
Chairmanship: Czech Republic**926th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 2 October 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Suspended: 1.05 p.m.

Resumed: 3 p.m.

Closed: 3.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Šrámek
Mr. D. Řezníček

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325

– *Presentation by Colonel M. Dvořáková, Chief of the Section for
Communication with the Public, General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces*

– *Presentation by Colonel C. A. McKenna, Director of Air Plans, Royal
Canadian Air Force*

– *Presentation by Ms. R. Blum and Lieutenant Colonel P. Östman, Swedish
representatives of the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations*

Chairperson, Colonel M. Dvořáková (FSC.DEL/198/19 OSCE+),
Colonel C. A. McKenna (FSC.DEL/199/19 OSCE+),
Lieutenant Colonel P. Östman, Ms. R. Blum (FSC.DEL/200/19 OSCE+),
Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro,
North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association
Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the
European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein,
members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia,
Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/201/19),

Slovenia (FSC.DEL/195/19), Slovakia, Sweden, Georgia (FSC.DEL/196/19 OSCE+), Armenia, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/197/19 OSCE+), Canada, Turkey, United States of America, Italy, Holy See, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (United Kingdom) (Annex 1)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/204/19 OSCE+), Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/202/19), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation
- (b) *Large-scale military exercise being conducted by Armenia from 24 September to 6 October 2019*: Azerbaijan (Annex 2), Armenia (Annex 3)
- (c) *Participation of the Kosovo Security Force in the military exercise “Albanian Effort 19”, conducted in Albania from 9 to 17 September 2019*: Russian Federation (Annex 4), United Kingdom

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Matters of protocol*: Switzerland, Chairperson
- (b) *Chairperson’s report on the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference, held in Vienna from 25 to 27 June 2019 (PC.DEL/1062/19)*: Co-ordinator of the FSC Chairperson for the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference (Greece)
- (c) *Military exercise “Silver Arrow 2019”, being conducted in Latvia from 23 September to 6 October 2019*: Latvia
- (d) *Inspection visit conducted in Spain from 16 to 20 September 2019*: Spain
- (e) *Politico-military retreat held in Bratislava on 30 September and 1 October 2019*: Slovakia

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 9 October 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



926th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 932, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR ON MATTERS RELATING TO
UNSCR 1325 (UNITED KINGDOM)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to begin by thanking the speakers for their presentations, which were some of the most engaging I have seen at the FSC for a long time. I must also thank the Czech FSC Chairmanship for not only ensuring that this vitally important topic stays high on our agenda, but also for once again giving us a gender-balanced panel. I particularly noted the speakers' comments on operational effectiveness, and especially Colonel Magdalena's observation: "Demographics give us no choice."

Although we commonly refer to UN Security Council resolution 1325 as a resolution on women, peace, and security, I think that can be a little misleading. This is not just a topic about women – it also relates to human rights, and to comprehensive peace and security. UN Security Council resolution 1325 affects every single one of us in this room. It is about inclusive peace and security, where we take account of varied perspectives and ways of thinking. It is about ensuring that efforts to prevent, respond to, and resolve conflict take into account the needs of all of society.

We hear every week in this forum about the outstanding work being done by the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in eastern Ukraine. Women continue to play a particularly active role in Ukraine's civil society, including as human rights defenders, and by ensuring access to humanitarian assistance, education, and healthcare on both sides of the contact line. But, as in so many areas, women are under-represented in the SMM. Despite the Mission adopting a Gender Equality Action Plan in March last year, and developing a network of Gender Focal Points, women still only account for 20 per cent of monitors, and the numbers of women are also low in senior and field management positions. We need to do better.

We can all make a difference as well, right here in Vienna, every day. We must push for gender-balanced speaker panels and gender-sensitive recruitment processes; urge our capitals to put forward women candidates, especially for field missions and the autonomous institutions; we must scrutinize the language that we use. Whether an intern or an ambassador, every voice should count. What we say can make a difference; we should use our words carefully, and lead others by example.

I commend the Secretariat for the actions they have already taken. But once again – there is more that can, and should, be done. The Secretary General instigated a gender-training programme for his senior management, which I understand has been well received. I think it would be useful to see a version of that training rolled out more widely for other OSCE staff. And maybe it could even be made available to diplomats joining Vienna delegations, on a voluntary basis.

I would like to commend those participating States who already see women well represented in their security forces. And I would like to ask you to share your experiences so that we can all do better, particularly regarding the representation of women in senior decision-making roles. You can lead by example and show us the way forward. As UN Security Council resolution 1325 approaches its twentieth anniversary, let's be ambitious, and work together to fulfil the commitments we set out in 2000.

I am a military officer, and we have a particular responsibility in this field. I'm pleased to tell you that the Women, Peace, and Security Chiefs of Defence Network, established by Bangladesh, Canada, and the United Kingdom, is now in its second year. It can only be positive to see senior military officers actively encouraging the participation of women in their armed forces, and integrating a gender analysis in their human terrain and planning. I'd also like to praise the work being done by the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, which is delivering outstanding courses, supported by the Netherlands and Canada. And I would encourage participating States to send their military leaders to the PSVI (Preventing Sexual Violence in conflict Initiative) conference being held in London from 18 to 20 November; the conference will feature two panels on the military's role in preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence.

I am also a member of the OSCE MenEngage network. The network aims to build upon the solid foundations laid by Ambassador Benedejčič, and I know that Ambassador Bush is keen to take forward its work in raising awareness of the influence men can have in ending gender-based violence, and speaking out against inequality. The network will be working towards gender parity at all job levels in the OSCE; robust action against gender discrimination; a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment; and advocating for full and effective women's participation in the areas of conflict prevention, resolution, and mediation.

The OSCE/UNODA Scholarship for Peace and Security will run again next spring, its third iteration. The scholarship aims to increase the participation of young professionals, especially women, in arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. It comprises eight weeks of online learning followed by a one-week residential element here in Vienna. So far, the scholarship, which has received the OSCE Gender Champions Award, has produced 200 graduates. It is expected that next year's course will also be fully subscribed. Please consider supporting the funding of this very worthwhile programme.

I echo the European Union's call for the OSCE to adopt its own OSCE-wide action plan for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 – it would seem a very fitting way to mark the 20th anniversary of this landmark resolution if we were able to adopt our own action plan before October next year.

The number of participating States with national action plans for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 is growing, but slowly. Less than two-thirds of us have a national plan. Again, we must do better. If yours is one of the States yet to adopt a plan, then please do all you can to address this. Speak to your colleagues here – there is a wealth of experience and a great many people who will gladly advise and assist you. Full implementation of 1325 will benefit us all.

Thank you all for your attention. I would request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



926th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 932, Agenda item 2(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairperson,

For the second time this year, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking the floor to draw the attention of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the illegal military exercises being conducted by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

According to official government sources and the Armenian media, large-scale military exercises began in Armenia on 24 September and are due to last until 5 October. Although Armenia notified the OSCE about these military exercises, it disguised the fact that the geographical scope of the exercises was to be expanded illegally to include the sovereign territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia.

Thus, we are faced with a situation in which Armenia gives advance notification to the OSCE about the conduct of military exercises, falsely presenting itself as a participating State that complies with its commitments in the politico-military dimension, and then goes on to conduct the exercises illegally in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan – in flagrant violation of its international obligations and fundamental OSCE principles and commitments. The current exercises are but the latest addition to a long catalogue of incontestable facts attesting to Armenia's illegal military presence and activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Such exercises serve as a vivid manifestation of Armenia's continued blatant violation of our shared principles and commitments. The exercises also run contrary to the letter and spirit of all OSCE instruments governing the military behaviour of participating States, including the Vienna Document and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

In June of this year, Armenia conducted illegal military exercises in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan when negotiations under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group were intensifying. Indeed, those exercises took place on the eve of the meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Washington, D.C. It is no coincidence that the latest illegal military exercises were launched shortly after the two ministers' recent meeting in New York. This provides yet another illustration of Armenia's real intention to thwart negotiations while exercising and training its armed forces so as to consolidate its occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan.

In view of the aforesaid facts, we strongly urge the OSCE – in particular the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs and the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship – to condemn Armenia’s egregious breaches of our shared commitments and obligations, and to demand that Armenia put an end to its aggression against Azerbaijan, withdraw its armed forces from the occupied territories, and engage in substantive negotiations with a view to finding a lasting political solution to the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



926th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 932, Agenda item 2(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to exercise my right of reply to the statement just made by the delegation of Azerbaijan.

It is now the second time this year that Azerbaijan has taken the floor at the Forum for Security Co-operation to bring groundless accusations against Armenia and present its invented narratives to the participating States.

Of course, we appreciate the Azerbaijani delegation's attempt to brief the participating States on the ongoing military exercise in Armenia. However, true to the spirit of transparency, we ourselves had already provided notification of this exercise at the beginning of the year. Moreover, in some of my previous statements I have addressed this topic in detail, emphasizing that the exercise would be conducted on the territory of Armenia.

In this respect, we would urge the delegation of Azerbaijan to show the same enthusiasm in briefing the participating States on their country's own military exercises. For the fact is that Azerbaijan has never given notification of any of its military exercises – an attitude that can only be described as flagrant and continuous violation of the Vienna Document.

It is worth stressing that on a number of occasions Armenia has drawn attention to unnotified large-scale military exercises being conducted in Azerbaijan. Instead of engaging in constructive dialogue on this issue, Azerbaijan constantly justifies its non-compliance with the Vienna Document by invoking the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and presenting military exercises as an important step towards strengthening the Azerbaijani armed forces vis-à-vis those of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. So it should not come as a surprise to the Azerbaijani authorities that other parties are also holding exercises.

As for the reference to so-called “occupied territories” made by the Azerbaijani delegation in its statement, I should like to remind them that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have exercised their right to self-determination, as a result of which the Republic of Artsakh today is a *de facto* independent State with its own democratically elected authorities and with armed forces that have the right to conduct exercises, especially in view of the continuous threats made by Azerbaijan to use force.

Mr. Chairperson,

If Azerbaijan really is interested in obtaining details of military exercises taking place in Artsakh, we would encourage them to co-operate directly with the elected authorities of the Republic of Artsakh. As we have mentioned on several occasions, the OSCE has a specific and very flexible tool at its disposal, namely the Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations, which could be effectively applied in this particular situation to dispel any concerns.

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

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/932

2 October 2019

Annex 4

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

926th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 932, Agenda item 2(c)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We took note of the notification CBM/AL/19/0013/F25/0 circulated by Albania through the OSCE Communications Network, which reported that the Kosovo Security Force had taken part in the “Albanian Effort 19” multinational military exercise, held from 9 to 17 September 2019.

In this regard, we consider it necessary to point out the inadmissibility of the Kosovo Security Force’s participation in these military exercises and view this matter as a gross violation of the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

This resolution contains a clear demand for the demilitarization of any armed Kosovo Albanian groups, allowing the presence on the territory of Kosovo of exclusively multinational forces under international control.

The Kosovo Security Force’s participation in the “Albanian Effort 19” military exercise is of particular importance in the context of the decision adopted by the so-called Parliament of Kosovo on 14 December 2018 on the transformation of the Kosovo Security Force into a fully fledged “Kosovo army”.

This situation indicates, in particular, that the attempts by some OSCE participating States to convince us that the aforementioned decision does not change the essence of the Kosovo Security Force are divorced from reality: in fact, what we are talking about is changing the nature of a security force that until recently performed civil defence functions, as well as increasing its numerical strength, creating reserves and increasing arms supplies.

We consider the plans to create a “Kosovo army”, supported by several OSCE participating States, to be a serious provocation. We note that this aggravates and destabilizes the situation in the territory, especially on the eve of the elections and against the backdrop of stagnation in the Belgrade-Priština dialogue, which is taking place under the auspices of the European Union.

We believe that all international structures and their member States should refrain from any action that violates UN Security Council resolution 1244 and the Florence Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control (Annex 1-B, Article IV, of the Dayton Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, approved by UN Security Council resolution 1031 (1995)), which aims to maintain regional stability with the assistance of the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of the day.