



**EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Working Session III  
EU Statement on “Bolstering the OSCE’s conflict cycle  
toolbox”**

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We thank Ms Heidi Grau and Brigadier General Rio for their valuable presentations.

We fully support the CiO’s efforts to bolster the OSCE’s conflict cycle toolbox. Whereas the OSCE plays a central normative role for European security and is the inclusive platform for dialogue and confidence building, it also needs the actual ability and tools to prevent and respond to crises. We should do all we can to strengthen its conflict prevention capacities, based on the comprehensive concept of security, and working hand in hand with other actors. This is especially relevant given the current security crisis faced by our region.

The full implementation of MC decision 3/11 on the Elements of the Conflict Cycle is a prerequisite for strengthening the role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation across the three dimensions. We welcome the systematic implementation of the MC Decision by the Conflict Prevention Centre, the autonomous institutions and other executive structures in close co-operation with other international actors. We continue to believe that the full potential of the OSCE on the basis of its comprehensive concept of security should be used. We strongly believe that the role of OSCE field missions in addressing conflict situations should be further strengthened.

We note that many key efforts in this respect are only possible due to the strong and flexible mandates of the autonomous institutions ODIHR, HCNM and RFoM. These need to be preserved. We applaud the three autonomous institutions for their continued engagement in providing early warning on issues related to the conflict in and around Ukraine as well as elsewhere in the OSCE region. While ODIHR and RFoM provide early warning in the human dimension, raising issues of serious

human rights violations threatening our common security, the HCNM mandate is cross dimensional. The HCNM is and should remain a core conflict prevention instrument for the whole OSCE area in providing early warning and seeking early action with regard to tensions involving persons belonging to national minorities.

We thank the German chairmanship and Secretariat for organizing the series of roundtable discussions related to various aspects of the conflict cycle. We hope this work will feed into further deliberations and possible steps in the course of the year. We are ready to positively consider ideas for further strengthening and operationalizing the OSCE capacities in the field of early warning, mediation support and dealing with high risk post-conflict situations.

During the round table discussions, useful best practice and recommendations were put forward by speakers from both inside and outside the OSCE, on mediation support, early warning systems and peace capacities. The HCNM reminded us in particular of the need to identify not only risks of conflict but also opportunities for peace building. The RFOM pointed to the important input by civil society actors and journalists in raising early warning and conflict resolution. We support ODIHR's proposal for a strengthened rapid reaction facility within the institutions. We also think that there should be more consideration of how the current tool box could be used to provide early warning on emerging threats.

We are ready to exchange lessons identified and to support and complement OSCE efforts and capacities on a case by case basis. We consider that it is important to tailor our response to individual conflict situations, and consider how we can best complement each other.

Before concluding, Mr Chairperson, let me recall in this context the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality which was adopted in 2004 and the importance to continue the focus on implementation by the OSCE and participating States. In light of current conflicts and large-scale refugee movements, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 2242, are as important as ever today. Women are killed, suffer from all kinds of violence, including sexual violence and are victims of human trafficking. Women should be better protected in conflicts. We also need to encourage the full and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of

peace and security decision-making and action, in order to bring about longer-lasting and more sustainable, inclusive, peace. We underscore the importance of implementing these commitments made on the occasion of the High Level Review of UNSCR 1325 last October.

Finally, we want to stress again that the Conflict Prevention Centre and autonomous institutions must be provided with sufficient resources through the Unitary Budget to carry out their mandates.

The Candidate Countries TURKEY, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.