification. The importance of comprehensively addressing these issues, especially where they relate to transnational threats, is thereby recognized.

In addition, dialogue visits to specific countries were conducted jointly with other relevant international organizations at the request of States seeking assistance with the revision of export-control legislation.

Co-operation and co-ordination with other relevant international organizations dealing with SALW issues significantly improved, resulting in the signing of formal co-operation documents and the initiation of joint activities.

Whereas, 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 complying 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.

9.2 Practical assistance on SALW

In the context of the practical implementation of the Document on SALW, measures undertaken in response to requests for assistance from an increasing number of participating States remain a key OSCE activity. 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.

However, in the absence of predictable multi-year funding strategies for SALW and SCA projects on the part of the participating States, extrabudgetary contributions and finances continue to be an impediment.

9.3 The future SALW work of the FSC

The activity in 2013 within the FSC and in other fora, such as the United Nations, provides a platform 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 including its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, SALW continues to pose a threat that can be minimized through better normative controls and project-based activities, plus associated co-operative and capacity-building activities.

The Forum has the opportunity to take stock of its normative basis, in the context of developments elsewhere, which could lead to very positive progress. Equally, the OSCE has the chance to contribute to, and learn from, the Fifth UN Biennial Meeting of States in June 2014.

10. Attachments

Attachment A:	Conclusions of the SALW mapping study for follow-up work
Attachment B:	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
Attachment C:	Overview of the annual information exchange on export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed
Attachment D:	Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area
Attachment E:	Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2012 to November 2013
Attachment F:	Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

Attachment A: Conclusions of the SALW mapping study for possible follow-up work

Topic/issue	Operative proposal
General	Review the SALW Document and its follow-up decisions in light of recent developments in international fora to determine whether the OSCE SALW Document could or should be updated. The detailed findings and proposals presented in this paper may serve as guidance in the review and possible subsequent update. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Handbook of Best Practice Guides to determine where updates, additions or changes might be necessary. The detailed findings and proposals presented in this paper may serve as guidance in the review and possible subsequent update. Time the OSCE's meetings on SALW to be in line with the UN meetings to ensure complementarity and effectiveness.
Manufacturing	Organize a special meeting on technical developments in SALW manufacturing and transfers to get an overview of current manufacturing practices, trends and future possibilities in the OSCE area and beyond. Possible steps on updating national controls on SALW manufacturing (Section II, part A) could be taken based on the outcome and recommendations of the special meeting.
Marking	Adopt a decision to agree on applying appropriate simple marking also on all imported SALW to complement the OSCE Document's Section II, part B. The marking should permit identification of the country of import and, where possible, the year of import, and a unique marking, if the small arm or light weapon does not already bear such a marking. Review SALW marking commitments (OSCE Document, Section II, part B) to harmonize them with other international instruments and the OSCE Best Practice Guide on Marking, Record-Keeping and Tracing, by including a commitment to mark all weapons that are transferred from government stocks to permanent civilian use. The marking should permit identification of the country from whose stocks the transfer of the small arm or light weapon is made.

Topic/issue	Operative proposal
Record-keeping	Standardize OSCE's instruments on SALW record-keeping with those of other relevant forums. The participating States could consider updating their commitments on SALW record-keeping (OSCE Document, Sections II, part C and III, part C) by adding: (1) a requirement to establish electronic records, (2) an obligation to maintain them in a centralized manner, and (3) a specific minimum time for records to be kept. The proposed formulation is that the records should be maintained indefinitely, if possible, however for at least 30 years for manufactured SALW and 20 years for all other SALW, with a view to improving the traceability of SALW. Discuss possible further steps with regard to record-keeping formats to determine whether there would be added value in exchanging information on them and possibly developing best practices or harmonized models in this area.
Tracing	Consider including a reference to the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) in the relevant parts of the OSCE document (Sections II and III) and follow the ITI's wording on tracing commitments.

Topic/issue	Operative proposal
Transfer controls	Revisit the Organization's commitments regarding arms transfer criteria on SALW and preferably on all conventional arms in line with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to assess what practical steps could be taken to harmonize the instruments. One such measure could be to include language on prohibiting transfers of weapons that might be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 or in attacks directed against civilian objects or civilians protected as such in the OSCE Document's Section III, part A. Risk assessment criteria in this part could also be considered to include serious acts of gender-based violence and violence against women and children. Initiate discussion about the need for and possible added value of developing and harmonizing national control lists currently in use for SALW and conventional arms transfer controls. One step to be considered in this area could be a one-off information exchange on the control lists. Reference to this could also be added to the OSCE Document's Section III. Establish a mechanism to exchange information on national steps taken to address diversion – and following the ATT's lead – on related activities such as corruption, sources of illicit supply, international trafficking routes, illicit brokers, methods of concealment, common points of dispatch, or destinations used by organized groups engaged in diversion. This could, if relevant, be linked with the proposed establishment of an OSCE network of law enforcement officials specialized in SALW controls. Conduct a one-off information exchange about participating States' national policies and practices on re-export controls based on the commitments of the OSCE Document's Section III B5 and FSC Decision No. 5/04, coupled with a special FSC meeting to review them and see whether there is scope for further action in this area. Consider introducing language into the OSCE's normative framework to include an undertaking on a case-by-case basis that the exported SALW will not be used for purposes other than those declared; and a general clause that the exported goods will not be transferred to an unauthorized internal end user. Conduct a second round of one-off information exchanges on controlling illicit trafficking of SALW by air, to follow up implementation of FSC Decision No. 11/08. The information exchange could also be subjected to a technical overview to be prepared by the CPC. Initiate discussion at the FSC on possible measures to combat illicit trafficking of SALW by sea, possibly in co-operation with other OSCE institutions and the UN.

Topic/issue	Operative proposal
Brokering	Continue awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts to improve brokering controls in the OSCE area. Conduct further information exchanges on brokering, to follow up the OSCE Document's Section III, part D, and FSC Decisions Nos. 8/04 and 17/10, especially concerning illicit brokering and licence denials. Readdress the definition of "brokering" and consider expanding the definition to cover "secondary" brokering activities. Consider developing an Organization-wide registration system for brokers operating in the OSCE area, including a requirement for brokers to submit regular activity reports. Study the establishment of possible other intra- and inter-State co-operation mechanisms in the OSCE region to optimize the prosecution and conviction of brokers.
EUCs	Take further steps in assisting interested participating States to use and verify end user certificates (EUCs), to follow up FSC Decision No. 5/04. Consider developing a Best Practice Guide on EUCs, including an electronic model template for voluntary use.
MANPADS	Follow up the implementation of FSC Decision No. 3/04 and the Annex C to the Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security by encouraging further information exchanges on transfers of MANPADS and their controls. Exchanging information on both policies and statistics referring to transfers should be considered.

Topic/issue	Operative proposal
Stockpile management, surplus and destruction	Conduct a study to assess again the technical procedures displayed in the Best Practice Guide on stockpile management, surplus SALW and destruction to see whether the operative proposals concerning SALW stockpile management, surplus identification and destruction are still up to date and relevant, or whether additional aspects could be considered to update the current recommended practices. Consider adopting some elements that are currently contained as political commitments in the stockpile management and destruction Best Practice Guides. Conduct further work and develop normative commitments or best practice documents on the security of SALW transportation, covering road, sea and air transportation, possibly in relation to the documents on ammunition transportation security and in co-operation with organizations such as the World Customs Organization and the UN. Compile a detailed technical checklist of stockpile control measures to assist participating States, based on the Model for a Security Plan for Stockpiles, as currently annexed (annex B) to the Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security. Develop guidelines on stockpile risk assessment to assist participating States in determining the condition of their stockpiles and to help them establish stockpile management priorities in a cost-effective and secure manner. Where already conducted, such assessments should also be renewed to reflect changing circumstances. Update the Organization's normative commitments on surplus weapons contained in the OSCE Document's Section IV, part A, to clearly state that all surplus weapons "should" or "shall" be destroyed. Initiate an overview of SALW destruction methods to see whether the Best Practice Guide on Destruction should be updated and/or amended.
Gender and age	Adopt a decision calling for increased representation of women at decision-making levels in security sector institutions dealing with SALW-related issues. Conduct a study on best practices and overall application of gender aspects in the development of SALW assistance programmes (including on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR), where applicable) in the OSCE area.
Armed violence	Commission a study to examine the links between the practical implementation of the OSCE Document and realities on the ground with regard to armed violence, in co-operation with OSCE field operations.
Law enforcement	Establish an FSC/OSCE network of law enforcement SALW specialists to exchange information about the current state of affairs and brainstorm about possible further steps.

Topic/issue	Operative proposal
Border controls	Develop a manual for border officials and custom controls on SALW trafficking, building on already existing information, to facilitate practical work on combating illicit weapons trafficking and to improve overall SALW controls in the OSCE area.
Transparency	Study harmonization of OSCE SALW exchanges, as contained in the OSCE Document's Section II, part D; Section III, part F; and Section IV, part E, with those of the UN, and consider the possibility of making the OSCE's SALW information exchanges public. Consider adding new elements to the one-off information exchanges, including on measures taken to combat diversion and on technical developments in manufacturing technology, marking, record-keeping and tracing. Explore possibilities for co-operating with Interpol, especially with regard to information submitted to its Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System.

Attachment B: 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 2012	Updates in 2013
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.	55 participating States	13 participating States	16 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	16 participating States	15 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	14 participating States	15 participating States

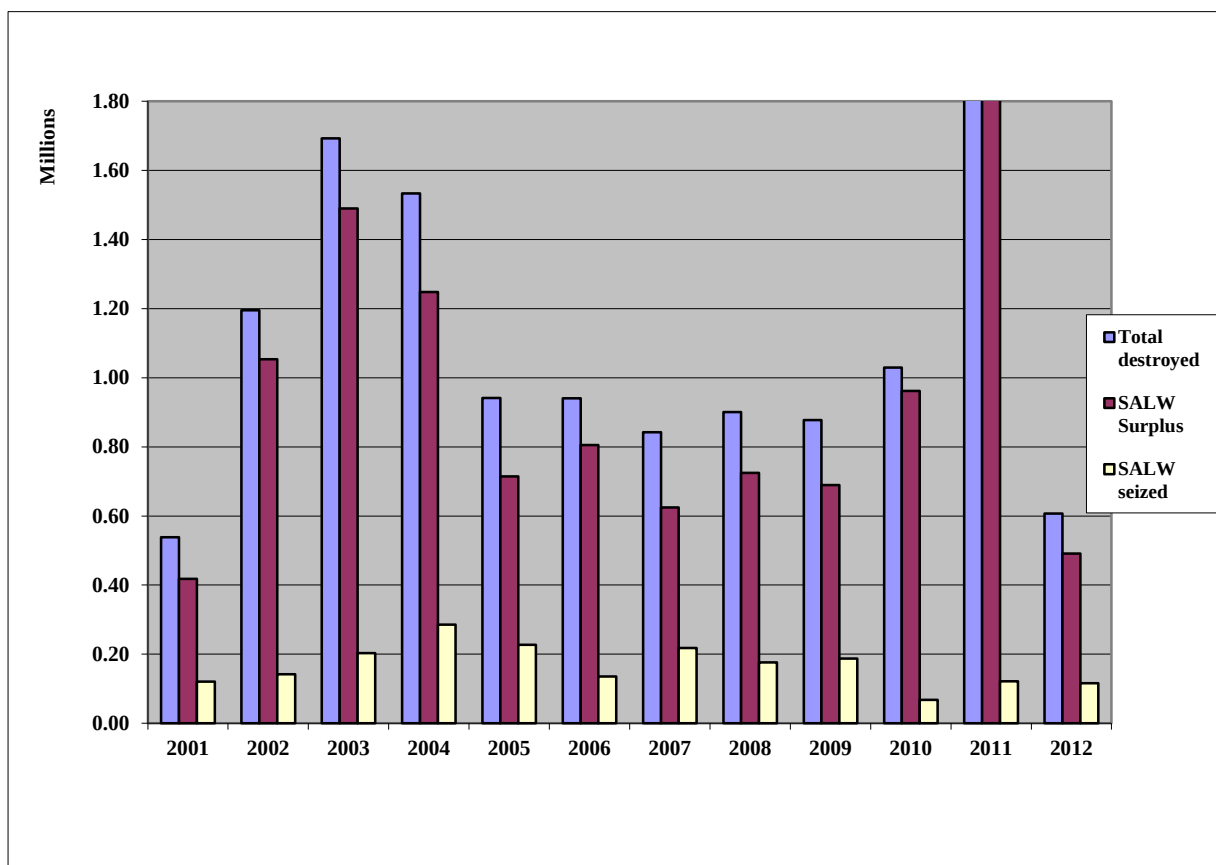
Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2012	Updates in 2013
Section IV, (E)2 (starting from 30 June 2002)	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide, designed to promote effective stockpile management and security.	56 participating States	16 participating States	16 participating States
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.	54 participating States	14 participating States	15 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	—	—
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.	50 participating States	3 participating States	2 participating States

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2012	Updates in 2013
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	2 participating States	3 participating States
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	39 participating States	14 participating States

Attachment C: 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	Status by 2012	
		2012	2013
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	41 participating States
Section IV, (C)1	The participating States agree that the preferred method for the disposal of small arms is destruction.	32 participating States	36 participating States
Section IV, (E)1	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.		

Attachment D: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area¹



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.

Attachment E: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2012 to November 2013

Brokering training

The CPC organized a regional training event on enforcement of brokering controls in respect of SALW from 24 to 26 April 2013 in Vienna. The event, which was organized in co-operation with the European Union and the United Kingdom, brought together representatives from law enforcement and prosecutor's offices from 12 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and South-East Europe.

In the course of the event, the participants discussed various issues related to brokering controls in respect of SALW. The event allowed delegates to look at policy aspects of brokering controls and their meaning in practice. It also enabled them to take a closer look at how illicit transfers are investigated and brought to court. The case studies and group exercises facilitated discussion among the experts and allowed them to apply the newly acquired knowledge and skills to various situations. The event was fully funded by the EU Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP in support of activities to reduce the illicit trade in and excessive accumulation of SALW in the OSCE region.

Commodity identification training

In 2011–2012, the FSC Support Section jointly with the Borders Unit organized a series of regional training sessions on information exchange on military and dual-use goods between licensing authorities and customs agencies. Following the requests of participating States for follow-on training on specific aspects, a series of regional training events on commodity identification for military and dual-use goods was conceptualized, jointly with the United States Department of Energy and the EU Outreach Export Control of Dual-Use Goods Programme (implemented by the German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA)). The pilot commodity identification training event was conducted by the CPC (FSC Support Section) and the Transnational Threats Department-Border Unit (TNTD-BU) for the South-Eastern European region, jointly with the United States Department of Energy, BAFA and RACVIAC–Centre for Security Co-operation, from 16 to 18 July 2013 in Rakitje, Croatia.

The training event attracted 37 participants, including national representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The preliminary list, with names of desired national participants, was shared in advance informally through the OSCE field operations/delegations in Vienna. The countries were represented by up to four experts from the ministries of trade and economic affairs, as well as customs agencies. During the three-day training course, the participants heard lectures by trainers on nuclear, chemical and biological aspects of the identification of dual-use goods, as well as SALW concealment techniques (delivered by an expert on SALW proliferation).

Following interest expressed by participating States from other regions, follow-up activities focusing on dual-use goods are currently being planned for other regions.

Other events

Presentations related to SALW 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 2013, the presentations on topics related to SALW included the following briefings:

- Presentation by Ms. Milica Pejanovic-Djurisic, Minister of Defence of Montenegro, on the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme – MONDEM;
- Presentation by Mr. Glenn McDonald, Senior Researcher at the Small Arms Survey, on the OSCE small arms commitments in the broader multilateral framework;
- Presentation by Mr. Eric Berman, Managing Director at the Small Arms Survey, on implementing the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms: the role of regional organizations;
- Presentation by Mr. Ekrem Spahiu, Deputy Minister of Defence of Albania, on demilitarization of stockpiles of ammunition and armaments in Albania – a contribution to the security of Albania and the region;
- Presentations by Lieutenant Colonel Laszlo Szatmari, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on SALW and SCA, and Lieutenant Colonel Simon Macrory-Tinning, chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW, on “How could we advance FSC work and strengthen co-operation: SALW and SCA?”;
- Presentation by Ms. Elli Kytomaki, CPC consultant, on information on the mapping study on the SALW commitments;
- Presentation by Mr. Mark Bromley, Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), on possible elements for a draft best practice guide on methodologies for compiling the results of the annual information exchange on SALW exports to and imports from other OSCE participating States;
- Presentation by Brigadier General Bojan Zrnica, Head of Defence Technologies at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, on the capacity development programme for SCA management in Serbia;
- Presentation by Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, and Colonel Zamir Suerkulov of the Ministry of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic, on the SALW and SCA Project in Kyrgyzstan.

Exhibition at the Annual Security Review Conference

On the margins of the Annual Security Review Conference, which took place from 19 to 20 June 2013, the FSC Support Section presented a photo exhibition reflecting FSC assistance projects on SALW and conventional ammunition. The exhibition displayed different stages of project assessments and implementation in countries in which assistance

had been provided, focusing on the implementation of the project on the elimination of rocket fuel mélange in Ukraine.

Attachment F: 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 2013, 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 2013		
Date	Title	Place
11 March 2013	Saferworld meeting on the follow-up action on SALW after the Second Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action on SALW	Geneva, Switzerland
9 April 2013	Group of Governmental Experts on the UN Register on Conventional Arms	Geneva, Switzerland
15-16 April 2013	NATO structured information exchange on SALW and SCA	Brussels, Belgium
17-18 June 2013	Smart Technology in SALW Control: Civilian Protection, the UN Programme of Action, and Transfer Control (SmartCon), organized by the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany	Berlin, Germany
13 September 2013	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Working Group on SALW	Brussels, Belgium

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

(Annex 4 to MC.GAL/2/13 of 29 November 2013)

Executive summary

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 36 requests for assistance in the area of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) from more than 10 participating States. Specifically, these included eight requests for assistance in ensuring the safety and security of stockpiles of ammunition; 11 requests to assist with the destruction of ammunition; 12 requests for assistance in the disposal of rocket fuel component (mélange) and five requests for assistance with the disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

This progress report provides comprehensive factual information on the current status of implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA in the period ranging from November 2012 to November 2013. Furthermore, the report also indicates those specific areas, where the most critical action or assistance is needed. The following results were achieved during the reporting period.

In 2013 the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition submitted by participating States. The ongoing projects were partly completed in Albania, Belarus, Moldova and Serbia. The project on demilitarization of 1,288 cluster bombs in Georgia was completed, as was the project on disposal of 410 tonnes of mélange in Kazakhstan. Projects continued to be implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. New projects were started in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. Feasibility studies and preliminary activities were started on disposal of rocket fuel components in Belarus, Bulgaria and Kyrgyzstan. It is planned to develop and implement the relevant projects in 2014–2015, provided the required funding is available.

In 2013, there was a decrease in donor funding available for SCA projects, as compared to the previous year. During the reporting period, participating States pledged 1,145,900 euros for projects relating to conventional ammunition, compared to 1,889,804 euros in 2012. In contrast, the mélange disposal in Ukraine and Bulgaria alone attracted 9,864,000 euros in 2013, accounting for a substantial share of the total amount of donor contributions.

In response to the recommendation of the FSC Chairperson's Progress Reports on Continuing Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SCA and SALW to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2011 (MC.GAL/4/11/Corr.2), the position of the Security Co-operation Adviser on SALW and SCA Projects in the Western Balkans was established and posted in the OSCE Mission to Serbia in May 2012. In 2013, this position was transferred to the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), and in August of this year, the newly appointed Security Co-operation Officer and Co-ordinator for South-East Europe on SALW and SCA Projects started his work.

The extrabudgetary contributions and fundraising remain a core challenge in the absence of predictable multi-year strategies for funding of SALW and SCA projects by the participating States.

1. Introduction

The present progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) covers last year's ongoing efforts to address the challenges posed by stockpiles of ammunition. The report presents conclusions and suggests focus areas.¹

It was recognized that surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, including rocket fuel and its component mélange, adversely affect the security and stability of countries and regions.

Since 1987, the world has seen at least 453 known unplanned explosive events in ammunition storage areas, of which 185 occurred in the OSCE region (over 40 per cent).² During the period 2011–2012 alone, 29 unplanned ammunition explosions occurred in 12 participating States, causing human losses and injuries in the OSCE area. This underlines the strong need to develop further co-operation on SCA. The OSCE has developed a solid base for tackling the problem of SCA stored in conditions that do not meet minimum safety standards. Currently, the Forum is dealing with requests from eight countries intended to address this problem.

Since the OSCE is not a legal entity, implementation of such projects requires a special focus due to increased risks and possible legal and financial liabilities.

However, non-action is not an option, as doing nothing could result in the loss of lives, severe damage of socio-economic infrastructure, and possible environmental catastrophe. Thus, preventive action such as demilitarization and improvement of storage facilities is supported in the Forum as a generally wiser and less costly course of action.

In 2013, the OSCE continued to provide practical assistance to participating States. As shown in the report, the OSCE was able to respond to the assistance requests and to assist the participating States in removing the risks and in building or strengthening their national capacities. This is achieved by providing expertise, mobilizing both technical and financial resources, and implementing projects, including those implemented in co-operation with other international organizations.

1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 15 November 2013.

2 Source: "Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites". Geneva: Small Arms Survey, accessed on 24 October 2013, <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets/stockpiles/unplanned-explosions-at-munitions-sites.html#c5998>.

2. Objective

This report is intended to provide a factual update on the implementation of the general principles regarding conventional ammunition agreed on by all the participating States in the Document on SCA. 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 2012 to November 2013.

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

3. OSCE assistance pursuant to the document on SCA

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 36 requests for assistance in the area of SCA from more than 10 participating States. Specifically, these included eight requests for assistance in ensuring the safety and security of stockpiles of ammunition; 11 requests to assist with the destruction of ammunition; 12 requests for assistance in the disposal of rocket fuel components (mélange and samin) and five requests for assistance with the disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

In 2013, the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition submitted by participating States. This year was marked by a strong implementation phase in many projects.

3.1 Co-operation within the OSCE

The position of the Security Co-operation Adviser on SALW and SCA Projects in the Western Balkans (to provide the project-related co-ordination activities for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) was established in May 2012 in response to the recommendation of the FSC Chairperson's Progress Reports on Continuing Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SCA and SALW submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2011. Guided by the principles of cost-effectiveness, efficiency and result-oriented management based on already existing OSCE capacities in the Western Balkan region, the Security Co-operation Adviser was posted in the OSCE Mission to Serbia and reported to the FSC through the CPC on issues related to the implementation of SALW and SCA commitments and projects.

From May 2012 until May 2013, the Security Co-operation Adviser on SALW and SCA Projects: (1) contributed to developing the EXPLODE Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and assumed the responsibilities of a joint OSCE-UNDP project manager for the SALW and SCA stockpile management component of this Programme; (2) ensured quality control of initial safety and security improvements implemented in 2012–2013 in co-operation with the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearing House for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC); and (3) supported the launch of the project for disposal of napalm powder in Serbia (first priority component of a larger conventional ammunition stockpile management (CASM) programme).

Following the budgetary recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF) in early 2013, and given its regional co-ordination function, this position was transferred from the OSCE Mission to Serbia to the CPC.

In August 2013, the newly appointed Security Co-operation Officer and Co-ordinator for South-East Europe on SALW and SCA Projects started working at the CPC and performed the following tasks within the reporting period:

- Established a co-ordination process between the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence, EUFOR, the OSCE and UNDP and the relevant programmes – SECUP and EXPLODE³, dealing with physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) and safety aspects, including training;
- Conducted the first Project Management Review in Bosnia and Herzegovina, bringing together all stakeholders in order to co-ordinate all partners committed to the fulfilment of the two outstanding objectives within SECUP and EXPLODE (the destruction of remaining unstable and surplus munitions and the upgrade of prospective ammunition and weapon storage sites). The co-ordination and synergy of these two projects is essential to ensure that the overall stockpile safety and security is improved by removing all surplus ammunition from the storage sites and by reinforcing the remaining storage sites;
- Launched a fully-fledged training programme for the ammunition technicians in Moldova.

3.2 Projects under implementation

Since 2008, the OSCE Presence in Albania supports the Ministry of Defence in the implementation of its demilitarization action plan. With the contribution of different donors, the OSCE has provided 11 bandsaws and one steam generator to the military factories (for destruction of surpluses of conventional ammunition) and has helped with the disposal of 60 tonnes of mélange rocket fuel and 120 tonnes of dichloroethane.

Since 2012, approximately 80 tonnes of hazardous chemicals subject to destruction still remain in the military premises. In this regard, the Ministry of Defence of Albania requested support to address this surplus. With this in view, an extrabudgetary project with an overall budget of 232,785 euros was developed. At present, only partial funding is available for the repackaging activity. Before the start of the project, the respective memorandum of understanding was signed between the OSCE Presence in Albania and the Ministry of Defence of Albania. The first phase of the project (repackaging of all chemical products and their storage in a safe and secure central location) was launched in October 2013 and is expected to be finalized by the end of 2013. However, rendered safe, the repackaged chemicals (certified packaging for transnational transportation) cannot stay long without further transportation to the disposal facility and the final disposal, as envisaged by the project. Otherwise, the repackaging efforts might turn out to be in vain if further activities are not supported on time.

3 Please see more details on SECUP and EXPLODE projects under section 3.2 (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

In addition, in 2012, the Ministry of Defence requested the OSCE Presence in Albania to provide further assistance in the destruction of ammunition. A participating State (Germany) provided funds to purchase additional blades for bandsaws. That has allowed the Ministry of Defence to proceed with its demilitarization action plan regarding SCA. Although these activities are slightly delayed, they should be completed by mid-2014.

On 9 October 2013, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a co-operation agreement in the fields of defence and security. It represented a significant step towards expanding the co-operation in these fields and it improved the country's control capacity in the areas of SALW and SCA. Specifically, it provided a legal framework for the SECUP Bosnia and Herzegovina – Project for Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was officially launched on the same day.

The Project activities over 2013–2015 will result in an upgrading of security infrastructure (fences, gates, vehicle beam barriers, signs, intruder detection systems and external lighting) at two weapons storage sites (Rabic and Teufik Buza) and two ammunition storage sites (Krupa and Kula 1) of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an upgrading security of these storage sites and an improvement of the national standards for physical security and stockpile management in line with the OSCE best practices on SALW and CA.

On 27 June 2013, the joint UNDP/OSCE Explosive Ordnance and Remnants of War Destruction Project – EXPLODE was officially launched. The Project is funded under the EU Instrument for Stability (IfS) and is organized into three components:

- Component I – Ammunition destruction and demilitarization;
- Component II – Development of ammunition control capacities;
- Component III – Stockpile management.

The lead organization for components I and II of the Project is the UNDP Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while component III will be implemented by the UNDP in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EXPLODE Project will cover the activities to reduce the risk of accidental explosion by upgrading the “safety” of the Bosnia and Herzegovina prospective ammunition/weapons storage sites, in line with the requirements of the funding instrument. The refurbishment activities under the Project's Component III will start in the first half of 2014.

Additionally, the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has been providing support to the CPC-led project entitled Rollout of SALW Inventory Software Application. As part of this project, in May 2013, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina received a copy of the weapons/ammunition record-keeping software (for a testing period), as well as the relevant training. The Mission's experts will continue providing support to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence in customizing the software provided to meet national requirements.

Following the closure of the OSCE Mission in Georgia in 2009, the OSCE Secretariat, UNDP-Georgia and the Ministry of Defence of Georgia undertook a range of technical assessments in 2010 with the aim of resuming demilitarization activities in Georgia. As a result, the OSCE and UNDP have developed a joint ammunition-demilitarization and community-security programme. The pilot project of the programme launched envisioned the destruction within less than two years of Georgia's stockpiles of aircraft cluster bombs, which consisted of RBK-250 and RBK-500 aerial cluster bombs. In June 2013, the destruction of 1,288 cluster bombs was finalized and the project was completed.

Furthermore, the follow-up projects pertaining to a three-year demilitarization programme in Georgia (disposal of 1,700 tonnes of Soviet ammunition) are open for funding.

At present, a joint memorandum of understanding on furthering the work on the disposal of surplus conventional ammunition stockpiles in Georgia is currently being agreed upon between the OSCE Secretariat and the Ministry of Defence of Georgia.

The OSCE SALW and Conventional Ammunition Programme in Moldova, launched in 2009, comprises eight main projects. In regard to destruction of weapons systems, four projects have been largely completed: destruction of 78 cluster bombs, 48 surface-to-air missiles and 105 250 kg air bombs and disposal of 19 air-to-air missiles located in Georgia. The destruction of the remaining 19 air-to-air missiles, stored in Georgia since 1992, was completed in June 2013 with the assistance of the OSCE implementing partners in Georgia.

The capacity and expertise of the Ministry of Defence of Moldova for disposing of various types of ammunitions was significantly improved through these major projects. Notwithstanding the success of the above projects, the Programme's largest project is yet to be implemented. The need for the construction of a new ammunition storage depot was assessed. This new depot should fully comply with international safety standards. An assessment visit showed the Moldovan Ministry of Defence that the activities conducted on the Bulboaca site were not compatible with the constraints imposed by such a depot. A further feasibility study convinced the Ministry of Defence of Moldova to choose the military base of Danceni for this purpose. In addition, a new design for the depot meeting international standards was developed, but specifications need to be further defined.

The project to refurbish storage sites for SALW and ammunition in Floresti, Cahul, Balti and Chisinau was completed. In addition to this refurbishment, an anti-intrusion alarm system was installed in three storage areas at Floresti depot. Anti-intrusion systems will be installed at other sites.

As a result of the delay in the construction of a new depot, it was decided to prolong the refurbishment project by a second phase, including the upgrade of a fourth depot in Floresti, in order to make the other storage areas safer.

In parallel with these improvements, and in order to allow the implementation of sustainable training for ammunition specialists, the OSCE is working with the Ministry of Defence to put in place the necessary conditions for running SALW and ammunition management systems in accordance with the OSCE best practices.

The Capacity Development Programme for SALW (Conventional Ammunition) Demilitarization and Safe Storage for Montenegro (MONDEM) – a joint programme

established by the Government of Montenegro, OSCE and UNDP – continued to be implemented in 2013.

Under Phase III-1 of the ongoing ammunition demilitarization component of MONDEM, a quantity of 248 tonnes of unstable SALW (conventional ammunition) was safely destroyed in the period June–September 2013.

MONDEM's Phase III-2 Ammunition Demilitarization began in October 2013 and some 400 tonnes of ammunition in critical condition are being destroyed within this phase.

After its establishment in February 2012 by the Ministry of Defence of Serbia, the OSCE and UNDP⁴, the first component of the Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management for the Republic of Serbia (CASM), has been under implementation since May 2012. In November 2013 the first phase of the project, for disposal of the napalm powder, was completed. Approximately 161 tonnes of napalm powder, or the entire napalm surplus held by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, was removed from the storages Jovac and the Batajnica Air Base storage facilities in July 2013 and transported to the SAKAB specialized facility in Kumla, Sweden. The entire amount of napalm powder was disposed of in an environmentally benign and cost-efficient way. Now Serbia is free from napalm powder.

The implementation of the second phase of the project started with the demilitarization of 550 tonnes of the white-phosphorus-filled ammunition. In the summer of 2013, the international tender for selecting the contractor to dispose of the white-phosphorus-filled ammunition was finalized. Currently, the preparatory works are under way. The local demilitarization facility TRZ in Kragujevac has already started the demilitarization of the white-phosphorus-filled ammunition (rendering it unusable by removing the propellant and fuses).

The white phosphorus will be transported in the original metal shells to the disposal facility in Bulgaria. The defrayal of the estimated cost of the metal scrap which will be obtained by the contractor as a result of the disposal process is incorporated into the price of disposal, thus achieving cost-efficiency. The Serbian Ministry of Defence announced the planned national contribution to the white phosphorus disposal process as approximately 600,000 euros.

3.3 Requests for assistance on elimination of liquid rocket fuel components (mélange and samin) and hazardous military chemicals

On 24 April 2013, Belarus submitted its request for assistance with the disposal of the rocket fuel components mélange (409 tonnes) and Samin (193 tonnes). In response to the request, in September 2013, OSCE experts conducted the assessment visit to estimate the storage conditions and the scope of assistance required. The assessment report was distributed to all 57 participating States in November 2013.

On 10 October 2012, Bulgaria submitted its request at the 694th meeting of the FSC for the OSCE's assistance to the Bulgarian Army in the disposal and destruction of surplus

4 In June 2011, Serbia requested OSCE assistance in destroying surplus ammunition and improving the management and the security of stockpiles of ammunition. The OSCE and UNDP-Serbia jointly conducted an assessment visit from 11 to 14 September 2011.

special rocket fuels, namely, mélange AK-20K, samin TG-02 and product TM-185. On 21 and 22 November 2012, an OSCE assessment team led by the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE Secretariat visited Bulgaria and held briefing sessions with the Bulgarian Ministry of Defence and other stakeholders, and visited the designated rocket fuel storage site near the town of Kalofer. Following the visit, the OSCE experts produced a technical assessment report and distributed it among the participating States. At present, consultations with the Bulgarian authorities on the legal and managerial framework for implementation of the project are under way. It is planned to implement the project in 2014, provided the required funding is available. Currently only one participating States has pledged the funds.

In Kazakhstan, the total amount of mélange subject to disposal was assessed by the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan and the OSCE at the level of 410 tonnes. Kazakhstan provided its decisive financial and technical contribution to removal of the mélange. On 29 June 2013, a train carrying more than 400 tonnes of the toxic rocket fuel component mélange safely departed from Sary Ozek, Kazakhstan for the disposal at a specialized chemical plant in Dzerzhinsk, Russia, as a part of a project supported by the OSCE.

The disposal of mélange was carried out by the same implementing partner contracted for the mélange project in Ukraine. To support the mélange loading operation in Kazakhstan and to create synergy between the two projects, the Ukrainian military experts with previous experience in the mélange disposal project were engaged. They conducted training exercises with local specialists before the actual loading of mélange into the railcars took place. As of August 2013, 402 tonnes of mélange were disposed of at a specialized chemical plant in Dzerzhinsk, Russia.

On 23 October 2013, Kyrgyzstan requested assistance with the disposal of some 110 tonnes of mélange. The team of the OSCE experts conducted the preliminary assessment of the mélange storage conditions in Kyrgyzstan taking advantage of the fact that they were close to the storage sites while conducting the loading of mélange in Kazakhstan in June 2013. The conclusion of the assessment suggests that with a good co-operation with Kazakhstan, including but not limited to the agreement on loading of mélange with support of the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan and the railroad transportation of mélange through the territory of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan could rid itself of its stocks of mélange in a relatively quick and cost-efficient way in 2014.

Once the issue of the transboundary movement between two countries is agreed upon, Kyrgyzstan could make use of the ongoing co-operation between the OSCE and the Russian chemical enterprises, which was established in the context of similar projects in the past.

The mélange project in Ukraine is the largest extrabudgetary project that the OSCE has ever undertaken. This project has a major positive environmental impact in terms of removing the risk of contamination/accident posed by the deteriorating stockpiles of the hazardous chemical substance. It also delivers lasting benign socio-economic effects for local communities, since the military sites with their infrastructural and economic assets will be closed down after the removal of the mélange and, after environmental clean-up, will be redeveloped for civilian use.

As of November 2013, the OSCE Secretariat, supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, largely completed disposal phase III-C. Since the project was launched in November 2009, the OSCE has succeeded in removing some 14,000 tonnes of

mélange from six storage sites in western, central, eastern and part of southern Ukraine, thereby freeing almost the entire territory of Ukraine from the toxic hazard, and making it a safe place to live. This hazardous substance was transported to two chemical plants in the Russian Federation that have extensive experience in the mélange disposal. There, all the mélange was safely processed into nitric acid and subsequently used for the production of civilian chemical products like fuel additives and industrial explosives. The project is fully financed and is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2014.

3.4 Training

From 8 to 11 April 2013, the Centre in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in partnership with the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), conducted a specialized technical seminar for 18 managers and ammunition handlers in the Turkmenistan Army weapons storage facilities on modern methods and best international practices in physical security and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition. The technical seminar was supplemented by a meeting between the international experts and senior officials from the Defence Ministry of Turkmenistan to discuss thematic instructions on ammunition site management procedures that the experts will prepare for the Ministry in 2013.

In Kyrgyzstan, in the context of the SALW and CA project, a course on physical security of stockpile management for the Ministry of Defence executives was conducted at the end of August 2013. During this course, which was organized in co-operation with the United States DTRA, 19 officials were taught the OSCE's best practices for effective management of SALW and CA. Two more courses are planned in December 2013 for the junior staff serving at the storage sites.

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan continued to support the Government of Tajikistan in ensuring the safe and secure storage of SALW.

In particular, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan undertook the following activities:

- Supporting the training authorities of the country's law enforcement agencies in the introduction of a new training major on SALW and SCA security and stockpiles management;
- Continuing consecutive efforts in the establishment of a coherent training mechanism for local law enforcement agencies that deal with arms and ammunition, and in close co-operation with relevant governmental authorities (Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Main Border Directorate and responsible staff of their higher academic facilities), the Office in 2013 commenced the establishment of separate distinct classes for future SALW and ammunition technicians, equipped with all the necessary training materials, visual aids, etc.

The requirement to introduce a new training programme was necessitated by the fact that, based on an initial review of existing training programmes in 2012, there were less than five training hours in a year on SALW and SCA security and stockpiles management. Based on agreements with the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Main Border Directorate, the Office in 2013, established a working group consisting of representatives of the respective training authorities, in order to amend the existing training

curricula and introduce a new major on SALW and SCA physical security and stockpiles management. The activity currently is in its final stage and it is hoped that the newly developed curricula will be approved and adopted by the end of 2013.

Having addressed the majority of issues related to SALW and SCA security in Tajikistan, the Office in 2013 (March–May) carried out a survey on achievements of SALW and SCA projects in Tajikistan, their impact and long-term sustainability, as well as providing further recommendations on countering security threats and challenges in the country in the context of regional security in Central Asia. The survey results demonstrated that, throughout the years of co-operation with the Government of Tajikistan, the OSCE has played a significant role in ensuring the security of the country's SALW and CA stockpiles. Now having both internationally acceptable infrastructure and human capacity in place, the country by the end of 2014, the country will be able to undertake activities in this category independently. At the same time, considering the current security situation in the region, and the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in 2014 from Afghanistan and possible security risks to the neighbouring countries as a result, the survey report also contains recommendations on further co-operation in terms of ensuring SALW and SCA security, in the context of regional co-operation.

3.5 Donors

In 2013, the following participating States contributed to the designated projects: Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

4. Co-operation and exchange of information

4.1 Co-operation with the United Nations

In line with the UN Programme of Action on SALW, which encourages regional organizations to co-operate and to develop and strengthen partnerships to share resources to combat illicit SALW, the OSCE has continued developing and implementing joint projects with UNDP. In addition to two joint projects launched in Belarus and Montenegro in 2007, since that time three new joint projects were started in Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. The pilot project in Georgia was completed in June 2013, and now the follow-up projects under a three-year demilitarization programme in Georgia (disposal of 1,700 tonnes of Soviet ammunition) are open for funding.

4.2 Exchange of information with other international organizations

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

5. Conclusions

The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) remains an effective and useful tool for addressing the problems arising from stockpiles of conventional ammunition. 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.

In regard to the normative aspects of the SCA Document, an appreciable development in the past year was the introduction of destruction as the preferred method of disposal of ammunition. At the same time, there is more room for enhancing the other normative aspects of this Document, for example, development of clear criteria for defining surpluses of conventional ammunition in the effort to ensure its safe and secure storage. The OSCE should work further in this area at both the norm-setting and at the practical levels.

One of the most vibrant areas of implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA remains the one dealing with requests for assistance from participating States in the field of destruction and stockpile management and security.

In this field, 2013 was a dynamic year. Ongoing projects were partly completed in Albania, Belarus, Moldova and Serbia. The project on demilitarization of 1,288 cluster bombs in Georgia was completed, as well as the project on disposal of 410 tonnes of mélange in Kazakhstan. Projects continued to be implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. New projects were started in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. The feasibility studies and preliminary activities were started on the disposal of rocket fuel components in Belarus, Bulgaria and Kyrgyzstan.

On the one hand, this highlights the OSCE's credibility in helping participating States with their SCA problems, however, on the other, it also raises expectations that the OSCE is capable of delivering the same or a higher level of technical and financial support in the future.

In 2013, there was a decrease in donor funding available for SCA projects, as compared to the previous year. During the reporting period, participating States pledged 1,145,900 euros for projects relating to conventional ammunition, compared to 1,889,804 euros in 2012.

The mélange disposal in Ukraine and Bulgaria alone attracted 9,864,000 euros in 2013, accounting for a substantial share of the total amount of donor contributions. Unfortunately, there are other projects in need of donor funding:

- The project on chemicals disposal in Albania, a project to build a new storage site in Moldova;
- Security upgrade of the ammunition storage sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Ammunition destruction and storage-site upgrade in Montenegro (MONDEM);
- The project on increasing ERW clean-up capacity in Ukraine.

Projects on demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are among the tangible and visible successful endeavours of the OSCE's work.

They achieve results that are well measurable and understandable and carry a very good public relations value and, therefore, are of great importance to the Organization.

However, the extrabudgetary contributions and fundraising remain a core challenge in the absence of predictable multi-year strategies for funding of SALW and SCA projects by the participating States.

FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON EFFORTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) IN THE OSCE REGION

(Annex 5 to MC.GAL/2/13 of 29 November 2013)

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 facilitation of regional implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and draws on discussions and reports of national progress presented in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The report covers the period until November 2013.¹

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 prevention of 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 participating States are currently negotiating an update of the 1994 Principles Governing Non-Proliferation.

The OSCE agreed to contribute as appropriate and in co-ordination with the relevant United Nations forum, 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 UN Charter.

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

The Forum for Security and Co-operation (FSC), in accordance with its mandate, is to facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfilment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004) (MC.DEC/16/09).

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

1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 15 November 2013.

In the “Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community”, adopted in 2010, 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, which can originate within or outside the OSCE region (SUM.DOC/1/10/Corr.1).

The participating States of the OSCE have expressed their commitment to explore ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994, as well as to support the on-going activities designed to assist in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information-sharing on national progress lessons learnt in this regard, as stated in Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 on issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation (MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1).

Within the framework of the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/11 (MC.DEC/8/11), the FSC is tasked to continue 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 1540 Committee, with the view to complementing its efforts.

UNSCR 1977 (2011) encourages States to prepare, on a voluntary basis, their national implementation action plans and urges States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to provide assistance as appropriate. It also extended the mandate of resolution 1540 for a period of ten years until 2021.

3. Efforts by the FSC

3.1 Decision on points of contact on UNSCR 1540 (2004) and its implementation

On 14 December 2011, the FSC adopted a decision on points of contact on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (FSC.DEC/19/11), thus establishing a complementary and voluntary directory of national and OSCE points of contact with the purpose to facilitate information-sharing, promoting best practices as well as strengthening relevant international information exchange networks (where appropriate), between participating States on issues related to the national implementation of UNSCR 1540.

The decision is also seeking to enhance capacity-building and to synchronize any non-proliferation activities in order to prevent duplication of efforts, including by third parties.

To date, 47 participating States have provided detailed information to the OSCE on their national point of contact on UNSCR 1540.

In accordance with FSC Decision No. 19/11, the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) has been appointed to act as the OSCE’s focal point on UNSCR 1540, and the network of points of contact was shared with the 1540 Committee, with the aim to become an integral part of the global 1540 network. This was acknowledged by the 1540 Committee chairperson during a joint briefing to the Security Council of the three committees (1267/1989, 1373, 1540) on 10 May 2012.

In addition, the network has been active in sharing non-proliferation related materials, as well as information about a number of events organized by the CPC.

In the first quarter of 2014, a meeting with all the national focal points on UNSCR 1540 is planned to be held in Vienna, Austria with financial support of Switzerland.

3.2 CPC annual work plan for 2013 in support of regional implementation of UNSCR 1540

In its third year, the CPC led extrabudgetary project on support of regional implementation of the UNSCR 1540 has moved from awareness-raising towards the provision of concrete assistance, such as result-oriented training events and facilitation of assistance to interested participating States in the development of their national implementation action plans (NAP) on UNSCR 1540. The CPC's annual work plan for 2013 in support of regional implementation of UNSCR 1540 was designed with a view to assisting interested participating States in building up their national capacities on matters related to the implementation of UNSCR 1540, based on the principles of clear national consent and co-operative effort, as well as on expertise and experience gained by the international community.

It also aims to improve regional co-operation and co-ordination on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by establishing a strong stakeholders' network through which the co-ordination and promotion of the implementation needs and requirements in respect of UNSCR 1540 are to be carried out.

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

On 4 July 2012, during the Latvian FSC Chairmanship, the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues was appointed (FSC.DEL/86/12).

In accordance with the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 7/11 and 8/11, the FSC was specifically tasked to:

- (a) Explore ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994;
- (b) Support the on-going activities designed to assist the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information-sharing on national progress and lessons learned in this regard;
- (c) Continue to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, the OSCE's contribution to assisting participating States, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540.

The FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues was mandated to assist the FSC Chairmanships in implementation of these tasks as well as to consult with the delegations, the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and other organizations on the best way to facilitate the implementation.

3.4 Security dialogues of the FSC

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) is one of the OSCE's two main decision-making bodies. On 15 May 2013, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 within the OSCE region, with a presentation on "Strengthening further the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and the role of regional organizations" by H.E. Ambassador Kim Sook, Chair of the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

The 1540 Committee recognized the valuable contribution that the OSCE makes to the cause of non-proliferation and, in particular, to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which indeed is a matter of common, co-operative and indivisible security as sought by the OSCE.

The Chair has also commended the Memorandum of Understanding on joint implementation of projects on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) between the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) concluded in 2011. This statement was echoed by a number of delegations, and as referred to by the EU, the Memorandum of Understanding can serve as a particularly useful tool in assisting participating States in implementation of projects on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The statement of the 1540 Committee Chair was well received by the Vienna-based delegations and was followed by a full discussion, in particular regarding the role of regional organizations with respect to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Furthermore, a number of delegations have commended the activities of the OSCE executive structures, conducted in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/11 on the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540.

4. Proposals and initiatives

A number of specific proposals and initiatives have been presented and discussed in the FSC working framework in 2013, including:

- Discussions on drafting further chapters of the Best Practice Guide on UNSCR 1540;
- Proposal to update the 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation (FSC.DEL/99/13/Rev.3);
- Practical assistance to participating States, at their request, including provision of assistance for the development of national action plans/strategies and national legislation;
- Targeted awareness-raising and training programmes.

Discussions aimed at reaching consensus on relevant proposals are ongoing.

5. Practical assistance

5.1 Overview

Assisting the OSCE participating States in 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 an essential part of the efforts of the FSC during the reporting period.

Since the 2011 OSCE Workshop To Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, the OSCE has received more than a dozen requests for assistance in developing NAPs or strategies to tackle proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In particular, NAPs and/or strategic planning documents for Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia have been finalized and adopted by the respective governmental structures, with the assistance of the OSCE executive structures and in close co-operation with the 1540 Committee Experts and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

It is now proposed that the issues relevant to implementation of UNSCR 1540 should be addressed in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner through a country-specific dialogue, involving all the interested national authorities of a participating State and representatives of the 1540 Committee through its 1540 Experts, relevant international organizations and NGOs dealing with various aspects of implementation of UNSCR 1540.

The OSCE facilitates the organization and conduct of these activities (see Attachment A).

In particular, on-going country-specific dialogues with Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as the initial talks with Albania, Georgia and Ukraine, which *inter alia* include assistance with development of an NAP on UNSCR 1540 implementation, can be seen as concrete examples of assistance provided by the OSCE to its interested participating States in the field of non-proliferation.

To this end, within the framework of the country-specific dialogues and NAPs adopted, a number of participating States have requested trainings and capacity-building for customs and border officials as well as law enforcement agencies and policy makers. In particular, the training is to be focused on identification of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. In response, the CPC, in co-operation with the EU Outreach Export Controls for Dual-Use Goods, the US Department of Energy and the RACVIAC Centre for Security Co-operation held a first Commodity identification training course for South-Eastern Europe, in July 2013.

Such training curriculums will be offered to other OSCE regions throughout 2014.

5.2 OSCE's support to national implementation of UNSCR 1540

5.2.1 Armenia

In a letter to the OSCE, dated 12 February 2013, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia expressed Armenia's intent to "elaborate and adopt a national action plan for more comprehensive implementation of the resolution [1540]" and requested technical and financial assistance in this regard.

In a statement by the Republic of Armenia delivered at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts held in Vienna, from 1 to 5 July 2013, by H.E. Mr. Arman Kirakossian, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, it was pointed out that "UNSCR 1540 remains a key international instrument in the export control and WMD counter-proliferation sphere.

In order to further improve and enhance its implementation record, the government has recently initiated drafting of a national action plan in co-operation with the OSCE".

As a result, the OSCE executive structures, together with the 1540 Committee Expert attended a national round table meeting with the Republic of Armenia on the development of a national action plan for the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540, in Yerevan, Armenia from 23 to 26 September 2013.

Since the Government of Armenia aims to develop a strategic and overarching approach to its chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) policies by preparing an NAP on resolution 1540 with inclusion of an all-hazards CBRN policy in order to anticipate and respond to these risks, in accordance with the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence (COE) Initiative, representatives of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), as an implementing agency for the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, also attended the meeting.

5.2.2 Belarus

In 2012, as a follow-up to the joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation that took place in July 2011 and the expert consultations held in Minsk in October 2011, Belarus has been developing a national framework document on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, with assistance provided by the CPC, the 1540 Committee Expert and UNODA.

During the second stage, in March 2012, a one-week consultative/drafting session was held in Vienna with various Belarusian authorities, the CPC, the 1540 Committee Expert, and representatives from UNODA, and VERTIC. The National Framework Document of the Republic of Belarus on additional measures to implement UN Security Council resolution 1540 was finalized at this meeting.

In June 2012, the Inter-Agency Commission on Military-Technical Co-operation and Export Controls under the Security Council of the Republic of Belarus approved the National Framework Document (the "road map") and this final document was presented by the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus to all the participating States during the Security Dialogue of the FSC plenary meeting devoted to implementation of UNSCR 1540 in July 2012.

Throughout 2013, Belarus has been implementing the national framework document. The national legislation in the export control and bio-security areas is being reviewed and amended, where necessary. The short-term export control courses for the representatives of the industry have been introduced on the regular basis.

On 1 January 2013, Belarus created a single permit for the cross-border transport of goods, including biological materials and pathogenic micro-organisms, whose cross-border trafficking is restricted. This form was developed pursuant to a decision taken by the Eurasian Economic Commission and is in use in the territory of the member states of the Customs Union.

The Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Ministry of Health has been nominated as the national contact point for the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

5.2.3 Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed an interest in updating its national legislation in line with the UNSCR 1540 obligations and engaged in informal consultations with the OSCE. During the Security Dialogue of the FSC plenary meeting devoted to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 on 4 July 2012, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina further reiterated his country's willingness to develop an NAP on implementation of UNSCR 1540 with the assistance of the OSCE, the 1540 Committee and UNODA.

The OSCE executive structures have supported the work of an informal working group for preparation of an NAP on UNSCR 1540. The group, which is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has also revised Bosnia and Herzegovina's national report submitted to the 1540 Committee.

In February 2013, the CBRN co-ordination body of Bosnia and Herzegovina held its second meeting in Sarajevo, with the Serbian CBRN Co-ordinator presenting best practices on establishment of such a body within Serbia. The co-ordination body on CBRN is chaired by the Border Police. Representatives of the OSCE executive structures attended the meeting, in order to consider a possible co-operation between the two working groups – 1540 and CBRN.

In April 2013, an expert meeting on Bosnia and Herzegovina's National Implementation Action Plan took place in Vienna, Austria, in which representatives from the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE executive structures, UNODA and the 1540 Committee Experts collaborated.

5.2.4 Kyrgyzstan

Following a country-specific dialogue with Kyrgyzstan, in particular the national round-table meeting, which took place in Bishkek in December 2011, and the subsequent drafting/consultative meeting in Vienna in March 2012, Kyrgyzstan, with the assistance of the OSCE executive structures, the 1540 Committee Expert, UNODA, IAEA and VERTIC,

developed an “Action Plan of the Kyrgyz Republic on Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)”. The Plan was adopted by the government in April 2013.

The Action Plan of Kyrgyzstan includes a number of measures requesting international assistance, and in line with the 1540 Committee’s role of a match-maker in this process, the country has already received offers of assistance from registered 1540 assistance providers.

In addition, in November 2013, the Kyrgyz authorities have requested assistance from OSCE and UNODA, in implementation of measures of the national action plan, in particular with editing and translating of control lists.

5.2.5 Moldova

In September 2011, Moldova requested assistance from the OSCE in strengthening its national capacities in line with the obligations arising from resolution 1540, on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and defending against CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials) threats.

In March 2012, the OSCE executive structures, jointly with the German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) acting on behalf of the EU, and in co-operation with the 1540 Committee and UNODA, initiated a country-specific dialogue with Moldova, in particular, also reviewing national export-control legislation for both dual-use and military goods.

As an outcome of this co-operation, in January 2013, with the support of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the parties presented the EU Experts’ recommendations for the update of the Moldovan export-control legislation on dual-use and military goods to the relevant ministries and representatives of parliament.

Moldova has also further reaffirmed the country’s intention to develop a comprehensive national implementation action plan on UNSCR 1540, as well as to host a country visit early next year.

5.2.6 Montenegro

Montenegro expressed its interest in updating its national legislation in line with the UNSCR 1540 obligations, and in October 2012, at the invitation of the Government of Montenegro, a national round-table meeting to discuss the implementation of UNSCR 1540 was held in Podgorica.

The meeting was attended by 16 representatives from various ministries, the OSCE executive structures, a 1540 Committee expert as well as by a representative from the European Union delegation to Montenegro.

In October 2013, as a direct follow-up, a consultation meeting on the National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540 of Montenegro took place in Vienna, and was attended by the representatives of the CPC, the 1540 Committee experts, and representatives of the UNODA, the UNICRI, as an implementing agency for the EU CBRN Centres of

Excellence Initiative and VERTIC. The aim of the Government is to develop its plan by the end of the year.

5.2.7 Serbia

Following the collective efforts carried out to date by the Serbian authorities, the OSCE executive structures, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and UNODA, the Serbian “National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Means of Delivery (2012–2016)”, was drafted and subsequently adopted by the government on 19 April 2012. A representative of the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributed and presented the national document (FSC.EMI/252/12) during the FSC plenary meeting devoted to UNSCR 1540 on 4 July 2012.

The OSCE executive structures, together with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and UNODA have assisted the Government of Serbia, at its request, with sharing of Serbian effective practices in the implementation of resolution 1540 and particularly in the development of the country’s NAP, with countries in the region, *inter alia* by organizing a regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), which took place in Belgrade, Serbia, in May 2013.

5.2.8 Tajikistan

Following another request to organize a national round-table meeting on the implementation of UNSCR 1540, the OSCE executive structures, the 1540 Committee expert and UNODA co-ordinated a country-specific dialogue in October 2012 in Dushanbe, with the relevant national authorities, in order to review the national implementation of UNSCR 1540, in the competency of a newly established national working group. The draft NAP has been drafted by the working group, and it is planned to hold follow-up consultative sessions with the relevant Tajik authorities in Vienna early next year.

5.2.9 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In the opening statement of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia’s Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, the Government expressed its readiness to develop a “National Action Plan for Implementation of UNSCR 1540” in co-operation with partners from the OSCE executive structures and the United Nations.

Subsequently, in October 2012, a representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia delivered a statement at an FSC plenary meeting, outlining the country’s national commitments and priorities undertaken to ensure compliance with international and regional standards facilitating consistent implementation of UNSCR 1540. The role of the CPC, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, UNODA and VERTIC in promoting national implementation of resolution 1540 during a national round-table meeting held in Skopje in June 2012 was acknowledged by the national representative during the Security Dialogue.

In order to review a draft NAP prepared by the authorities, a consultation meeting on the National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540 was held in Vienna in October 2013, with the relevant national authorities, attended also by the 1540 Committee Expert, UNODA, UNICRI, as an implementing agency for the EU CBRN Centres of

Excellence Initiative and VERTIC. The aim of the Government is to develop their plan by the end of the year.

5.2.10 Uzbekistan

The Government of Uzbekistan expressed its interest in conducting a joint meeting of a national working group with the OSCE executive structures and the United Nations, in order to review its existing national legislation in the context of the UNSCR 1540 obligations.

At the invitation of the Government of Uzbekistan, a national round-table meeting on the implementation of the UNSCR 1540 took place in Tashkent in May 2012, with a statement of the intention to draft the Uzbek NAP on implementation of resolution 1540 in the course of 2013.

As a follow-up to the first national round-table meeting on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in May 2012, an inter-agency group was established.

Since then, throughout 2013, the group has held several meetings for the purpose of developing the nation action plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1540, supported by the OSCE executive structures, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and UNODA.

By October 2013, a draft NAP has been prepared by the Uzbek authorities, and a consultation meeting on the draft is planned to be held in Vienna, in the first quarter of 2014.

5.2.11 National round tables

National round tables have proved to be a beneficial platform for launching a country-specific dialogue in which government authorities, with the assistance of the OSCE and relevant international experts, in close co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and UNODA, can discuss the countries' national priorities as well as the current level of implementation of resolution 1540, and create a solid basis for further co-operation and result-oriented action, possibly through national implementation action plans.

5.3 Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and UNODA

In line with UN Security Council resolution 1540, and recognizing the need to enhance co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, the OSCE has developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). In October 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding 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" was signed by both parties with the goal of enhancing the capacities of both organizations in facilitation of implementation of resolution 1540.

The Memorandum of Understanding has now been further extended for another two years, until October 2015.

The OSCE and UNODA co-operate and co-ordinate their efforts to assist the OSCE participating States (upon request) in the development of their legislative framework and technical capabilities.

These collaborative efforts, in close co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, have led to the holding of a number of successful national round tables, continued country-specific dialogues, and the adoption of three national action plans and/or strategies (Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia). All three NAPs can be found on the 1540 Committee's website.

In addition, regional awareness-raising workshops and tailored training events, jointly organized by both organizations, have been held throughout the year.

5.4 Regional workshop on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), Minsk, Belarus

The workshop was organized by the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States with support of the CPC of the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as in co-operation with the Government of the Republic of Belarus, from 15 to 17 January 2013, in Minsk, Belarus.

The event was attended by representatives of all 11 CIS States from relevant ministries, border and customs authorities of the countries, the CIS Executive Committee, the Co-ordination Service of the Council of Commanders of Border Troops, the Anti-Terrorism Centre, the Committee of Heads of Law Enforcement Units of the Council of Heads of Customs Services of the CIS countries, as well as experts from a number of international organizations. Designed for policy-makers and practitioners, the workshop encouraged experience-sharing in the specified areas first and foremost amongst the participating CIS Member States.

The workshop agenda, based on the proposals submitted by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Member States to the CIS Executive Committee, proved to be the right approach with over 40 presentations delivered by participants and lively discussion on the implementation of specific provisions of the resolution, as well as on measures to improve the co-ordination and exchange information between the relevant authorities of the CIS countries.

The participants worked out and agreed upon informal follow-up recommendations, which were distributed by the delegation of Belarus to all the OSCE participating States (see Attachment B).²

The CPC together with the 1540 Committee expert and UNODA also held consultations with the Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee/CIS Executive Secretary and the heads of relevant departments. The parties appreciated the event, noting its very successful and practical outcomes. The meeting also noted the importance of the further development of co-operation between the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the OSCE Secretariat and the CIS Executive Committee on support of the resolution's implementation.

2 Original document is available under SEC.DEL/19/13.

5.5 Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

The Workshop was organized by the Republic of Serbia with support of the CPC of the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, on 9 and 10 May 2013 in Belgrade.

The objective of the Workshop was to exchange national experiences and effective practices in the area of practical implementation of the resolution and thus promote further capacity-building for implementation of specific provisions of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels. The Workshop was built upon the outcomes of a regional workshop on resolution 1540 held in Croatia in 2010.

Designed for policy makers from relevant ministries, as well as officials from most relevant agencies from the countries of the region, the workshop encouraged experience-sharing in the specified areas. Pertinent information on experience and lessons learned was also shared.

The deliberations during the working sessions also helped to identify and compile informal recommendations on further measures and activities that could be undertaken by the countries of the region and/or international or regional organizations in response to specific national and, where appropriate, regional needs (see Attachment C).³

5.6 Regional commodity identification training

All the participating States of the OSCE engage in legitimate trade transactions involving the movement of conventional weapons and dual-use goods. Under the requirements of UNSCR 1540, nations must establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over such items.

As an integral part of the implementation of such measures, effective information-sharing needs to be in place among the multiple agencies of the government that are responsible for the implementation.

The OSCE therefore organized a series of four regional workshops from October 2011 to October 2012 for licensing officers and customs agencies for the regions of South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, as well as the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

The workshops brought together over 100 national representatives from 27 countries. Experts from a number of international organizations and academia also took part in the workshops.

Based on the assessment of the series of workshops and the evaluation of the feedback provided by the participants, the CPC and the Transnational Threats Department held a follow-up training event focusing on the commodity identification of dual-use and military

3 Original text is available under FSC.DEL/74/13/Corr.1.

goods, in a similar setting that aimed to further promote co-operation and information-sharing among the licensing authorities and customs agencies.

The training was organized by the OSCE Secretariat (CPC/FSC Support Section and Transnational Threats Department/Borders Unit), together with the EU Outreach Export Controls for Dual-Use Goods, the US Department of Energy and the RACVIAC Centre for Security Co-operation, and was held in Zagreb, Croatia from 16 to 18 July 2013.

The event provided hands-on training for the physical identification of goods subject to strategic controls, as well as the identification of controlled items for export based on their export documentation. The experts included government officials, industry experts, representatives of academia and independent consultants working in the field of strategic trade and related commodities.

Similar training activities are planned for other OSCE regions throughout 2014.

5.7 Workshop on Assessment of Implementation and the Role of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in Achieving the Aims of Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

On 5 and 6 November 2013, the Government of Ukraine, in co-operation with the CPC and UNODA, held a workshop for all the OSCE participating States as well as the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners, on “Assessment of Implementation and the Role of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in Achieving the Aims of Non-Proliferation and Disarmament”. The event took place in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The event was attended by 33 States, including 5 Partners for Co-operation, and resulted in a number of political as well as technical statements and presentations. The Ukrainian Chairmanship has also issued a consensus “Chair’s summary of the proceedings and outcome of the Workshop on Assessment of Implementation and the Role of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in Achieving the Aims of Non-Proliferation and Disarmament” (see Attachment D).⁴

6. Co-operation and co-ordination

6.1 Round-table meeting on UNSCR 1540 co-ordination needs and practices

On 20 and 21 February 2012, a round-table meeting on UNSCR 1540 co-ordination needs and practices was organized at the initiative of three 1540 co-ordinators (OSCE, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)). The event, supported by the 1540 Committee and UNODA, provided a unique opportunity for relevant staff/experts from a number of international and regional organizations to exchange views on facilitation of implementation of UNSCR 1540.

The goal was to avoid duplication of efforts in the field of UNSCR 1540 implementation, by the staff of the international and regional organizations, as well as to identify effective practices in supporting and furthering the 1540 Committee’s efforts by

4 Original text is available under CIO.GAL/162/13.

promoting lessons learned, and to explore the benefits of institutionalizing the function of 1540 co-ordinators (staff level) within regional organizations in connection with global non-proliferation efforts.

Under the lead of the 1540 Committee Expert, participants from 14 international organizations informed each other of their responsibilities, effective practices and the shortfalls experienced when it came to facilitation of implementation of the resolution 1540. Information on planned activities for the year 2012 was also communicated by all the participants. In order to maximize the use of the current tight financial resources, co-ordination of such activities was encouraged by all.

It is planned to hold such staff-level round-table meetings annually, and the next co-ordination meeting will take place in the first quarter of 2014.

6.2 Co-operation with the United Nations

Decision No. 8/11, adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting at Vilnius in 2011, with reference to UNSCR 1977 (2011), emphasized the need for the OSCE's contribution to assist the participating States in further implementation of UNSCR 1540, in close co-ordination with the 1540 Committee, to complement its efforts.

The OSCE was consistent in continuing constructive dialogue and co-operation with the United Nations, specifically with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

6.2.1 The 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts

With the creation of the four-year extrabudgetary project on "Support of regional implementation of the UNSCR 1540" executed by the CPC, a priority was set to create a close working relationship with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

The CPC has co-ordinated all of its non-proliferation efforts with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, resulting in a number of successful national round table meetings, country-specific dialogues and developments of NAPs and/or strategies of several interested OSCE participating States.

The 1540 Committee has acknowledged OSCE efforts in the field of implementation of the resolution 1540 in a number of fora.

6.2.2 United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding concluded in 2011 between the two organizations, and further extended for two more years, the OSCE and UNODA hold regular consultations on various practical issues related to facilitation of implementation of resolution 1540 for the interested OSCE participating States.

In addition, the OSCE and UNODA jointly organized regional outreach, capacity-building and awareness-raising regional events. More concretely, UNODA has contributed to the 2013 Regional Workshops on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), in Minsk, Belarus and Belgrade, Serbia, as well as to the Workshop on Assessment of the Implementation and the Role of United Nations Security Council

Resolution 1540 (2004) in Achieving the Aims of Non-Proliferation and Disarmament organized by the Government of Ukraine in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Furthermore, the OSCE and UNODA have worked closely in providing assistance to interested OSCE participating States, in particular in the organization of country-specific dialogues, with the aim of developing national implementation action plans.

6.2.3 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC-OSCE Joint Action Plan for 2011–2012 was agreed upon by the two organizations in September 2011. The parties to this agreement intended to undertake substantive, long-term co-operation also in the area of promotion of implementation of UNSCR 1540.

In April 2013, the parties extended the Joint Action Plan for the period of 2013–2014. The Plan covers the areas of co-operation and co-ordination on specific regional initiatives, including those in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe; and considers developing partnerships to provide technical assistance to countries, at their request, in complying with the requirements of UN Security Council resolution 1540, on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, among others.

6.2.4 United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

In May 2012, under the umbrella of the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence project, launched as an initiative of the European Union, implemented jointly by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and UNICRI, the European Commission and UNICRI held an event in Brussels on "Working with the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centre of Excellence".

During this event, the CPC shared effective practices in regional co-ordination as well as a technical assistance mechanism in facilitation of implementation of UNSCR 1540, stressing the need to avoid duplication of efforts among all relevant international players.

Since then, the CPC has established a solid working-level co-operation with the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, and in April 2013 held an expert meeting between the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the European Union, the United Nations and the OSCE Secretariat with the aim of identifying possible synergies between our activities, and transforming them into concrete actions within the OSCE region.

With this in mind, an "Indicative mapping study of UNSCR 1540 and CBRN methodology" was carried out by the OSCE Secretariat, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and UNICRI, formulating a first step towards identifying a positive overlap in both methodologies.

The study concluded that following the analysis and the resulting, potential, extensive and practical overlap of the reporting under both resolution 1540 and the CBRN Centres of Excellence methodology, further identification of possibilities for co-ordinated or joint practical activities, at both the national and regional levels, is advisable.

On a practical note, the CPC co-ordinates its assistance to interested participating States with UNICRI, particularly through their network of CBRN Centres of Excellence Regional Co-ordinators, and UNICRI representatives have taken an active part in the country-specific dialogues of Armenia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

6.3 Co-operation with international, regional and subregional organizations

Since the Meeting of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations on Co-operation in Promoting the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) organized by the UNODA in Vienna in 2010, and establishment of the four-year extrabudgetary project supporting OSCE participating States in implementation of the resolution, the OSCE has established all-embracing relations with:

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW);
- Biological Weapons Convention – Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU);
- 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);
- German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) – acting as an implementing agent of the EU-funded co-operation programme on dual-use export controls;
- World Health Organization (WHO).

6.3.1 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Since the resolution 1540 has been recognized as an integral part of the international legal framework for nuclear security, in facilitating assistance to interested OSCE participating States, CPC has been closely co-operating with the IAEA.

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, the OSCE Secretariat attends the regular Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meetings organized by the IAEA. In addition, both organizations are in close contact, at the request of the interested OSCE participating States, on matters related to development of NAPs.

6.3.2 Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The CPC and OPCW are actively exchanging information on activities related to the implementation of UNSCR 1540. Possibilities for combining efforts on joint projects to address chemical materials as a part of NAPs and/or strategies are being considered.

6.3.3 Biological Weapons Convention – Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU)

The Biological Weapons Convention is one of the key components of the international community's effort to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and OSCE therefore keeps an open channel of communication with the Implementation Support Unit.

Despite the limited number of support staff, the BWC-ISU has been involved in a number of the OSCE's activities on UNSCR 1540 implementation.

6.3.4 Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

The OSCE Secretariat and CTBTO enjoy a regular exchange of information on matters related to the relevant mandates of both organizations. An example co-operation is the sharing of information on different training and awareness-raising activities, focusing on building and maintaining the necessary capacity in the technical, legal and political aspects of nuclear non-proliferation.

6.3.5 European Union (EU)

Since the EU Instrument for Stability also directly contributes to the objectives of UNSCR 1540 through its CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, and establishment of regional secretariats implementing CBRN national plans within the OSCE region, the OSCE and the EU are currently looking into formalizing their co-operation.

6.3.6 INTERPOL

Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive weapons (CBRNE) terrorism poses a threat to public safety, national security and economic and political stability on a global level. Therefore, with the CBRNE Terrorism Prevention Programme, INTERPOL specializes in the prevention of different aspects of CBRNE terrorism.

Since the Programme also actively supports the implementation of resolution 1540, and the resolution is considered as a legal cornerstone of the international mechanism to prevent non-State actors from accessing CBRNE materials, the CPC has now established a co-ordination mechanism with INTERPOL as well. In particular, the CPC presented OSCE's regional approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 at the INTERPOL Course on Chemical and Explosive Terrorism Prevention in Tbilisi, Georgia from 4 to 7 November 2013.

6.3.7 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

During the co-ordination meeting between the staff of international organizations, representatives of the CPC and NATO WMD Non-Proliferation Centre in February 2012, the importance of information-sharing on matters related to implementation of UNSCR 1540, among others, was further reiterated.

Therefore, NATO has been diligent in inviting the CPC to participate in the Annual NATO Conference on WMD arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. In the 2013 NATO Annual Conference held in Split, Croatia (6 and 7 May), a representative of the OSCE presented the on-going OSCE activities under the agenda item "Terrorism and WMD proliferation".

6.3.8 Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

The OSCE pays close attention to co-operation with the CIS Executive Secretariat and its member States. The CIS's expertise provides an invaluable information resource for the comprehensive implementation of the resolution in the region.

In order to identify and exchange information on the effective practices and national experiences on implementation of resolution 1540 and its relevant elements, a regional workshop on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), organized by the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, with the support of the CPC of the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and in co-operation with the Government of the Republic of Belarus, was held in Minsk, Belarus, from 15 to 17 January 2013.

6.3.9 German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA)

The Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) is mandated by the European Union (EU) to implement projects in the realm of export control of dual-use goods. These projects aim at enhancing the effectiveness of export-control systems in respect of dual-use items in partner countries, with a view to reducing the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials, equipment and technologies.

The OSCE executive structures, jointly with BAFA, have provided assistance to Moldova in updating its export-control legislation on dual-use goods, in order to meet the international requirements. In January 2013, with support of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the parties also presented the EU experts' recommendations for the update of the Moldovan export-control legislation to the relevant ministries as well as representatives of parliament.

In addition, BAFA has been actively supporting the OSCE in the series of regional workshops on customs procedures and licensing issuance, as well as in the Regional Commodity Identification Training held within RACVIAC, in Croatia.

6.3.10 World Health Organization (WHO)

In order to prevent or deter the use of biological agents as weapons, implementation of a number of international instruments is needed. The International Health Regulations

(IHR) is among these instruments, along with UNSCR 1540 and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

The OSCE recognizes the important role that WHO plays in countering biological threats and has therefore established a close working partnership with the Organization.

Bio-safety and bio-security are vital pillars of both UNSCR 1540 and the IHR, relevant to both public health and security.

WHO has participated in a number of activities organized by the OSCE, including national round-table meetings on the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

6.4 Civil society and academia

6.4.1 VERTIC

VERTIC's National Implementation Measures (NIM) Programme provides legislative assistance to States in the development of laws and regulations for national implementation of UNSCR 1540.

VERTIC has participated in a number of country-specific dialogues organized by the CPC throughout 2012 and 2013, and has been an invaluable partner of the OSCE in assisting interested participating States in facilitation of implementation of a wide range of obligations stemming from resolution 1540.

6.4.2 The Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)

The VCDNP's mission is to promote international peace and security by providing a platform for independent analysis and dialogue in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Co-operation between the VCDNP and the CPC has been continuously strengthened through enhanced exchange of information, and joint participation in events and training courses.

6.4.3 The University of Georgia, Centre for International Trade and Security

The Centre for International Trade and Security endeavours to promote peace and prosperity through the use of research, training and outreach focused on the mitigation of threats posed by the trade in weapons of mass destruction materials and technologies.

The CPC has contributed to the 1540 Compass, a journal of the UNODA and the Centre for International Trade and Security, with an article on "UNSCR 1540 and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe" (Volume 1, Issue 1 – Winter 2012). The Government of Kyrgyzstan in their open letter to the editor has acknowledged the support of the OSCE in development of their NAP on resolution 1540.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

Since their beginning in 2010, the OSCE activities in support of regional implementation of UNSCR 1540 have received support from a number of OSCE participating States.

In order to provide comprehensive support to the OSCE States requesting assistance, and to avoid duplication of efforts, the CPC created an effective network of partners from other international and regional organizations, as well as academia, and the non-governmental sector.

It was often noted that, in order to tackle a strong network of proliferators, an equally strong network of non-proliferators needed to be established. The OSCE, through its extrabudgetary project aimed exactly at that, and now, three years on, the network of partner organizations has been strengthened significantly.

As a result of this partnership, in particular the Memorandum of Understanding with UNODA, the interested OSCE participating States have been able to benefit from a comprehensive assistance mechanism, and the OSCE region has become one of the most active players in this domain.

In particular, the approach to country-specific dialogues and development of national implementation action plans is now considered to constitute an effective practice developed in partnership with the interested OSCE participating States, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and UNODA, which can be further applied even outside of the OSCE region.

In addition, resolution 1977 (2011) encourages international, regional and subregional organizations to designate and provide a point of contact or co-ordinator for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and the OSCE has followed this advice.

In addition, as noted by the 1540 Committee Chair during the FSC Security Dialogue in May 2013, the OSCE has created a Network of Points of Contact encompassing 47 States and has shared it with the 1540 Committee, a simple measure but an effective tool experts' network inside and outside of the OSCE, not only raises the visibility of the Organization itself, but also keeps the OSCE at the forefront of the global non-proliferation agenda in facilitating partnering, contacts and information-sharing.

All of these developments, along with the current process of updating the 1994 Principles Governing Non-proliferation, together with the strong experts' network inside and outside of the OSCE, not only raises the visibility of the Organization itself, but also keeps the OSCE at the forefront of the global non-proliferation agenda.

8. Attachments

- Attachment A: Overview of participation in events organized by other international organizations
- Attachment B: Regional workshop on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), Belarus
- Attachment C: Regional workshop on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), Republic of Serbia
- Attachment D: Chair's summary of the proceedings and outcome of the workshop on assessment of implementation and the role of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in achieving the aims of non-proliferation and disarmament (Kyiv, Ukraine, 5 and 6 November 2013)

Attachment A: Overview of participation in events organized by other international organizations

OSCE/CPC participation in UNSCR 1540-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2013		
Date	Title	Place
8–10 January	Civil Society Forum in support of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Vienna, Austria
25 January	CBRN National Team meeting	Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
18 and 19 February	CBRN National Working Group meeting	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
17 and 18 April	Round-Table on WMD Redirection and Dual-Use Expertise/Knowledge Prevention	Kyiv, Ukraine
5–7 May	Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation	Split, Croatia
27–29 May	BWC Regional Workshop for Eastern Europe	Kyiv, Ukraine
27 and 28 June	International Arab Banking Summit: UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)	Vienna, Austria
9 and 10 July	EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Regional Secretariat Opening Ceremony and Round Table	Tbilisi, Georgia
19 and 20 September	Effective Practices of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540	Zagreb, Croatia
22–24 October	G8 Global Partnership Working Group	London, United Kingdom
4–7 November	INTERPOL Chemical and Explosives Terrorism Prevention Course	Tbilisi, Georgia

Attachment B: Regional workshop on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), Belarus

15 to 17 January 2013, Minsk, Belarus

Organized by the Executive Committee of Commonwealth of Independent States with support of the CPC of the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in co-operation with the Government of the Republic of Belarus

Unofficial recommendations on the outcome of the workshop on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004)

1. Support of the objectives and practices of the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004).
2. Recognition of the usefulness for the interested CIS Member States of the elaboration on a voluntary basis, on the assumption of proper needs and priorities, of national action plans for the implementation of the resolution.
3. Confirmation of a central role of the UNSC Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in the international efforts to implement the UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) and of the important role of the international and regional organizations, such as the UN, OSCE, CIS, to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the national level. Informing the 1540 Committee on steps taken in the implementations of resolution 1540, as well as on planned measures, as it is foreseen by the provisions of the resolution 1540 (2004).
4. Request of interested CIS Member States to the 1540 Committee for assistance in accordance with the existing format of request and the concrete questions posed.
5. Offer by the CIS Executive Committee to study the question of a contact point on resolution 1540 (2004) to further broaden the co-operation with the 1540 Committee, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the OSCE Secretariat and other international organizations; participate in the co-ordination meetings of the Secretariats of relevant international organizations; connect to the special section of the UN web-site for international organizations regarding the resolution 1540 (2004).
6. Willingness of individual CIS Member States to render assistance to their partners in improvement of a legal framework in the sphere of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
7. Building-up of the national capacity and future development of measures in the field of nuclear, chemical and biological security, including through the strengthening of co-operation among experts of CIS Member States.
8. Harmonization of national legislation of the interested CIS Member States in the field of biological security taking into account the existing international norms.

9. Further harmonization of control lists within CIS with the existing multilateral export control regimes in accordance with their national interests.
10. Co-ordination of training programmes on export controls, radiation control, chemical and biological security, existing within the CIS.
11. Elaboration of common approaches to the issues related to the identification of controlled goods. Strengthening of collaboration through the identification centres in the CIS region.
12. Examination of the issue on elaborating common approaches regarding the return or no return of detained materials with a high background radiation.
13. Organization of seminars on a regular basis and a search for new forms of co-operation and collaboration among the CIS Member States in the areas of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Attachment C: Regional workshop on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), Republic of Serbia

9 and 10 May 2013, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

Organized by the Republic of Serbia with support of the CPC of the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Informal recommendations

1. Express support of the existing objectives and practices of the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), on national, regional and international levels.
2. Recognize the usefulness and readiness of the interested SEE States for the elaboration and implementation, on a voluntary basis, of national action plans for the implementation of the resolution.
3. Express the readiness to further improve co-operation with the UNSC Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in implementing the UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) as well as with other international and regional organizations, such as the UN, the OSCE and the EU.
4. Continue to inform the 1540 Committee on steps taken in the implementation of resolution 1540, as well as on planned measures, as it is foreseen by the provisions of the resolution.
5. Consider a possible regional mechanism to further broaden the co-operation among the States in the region with the support of the 1540 Committee, the UN, the OSCE, the EU and other international and regional organizations.
6. Explore the possibility to establish a regional expert network group on dual-use goods identification in order to provide the efficient expert support for the licensing authority/first line responders, in line with the EU control list.
7. Build national capacities and future development of measures in the field of nuclear, chemical and biological security, including through strengthening of regional co-operation among experts of SEE States in order to achieve universality of the relevant non-proliferation instruments.
8. Intend to further render assistance to neighbours on improvement of legal and enforcement frameworks in the sphere of implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004), taking into account the requests for assistance of interested SEE States, particularly to the 1540 Committee in its role of the clearing house.
9. Plan to co-ordinate the national activities under UNSCR 1540, including activities envisioned in the National Implementation Action Plans, and the activities of the EU Centres of Excellence CBRN Risk Mitigation Initiative at the national, regional and international levels.

10. Continue co-operation with the view of strengthening and improving of networking, in search of co-operation and collaboration among the SEE States in the areas of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including maximising the use of existing international/regional resources.

Attachment D: Chair's summary of the proceedings and outcome of the workshop on assessment of implementation and the role of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in achieving the aims of non-proliferation and disarmament (Kyiv, Ukraine, 5 and 6 November 2013)

Participants of the workshop:

1. Recalled that UNSC resolution 1540 reaffirmed that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security and requires all States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and their means of delivery;
2. Acknowledged that resolution 1540 is an international legally binding instrument dealing with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and has played a crucial role in global and regional non-proliferation efforts;
3. Acknowledged the central role of the 1540 Committee in co-ordinating international efforts in the implementation of the resolution;
4. Noted that the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction impacts not only on safety and security of States but also protects human population from its negative effects;
5. Noted that international and regional co-operation among States is a crucial step towards achieving the key objectives of resolution 1540;
6. Called for intensification of efforts to develop and strengthen the co-operative interactions among States and building synergies among key stakeholders including relevant international, regional, subregional, non-governmental organizations and industry;
7. Supported efforts to promote a wide dissemination of effective 1540 implementation practices in order to facilitate national implementation efforts and international and regional co-operation;
8. Acknowledged with interest the 1540 peer review between Croatia and Poland as an effective practice in implementation of the resolution 1540 and advocated for other States to make use of this practice, as appropriate;
9. Underlined the need to combat illicit trafficking of WMD-related materials and in this regard supported stringent national export and border control, in particular the need for further consultations and practical events on commodity identification as well as on challenges related to enforcement;
10. Welcomed the forthcoming 10th anniversary of resolution 1540 and its 2016 Comprehensive Review as important milestones and as opportunities to identify realistic goals for the future;

11. Acknowledged the role of international and regional organizations in resolution 1540 implementation efforts in co-operation with the 1540 Committee, and in line with their respective mandates;
12. Particularly recognized the useful role of the CPC in supporting interested OSCE participating States in elaborating voluntary national implementation action plans for the implementation of the resolution;
13. Noted the on-going update of the OSCE 1994 Principles Governing Non-Proliferation with the hope that the document will be adopted by the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation prior to the Ministerial Council in Kyiv in 2013 as an important contribution to the global non-proliferation efforts;
14. Expressed their intention to continue close co-operation on 1540 related issues, since more still remains to be done to achieve the objectives of the resolution;
15. Noted that the results of this workshop are a direct contribution to the Canada-ROK Gift Basket on United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) proposed for the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the Netherlands in March 2014;
16. Noted that in 2014 Ukraine will celebrate 20th anniversary of its NPT accession as a non-nuclear State and signing the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances.

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

(MC.GAL/3/13 of 27 November 2013)

The 2013 Irish Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group assisted the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in fostering an open and interactive dialogue with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and in following a demand-driven approach to responding to the interests and priorities of the Asian Partners.

During the course of the year, five meetings of the Asian Contact Group were held, as well as a joint meeting with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. For each meeting, the topic was chosen jointly by the Chairmanship and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, featuring a speaker from a Partner's country. In addition to presentations by the Partner countries, each meeting saw a presentation by experts on topics pertinent to the Asian Contact Group.

At the first meeting of the Asian Contact Group, held on 15 February, the Irish Chair, Ambassador O'Leary, underlined the 2013 working schedule of the Asian Contact Group meetings and announced that the annual OSCE Conference with its Asian Partners for Co-operation would be hosted by Australia in March on the subject of the security of women and girls. The topic of the first presentation was "Outline of the Foreign Policy of the New Administration and Japan's Contribution to the OSCE" and was presented by Japanese Ambassador Shiego Iwatani. The second presentation on "Freedom of Expression of Minorities in a Digital Age" was given by Dr. Tarlach McGonagle, Senior Researcher and Assistant Professor, Institute for Information Law (IViR), Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam.

The 2013 OSCE-Australia Conference "Improving the security of women and girls" was held in Adelaide on 18 and 19 March. The Conference was co-organized by the OSCE and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia. It gathered approximately 100 participants from the OSCE participating States and all five OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation, as well as representatives of international organizations, civil society and academia. The Conference provided an opportunity for high-ranking national experts and civil society representatives to engage in the joint consideration of various aspects of the topic. The main focuses were: combating gender-violence, the economic empowerment of women, and the global crime of trafficking in human beings. The Partner States, the OSCE participating States, as well as representatives from NGOs and academia had an extensive exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices and identified several areas where it would be desirable to deepen co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian Partners.

The second meeting of the Contact Group took place on 26 April. The Group was briefed on recent developments on the Korean peninsula by Ambassador Hyun Cho of the Republic of Korea. Ambassador Cho also made a presentation on the "Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation." The meeting also saw a presentation by the Ambassador of Australia, David Stuart, on the outcome and follow-up to the 2013 OSCE-Australia Conference. Ambassador Stuart stressed that the urgent need to move beyond declarations to effective action and programs. The Irish Chair called upon

participating States and Partners to make available additional extrabudgetary support for OSCE projects against gender-based violence.

The third meeting, on 7 June, focused on human security. The Ukrainian Chairmanship briefed participants on recent activities and priorities of the Chairmanship in the third dimension including the High Level Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings in Kyiv on 10 and 11 June, the Media Freedom Seminar in Warsaw on 15 May, and the Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination on 21 and 22 May in Albania. The Ambassador of Japan, Shiego Iwatani, and Mr. Claus Neukirch, Deputy Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, made presentations on “Human Security.” Ambassador Iwatani drew parallels between the OSCE’s comprehensive approach and Human Security – a concept that Japan has pioneered – and gave an overview of projects financed by Japan in the OSCE framework.

The annual joint meeting of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups was held on 19 July and focused on the “OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security” with interventions by four speakers: Mr. Detlef Hempel, FSC Co-ordinator and Military Advisor, German delegation; Mr. Haykel Ben Mahfoudh, Senior Adviser, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF); Colonel John Spierin, Director of Legal Services, Irish Defence Forces; and Ambassador Ayoob M. Erfani, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan. The meeting provided an opportunity for an update on recent developments and progress achieved in making the OSCE Partnership more interactive and action-oriented, as well as an update about developments within the Helsinki+40 process. A representative from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also briefed on the conclusions of their annual session relevant to the Joint Contact Group.

The fourth meeting on 11 October was chaired for the first time by the new Permanent Representative of Ireland, Ambassador Philip McDonagh. The Contact Group saw three presentations, the first of which was given by Her Royal Highness, Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, Ambassador of Thailand, on “The Rule of Law, Crime Prevention and Sustainable Development.” The second was delivered by Mr. Roel Janssens, Economic Adviser, OCEEA, on “The OSCE’s Role in Promoting Good Economic Governance and Combating Corruption;” while the third was given by Ms. Friederike Wuenschmann, Policy and Co-ordination Officer, TNTD, on the subject of “The OSCE Approach to Transnational Threats.”

The final meeting of the year took place on 8 November. The OSCE Ukrainian Chairmanship briefed participants on preparations for the upcoming Ministerial Council Meeting. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Cho, briefed on the outcomes of the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace. Several speakers underlined the usefulness of the Conference and the fact that the OSCE’s work in developing confidence-building measures had been positively noted. The main topic of the meeting was combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Four presentations were made to the Contact Group: Australian Ambassador, David Stuart, discussed “Combating the illicit trade and misuse of small arms and light weapons and highlighting the humanitarian consequences;” Ambassador Philip Griffiths, Head of Secretariat, Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, made a presentation on “The Wassenaar Arrangement’s export controls on SALW as a contribution to combating the illicit trade in these items;” Mr. Diman Dimov, UNODC Global Programme on Firearms, elaborated on “The UNODC’s tools and capacity building initiatives to combat illicit

manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms;” and a joint presentation was made by Lieutenant Colonel Simon J. MacRory-Tinning, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends (IGoF) on SALW, and Ms. Maria Brandstetter, CSBM Officer, OSCE Secretariat/CPC, on “The OSCE’s efforts to combat the illicit trade in SALW and possibilities of engagement with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.” The participants also welcomed the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group.

The Irish Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group expresses its sincere gratitude to all the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the participating States for their commitment and co-operation in the framework of the OSCE Partnership as a platform for open dialogue and exchange of views, as well as in promotion of a results-oriented and demand-driven co-operation.

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

(MC.GAL/4/13 of 28 November 2013)

The 2013 Swiss Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group (MCG) worked together with Mediterranean Partners to foster an open and interactive dialogue within the Group and on following a demand-driven approach to responding to the interests and priorities of the Mediterranean Partners. Important steps have been taken by the Chair to strengthen the results-oriented co-operation between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners.

During the course of the year, six meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group were held, as well as a joint meeting with the Asian Partners for Co-operation. Each meeting focused on a topic proposed by one of the Mediterranean Partners. The Swiss Chair encouraged and supported contributions from the Partners' capitals. At each meeting the relevant experts from the OSCE structures were also present in order to foster a genuine dialogue.

The first meeting of the MCG, held on 1 March, focused on the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination by strengthening interfaith dialogue with a presentation by Father Nabil Haddad, Director of Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Centre, Amman, briefing about the Jordanian experience. Ms. Floriane Hohenberg, Head of the Department on Tolerance and Discrimination, ODIHR, also contributed to the meeting with a presentation of ODIHR's activities in this area. Furthermore, the meeting provided the opportunity for the launch of the Arabic Translation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, sponsored by Germany and Switzerland.

"Dialogue and mediation in a regional context" was the topic chosen for the second meeting of the MCG, held on 19 April, featuring presentations by Mr. Azzedine Farhane, Director for Multilateral Affairs, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Morocco; Mr. Juan Jose Escobar, Ambassador-at-large for Mediterranean Affairs, Spain; and Mr. Claus Neukirch, Deputy Director, CPC, Head of Operations Service, OSCE. The Moroccan-Spanish initiative on the Group of Friends on Mediation as well as OSCE activities in the field of Mediation were presented and discussed. The OSCE was subsequently invited to the second meeting within the framework of this initiative in Rabat on 8 July 2013.

The third meeting, on 17 May, focused on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings with presentations by Ms. Merav Shmueli, Senior Assistant to the Anti-Trafficking National Co-ordinator, Minister of Justice, Israel, giving a general overview of the progress and remaining challenges faced by Israel, and by Ms. Maria Giammarinaro, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, proposing further actions and initiatives to enhance co-operation between participating States and the Mediterranean Partners in this area.

At its fourth meeting on 21 June, the MCG focused on "Good governance, the fight against corruption, and stolen assets recovery". Mr. Mohamed Askri, Attorney-General, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Justice, Tunisia, discussed his country's experiences in

fighting corruption and recovering stolen assets since the fall of the Ben Ali regime. Ms. Nina Lindroos-Kopolo, Head of the Economic Governance Unit at the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities presented on the OSCE's efforts in assisting participating States in their fight against corruption, increasing transparency and addressing insufficiencies in the international legal framework. The Chair underlined that this question will again be taken up during the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship in 2014.

The fifth meeting, held on 13 October, discussed "Current challenges in the fight against terrorism, particularly kidnapping for ransom," with presentations by: Mr. Abdenour Hibouche, President, *Cellule de Traitement du Renseignement Financier*, Algeria; and, for the OSCE, Mr. Reinhard Uhrig, Deputy Head, and Mr. Manuel Marion, Senior Programme Officer, Action against Terrorism Unit, Transnational Threats Department (TNTD/ATU). The Chairperson stressed the potential of the OSCE as a clearinghouse for best practices on this issue.

The last meeting of the year took place on 15 November and provided an opportunity for the 2013 OSCE Ukrainian Chairmanship to brief participants on the preparations for the upcoming Ministerial Council meeting, as well as to discuss the outcome of the 2013 OSCE Mediterranean Conference. The main topic on the agenda was a presentation by Libyan Ambassador Mr. Ibrahim Ali Albesbas, on the subject of Libya's application to become an OSCE Partner for Co-operation. In conclusion, the participants welcomed the incoming Serbian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

The annual joint meeting of the Mediterranean and Asian Contact Groups was held on 19 July and focused on the "Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security" with interventions by four speakers: Mr. Detlef Hempel, FSC Co-ordinator and Military Adviser, German Delegation; Mr. Haykel Ben Mahfoudh, Senior Adviser, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF); Colonel John Spierin, Director of Legal Services, Irish Defence Forces; and Ambassador Ayoob M. Erfani, Afghanistan. This meeting provided the opportunity for an update on recent developments and the progress achieved in making the OSCE Partnership more interactive and action-oriented, as well as an update about developments within the Helsinki Process. A representative from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also informed about the conclusions of their annual session relevant to the Joint Contact Group.

Consistent efforts were made by the Swiss Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, directed at successful preparation of the annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference, which was held in Monaco on 28 and 29 October 2013. The Conference focused on enhancing the role of women in public, political and economic life, as requested by the Mediterranean Partners. Discussions at the conference highlighted the importance of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership and pointed to exchanges of best practices as a good way to further interaction between the OSCE and its Partners. Improving women's participation in the public, political and economic life needed to remain a priority, despite the progress already achieved in some cases. Pursuing closer co-operation in the field of fostering women's participation in peace mediation and facilitation processes was discussed in this context. Co-operation among international organizations, the involvement of civil society and of the business sector were also key to further progress.

In the second session, on the topic of combating human trafficking, it was proposed to focus on the role of the business sector, recruitment methods and the role of civil society. The third session, devoted to combating the financing of terrorism, particularly the payment of ransoms, highlighted outstanding challenges, such as ensuring the survival of hostages, the adoption of non-ransom policies and the public understanding of such approach. Possible areas of work were also mentioned ranging from preventing trips in risky regions to intra-State co-operation and assistance.

During the discussions, both the Partners and the participating States stressed their interest in pursuing the exchange of information on the topics of the Conference on a more concrete, practical level, through expert meetings and by pursuing an interactive dialogue in the Mediterranean Contact Group. An effective connection between the discussions which took place at the Conference and the activities in 2014 as follow-up should be pursued. To this effect, a Chair's perception paper was discussed at the MCG meeting of 15 November 2013. In its capacity as holder of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2014, Switzerland will continue to promote action-oriented activities, also in relation to the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

The 2013 Swiss Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group expresses its sincere gratitude to all the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation for their commitment and co-operation in the framework of the OSCE Partnership as a platform for open dialogue and exchange of views, as well as in promotion of a results-oriented and demand-driven co-operation. The partners will be associated to the discussions of the Helsinki+40 process.

REPORT TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE OSCE IN 2013

(MC.GAL/6/13 of 5 December 2013)

Introduction

The issue of the international legal personality, legal capacity, and privileges and immunities of the OSCE has been on the agenda of the OSCE for the last 20 years. The lack of a clear legal framework entails negative legal, political, administrative and financial implications. The legal status of the Organization is directly linked to the privileges and immunities the States are willing to grant to the OSCE and its staff. The general intention expressed in several CSCE/OSCE political decisions and declarations was to remove such uncertainty with the development of a legal instrument. Therefore, the text of the Draft Convention on international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE (Draft Convention) was negotiated in 2007.

The Draft Convention text obtained general support, but three footnotes were added to the text, linking the adoption of the Convention to the adoption of an “OSCE Charter”. The status of the Draft Convention has remained unchanged, and the footnotes have not been removed, while, on the other hand, one participating State opposes the adoption of a Constituent Document of the OSCE. Meanwhile, the adverse practical effects of the uncertainty of the legal status of the OSCE continue to negatively impact the effectiveness and efficiency of the OSCE.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship focused its efforts on fostering dialogue in order to bring the positions of the participating States closer with a view to addressing the key issues underlying the current stalemate. To this end, the Chairmanship-in-Office extended the mandate of Ambassador John Bernhard as Chairperson of the open-ended Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship established contacts with various delegations of participating States in order to explore opportunities for identifying an appropriate way forward in this issue and also prepared and circulated two reflection documents that were considered by the participating States at a meeting of the Informal Helsinki+40 Working Group and of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE.

Informal Helsinki+40 Working Group

In July 2013 the Chairmanship-in-Office circulated its food-for-thought paper on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE (CIO.GAL/93/13).

At the meeting of the Informal Helsinki+40 Working Group on 16 July 2013 devoted to the broad topic of strengthening the OSCE effectiveness and efficiency Ambassador John Bernhard reiterated the main challenges faced by the OSCE with regard to the current uncertainties as to the legal status of the Organization and presented three proposals of the food-for-thought paper to address the situation.

The paper underscored that the appropriate legal status for the OSCE is not an aim in itself, but a means for the Organization to fulfil the mandates entrusted to it by the participating States effectively and efficiently. The paper recapitulated the status quo on the issue:

1. Despite the general support to the provisions of the 2007 Draft Convention, it has not been possible to reach consensus on the removal of the three footnotes, subsequent adoption of the Convention and its opening for signature;
2. There is no consensus among participating States on the need to have a Constituent Document for the OSCE;
3. The majority of participating States continue to support the immediate adoption and opening for signature of the Draft Convention, without footnotes, and are open to continuing discussions on a draft Constituent Document;
4. A group of participating States stressed that the adoption of the Convention and the adoption of a Constituent Document must be parallel processes and that no progress could be made on one without corresponding progress on the other;
5. A participating State expressed the opinion that there was no need for a Constituent Document and that even a discussion on it might be counterproductive for the OSCE.

To overcome existing differences and obstacles, the food-for-thought paper presented several possibilities:

The first proposal consisted in the adoption of a declaration on this issue. Although a declaration would not tackle the issue of the appropriate legal status for the OSCE, it would show a sign of good will and continued interest among participating States. It would also facilitate the process of reaching a compromise and give political momentum to this subject. Furthermore, a declaration would allow the States to reaffirm their commitment to resolve the issue of legal personality without any legal obligations arising from it.

The second proposal consisted in addressing the challenges from the uncertainty of the legal status of the OSCE through a multilateral agreement: the adoption of the Convention or the adoption of the Convention coupled with the negotiation on a Constituent Document of the OSCE.

In terms of the second proposal, a possibility would be to split up the process leading to the entry into force of the Convention into two stages, namely the adoption and signing stage and the ratification stage. This “splitting up” option would preserve and solidify the Convention text and allow the ratification stage to be determined at a later date by a separate consensus decision. This would enable certain participating States to prevent the ratification of the Convention until a Constituent Document is agreed upon. The main advantage of this approach is that the Draft Convention text would change its status from a draft to an adopted text. However, should such an approach be adopted, all three footnotes would have to be removed from the text of the Draft Convention.

Another possibility would be to raise the threshold for entry into force of the Convention from the currently applicable two-thirds majority to whatever majority the States may deem necessary, e.g., three-fourths or four-fifths. This option could however lead to wider renegotiation of the already agreed text.

The above-mentioned proposals would offer a guarantee for a continuation of discussions about the need for and potential development of a draft Constituent Document while allowing an early adoption of the Draft Convention. The three elements which could constitute a “triple lock” because of the need of the consent of all participating States are:

1. The adoption and opening for signature of the Convention;
2. A separate decision at a later stage on opening the Convention for ratification;
3. A higher threshold for the entry into force of the Convention.

A third proposal might be to call for the adoption of national legislation implementing the 1993 CSCE Council Decision on Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities and to recognize the legal status of the OSCE.

At the meeting of the Informal Helsinki+40 Working Group on 16 July 2013, a number of delegations reiterated their support to the 2007 Draft Convention and expressed interest for the idea of separating adoption and ratification of the Convention as a possible way forward though most had a preference for the unconditional adoption of the Draft Convention. However, no consensus emerged.

Views were also still divergent regarding the adoption of a Constituent Document. Whereas several delegations reiterated their support to the adoption of such a Document and others were ready to discuss it on the condition that it would not change the nature of OSCE's principles and commitments, one delegation reiterated that it did not see any need for a Constituent Document.

Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE

In July 2013 the Ukrainian Chairmanship circulated a non-paper proposal for further work on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE in 2013 (CIO.GAL/118/13) for the attention of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE.

At the meeting of the Informal Working Group held on 17 September 2013, participating States reiterated their points of views, leaving room for further negotiations. Notably, a group of participating States stressed that the Draft Convention should be adopted without further delay. The same group also manifested readiness to consider a Constituent Document that would purely codify existing principles and would not affect the nature of the OSCE and the commitments undertaken in its framework. One delegation underlined its opposition to discuss any Constituent Document, while another firmly advocated for its adoption, whereby the document should set out the objectives, principles and functions of the OSCE, identify criteria for membership etc. Several delegations were positive towards the idea of separating adoption and opening for ratification of the Convention.

Conclusion

A comprehensive solution and compromise on this issue may be difficult to achieve in the near future, but it is of crucial importance for the OSCE and its effective and efficient functioning to continue the efforts. It is therefore recommended to continue deliberations through both informal consultations and in the format of the Informal Working Group. The aim should be to achieve a balanced solution which could satisfy the diverging positions among participating States, and in addition to exploring further some of the ideas already discussed this year, it might be useful also to consider alternative models. It is, however, the view of the Ukrainian Chairmanship that the efforts to have the Draft Convention adopted will only be successful if a Constituent Document for the OSCE is also being discussed. During the process towards a comprehensive solution the adoption of a declaration confirming the States' commitment to resolving the issue could give added political impetus and stimulus to the continuation of negotiations and achievement of a solution.