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Statements and declarations by the Ministerial Council

Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Statements by delegations

Reports to the Ministerial Council

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. STATEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS BY THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL	
Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” format	3
Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism	4
II. DECISIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL	
Decision No. 1/12 on the OSCE consecutive Chairmanships in 2014 and 2015	13
Decision No. 2/12 on the accession of Mongolia to the OSCE	15
Decision No. 3/12 on the OSCE Helsinki+40 process	17
Decision No. 4/12 on the OSCE’s efforts to address transnational threats	22
Decision No. 5/12 on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council	23
III. STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS	
Opening statement by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council	27
Closing statement by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council	31
Joint statement by the heads of delegations of the Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries	34
Statement by the European Union	35
Statement by the delegation of the Russian Federation	39
Statement by the delegation of the United States of America	41
Statement by the delegation of Greece	44
Statement by the delegation of Moldova	45
Statement by the delegation of Moldova	46
Statement by the delegation of Turkey	47
Statement by the delegation of Norway	49
Statement by the delegation of Canada	50
IV. REPORTS TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL	
Report to the Ministerial Council on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE in 2012	53

FSC Chairperson's progress report to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons	56
FSC Chairperson's progress report to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition	77
FSC Chairperson's progress report to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council on efforts to support implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the OSCE region	101
FSC Chairperson's progress report to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council on efforts to improve further the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security	122
FSC Chairperson's progress report to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council on efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures	129
Letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Chairperson of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council	135
Report by the Chairperson of the Contact Group with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council	139
Report by the Chairperson of the Contact Group with the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council	143
Report on the meeting between the OSCE Troika and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council.....	147
Report on the meeting between the OSCE Troika and the Asian Partners for Co-operation at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council	150

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

**STATEMENT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS
ON THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS
IN THE “5+2” FORMAT**
(MC.DOC/1/12 of 7 December 2012)

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

Reaffirm their strong support for a negotiated, comprehensive, just and viable resolution of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the 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 holding of five official meetings of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the existing 5+2 format (“the 5+2”) in the course of 2012, following the decision to resume official negotiations taken in Moscow in the 5+2 format on 22 September 2011, and the holding of the first such meeting in Vilnius on 30 November and 1 December 2011;

Welcome in particular the adoption in the course of 2012 of “Principles and Procedures for the Conduct of Negotiations” and of a comprehensive agenda for the negotiating process, and look forward to advancement of the negotiations on all three baskets of the agreed agenda: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues;

Express satisfaction that the resumption of work in the “5+2” format has been accompanied by reactivation of the work of the expert working groups and of direct contacts between the sides, which have led to concrete achievements of benefit to the local population such as resumption of rail freight traffic through the Transdniestrian region;

Express satisfaction at the recognized complementary role of civil society and media from the sides in the settlement process;

Call on the sides to redouble efforts at all levels to agree and implement measures to build confidence and demonstrate goodwill in resolving outstanding problems including by removing obstacles to the free movement of people, goods and services;

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

**DECLARATION ON
STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND COMBATING
CORRUPTION, MONEY-LAUNDERING AND THE
FINANCING OF TERRORISM**

(MC.DOC/2/12 of 7 December 2012)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, declare our strong support for promoting good governance and transparency in the OSCE area.

We recognize that the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE landmark documents contain shared commitments, principles and instruments that the participating States should implement in their efforts to promote good governance and transparency.

We reiterate that good governance at all levels is fundamental to economic growth, political stability, and security. Good public and corporate governance, rule of law and strong institutions are essential foundations for a sound economy, which can enable our States to reduce poverty and inequality, to increase social integration and opportunities for all, to attract investment and to protect the environment.

We reaffirm that peace, good international relations, the security and stability of the State and the security and safety of the individual within the State, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, are crucial for the creation of a climate of confidence which is essential to ensure positive economic and social development.

Transparency in public affairs is an essential condition for the accountability of States and for the active participation of civil society and the private sector in economic and development processes. Transparency increases the predictability of, and confidence in, institutions and economies which are functioning on the basis of adequate legislation and with full respect for the rule of law.

We agree that problems of governance, including corruption and money-laundering, deprive participating States of the capacity to effectively ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and undermine social cohesion, stability and security. Weak governance is among the factors conducive to the spread of terrorism. We therefore reaffirm our full commitment to tackling corruption and countering money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and related offences by making them policy priorities backed up by appropriate legal instruments, adequate financial, human and institutional resources and, where necessary, appropriate tools for their practical and effective implementation.

We recognize the progress achieved to date by the OSCE participating States, individually and collectively, in addressing these threats and challenges to stability and security. We affirm that the OSCE political commitments related to good governance and transparency cut across all three dimensions, and we reiterate our full adherence to implementing these commitments through a comprehensive approach, as set forth in this and other relevant OSCE documents.

We reaffirm our agreement to work on a national basis, with the support of relevant international institutions, to strengthen good governance in all its aspects and to develop methods of co-operation to assist each other in achieving this goal.

I. Good governance and transparency

We view a public sector based on integrity, openness, transparency, accountability and rule of law as being a major factor of sustainable economic growth, and recognize that such a public sector constitutes an important element for fostering citizens' trust in public institutions and government. Thus, we underline the importance of providing education and training on ethical behaviour for public officials, establishing and enforcing relevant codes of conduct and conflict-of-interest legislation, and adopting and implementing comprehensive income- and asset-disclosure systems for relevant officials. In particular, we recognize that both the development of and adherence to codes of conduct for public institutions are critical to reinforcing good governance, public-sector integrity and the rule of law, and to providing rigorous standards of ethics and conduct for public officials.

We welcome the support the OSCE and its field operations have already provided in this regard and call on them to continue providing their valuable assistance to participating States upon their request, also in sharing among themselves, through the OSCE platform for dialogue, national experiences gained and good practices.

We recognize that good governance requires a framework of economic policies, legislation and institutions in which businesses and investments can grow. Therefore, we reaffirm our determination to have clear legal frameworks conducive to the development of business, including small and medium-sized enterprises, which are critical to economic growth, and to the promotion of investment.

We recognize that achieving good governance and combating corruption will not succeed without the full and equal participation of women and men in political and economic processes and institutions, as stipulated in a number of OSCE documents. We underline the importance of empowering women to actively participate in and contribute to policies and activities related to good governance for the equal benefit of men and women.

We recognize the importance of adopting and enforcing laws and other measures against bribery, providing, for example, for the criminalization of bribery of domestic and foreign public officials and the development of public-private partnerships to counter the bribery of public officials.

We reaffirm that the effective management of public resources by strong and well-functioning institutions, a professional and effective civil service, as well as sound budgetary and public procurement processes are major components of good governance. Thus, we recognize the importance of openness, transparency and non-discrimination in the area of goods and services, providing a solid financial basis for our public administration systems, ensuring fiscal and budgetary transparency and adopting fair and transparent government procurement systems, taking into consideration resources such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on Public Procurement and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Government Procurement.

We acknowledge the importance of transparency in different economic sectors. In this respect, we take note of the activities of multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives in this sphere, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST).

II. Combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism

We encourage those OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to become States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and to fully implement it. We welcome OSCE assistance towards its implementation, and task the OSCE Secretariat, in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), at the request of OSCE participating States with providing support, including the mobilization of technical assistance.

We recognize the need to enhance the implementation of our international and national anti-corruption commitments by *inter alia* involving civil society and the business community in the process, as appropriate, and the importance of regularly reviewing them, including, within the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in accordance with the terms of reference of the Mechanism.

We welcome that the OSCE, and in particular the OCEEA, continues to assist participating States, at their request, with developing and/or harmonizing their national anti-corruption legislation, in line with their international commitments, with ensuring practical implementation and effective enforcement through exchanges of experience and good practices at the regional, subregional and national levels, and with providing advice and training in co-operation with other relevant organizations, such as, *inter alia*, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Anti-Corruption Academy. We also recognize other relevant regional anti-corruption monitoring mechanisms, such as the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), as effective tools, which can assist participating States as they fight corruption.

We recognize that combating corruption requires long-term and comprehensive strategic approaches and strong institutions. We are convinced that those in charge of the prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption offences should be free from improper influence. In particular, we underline the central role that law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions play in fighting against corruption and in guaranteeing the rule of law. We recognize the critical importance of safeguarding the judiciary's independence in order to enable it to fulfil this function and the need to intensify efforts in this regard. We also acknowledge the importance of, and the need to ensure adequate resources for such institutions.

We also acknowledge the fundamental importance of effectively preventing transfers of the proceeds of crime, the theft, embezzlement and other diversion of public assets, and of recovering stolen assets, for the credibility of our anti-corruption efforts and for economic development. We recognize that effective asset recovery requires appropriate legal

frameworks and institutions, empowered practitioners with proper skills and resources, proactive and swift national and international co-operation, networking frameworks and strong political will.

We therefore support measures geared towards removing barriers to asset recovery, *inter alia*, by increasing the efficiency of legal procedures and preventing abuse of those procedures, enhancing efforts to prevent money-laundering, and strengthening international co-operation on asset recovery. We encourage continuing efforts in our countries aimed at the recovery and return of stolen assets and the denial of safe haven in our countries to the proceeds of corruption, consistent with applicable law.

We further encourage the OCEEA to support interested participating States in implementing their international asset-recovery commitments, including by co-operating with and complementing the efforts of other relevant organizations and initiatives *inter alia* of the World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative and the International Centre on Asset Recovery.

We recognize the importance of extending sufficient protection to whistleblowers in the public or private sector, as they play a key role in the prevention and detection of corruption, thus defending the public interest. We will intensify our efforts to take appropriate measures to put in place and implement legal mechanisms for the effective protection of whistleblowers and their close family members, from retaliation, intimidation or other psychological or physical harm, or the unwarranted loss of their liberty or livelihood. We recognize such measures to be necessary elements of an effective anti-corruption regime.

We recognize that acts of international terrorism depend on the financing that terrorists may obtain. We consider that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern to the international community as a whole. We are convinced of the urgent need to enhance international co-operation among States in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism, as well as for its suppression through the prosecution and punishment of its perpetrators.

We fully support the international standards contained in the revised Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and we express our support to the work of FATF-style regional bodies and their observers and, as appropriate, to ratifying or acceding to and fully implementing relevant regional and international instruments to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism including, as appropriate, the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (Warsaw, 16 May 2005).

We encourage the OCEEA to support interested governments and other relevant partners in implementing the FATF Recommendations, including by building capacity to conduct, and to contribute and respond to, money-laundering and financing-of-terrorism risk assessments.

We also encourage the OCEEA and Transnational Threats Department within their respective mandates to assist participating States, at their request, in their efforts to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, including through the development, adoption and implementation of legislation and practices to improve inter-agency and external co-ordination mechanisms in this area.

We recognize that financial investigations are a crucial tool in tackling not only money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, but also related and predicate offences.

III. Civil society and the private sector

We encourage the OSCE to further embrace its comprehensive approach to security and to continue to strengthen the dialogue and co-operation between governments, civil society and the private sector in order to support good governance efforts, including combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in the participating States.

We recognize that it is important to include the private sector in efforts to counter corruption and enhance good governance and to engage it in favour of a fair and transparent business environment. Such a commitment by the business community is important to enhancing good governance, transparency, stability and security at the national and international levels. In the context of promoting good corporate governance, we take note of the updated OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

We encourage the business community to take into account in its activities the social, environmental, humanitarian and security needs of the participating States.

We underline the importance of enhancing the contribution of academia, the business community and civil society to raising awareness of impediments to economic growth, including barriers to market entry, trade and investment, and of the need for greater transparency to foster sustainable economic development.

We recognize that freedom of information and access to information foster openness and accountability in public policy and procurement, and enable civil society, including the media, to contribute to preventing and combating corruption, the financing of terrorism, and money-laundering and its predicate offences. We reaffirm our commitment to make our governments more transparent by further developing processes and institutions for providing timely information, including reliable statistics, with a view to promoting a well informed and responsive dialogue.

We uphold the value of openness in our engagement with citizens to improve services, increase public integrity, effectively manage public resources, create safer communities and increase corporate accountability. We encourage the OCEEA to explore opportunities for co-operation with the Open Government Partnership, which promotes the principles of transparency, citizen participation, accountability and technology and innovation, with a view to achieving greater prosperity, well-being and human dignity.

IV. Working together for progress

We recognize that the OSCE provides a forum for political dialogue, information exchange and co-operation on good governance, as well as a platform on which to build the necessary political consensus and understanding regarding the importance of preventing and suppressing corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism at all levels for

sustainable socio-economic development and stability. We reaffirm our commitment to co-operating in the development of strategies for good governance and to sharing experience regarding best practices.

We welcome the established close co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant organizations and institutions, including the United Nations, and we call on the OSCE executive structures and in particular the OCEEA to further develop co-operation with them in order to ensure added value and complementarity of activities.

We recognize the valuable contribution that the OSCE executive structures, including the OSCE field operations, bring to the wider work of the Organization in promoting good governance, transparency and the rule of law. We call on them to further foster their co-operation and to continue to co-ordinate their efforts to assist participating States, at their request, in implementing the provisions of this declaration.

Attachment to MC.DOC/2/12

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

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

In connection with the Ministerial Council Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, we note that we are very pleased to join consensus on this decision.

We would like to state our view that when paragraph 10 of Section II speaks of fully implementing relevant regional and international instruments to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, we take that to include the United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, including Resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999), and 1989 (2011), and recognize these resolutions and conventions as providing critical international authorities and imposing substantive international obligations to prevent the financing of terrorism.

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

II. DECISIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

DECISION No. 1/12
OSCE CONSECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIPS IN 2014 AND 2015
(MC.DEC/1/12 of 10 February 2012)

The Ministerial Council,

Taking note of the joint statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and Serbia (CIO.GAL/241/11) and the principles of co-operation (MC.DEL/62/11),

Decides that Switzerland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2014;

Decides that Serbia will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2015.

Attachment to MC.DEC/1/12

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 Albania:

“On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania, I would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE. This statement is made with respect to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/12 (MC.DEC/1/12), on the OSCE consecutive Chairmanships in 2014 and 2015, which has been adopted through a silence procedure.

Albania has joined the consensus on this decision with a view to ensuring continuity in the political leadership of our Organization for the years to come. This stance indicates our steadfast commitment to the OSCE, its future and its standing in the European security architecture.

It is Albania’s clear and principled position that every participating State that offers to chair our Organization should inspire trust and awaken confidence in all the other participating States that are actively seized with the matters of this Organization. To date, Serbia’s positions regarding security issues in the Western Balkans and in relation to neighbouring countries continue to be a cause for uncertainty for Albania.

In this respect, it is our legitimate expectation that Serbia should make responsible and unbiased use of its Chairmanship-in-Office and should fully comply with the commitments that bind us all here in the OSCE. A first meaningful step in this direction would be for Serbia to engage constructively in the dialogue with neighbouring Kosovo. It is of the utmost importance that Serbia should implement in their entirety all agreements

reached so far in the framework of the EU-facilitated dialogue, discontinue its support to the illegal parallel structures in northern Kosovo and offer its genuine assistance for the removal of the barricades that hinder the free movement of people and goods between Kosovo and Serbia. We recall that these are also obligations in Serbia's EU integration process.

The above, along with other significant steps – such as the facilitation of Kosovo's accession to regional initiatives and other international organizations, including the OSCE – would send a strong signal of Serbia's readiness to work towards lasting security and stability in the Western Balkans, as would be expected of a future Chairmanship of the OSCE.

We also expect Serbia to fully and unambiguously honour the contents of the joint declaration distributed under reference number CIO.GAL/241/11 and of the principles of co-operation distributed under reference number MC.DEL/62/11. We recall that both documents were signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, and are referred to in the Ministerial Council decision.

Albania, along with other participating States that have expressed reservations concerning Serbia's bid, will keep a close eye on Serbia's performance at the helm of the OSCE and on its implementation of the Joint Declaration and Principles of Co-operation. Any attempt to depart from these documents or abuse of the trust we have placed in Serbia will adversely affect the international standing of this Organization and is likely to compromise consensus-building on issues of major relevance to the OSCE.

Chairing the OSCE is indeed a highly challenging endeavour, which requires a participating State to put aside national and personal agendas and display a great sense of responsibility.

We wish Serbia every success in this task. Serbia's success will be our success, as a region.

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

Thank you.”

DECISION No. 2/12
ACCESSION OF MONGOLIA TO THE OSCE
(MC.DEC/2/12 of 21 November 2012)

The Ministerial Council,

Following the receipt of the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (CIO.GAL/213/11 of 28 October 2011) in which Mongolia expressed its willingness to join the OSCE as a participating State and its acceptance of all commitments and responsibilities contained in OSCE documents, and of the addendum from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (PC.DEL/780/12 of 7 August 2012) in which Mongolia articulates its responsibilities – specifically with regard to the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures,

With reference to Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/11 of 7 December 2011 on the application of Mongolia to become a participating State and to the Chairmanship's report on this matter (CIO.GAL/82/12 of 4 July 2012),

Welcomes Mongolia as a participating State of the OSCE on the understanding that the zone of application for CSBMs as defined in Annex I to the Vienna Document 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.

Attachment to MC.DEC/2/12

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:

“First of all, we should like to congratulate Mongolia in its capacity as a fully fledged participating State of the OSCE. We hope that this new status will allow Mongolia, which we regard as a friend, to be more actively involved in the collective efforts to promote a common and indivisible security space from Vancouver to Vladivostok in line with the OSCE Astana Summit decisions.

We joined the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on the admission of Mongolia to the OSCE, in which it was confirmed that the zone of application for confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in the military sphere will remain unchanged, i.e., as defined in Annex I to the Vienna Document. Accordingly, the aforementioned CSBMs will not extend to the territory of Mongolia, as stated in this Ministerial Council decision.

At the same time, we note the need for strict compliance in the future with the mandate of the Forum for Security Co-operation in the preparation of decisions affecting its competence, including those concerning the application of CSBMs.

We also take the position that the accession of Mongolia to the OSCE as a State that does not fall within the geographical zone of responsibility of the CSCE/OSCE defined by the Helsinki Final Act is an exceptional case. The OSCE's status as 'a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations', whose main purpose is to support the United Nations efforts to strengthen security and co-operation in Europe, should not be changed. In this connection, the adoption of the decision on the admission of Mongolia cannot be regarded as setting a precedent for other OSCE Partners for Co-operation and other States that are not participating States of the OSCE.

In the light of the above, we support the Chairmanship's proposal to initiate a discussion within an informal working group on the elaboration of criteria for the participation and admission to the OSCE of new participants.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin."

DECISION No. 3/12
THE OSCE HELSINKI+40 PROCESS
(MC.DEC/3/12 of 7 December 2012)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming its full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and 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,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration Towards a Security Community, in which 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,

Recalling the determination of our Heads of State and Government to work together to fully realize this vision, and their pledge to do all they can to assist the incoming Chairmanships in achieving progress,

Welcoming the initiative to launch the “Helsinki+40” process as an inclusive effort by all participating States to provide strong and continuous political impetus to advancing work towards 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,

Stressing 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,

1. Calls on the forthcoming Chairmanships of Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia to pursue the Helsinki+40 process on the basis of a co-ordinated strategic approach, adding a multi-year perspective and continuity to participating States’ work towards a security community;
2. Tasks forthcoming Chairmanships to facilitate this process by establishing an open-ended informal Helsinki+40 Working Group at the level of permanent representatives of all participating States;
3. Requests the current and incoming members of the Troika and forthcoming Chairmanships to propose the agenda of meetings of the Helsinki+40 Working Group;
4. Tasks forthcoming Chairmanships, assisted by the OSCE Secretary General, to regularly take stock of progress made under the Helsinki+40 process, and report to the participating States twice a year, before the summer recess and before the meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council;

5. Calls upon the Forum for Security Co-operation, within its mandate, to contribute to the Helsinki+40 process;
6. Calls on participating States to demonstrate commitment to the result-oriented process leading up to 2015.

Attachment 1 to MC.DEC/3/12

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

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

We thank the Irish Chairmanship for its initiative to launch the Helsinki+40 process to provide strategic guidance to the Organization and foster implementation of commitments over the coming three years.

We believe that the Helsinki+40 process must be absolutely clear with respect to the fundamental principles and assumptions that will underpin OSCE efforts to create a true security community.

- A “free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community” can be best achieved by the implementation of existing commitments;
- There can be no re-negotiation of the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE agreements;
- The strategic principles that guide Helsinki+40 work should be the existing Helsinki Final Act Decalogue of Guiding Principles;
- The comprehensive concept of security covers all three dimensions and we need to achieve results in each;
- Any new commitments must assist in the implementation of existing commitments and strengthen (not weaken) existing OSCE norms, principles, commitments and institutions to meet new challenges;
- Commitments regarding the protracted conflicts, including commitments to non-use of force must be fulfilled; respect for all basic Helsinki principles must be the foundation of our approach to the conflicts; and our goal must be to achieve tangible results;
- Civil society should have a voice/role in Helsinki+40 discussions;

- The role and autonomy of institutions should be strengthened and participating States should support their work to fulfil their mandates;
- Strengthening and adaptation of the OSCE does not require fundamental structural changes or a legal framework, but rather an alignment of resources with 21st century strategic priorities, and the political will to implement our commitments.

No element of the Helsinki+40 process should provide, in the name of “modernization”, “reform” or “de-politicization”, an opening to limit the effectiveness of the OSCE. In this vein, while we cannot support the call for discussions aimed at changing the OSCE’s “legal framework,” we believe that the OSCE’s effectiveness and efficiency can be improved by developing a multi-year budget and planning cycle, enhancing program evaluation and co-ordination with other international organizations. Work under the rubric of Helsinki+40 should reaffirm the OSCE’s historic role in addressing protracted conflicts, in crisis response, and in building military transparency. Finally, the fundamental goal of the Helsinki+40 process should be, by 2015, for the OSCE participating States to demonstrate concrete improvements in their implementation of existing OSCE commitments. We welcome the stated intention of the OSCE Troika to facilitate concrete work across all OSCE dimensions for 2015 and stand ready to support their efforts.

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

Attachment 2 to MC.DEC/3/12

**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 Belarus:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the OSCE Helsinki+40 process, I should like to make the following interpretative statement on behalf of the Republic of Belarus.

In view of the fact that the Helsinki+40 process is designed to promote the realization of the goal of the 2010 OSCE Astana Summit to form a common and indivisible security community in the OSCE area, Belarus takes the position that one of its practical results should be the unconditional implementation by all participating States of the OSCE principles and commitments concerning the inadmissibility of the use or threat of the use of force, sanctions or any kind of restrictive measures. Without the confirmation of these commitments and without the complete rejection of an unacceptable practice of this nature, which undermines confidence and co-operation among the participating States, it will be simply impossible to build a genuine security community.

Belarus also firmly believes that questions regarding the comprehensive reform of the OSCE and its adaptation to today's challenges should be at the heart of the agenda of the Helsinki+40 process.

I would ask that this interpretative statement be attached to this decision and included as an annex to the journal of the meeting.”

Attachment 3 to MC.DEC/3/12

**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 Azerbaijan:

“Mr. Chairperson,

Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joined the consensus on the draft Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Helsinki+40 process proceeding from the following:

This decision represents a unique opportunity for OSCE participating States to take the stock of the progress made in the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE fundamental documents.

We call the OSCE participating States to ensure that progress on this decision accommodates a number of legitimate security concerns expressed by the Republic of Azerbaijan in the course of its preparation, including, *inter alia*, decreasing OSCE's role in the pan-European security architecture, resolving the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, addressing the increasing co-operation and co-ordination of the OSCE activities with military and defence blocks existing in the OSCE area and its impact on the security of participating States, who are not members of such security blocks, and providing adequate political and security guarantees to those non-members.

The Republic of Azerbaijan will consolidate its efforts to ensure that these issues are properly addressed and included into the final product of the Helsinki+40 process as well as in the course of upcoming informal discussions.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to request you to attach this statement to the decision we have just adopted and include it in the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting.”

**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 Armenia:

“The delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement.

Armenia considers the Helsinki+40 as important initiative to establish trust and confidence among OSCE participating States and peoples, as well as to embark on the processes of historical reconciliation.

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

DECISION No. 4/12
OSCE'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL THREATS
(MC.DEC/4/12 of 7 December 2012)

The Ministerial Council,

Welcomes the important decisions adopted in 2012 by the Permanent Council aimed at further strengthening the OSCE's efforts to address transnational threats:

- Development of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, PC Decision No. 1039;
- OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, PC Decision No. 1048;
- OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities, PC Decision No. 1049;
- OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, PC Decision No. 1063;

Cognizant of the efforts already made to implement these decisions, underlines the importance of their full operationalization and integration into the activities of the Organization with the aim of translating political commitments agreed by the participating States into effective and sustainable programmatic action,

Calls upon the Secretary General, who acts as a focal point for Organization-wide programmatic activities that relate to countering transnational threats, to promote the implementation of these decisions, in close co-operation with the participating States;

Noting the progress that has been made in strengthening co-ordination and coherence of action in the OSCE's work relating to transnational threats since the adoption of Ministerial Council Decision No. 9/11 in Vilnius, tasks the Secretary General to continue to ensure strengthened co-ordination and coherence of action across all three OSCE dimensions, among all OSCE executive structures, while respecting their mandates;

Tasks the Secretary General to report to the participating States on the progress achieved in the implementation of the abovementioned decisions by the end of 2013.

DECISION No. 5/12
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

(MC.DEC/5/12 on 7 December 2012)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Twentieth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Kyiv on 5 and 6 December 2013.

III. STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS

**OPENING STATEMENT BY
THE TÁNAISTE AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND TRADE OF IRELAND, OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE,
AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**
(MC.GAL/12/12 of 6 December 2012)

Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome you all to Dublin. Since we last met in Vilnius, exactly one year ago, we have had a busy and eventful year. When I addressed the Permanent Council at the start of Ireland's Chairmanship, I committed to pursuing the principles and aims of this Organization in a balanced and pragmatic manner – namely by promoting a peaceful and secure environment for all our citizens. We have made much progress, and we come to this Ministerial Council meeting determined to advance our shared aim of a common, comprehensive and indivisible security community; a community of shared values.

At the beginning of my period as Chairperson-in-Office, I stressed the need for quality over quantity and substance over form in what we do. The balanced set of decisions we have put before you is a direct result of this practical approach. We have taken our role as an impartial Chairmanship seriously, and have not sought to favour one constituency over another. Like all Chairmanships, we were not in a position to satisfy everybody, but we stand up for the package we have presented for your consideration and approval.

An integral part of our package this year is the Helsinki+40 proposal, which we developed in order to give a longer-term perspective to the work of the Organization. We reaffirmed our shared commitments at the Astana Summit, and successive Chairmanships were tasked with taking forward work on implementing those commitments. With this in mind, we have worked carefully with our Troika partners, Lithuania and Ukraine, future Chairmanships, Secretary General Zannier and the wider OSCE community to come up with such a plan. The proposal on the table reflects the common wish of the participating States to work together in a more co-ordinated manner as we look towards the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, our founding document, in 2015.

In the politico-military dimension, we have already successfully steered three decisions, on policing, drugs and IT security, through the Permanent Council in Vienna. I hope we can also agree on a fourth decision on counter-terrorism mandates, which will allow for the adoption of a Ministerial Council decision recognizing progress made in this area. The information and communications technology security working group is already up and running and I hope we can adopt another decision at the Council on this area of work. We also look forward to adopting the decisions transmitted to the Council by the Forum for Security Co-operation.

In the economic and environmental dimension, a comprehensive and ambitious Ministerial Council declaration on good governance is at an advanced stage of discussion and I expect that we will adopt it tomorrow. I was pleased that we were able to champion good

governance this year, and to share our national experience in the area of the seizure of criminal assets.

I outlined at the start of the year my determination to achieve a balanced package of decisions, including in the human dimension. Our proposals on strengthening freedom of the media and on combating racism and xenophobia have been broadly welcomed by the participating States, and I expect that a package will be agreed before we conclude tomorrow.

I would like to recall here our successful Conference on Internet Freedom, which took place in Dublin Castle last June, and provided an excellent opportunity for debate and dialogue among the 280 participants from participating States, civil society, academia, media groups, and the ICT industry. One message that emerged very strongly from the debate is the clear recognition that the OSCE commitments in all three dimensions apply across all mediums and regardless of technologies.

Excellencies,

I also gave a commitment at the start of the year that Ireland, as holder of the Chairmanship-in-Office, would share its experience of conflict resolution. I was delighted to host a major conference on this theme in April in Dublin. At that conference, I gave a commitment to provide more detailed briefings on the Northern Ireland peace process, which we have done on a number of occasions this year. I renew that offer today as a demonstration of our commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in our region.

I am happy to report that some progress has been made in relation to the protracted conflicts. Five meetings in the framework of the Transdniestrian settlement process took place this year, the most recent only last week at Farmleigh House in Dublin. This marks a considerable activation of the process since the resumption of official talks one year ago in Vilnius, after a gap of almost six years. Under the able chairmanship of my Special Representative, Ambassador Erwan Fouéré, the participants agreed on key principles and procedures for the conduct of negotiations, as well as on an agenda for the negotiating process. I look forward to negotiations taking place in all three baskets, with a view to achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem. Increased engagement between the sides has also been marked by positive developments on the ground, such as the resumption of railway goods traffic in April. I hope that all concerned will work to maintain the momentum created this year. I know that our Ukrainian colleagues are approaching their task of chairing these negotiations next year with seriousness and determination, and I wish them well in advancing the process towards a comprehensive settlement.

The Geneva International Discussions, now in their fifth year, have proved their value as a forum to address security, stability and humanitarian issues in the aftermath of the 2008 war in Georgia. My Special Representative, Ambassador Pádraig Murphy, contributed significantly to these discussions as Co-Chair on behalf of the OSCE, as well as co-facilitating the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, of which by the end of the year there will have been no fewer than 13 meetings in 2012.

These meetings are vital to ensure calm and stability on the ground. Unfortunately, no meetings of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism have taken place since March. I hope that meetings can be resumed as soon as possible.

The upsurge in violent clashes in April and during the summer on the line of contact and on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border, as well as other worrying developments, show clearly the continuing and urgent need for progress to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. I call on all sides to engage seriously with each other and with the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group to end this conflict, which has brought suffering to the people of the region for too long. I wish to thank my Personal Representative, Ambassador Kasprzyk, for his untiring efforts to safeguard the ceasefire and contribute to progress towards a resolution of the conflict.

In South-Eastern Europe, we saw the closure of the OSCE Office in Zagreb. The successful implementation of the Office's mandate to assist in Croatia's democratic development is a positive sign of the OSCE's capacity to assist participating States, and is undoubtedly a success story. The successful facilitation of voting by Serbian citizens in Kosovo in May, by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, is another example of the OSCE's strengths, as demonstrated through its network of field missions. This task was carried out with great skill. I congratulate Secretary General Zannier and his team for the contribution they made to that electoral process.

I welcome the presence at this Ministerial Council meeting of parliamentarians from across the OSCE area. I was delighted to participate in the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in Monaco in July. Your presence is a welcome reminder of the need for us to pay attention to the concerns of citizens, in whose interests we all work. The work of the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly in election monitoring is one of the key tasks of our Organization. It is also one of the most visible manifestations of the OSCE's presence across our region, and I encourage the two bodies to keep up their excellent work in the name of the OSCE. I commend the work done by the Director of the ODIHR in promoting democratization and in protecting human rights.

I also wish to acknowledge the presence of the High Commissioner for National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, both of whom embody the values we all share. The High Commissioner's office has worked tirelessly over 20 years, perfecting the art of quiet diplomacy in carrying out its mandate. The Representative on Freedom of the Media has also consolidated the unique role of her office, as a champion of freedom of the media, both online and offline.

I would also like to acknowledge and welcome the presence at this opening session of a large number of NGOs and other civil society representatives from across the OSCE region. I wish to thank in particular the representatives of the Civic Solidarity Platform, whom I look forward to meeting after this session, in order to receive a set of civil society recommendations to participating States. I will also receive the Dublin Declaration, which was agreed at a civil society meeting in Dublin Castle yesterday, and which focuses on the protection of human rights defenders in the OSCE region. The participating States have already formally recognized the need for protection of human rights defenders, but concrete work in this area remains disappointing and is something that requires further attention in the months and years ahead.

Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As we strive to implement our common commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter, the Istanbul Charter and the Astana Commemorative Declaration, let us work together constructively to agree on a set of decisions that will benefit the citizens of all the participating States and the Partners. In so doing, we will also demonstrate the continuing relevance of the OSCE. As we approach 2015 and the 40th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, let us recommit ourselves to our Organization, true to its founding values, and reinvigorated to meet the challenges of our times and the expectations of our citizens.

Thank you.

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY
THE TÁNAISTE AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND TRADE OF IRELAND, OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE,
AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**
(MC.DEL/54/12 of 7 December 2012)

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to address the closing session of the 19th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. As we reflect on what has been achieved at the Council, we can be satisfied that the Organization has emerged strengthened from the decisions we have adopted in Dublin. I am happy that we have renewed our determination to work together on many key issues, to the benefit of our citizens.

I am delighted that we have agreed to launch the Helsinki+40 process, setting out a clear path from now until 2015 for work which will significantly strengthen the Organization. I stand ready to support the incoming Chairmanships of Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia, as they strive to reinforce and revitalize the OSCE, in the lead-up to the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. This is a major initiative launched under our Chairmanship, which I hope will ensure that this Organization is fully equipped to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

At the start of our Chairmanship, I underlined my wish to see a balanced set of decisions adopted at the Dublin Ministerial Council. Our failure to agree any decisions in the human dimension is a matter of regret to me and reconfirms a worrying trend of recent Ministerial Council meetings. Of even greater concern is the sad reality that respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms is currently under great threat in many parts of the OSCE region. There are all too many examples of participating States falling short of the OSCE's own human dimension commitments, as well as their obligations under international law. I remain more convinced than ever that we must work to ensure that these commitments and obligations are honoured. I will work tirelessly to protect human rights defenders and to combat discrimination of all kinds, including discrimination against our lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered (LGBT) fellow citizens.

As Chairperson-in-Office, I have delivered on my commitment to highlight a number of key human rights issues this year. While we were unable to agree on a decision on strengthening freedom of the media in the OSCE, we held a highly successful Chairmanship Conference on Internet Freedom in Dublin in June, where States, civil society and other key actors shared their respective points of view.

I wish to announce in this context that, immediately after the close of our session today, I plan to sign the US Declaration on Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age. On the protracted conflicts, I am pleased that it has been possible to agree a statement on the Transdniestrian settlement process, the first in many years. As part of the Chairmanship's support for this process, we shared the experience of how peace was achieved in the Northern Ireland peace process. Conflict resolution efforts in this and other parts of the OSCE region were a particular priority for the Chairmanship and for me personally.

I welcome the agreement on the Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance, a significant achievement for the Chairmanship, which will enable the OSCE to deepen its engagement in preventing and countering corruption.

I also welcome the agreement on the final decision on the counter-terrorism framework and the acknowledgement of the earlier decisions agreed by way of the chapeau decision. We have begun work on the challenging subject of ICT security, and I hope that further progress will be possible next year to address this issue, which affects us all.

I would like to thank Minister Poposki and his team for their excellent chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), leading up to the Dublin meeting of the Ministerial Council. I also acknowledge with thanks the work of Latvia and Kyrgyzstan as Chairs earlier in the year. I commend the progress achieved in updating the Vienna Document and the input by the FSC into the Helsinki+40 process.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank a number of key colleagues who have given freely of their experience to the Chairmanship, in order to help me to carry out my role as Chairperson-in-Office. My Personal Representatives on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, Judge Catherine McGuinness, Rabbi Andrew Baker and Senator Adil Akhmetov, have worked hard to promote the OSCE commitments on non-discrimination and freedom of religion, and I salute their courage and commitment. My Special Representative on Gender Issues, Ms. June Zeitlin, who was appointed for the first time in 2012, was very active throughout the year, championing women's rights and gender equality across the OSCE region.

I also wish to thank Ambassador Lars Erik Lundin for his report on strengthening the OSCE's co-operation with relevant international organizations. I expect that the OSCE will draw from this valuable resource when assessing its co-operation with multilateral organizations.

I welcome the progress made on the legal framework of the OSCE. While there was no breakthrough in this area this year, the work done by Ambassador John Bernhard has been extremely useful in clarifying the positions of participating States.

I would also like to thank my Special Representatives, Ambassador Pádraig Murphy and Ambassador Erwan Fouéré, for their tireless efforts in pursuit of progress in relation to the resolution of protracted conflicts.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In my year as Chairperson, I have become convinced of the essential contribution which our Organization is making to assure the peace, security and stability of our region. We are faced with an ever-growing number of threats and challenges to this peace, both from within our region – in the form of transnational threats – and also externally, an example being the threat posed by North Korea's pursuit of nuclear and ballistic capabilities. The OSCE must concentrate on building its own capacities in order to better contribute to international efforts to tackle such threats. I hope that this can be addressed in the context of the Helsinki+40 process.

A particular word of thanks goes to Secretary General Zannier and his excellent staff in Vienna and in the field missions. Their co-operation and support throughout the year have been exemplary.

Finally, I wish every success to my successor as Chairperson-in-Office, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko of Ukraine. You can rely on my full support and that of Ireland as we continue our engagement with the OSCE Chairmanship as Troika Partners.

Thank you.

**JOINT STATEMENT BY
THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS OF THE MINSK GROUP
CO-CHAIR COUNTRIES**
(MC.DEL/34/12 of 6 December 2012)

On the occasion of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin, we, the heads of the delegations of the States that co-chair the Minsk Group, call on the parties to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh to demonstrate the political will necessary to arrive at a peaceful settlement. As our Presidents stated in Los Cabos on 18 June 2012, the parties should be guided by the Helsinki principles, particularly those relating to the non-use of force or the threat of force, territorial integrity, and equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and the elements of a settlement outlined in our countries' statements at L'Aquila in 2009 and Muskoka in 2010. Recalling the statement by our Presidents in Deauville in 2011, we once again urge the parties to take decisive measures to arrive at a peaceful settlement.

We regret that the hopes for more rapid progress in the peace process expressed in the joint statement by the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the President of the Russian Federation in Sochi on 23 January 2012 have not been fulfilled. Instead, the parties have too often sought unilateral advantage in the negotiation process rather than agreement based on mutual understanding. While recognizing the decrease in the number of serious incidents along the line of contact and the border in the last few months, we remind the parties of the need to continue to respect the 1994 ceasefire and that the use of military force will not resolve the conflict. We call on the parties to refrain from actions and statements that encourage hostile sentiments within their populations, and that have increased tensions during the last few months. The leaders of the parties must prepare their populations for the day when they will once again live as neighbours rather than enemies with full respect for each other's culture, history and traditions.

We call on the parties to show greater urgency in the peace process and to work with the Co-Chairs to investigate fully and carefully the ideas presented by them during their visit to the region in November. We welcome the willingness of the ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia to meet jointly with the Co-Chairs in early 2013 to continue these discussions. Our countries remain ready to do everything in their power to assist the parties, but the responsibility for putting an end to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh remains with them.

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Annex 1 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

Two years after our Heads of State or Government met in Astana and as we get ever closer to the OSCE's 40th anniversary, the Dublin Ministerial Council meeting has given us the opportunity to take further steps in advancing the vision of Astana. Our Irish hosts deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation for guiding the Organization throughout the year and for their efforts to secure a solid outcome at this meeting.

The EU High Representative stated yesterday that we want to see the OSCE remain a robust pillar in Europe's security architecture. The OSCE should continue to play an important role in this architecture based on its comprehensive security concept and its principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other documents. The vision of Astana cannot become a reality without our firm adherence to all OSCE commitments in all three dimensions and their full implementation. In this context, it is of core importance that conflicts are prevented and solved and confidence is built in the politico-military sphere, which still needs to be consolidated and enhanced. Furthermore, this concept has at its core the promotion of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

The European Union deeply regrets the failure to adopt any decisions in the human dimension for the second year running. We reiterate that security cannot be achieved without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those of human rights defenders and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Each participating State must implement all of its human dimension commitments. We deplore the clear signs of backwards movement on existing commitments and values. But our human dimension commitments also need updating to reflect the changing security environment. Freedom of the media, including the safety of journalists, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association are key issues in the OSCE area. We will continue to pursue them. We particularly regret that some participating States were not prepared to acknowledge explicitly that rights and commitments offline also apply online.

Likewise, we deplore that, contrary to last years, there is no forward-looking approach on arms control in Europe and on confidence- and security-building measures.

Respect for the OSCE *acquis* and the Organization's concept of comprehensive security are indispensable for the establishment of the security community defined in the Astana Declaration, and should be the cornerstone of the Helsinki+40 process. We remain convinced that building on agreed norms, principles and commitments will ensure that the OSCE remains relevant and will play an important role in the future.

The European Union would like to see a more effective OSCE, better able to fulfil its objectives, in a more secure space from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We expect that the Helsinki+40 process will act as the road map and the vehicle for strengthening the Organization, consolidating the *acquis* of 40 years of co-operation and starting a process – including track two initiatives – leading to a more effective and efficient OSCE. We commend the Irish Chairmanship for this initiative and stand fully behind the co-ordinated strategic approach agreed with forthcoming chairmanships.

We consider that the Helsinki+40 process should give an important contribution to our efforts to restore trust and confidence in the OSCE space. We view it as our primary source of guidance on how, and framework in which, to realize the Astana Declaration. This is why we would have preferred a significantly more substantive and ambitious decision operationalizing the outcome of Astana. At the same time, we recognize the guidance given to future chairmanships in this decision. The European Union will work with and support them in this difficult, common endeavour. Valuable input from civil society and academic bodies, for example the Security Days and the IDEAS initiative, has been made.

Protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict continue to pose a serious threat to our common security. We regret that, for yet another Ministerial Council, adopting a political declaration has not proven possible. This leaves unaddressed by the Ministerial Council two of the conflicts dealt with by the OSCE and the developments associated with their resolution. The European Union stresses the importance of renewed impetus towards tangible progress in resolving protracted conflicts on the way to 2015. The EU is concerned about the lack of progress in the settlement of the conflict in Georgia and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We take note, in this context, of the statement made on 6 December 2012 by the heads of delegations of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries. It remains our firm belief that the security community cannot be achieved without the resolution of the protracted conflicts.

We appreciate the efforts that the Chairmanship has made in order to revive and advance the 5+2 negotiations on the settlement of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova and we welcome the stated intention of the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship to achieve further progress. We also welcome the ministerial statement issued today that recognizes progress of the 5+2 talks this year towards a final Transnistria settlement. This is the first time our ministers have issued a separate statement in support of the 5+2 process, reaffirming our collective commitment to help the sides resolve a protracted conflict that has persisted far too long. We urge all participants in the 5+2 process to develop basic principles for a comprehensive settlement consistent with OSCE norms, principles and commitments, and to redouble efforts towards our shared goal of a final settlement that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and provides a special status for Transnistria. In addition to the issues addressed in the ministerial statement regarding the 5+2, there are other issues to be dealt with. Commitments regarding the withdrawal of military forces should be honoured. The OSCE has an important role to play in facilitating this process. We also urge intensified work to promote demilitarization and to achieve greater mutual confidence and trust through openness regarding all military forces in the region.

Mr. Chairperson,

A prevailing commitment was made by all participating States in Vilnius to, *inter alia*, revitalize, update and modernize the major instruments for ensuring stability, predictability and transparency, and welcomed intensified negotiations to update and modernize the Vienna Document.

We therefore express our disappointment that the draft decision on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation did not meet with consensus. Notwithstanding this negative development, we consider abiding commitments on arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes, as set out in Astana, Vilnius and other relevant OSCE documents, remain valid and should be further progressed.

We welcome progress made throughout the year in addressing transnational threats and the adoption today by the Permanent Council of the last outstanding decision, on the counter-terrorism framework. We are pleased that ministers recognized this progress in the chapeau decision. We look forward to the full implementation of these decisions.

We regret that the work done this year by the working group on cybersecurity did not culminate in the adoption of confidence-building measures in this field. It is clear to us that the OSCE toolkit in combating contemporary threats and challenges is incomplete without these.

We are pleased that a declaration on good governance has been adopted at this Ministerial. Good governance, cutting across all three dimensions, is paramount for the European Union and we anticipate the full implementation of the commitments in this declaration. The EU stands ready to assist participating States in meeting obligations in this field.

The European Union engaged in an open and constructive manner with all participating States on their proposals. We regret that some participating States were not willing to reciprocate this attitude, refusing to engage on our proposal regarding the freedom of peaceful assembly and association. We thank those participating States that have joined this endeavour and we invite other participating States to consider co-sponsoring this proposal in the future.

We welcome the readiness of all participating States to continue to strive for better implementation of gender commitments including UNSCR 1325 under the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

The OSCE remains an important Organization for the EU; we aim to enhance further the already excellent co-operation between us. We highly value the work of the autonomous OSCE institutions, the ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, as well as the field missions in supporting the participating States implement their commitments.

In this context, like the Chairperson-in-Office, we lament the decision of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to terminate its 1997 Co-operation Agreement with the ODIHR.

The European Union expects that progress in all dimensions, including in the human dimension, should be made in the forthcoming year. We pledge our support to the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship and reiterate that OSCE chairmanships should lead this Organization by example.

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

The acceding country Croatia¹, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Iceland², Montenegro¹ and Serbia¹, the countries of the Stabilisation 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 Andorra, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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- 1 Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
 - 2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and of the European Economic Area.

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

(Annex 2 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

The delegation of the Russian Federation expresses its sincere gratitude to the Irish Chairmanship for its intensive and effective work over the year and also for the good organization of the ministerial meeting.

The central event of our meeting was the launch of the Helsinki+40 political process, which is aimed at adapting the OSCE to the new realities and increasing its contribution to the joint efforts to develop a common and indivisible security space. The comprehensive reform of the Organization and its underpinning with a solid legal basis should be an integral element of this process.

For the first time in many years it proved possible to agree on an important statement at the ministerial level on the negotiations on the Transnistrian settlement process in the "5+2" format. A statement by the countries co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group on a Nagorno-Karabakh settlement was also adopted.

We welcome the important decision on transnational threats, which welcomes the strategic OSCE documents on this subject adopted in the course of the year – the OSCE anti-narcotics concept, the framework for police-related activities and also the decision on the development of confidence-building measures regarding the use of communication technologies. It is important that this list of decisions also includes the OSCE consolidated counter-terrorism mandate adopted in the course of the work of the Ministerial Council. These documents create a sound systemic basis for the OSCE's work on transnational threats in the medium and long term. It is now important to systematically translate these decisions into practical steps and actions.

We are pleased to note the adoption of the decision on good governance and combating corruption. This is also a threat common to all countries. Combating corruption is a priority topic for Russia, *inter alia* in its capacity as president of the Group of 20.

Unfortunately, we did not reach an agreement on the draft Ministerial Council decisions on issues relevant to the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation. The reason for this lies in the differences in the approaches to the questions of further improving confidence- and security-building measures. We expect from our partners more realistic positions on these matters and specific proposals capable of removing the obstacles to agreeing on the concepts and parameters for a new conventional arms control regime.

It is true that just like last year it did not prove possible to reach consensus on the humanitarian basket documents. From the very outset the Russian Federation played an active part in the negotiations on all the human dimension documents. Together with a number of other States, we put forward draft decisions on the problems that we believe to be the most relevant at the present time: combating neo-Nazism, freedom of movement with a focus on the abolition of visas, and improving the OSCE's election observation activities. In addition we also worked on topics that are priorities for other States. Unfortunately, none of these documents were adopted.

We believe that it is time to draw serious conclusions from the current situation. The OSCE will work successfully if we push those decisions that enjoy broad general support and in the process all States work on a uniting agenda. We trust that future OSCE chairmanships will take this into account in their work.

We wish the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship every success in leading the OSCE in 2013.

Thank you for your attention.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the Dublin Ministerial Council meeting.

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

(Annex 3 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

Mr. Chairperson, on behalf of the United States, I would like to thank the Irish Chairmanship for its work to advance fundamental freedoms, strengthen our efforts against intolerance, promote good governance, and combat transnational threats.

In the Astana Commemorative Declaration, all participating States agreed that the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental is our first responsibility. Despite the vigorous efforts of the Chairmanship, for the second year in a row, we were not able to reach consensus on any decisions that reaffirm or strengthen our commitments in the human dimension.

Specifically, we deeply regret that we were not able to adopt ministerial decisions on Strengthening Media Freedom, on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, on the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and the Freedom of Association, and that we were not able to adopt the Declaration on Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age.

Not surprisingly, the countries most responsible for this outcome have an increasingly troubling record on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the implementation of their existing OSCE commitments. We are particularly troubled by efforts made to undermine existing OSCE human dimension commitments by watering them down or refusing to reaffirm them.

Regrettably, even where the task before us was merely to reaffirm existing commitments, we were unable to reach consensus. Forty-seven participating States continue to cosponsor the Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age declaration. This declaration contains no new commitments; it merely reaffirms that fundamental freedoms apply whether they are exercised in the real or the virtual world – online or offline. It is deeply troubling that some participating States argue that the emergence of a new technology, such as the Internet, can abrogate or diminish fundamental freedoms.

At a time when our region has witnessed a rise in racism, xenophobia and hate crimes targeting migrants, Roma, Jews, other ethnic and religious minorities, LGBT persons and other vulnerable population, we also find it regrettable that the OSCE was prevented from adopting provisions to help protect our diverse communities, such as strengthening participating States' responses to hate crimes, enhancing our assistance to victims, and facilitating evaluation of the effectiveness of anti-hate crimes policies.

The Irish Chairmanship's Decision on Strengthening Media Freedom addressed a compelling concern: persistent threats to the safety of journalists and to freedom of expression both online and offline in the OSCE region. These disturbing trends have been documented in detail by the Representative on Freedom of the Media. Independent journalists, bloggers, and activists who employ social media to expose corruption or human rights abuses or oppose government policies face increasing threats in some parts of the OSCE region.

We will continue to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region and we will do our utmost to ensure that they are a major focus of OSCE's onward work. We will return again and again to these issues of profound importance to people across the region.

The outcomes in the human dimension and the limited results achieved with respect to the OSCE's role in the protracted conflicts demonstrate the deep divide amongst participating States on a wide range of fundamental issues. For our part, the way forward is clear: the realization of the Astana Declaration's vision of a "security community" can only be achieved through the implementation of existing commitments.

In the first dimension, Secretary Clinton made clear our concern about the erosion of military transparency in the OSCE region in recent years. We regret that no significant steps were agreed in Vienna this year to redress that decline – and we are concerned that we could not even agree to continue our efforts to modernize the Vienna Document in 2013.

On cybersecurity, we were also disappointed that participating States were unable to reach consensus on an initial set of transparency confidence-building measures.

We are pleased, however, that participating States also agreed the draft transnational threats chapeau decision.

We are also pleased participating States reached agreement on the Chairmanship's Good Governance Declaration, and believe it can serve as a useful tool in guiding our work in the second dimension. It will assist in focusing the work of the field missions and facilitate fruitful co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations and fora.

We welcome the ministerial statement issued today that recognizes progress of the 5+2 talks this year toward a final Transnistria settlement.

This is the first time our Ministers have issued a separate statement in support of the 5+2 process, reaffirming our collective commitment to help the sides resolve a protracted conflict that has persisted far too long.

We urge all participants in the 5+2 process to develop basic principles for a comprehensive settlement consistent with OSCE norms, principles and commitments, and to redouble efforts toward our shared goal of a final settlement that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova and provides a special status for Transnistria.

In addition to the issues addressed in the Ministerial statement regarding the 5+2, there are other issues to be dealt with. Commitments regarding the withdrawal of military forces should be honoured. The OSCE has an important role to play in facilitating this process.

We also urge intensified work to promote demilitarization and to achieve greater mutual confidence and trust through openness regarding all military forces in the region.

Consideration of proposals to transform the current peacekeeping force can also contribute to greater security.

We are also pleased that the co-chairs agreed a ministerial-level statement on the work of the Minsk Group and urge broad support for their efforts.

On Georgia, we regret that agreement on a regional statement proved unattainable again this year. We look forward to efforts to develop ideas for a Vienna-based OSCE support team, as discussed here in Dublin.

Next year we will begin work under the rubric of the Helsinki+40 process. Some participating States have suggested that the Helsinki+40 process should usher in significant reforms and changes in the way the OSCE conducts election observation, engages with civil society, or its legal structure. While we believe that there is room for improvement in any organization, we fundamentally disagree with the assessment by some that the OSCE needs “major reform” or a legal charter. The key to making the Organization more effective is to allow it to do the work we have agreed it should do.

Going forward, the United States looks forward to working with the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship, the Troika, and all participating States to elaborate the tasks to be undertaken as part of an inclusive and transparent Helsinki+40 process that welcomes contributions from civil society as well.

As it has been from the beginning, so too today, the value, relevance, and promise of the Helsinki+40 process rest on its comprehensive concept of security: that lasting peace among States is inextricably linked to respect to human rights within States.

As Secretary Clinton stated yesterday, “as we approach the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, this is a time for the OSCE to once again take up the mantle of leadership, to push forward the frontiers of human rights and dignity, and to reaffirm the values and principles that have guided this Organization ever since its founding.”

Mr. Chairperson, I ask that you attach this statement to the journal of the day.

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

(Annex 4 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to make a statement on behalf of the following countries: Albania, Germany, the United States of America, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Turkey.

Mr. Chairperson,

We remain committed to conventional arms control. NATO CFE Allies recall that the decisions taken in November 2011 to cease implementing certain CFE obligations with regard to the Russian Federation are reversible, should the Russian Federation return to full implementation. NATO CFE Allies continue to implement fully their CFE obligations with respect to all other CFE States Parties. Allies are determined to preserve, strengthen and modernize the conventional arms control regime in Europe, based on key principles and commitments, and continue to explore ideas to this end. We are determined also to work towards that goal with regard to the Vienna Document and the Open Skies Treaty.

Mr. Chairperson,

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

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

(Annex 5 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova fully subscribes to the statement made in this session by the delegation of Greece on behalf of a group of countries.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

(Annex 6 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, the Republic of Moldova shares the views expressed by the European Union and the United States on the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE Helsinki+40 process.

Mr. Chairperson, we welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Council statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process in the “5+2” format. By means of this statement, the 57 participating States express their common vision of the way to advance the negotiations towards a political resolution of the conflict that has already affected my country for two decades. We believe that this statement is an important step towards creating a favourable international context by building a common approach and promoting co-ordinated efforts by the international actors, and first of all those participating in the “5+2” process. By adopting the Ministerial Council statement, we reaffirm the key role of the OSCE in this process.

The major goal pursued by this document is to further the “5+2” negotiations – which are the main vehicle of the settlement. To this end, the Ministerial Council statement reaffirms the support of all the OSCE participating States for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. It expresses the need to advance discussions on all three baskets of the agenda for negotiations, including the basket related to the comprehensive settlement, and political and security issues. The statement also underlines the important role of confidence-building measures, including the removal of the obstacles to the free movement of people, goods and services.

A call to start discussion on the basic principles of the final solution, which is the main task of the negotiations in the “5+2” format, would make this statement even more forward-looking, and we regret it did not find a place in this text.

Mr. Chairperson, let me point out that the political context in which the Transdniestrian 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 long-standing concern to us, such as unfulfilled commitments regarding the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, and the increasing need for transformation of the existing peacekeeping arrangement into a multinational, civilian mission with an appropriate international mandate. As stated by previous speakers, these issues remain on the agenda of our dialogue, and we look forward to achieving progress in this regard, consistent with the OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

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

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

(Annex 7 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to join the previous speakers in warmly congratulating Ireland for the able Chairmanship and the diligence that it has displayed in steering our Organization in 2012. In this context, we praise your important leadership role in securing the deliverables we have been able to attain during this Ministerial.

We believe that the decision that we have taken on the Helsinki+40 process will be instrumental not only to reflect upon the achievements of the OSCE, but by building on the *acquis* that we have so far accumulated to provide further visionary guidance for the role of our Organization in a changing security environment. We have full confidence that the incoming Chairmanships of Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia will spare no effort in order to bring this process forward so as to ensure the OSCE's contribution to the achievement of the goal of a security community. We will be ready to make our positive constructive contribution to the process and support the incoming Chairmanships.

Despite the OSCE commitments undertaken at the highest political level, the conflicts which our Organization is mandated to settle unfortunately remain unresolved. This has a negative bearing on trust and confidence in our day-to-day work in this Organization and on efforts for the achievement of regional reconciliations. Moreover, non-resolution of conflicts undermines the credibility of our Organization. Hence, we could only hope and expect that during the Helsinki+40 process, the OSCE will be able to tackle these conflicts in such a way that triggers the political will required for their settlement.

Mr. Chairperson,

Now allow me to make a couple of remarks on our decisions.

In the issues dealt by the Security Committee, we are gratified to have been able to adopt this morning at the Permanent Council level the decision on the OSCE consolidated framework for the fight against terrorism. With our previous decisions in new areas such as cybersecurity and drug trafficking, we are today in a better position of providing to the executive structures of our Organization an updated framework in which the work of the OSCE can develop on a sound and comprehensive basis.

Although we regret that this year there was no decision adopted by the FSC, we remain hopeful that the work of this important body will lead to more positive results in the coming year, including the modernization of the Vienna Document.

In the economic and environmental dimension, an important step has been taken during this Ministerial with the adoption of the Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. This will contribute to our further work in this area and to our overall objective of strengthening the second dimension.

We regret that we have once again been unable to adopt a balanced package of decisions in the third dimension at this Ministerial.

We are grateful to the Irish Chairmanship for having identified freedom of the media and racism and xenophobia as two potential areas of deliverables for this Ministerial Council. Indeed, trends of racism and xenophobia have a negative impact on the cohesion and inclusiveness of our societies by hindering intercultural dialogue and provoking marginalization. We supported the Chairmanship's efforts to address the scourge of racism and xenophobia in broad terms despite our preference to emphasize the vulnerability of certain groups which were identified during this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. It is regrettable that the Chairmanship's approach did not find enough ownership. It falls to the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship to promote further engagement in this dimension and overcome the prevailing divergence of views.

Regrettably, the draft decision on an OSCE-wide action plan to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in the OSCE region did not reach consensus at this Ministerial Council. As one of the co-sponsors of this draft decision, my country attaches great importance to enhancing OSCE capacities to assist participating States in implementing this important UN resolution. We will continue to work towards this goal together with all participating States and the OSCE Secretariat in the coming year. The support expressed by an overwhelming majority of participating States is a source of encouragement for future endeavours.

Mr. Chairperson,

As we felt the need to stress in our closing statement last year, once again I have to emphasize that there continues to be an evident need for honest self-criticism in our Organization. While continuing to work on better methodologies of consensus building, we must keep in mind that the priorities we determine should broadly reflect the interests of all participating States. Only thus can we ensure the political ownership and engagement necessary to strengthen the implementation of our existing commitments and develop new ones. We hope that the Helsinki+40 process will add to our capacity in engaging with each and every participating State in a spirit of co-operation with the aim of eliminating certain "fault lines".

In concluding, let me once again express our gratitude and appreciation for the excellent job done by our Irish friends, and wish every success to the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship.

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

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

(Annex 8 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

Your Excellency,

We are grateful for your efforts to make this Ministerial Council meeting a success, and we thank you and your dedicated staff for all your hard work here in Dublin.

We note with appreciation the decision on Helsinki+40, which should enable us to move our Organization forward as we return to Vienna.

We also note with appreciation that we have succeeded in completing the package on the efforts to address transnational threats, as well as those on other important topics.

Your Excellency,

In spite of your efforts, we were not able to reach consensus on any decisions that would reaffirm or strengthen our human dimension commitments.

We regret that no consensus was found on a text that simply would state the obvious, namely, that fundamental freedoms are fundamental regardless of choice of technology.

We regret that no consensus was found on a text that simply would state the obvious, namely, that, because we see an increase in hate speech, hate crimes and fundamentalist attitudes, we must redouble our efforts to combat racism and xenophobia.

We regret that no consensus was found on a text that simply would state the obvious, namely, that, because we see efforts to limit the freedom of assembly and association, we need to reconfirm our commitment to those freedoms.

And, as stated by my minister yesterday, we regret the message from the OSCE PA that they regard the co-operation agreement on election observation no longer to be valid and operative.

Your Excellency,

I ask that my statement be attached to the journal of today.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

(Annex 9 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this closing statement on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Robert Dechert.

Canada congratulates Ireland for exercising effective leadership of the OSCE this year as holder of the Chairmanship-in-Office, and for doing its utmost to advance our regional security work in all its dimensions and to promote the democratic values and commitments that our Organization stands for.

We are pleased that we could launch the Helsinki+40 process at this Ministerial Council meeting. We are also pleased that Mongolia has joined our OSCE family under the Irish Chairmanship.

However, despite the determined efforts of the Irish Chair and the vast majority of the participating States, we were unable, once again, to adopt any Ministerial Council decisions in the human dimension. Canada deeply regrets this missed opportunity.

In particular, we came to Dublin to engage actively and constructively on all human dimension texts, and to make progress on combating racism and xenophobia, on strengthening media freedom, on fundamental freedoms in the digital age, and on freedom of peaceful assembly and association. However, for the second year in a row, outcomes of the Ministerial Council in the human dimension could not be achieved because a few participating States are systematically challenging and undermining the OSCE's work on these important issues, and its concept of "comprehensive security", which has the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at its core.

We also regret that in Dublin one participating State blocked us at every turn from furthering the OSCE's implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. This is clearly an issue where the OSCE has a role to play, and on which it should be allowed to do its work.

Also, we have similar concerns regarding our inability to develop an initial set of confidence-building measures on cybersecurity.

Moving forward, Canada will continue to support all efforts to enhance human dignity in all corners of the OSCE region, regardless of race, belief, gender, or sexual orientation. Canada will speak up to ensure that the rights and fundamental freedoms of all are recognized and promoted. The OSCE's vital work on addressing challenges to tolerance and non-discrimination must also continue because, unfortunately, these challenges are on the rise in our region.

Canada intends to work constructively with the incoming Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in 2013 to address these priorities and values.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

IV. REPORTS TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE OSCE IN 2012

(MC.GAL/15/12 of 7 December 2012)

Introduction

1. In 2007, a draft convention on international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE (Draft Convention) was drawn up by an Informal Working Group at expert level. Three footnotes were included at the request of two participating States, making its agreement conditional on the existence of an OSCE Constituent Document.¹ Though the Draft Convention in itself continues to enjoy full support among participating States, repeated efforts have not resulted in agreement that would allow the Convention to be adopted by consensus, thereby changing status from a mere draft to an adopted text which participating States might choose to apply provisionally.

Practical effects of the lack of legal personality

2. The lack of clear legal status for the OSCE has led to administrative difficulties and financial implications for the day-to-day work of the Organization's executive structures, as well as to problems concerning the equal and uniform protection and status of OSCE staff, particularly in the field operations. Implementation of the Draft Convention would remove the current need to negotiate bilateral agreements with individual participating States and would save the OSCE a substantial amount of money. The amount lost annually as a direct result of its lack of uniform privileges and immunities is approximately 1 per cent of the total OSCE budget. The absence of a Convention has led to a situation where the status and treatment of the OSCE and its staff varies widely from one participating State to another.

3. The lack of legal personality causes reputational damage, since other regional or international organizations may fail to take the OSCE seriously as a proper organization or, in some cases, may be unable to deal with the OSCE as a partner. In addition, it is the view of international legal experts that the OSCE is a subject of international law in the sense that it can incur international responsibility for its acts, despite the lack of a clear internal legal status.² It may result in adverse consequences if the OSCE can incur responsibility, while still being unable to enjoy rights such as privileges and immunities. Perhaps most importantly, the impasse on this issue has contributed to an ongoing lack of progress in developing the operational capacity and progressing the aims of the Organization.

1 The footnotes make reference to a "Charter"; subsequent developments led to an indication that what matters is the character and contents of such a document, not its name. Therefore the neutral term "Constituent Document" has been in use since 2011, without prejudice to the outcome of consultations.

2 See ILC Draft articles on the responsibility of international organizations, adopted by the International Law Commission at its sixty-third session in 2011 (A/66/10, paragraph 87).

Meetings of the Informal Working Group in 2012

4. In 2012, the Irish Chairmanship put forward a number of options to strengthen the legal framework of the OSCE, circulating to participating States a food-for-thought paper (CIO.GAL/63/12 of 18 May 2012) and a non-paper containing a draft Constituent Document for the OSCE (CIO.GAL/68/12 of 12 June 2012), both annexed. Discussion of these documents has taken place in bilateral consultations with participating States and at meetings of the open-ended Informal Working Group (IWG) on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE.

5. Two meetings of the IWG on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE were held in 2012, on 8 June and 21 September. Both IWGs were chaired by Ambassador John Bernhard, Special Adviser to the Irish Chairmanship on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE.

6. The first meeting of the IWG took place on 8 June 2012. In advance of this meeting, the Irish Chairmanship circulated a food-for-thought paper on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE (CIO.GAL/63/12 of 18 May 2012). This paper put forward a number of options to participating States which could result in the removal of the three footnotes from the Draft Convention and allow for it to be adopted and opened for signature at the earliest possible opportunity. The paper proposed that progress towards the adoption of the Draft Convention would be facilitated by discussion of a short, technical draft Constituent Document for the OSCE, to be drafted by the Irish Chairmanship. The following conclusions were drawn from discussions at the first IWG:

- All participating States are in favour of the provisions of the 2007 Draft Convention in itself;
- All participating States are in favour of strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE;
- There is no consensus on the need to have a Constituent Document for the OSCE, though a number of participating States insist that, according to their internal legislative and constitutional procedures, privileges and immunities cannot be granted to an international organization without the adoption of a Constituent Document;
- The elaboration of a Constituent Document will require considerable work and not all participating States were convinced it would be a worthwhile exercise;
- The Chair of the IWG concluded that the Irish Chairmanship would circulate a short technical draft Constituent Document for the OSCE in advance of the next IWG.

7. The Irish Chairmanship circulated a non-paper containing a draft Constituent Document for the OSCE (CIO.GAL/68/12 of 12 June 2012), stressing that the final shape and character of this document had not been predetermined and remains open for discussion. Participating States were urged to consider the document carefully and submit written observations to the Chairmanship by the close of business on Friday 20 July 2012. A compilation of observations received from participating States was circulated by the Irish Chairmanship (CIO.GAL/117/12 of 6 September 2012), and is annexed.

8. The second meeting of the IWG took place on 21 September 2012. Discussions focused on the draft Constituent Document for the OSCE (CIO.GAL/68/12 of 12 June 2012). The Chair of the IWG aimed to promote confidence amongst participating States by demonstrating that a draft Constituent Document could be drafted in a way which would not affect the *acquis* of the Organization. The following conclusions were drawn from discussions at the second IWG:

- The majority of participating States continue to support the immediate adoption and opening for signature of the Draft Convention, without footnotes, but are open to continuing discussions concerning a draft Constituent Document;
- A group of participating States stressed that the adoption of the Draft 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;
- One participating State said it could not engage with the substance of the draft Constituent Document circulated. It held the opinion that there was no need for a Constituent Document and that a discussion of it might be counterproductive for the Organization;
- The Chairperson of the Permanent Council concluded that the positions of certain participating States remain far apart and that the Irish Chairmanship would continue its efforts to chart a way forward.

Conclusion

9. Though the 2007 Draft Convention on international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE (Draft Convention) in itself continues to enjoy full support amongst participating States, it has not been possible to reach consensus on the removal of the three footnotes linking its adoption to that of a Constituent Document. The Irish Chairmanship has worked to resolve the current impasse in order to give the OSCE the tools it needs to function in an effective and efficient manner, while acknowledging that the legitimate concerns of all participating States must be addressed. It is clear to the Irish Chairmanship that unless progress is achieved with regard to the removal of these footnotes from the Draft Convention, the unsatisfactory situation that currently exists will remain unresolved.

10. The Irish Chairmanship holds the strong belief that the adoption of the 2007 Draft Convention on international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE is vital for this Organization. It is also clear to the Irish Chairmanship that progress will not be achieved without also discussing a Constituent Document for the OSCE. Though there has not been a breakthrough this year, the work done under Ambassador John Bernhard has been noteworthy in further clarifying the positions of participating States and options available. The options presented in 2012 should continue to be explored. The current lack of clarity regarding the legal status of the OSCE is damaging to the Organization. Endowing the OSCE with separate legal personality and the privileges and immunities it requires to function in an efficient and effective manner must remain a priority for the participating States.

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

(MC.GAL/5/12 of 27 November 2012)

Executive summary

The present 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 2011 to November 2012.

During the above period of time, the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) continued activities to prevent the proliferation of illicit SALW. The Forum's activities focused on the further implementation of agreed SALW-related commitments and on examining ways to facilitate the full implementation of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW adopted in May 2010.

In particular, from 22 to 24 May 2012, the Forum held the Meeting to Review the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW and the Expert-Level Session on SALW Stockpile Management, Surplus Reduction and Destruction, at which the topics discussed included the OSCE contribution to the UN Second Review Conference on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects that took place from 27 August to 7 September 2012 in New York. Following the OSCE meeting, the FSC Chairperson issued the updated possible implementation steps for the Plan of Action that were generated on the basis of the proposals made at the meeting and other events. The OSCE actively participated in the Review Conference, *inter alia*, organizing a side event on the OSCE's achievements in fighting illicit SALW.

The level of implementation of annual SALW information exchanges remained stable during 2011–2012. Following the issue of an updated template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11), by 16 November 2012, 26 participating States had provided information in the new format, which facilitates comparability and comprehensiveness with respect to the information provided.

In line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11, the FSC reissued the OSCE Document on SALW in order to include all complementary decisions adopted since 2000. Having all relevant decisions in one Document will facilitate the implementation of agreed commitments.

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 commencement of project activities in the Kyrgyz Republic and the organization of a number of practical training activities for law enforcement authorities of Tajikistan related to SALW and conventional ammunition (CA).

The total amount of pledges for OSCE SALW projects during 2011–2012 comprised of 361,480 euros. The extrabudgetary contributions and fund-raising remain a core issue.

Finally, in line with its mandate, the OSCE Secretariat has further enhanced 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 Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in 2012 the OSCE Secretariat concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), which will further promote effective planning and efficient use of resources.

1. Introduction

At the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Vilnius, the FSC, through its Chairperson, was requested to submit to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (MC.DEC/6/11).

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 accordance with Section VI, paragraph 2, of the Document, a review of the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW is regularly undertaken during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meetings.

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 and to highlight the most challenging issues to be addressed in the future. The report covers the period from November 2011 until November 2012¹.

1 The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 16 November 2012.

3. The Meeting to Review the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW and the Expert-Level Session on SALW Stockpile Management, Surplus Reduction and Destruction

In order to facilitate the implementation of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW two specialized meetings were organized back-to-back from 22 to 24 May 2012, with the participation of over 150 national officials, representatives of international organizations and selected NGOs. The Meeting to Review the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (22 and 23 May 2012) aimed to assess the rate at which the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW was being implemented and to look at how future OSCE action could best complement international efforts without duplicating them. The meeting also looked into the OSCE contribution to the UN SALW process and the way forward. The reports of both meetings have been made publicly available².

The meeting showed that substantial results had been achieved in some areas related to the implementation of the Plan of Action. However, it also demonstrated the need for further efforts to boost the implementation of the norms, measures and principles agreed. In this connection, the FSC Chairperson issued an implementation paper on 9 October 2012 containing suggestions made at the meetings for facilitating the implementation of the Plan of Action.

The Expert-Level Session on SALW Stockpile Management, Surplus Reduction and Destruction (24 May 2012) provided for an expert-level discussion focusing on the best national practices employed in the OSCE area in the management of stockpiles, reduction of surpluses and destruction of SALW, also in light of OSCE and international best practices, common challenges and recommendations for follow-up work. In particular, the meeting addressed the possibility of building up the training capabilities for stockpile management and security existing in OSCE participating States. Case studies from OSCE assistance projects and other examples focused the discussion on issues of potential commonality with other OSCE participating States.

4. Participation in the Second Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW

The OSCE actively participated in the Second Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects, which was held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012. The purpose of the Review Conference was to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to date and to further chart its future. States also reviewed progress on the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit SALW (ITI).

During the Conference, the FSC Chairmanship made a statement on the OSCE's efforts to implement the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the ITI. In addition, the OSCE organized a side event devoted to its work on SALW, with the participation of the FSC Chairperson and representatives of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). At this side

2 The report can be found at <http://www.osce.org/fsc/92811>.

event, which attracted approximately 30 participants, the OSCE presented its practical initiatives related to export and brokering controls, and the electronic record-keeping application developed in the framework of the OSCE-UNDP project on capacity-building on SALW in Belarus.

In advance of the Review Conference, the OSCE submitted its report on implementation of the Programme of Action to the UNODA.

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 of the FSC's regular work, which in 2012 centred on the following issue:

5.1 Information exchange with regard to the OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in SALW

Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/09 requested the FSC to take steps to review the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08 with regard to the establishment or reinforcement of a legal framework for lawful brokering activities within the national jurisdiction of participating States, by the end of 2010.

In order to fulfil the request, on 24 November 2010, the Forum adopted FSC Decision No. 17/10 on an information exchange with regard to the OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in SALW. In the decision, the participating States agreed to conduct, no later than 30 June 2011, a one-off information exchange on their current regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW. Furthermore, the CPC was tasked with producing a summary report on the replies by 1 September 2011 and posting it on the public website.

By 16 November 2012, 47 participating States had provided national replies in accordance with FSC Decision No. 17/10. The CPC circulated a summary report on implementation on 1 September 2011 (FSC.GAL/95/11). Upon the tasking of the FSC Chairperson, the CPC circulated an updated summary report on 3 August 2012 (FSC.GAL/98/12)³.

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

3 The report has been made publicly available and can be found at: <http://www.osce.org/fsc/92596>.

transparency measures aimed at raising confidence and security and at further promoting 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 are regularly discussed at FSC meetings, special seminars and conferences. The general level of implementation in 2011–2012 has slightly improved in comparison with previous years. However, the FSC Chairperson's Announcing and Reminding Mechanism still had to be extensively employed.

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 SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national procedures for the control of manufacture of SALW (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 annex A.

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 16 November 2012, 26 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 annex B.

According to the data exchanged, during the period from 2001 to 2011, OSCE participating States destroyed 12,739,907 items of SALW. Details are contained in annex C.

6.2 **Reissuance of the OSCE Document on SALW**

In June 2012, in line with the tasking of Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11 and in order to promote the full implementation of the agreed commitments, the FSC reissued the OSCE Document on SALW, consolidating it with all relevant decisions taken since the adoption of the initial Document in 2000⁴. Having the extensive OSCE SALW documentation in a single instrument will facilitate its implementation by policymakers in the OSCE capitals.

6.3 **Awareness-raising**

As the post of Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW remained vacant in 2012, the Group of Friends did not conduct any activities during this year.

The OSCE's CPC organized a number of training events and workshops. An overview of these activities as well as other activities related to the promotion of OSCE SALW initiatives is attached as annex D.

7. **Practical assistance on SALW**

7.1 **Overview**

Implementation of the elements in the OSCE Document on SALW dealing with 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 FSC in this field.

4 The reissued OSCE Document on SALW can be found at: <http://www.osce.org/fsc/20783>.

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 43 requests for assistance from 17 countries relating to enhancement of the management and security of stockpiles of SALW and of CA, including mélange, or destruction of surpluses. The requests from participating States for assistance in tackling the destruction, management and security of stockpiles of SALW remain an essential part of the FSC's efforts in this field. In particular, assistance projects in Belarus and the Kyrgyz Republic can be seen as examples of these activities in 2012.

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 has established and maintained an aggregate database of points of contact provided by OSCE participating States and other parties to the directory. During 2012, the CPC provided updated information on projects on SALW and SCA via the Directory of Points of Contact. However, communications between States and/or to the CPC via the points of contact remain at a low level.

7.3 Assistance on export control legislation

In 2012, the OSCE, jointly with the German Federal Export Control Agency (BAFA), started providing assistance to interested participating States in updating their export control legislation on SALW. In 2011–2012, the OSCE and the BAFA, also in co-operation with the UNODA, the UNODC, the UNDP, and the UNSCR 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, initiated a country-specific dialogue with Moldova on a number of SALW-related issues, including export control legislation. Currently, the OSCE and the BAFA are working closely with the Moldovan authorities to support the national review of the export control legislation to meet international requirements.

7.4 Practical assistance projects

7.4.1 Republic of Belarus

Based on the MoU between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP, the two organizations have continued the implementation of their joint project on capacity-building for SALW in Belarus, addressing issues related to physical security and stockpile management at State-held SALW storage sites. The first phase of the programme, which was designed to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of Belarus to safely guard SALW at five storage sites, was successfully completed in the summer of 2010. Furthermore, the number of sites addressed within the project was reduced to 13 in order to concentrate SALW at larger storage sites. 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 focusing on two large storage sites, in Gomel and at Kolosovo, and two smaller sites, in Baroŭka and Zaslonava.

The status update and work plan for 2012–2013 were presented to the FSC by the UNDP and the Ministry of Defence in the context of the Security Dialogue in October 2011.

7.4.2 Kyrgyz Republic

In February 2008, the Kyrgyz Republic submitted a request to the FSC for assistance in enhancing the management and security of stockpiles of SALW and CA in the southern part of the country, where an increase in the activity of radical extremist groups is putting the current storage facilities at risk. Kyrgyzstan suffers from excess stocks of outdated ammunition left behind after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Safety and security measures need to be significantly updated at the SALW and CA storage sites; in addition to the instability of some of the ammunition, some storage sites are located close to populated areas, posing a serious danger to the civilian population. Moreover, as some of the storage buildings are in poor condition and in some cases not weatherproof, there is a risk that residues from decaying ammunition could contaminate the soil around the storage sites.

In July 2008, the request was substantiated by detailed information provided through the questionnaire used in connection with requests for assistance. During the period from 14 to 18 March 2011, a second assessment visit was carried out by the OSCE team in order to evaluate the safety and security of stockpiles of SALW and CA and the scope of possible assistance, and to define the technical requirements of the future assistance project. As a follow-up to the assessment an assistance project has been developed to assist the government of Kyrgyzstan in the following areas:

- Training on management and security of stockpiles of SALW and CA;
- Construction and refurbishment of ammunition storage sites; and
- Destruction of surplus and unserviceable SALW, including man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS).

The project implementation commenced in 2012. The Buzhum, Gul'cha and Koi-Tash storage facilities hold one third of MoD's overall stockpiles. The implementation of the Project has currently been extended until 31 December 2014.

In August 2012, the implementation team members were hired to begin project launch and implementation. In September 2012 the project team conducted short visits to all three sites to observe and check the real situation and conditions of the existing stockpiles and to establish contacts with the MoD military bases commanders and with officials in charge of warehouses in the respective locations.

The OSCE and the Kyrgyz Government are expected to sign the MoU on the Realization of SALW and SCA Programme (for 5 years) before the end of 2012.

In parallel, the project team jointly with MoD developed the technical requirements for the design works in accordance with national regulations, international norms and OSCE best practice for SALW and CA. The MoD has requested that first works should start in Buzhum that was mutually agreed. Based on the available funding it was decided to complete work on Buzhum (Batken Province) as the first priority. It is expected that construction works will be launched at Buzhum site in April–May 2013.

In 2010, the Kyrgyz authorities requested the assistance of the OSCE in collecting SALW looted during riots in the spring and summer of 2010, to supplement national efforts

that had been undertaken up to that time. In response, the OSCE, jointly with the UNDP, initiated an assessment visit to the country from 7 to 12 February 2011 to evaluate the situation on the ground and assess the feasibility and the scope of a future assistance project. The assessment recommended:

- Conducting a comprehensive survey of SALW and security;
- Designing an amended SALW collection programme.

The OSCE and UNDP are currently in the process of initiating the survey in consultation with the authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

7.4.3 Tajikistan

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

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

- A. Establishment of a computerized system for SALW and SCA training courses and train-the-trainers courses for the country's law enforcement authorities

In close co-operation with the educational facilities of law enforcement agencies, a computer-based training system on SALW and SCA physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) was established, with the partners being provided with equipment and peripherals. Training for trainers on the use of CD-based training software will be conducted in November.

- B. Field training exercise for the Incident Response Centre

The OSCE initiative on the establishment of a coherent mechanism for response to SALW- and SCA-related incidents was launched in 2010. In that year, in order to respond to incidents related to SALW and SCA and to support the country in the establishment of a unique co-ordination mechanism on SALW and SCA incidents response, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan gathered experts from all relevant agencies of the country in a working group. This was necessary because the existing Law on Emergency Situations dealt only with emergencies caused by various kinds of natural disasters. The law, however, neither included incidents caused by arms and ammunition, nor did it cover the co-ordination of activities when disasters occur.

On the basis of a review of related documents, the group initiated the elaboration of a document on the creation of a council for incidents response designed to serve as a coherent mechanism to co-ordinate action taken in response to SALW- and SCA-related incidents. As the direct result of the initiative, the Government of Tajikistan issued resolution No. 230 in April 2011 entitled "Creation of a council for response and co-ordination of actions among competent bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan in emergency situations and other incidents related to SALW".

In 2012 the OSCE Office continued activities related to the further improvement of the Council's capacities. On the basis of the requirements of resolution No. 230, and after

having completed the elaboration of internal instructions for the Council, to co-ordinate actions of member agencies in related emergencies, it was decided to prepare and conduct a command post exercise (CPX) followed by field training exercise (FTE) in 2013, in order to check the efficiency of the mechanism and the coherence of actions in the event of an incident occurring. The scenarios for CPX and FTE and the place for the carrying out of these exercises have been developed in 2012.

The final goal of this initiative is to ensure long-term stability with regard to SALW and SCA in Tajikistan through the establishment of an entity capable, among other things, of dealing with incidents response, training and assessment.

C. Destruction of surplus SALW/SCA

The OSCE Office supported Tajikistan's Ministry of the Interior in the destruction of over 600 firearms, which were mainly collected after the arms withdrawal process in Khorog in the autonomous oblast of Gorno-Badakhshan. Destruction took place in a SALW destruction facility established with financial assistance from the OSCE during implementation of its SALW programme in Tajikistan (2005–2009).

7.4.4 Turkmenistan

In November 2011, the OSCE, in collaboration with the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence and the British Embassy in Ashgabat, supported a specialized observation visit to the United Kingdom for military and emergency representatives of Turkmenistan's Presidential Administration and Ministry of Defence. The participants visited several weapons and ammunition storage and destruction sites, and discussed efficient stockpile management and incident response, including storage and rotation, registration and issuing procedures, periodic checking routines and responses to incidents such as intrusion into storage facilities, loss and damage of arms, and fire and explosions at ammunition depots.

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, which encouraged 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 UNDP. A MoU signed in 2006 provides a non-exclusive framework for technical co-operation for the implementation of SALW and CA 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. The current Memorandum expired in June 2012; the parties are currently discussing the modalities for its extension.

8.1.2 Joint Action Plan with the UNODC

In October 2011, the OSCE and the 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 the following areas:

- Avoiding duplication of work in various regions in the field of countering trafficking in firearms/SALW;
- Conducting expert-level consultations on issues related to fighting illicit firearms/SALW and keeping each other abreast of major plans and developments in this field;
- Inviting relevant experts from the other party to events on countering the illicit trafficking of SALW and, where appropriate, consulting with each other in order to ensure that newly elaborated initiatives are reviewed jointly;
- Co-operating on awareness-raising and on the application and implementation of the relevant instruments and documents on firearms/SALW in areas including the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South Eastern Europe;
- Improving national capacities of OSCE participating States to effectively tackle the non-proliferation of SALW through, *inter alia*, joint workshops and the joint development of training curricula.

In March 2012, under the Joint Action Plan and in collaboration with the UNODC and the BAFA, the OSCE initiated an expert-level visit to Moldova with the aim of reviewing export control legislation for dual-use and military goods, including SALW, and of reviewing the implementation of the UN Firearms Protocol. The two organizations also invited each other to various SALW events.

8.1.3 MoU with the UNODA

In October 2012, the OSCE Secretariat and the UNODA signed a MoU as part of their common efforts to further improve synergies between them.

In the MoU 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.

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 and 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 2012, two meetings have been held (via videoconference) 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 (EU) 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 EU on 25 October 2012 with the sum of 890,000 euros.

The OSCE also maintains regular co-ordination and information exchange with the Wassenaar Arrangement. In February 2012 the Head of the Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement presented the Arrangement's most recent work to the FSC; and in May 2012 the Director of the CPC gave a briefing on OSCE activities on SALW to the Wassenaar Arrangement's General Working Group. The Secretariats of the two organizations also maintain close working-level contacts to synchronize their events and achieve synergies. Furthermore, the OSCE Secretariat conducts biannual staff talks with NATO, at which issues related to the implementation of projects on SALW and CA are discussed in detail. Such talks serve to promote the sharing of information and lessons learned, to avoid duplication of effort, to establish possible synergies and to increase the effectiveness of projects.

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

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

9. Conclusions

9.1 Normative work on SALW

The OSCE Document on SALW continues to play an important role as a norm-setting document in the OSCE area.

Since the adoption of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW in 2010, the focus has been on the Plan's full implementation. In particular, substantial work has been done on improving the format, quality and comparability of one-off and annual reporting on SALW, in order to improve the value of the reports submitted and facilitate the provision of feedback on the legislative information provided.

Furthermore, concrete initiatives have been launched on export and brokering controls on SALW. In particular, a number of training events were organized by the CPC in co-operation with the Transnational Threats Department on improving co-ordination and information exchange among the export licensing authorities and customs agencies on military and dual-use goods.

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 has significantly improved, resulting in the signing of formal co-operation documents and the initiation of joint activities.

In the past two years, the FSC has taken an active approach to implementing the OSCE *acquis* on SALW issues. However, the implementation of the Plan of Action on SALW with respect to the task of reviewing implementation of principles, norms, and measures with a view to improving capacity and efficiency has still remained weak.

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 the projects, both by the Co-ordinator and by the actors involved, are intended to raise awareness and help mobilize resources from the participating States.

In the absence of predictable multi-year funding strategies for SALW and SCA projects on the part of participating States, however, extrabudgetary contributions and funding continue to constitute a core issue.

10. Annexes

- Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW, as well as on brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport
- Annex B: Overview of the annual information exchange on export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed
- Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area
- Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2011 to November 2012
- Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events
- Annex F: Donors to SALW projects

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

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2011	Updates in 2012
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.	54 participating States	16 participating States	13 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.	54 participating States	19 participating States	16 participating States

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2011	Updates in 2012
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.	54 participating States	17 participating States	14 participating States
Section IV, (E)2 (starting from 30 June 2002)	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide, designed to promote effective stockpile management and security.	54 participating States	17 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.	53 participating States	14 participating States	14 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 SALW.	48 participating States	-	-

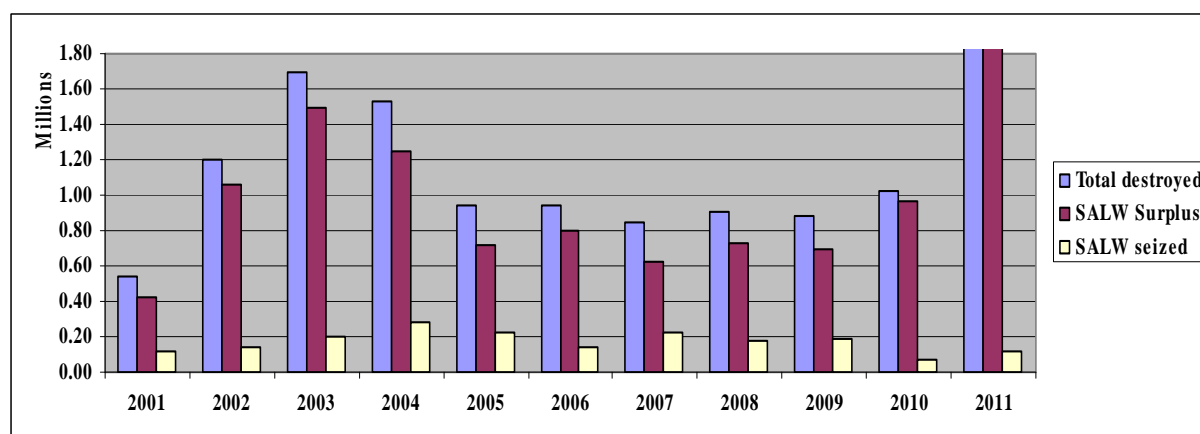
Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2011	Updates in 2012
FSC Decision No. 11/08 (by 30 June 2009)	The FSC decides that the participating States shall provide, as an update to the one-off information exchange established by Section III, part F, paragraph 2, of the OSCE Document on SALW, additional information on national practices.	45 participating States	3 participating States	2 participating States
FSC Decision No. 12/08 (by 27 March 2009)	The FSC requests participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.	49 participating States	2 participating States	1 participating State
FSC Decision No. 17/10 (by 30 June 2011)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW.	n/a	39 participating States	15 participating States

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

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Status by 2012	
		2011	2012
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.	44 participating States	40 participating States

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Status by 2012	
		2011	2012
Section IV, (C)1	The participating States agree that the preferred method for the disposal of small arms is destruction.	40 participating States	32 participating States
Section IV, (E)1	The participating States agree to share available information on the category, sub-category and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territory during the previous calendar year.		

Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area⁵



Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2011 to November 2012

Regional Workshops on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual-Use Goods and Conventional Weapons through Information Sharing

The OSCE organized a series of three regional workshops from October 2011 to March 2012 for licensing officers and customs agencies of South-Eastern European and Central Asian countries as well as those of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The workshops brought together over 100 national representatives from 27 countries. Experts from international organizations and academia also took part. During the three days of each event, licensing and customs experts exchanged experiences and information with a view to facilitating risk assessment and detection in order to prevent illicit transfers of controlled and dual-use goods, including SALW. The final event of the series of these regional workshops was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, from 9 to 11 October 2012 for the countries of Eastern and Central Europe and the Caucasus.

⁵ 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.

On the basis of the results of the assessment of the series of workshops and of the evaluation of the feedback provided by the participants, the FSC Support Section and the Borders Unit plan to hold follow-up events focusing on related subjects, for example, integrated training on the commodity identification of military and dual-use goods, in a similar setting.

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 2012, the presentations on topics related to SALW included the following briefings:

- Presentation by Ambassador Sune Danielsson, Head of the Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement, on the activities of the Wassenaar Arrangement;
- Presentation by Mr. Zoran Šajinović, Assistant Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Brigadier General (Retired) Victor von Wilcken, Director of Department for Security and Co-operation, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mr. Yury Padun, Arms Control Implementation Officer, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Ms. Amna Berbić, National Programme Coordination, UNDP;
- Presentation on the implementation of the OSCE-UNDP Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM);
- Presentations by Mr. Patrick McCarthy, Co-ordinator for the Development of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS).

Exhibitions at the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine and the Annual Security Review Conference

On the margins of the Annual Security Review Conference, which took place from 26 to 28 June 2012, the FSC Support Section presented a photo exhibition reflecting FSC assistance projects on SALW and CA. The exhibition displayed different stages of project assessments and implementation in countries in which assistance had been provided, including Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

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

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

In 2012, 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 2012		
Date	Title	Place
27–29 February 2012	Meetings with the UNDP and the MoD on the SALW project held on 28 and 29 February 2012 in Minsk; participation in a working session of SALW Illicit Trafficking by Air	Minsk, Belarus
1–2 March 2012	SIPRI meeting on illicit trafficking of SALW by air	Kyiv, Ukraine
20–21 March 2012	Working Meeting on Export Control Legislation, implementation of the United Nations Firearms Protocol and UNSCR 1540	Chisinau, Moldova
11–12 April 2012	Export control seminar for CIS countries	Moscow, Russian Federation
18–20 April 2012	UNIDIR Arms Trade Treaty Regional Seminar	Belgrade, Serbia
10–11 May 2012	Saferworld seminar Preparing for the ATT: Key Implementation Priorities and Challenges	London, United Kingdom
5–8 June 2012	5th International Export Control Seminar	Berlin, Germany
27 August to 7 September	Second Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects	New York, United States of America

Annex F: Donors to SALW projects

The table below shows pledges of financial support made by delegations for the implementation of projects on SALW, and received, from 2005 to 2012.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2005		
Finland	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)	Tajikistan, Phase I (SALW and CA)
Slovenia	40,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Sweden	170,575	Tajikistan, Phase I
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management course)	Tajikistan, Phase I
United States of America	164,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Total for 2005:	504,575	

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2006		
Belgium	50,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Belgium	55,331	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
Finland	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	60,000	Tajikistan, Phase II (SALW and CA)
Spain	100,000	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
Sweden	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Sweden	524,846	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
United Kingdom	145,000	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management course)	Tajikistan, Phase II
United States of America	235,800	Tajikistan, Phase II
Total for 2006:	1,370,977	
2007		
Norway	309,006	Belarus, Phase I
Norway	Secondment of chief technical adviser	Tajikistan, Phase II
Spain	150,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Sweden (through UNDP)	200,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Total for 2007:	659,006	
2008		
Austria	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Denmark	7,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Finland	345,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Luxembourg	40,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Total for 2008:	452,000	
2009		
Finland	80,000	Belarus, Phase II
France	15,000	Belarus, Phase II
Greece	30,000	Belarus, Phase II
Norway	213,253	Belarus, Phase II
Spain	100,000	Belarus, Phase I
Total for 2009:	438,253	
2010		
United Kingdom	15,000	Kyrgyzstan, training in physical security and stockpile management, and destruction of SALW
Germany	50,000	Belarus, Phase II
Total for 2010:	65,000	

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2011		
France	15,000	Belarus
Italy	10,000	Belarus
United States of America	100,500	Kyrgyzstan, training in physical security and stockpile management, and destruction of SALW
Total for 2011:	125,500	
2012		
European Union	260,478	Kyrgyzstan - PSSM
European Union	27,800	Belarus – SALW destruction
European Union	73,202	Kyrgyzstan – SALW destruction
Total for 2012:	361,480	
Total for 2005–2012:	3,976,791	

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

(MC.GAL/6/12 of 27 November 2012)

Executive summary

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 34 requests for assistance in the area of stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) from 17 participating States. Specifically, these included eight requests for assistance in ensuring the safety and security of stockpiles of ammunition; eleven requests to assist with the destruction of ammunition; ten 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 2011 to November 2012. 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:

2012 has been a dynamic year. The OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition (CA) submitted by participating States. This year was marked by a strong implementation phase in many projects. Ongoing projects were partly completed in Albania and Moldova. New projects have been started up in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Serbia. A request for OSCE assistance in disposal and destruction of special rocket fuels in surplus for the Bulgarian Army was submitted in October 2012. The relevant project is planned to be developed and implemented in 2012–2013, provided required funding availability.

Following the request for assistance submitted by Kyrgyzstan the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, together with the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) finalized the development of the OSCE SALW and SCA Programme for Kyrgyzstan.

The OSCE continued developing and implementing joint projects with UNDP. In addition to two joint projects launched in Belarus and Montenegro in 2007, since the end of 2011 three new joint projects have been started in Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

In response to the recommendation of the FSC Chairperson's progress reports on continuing implementation of the OSCE Documents on SCA and small arms and light weapons (SALW) to the 18th 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 in May 2012.

The Centre in Bishkek in co-operation with the International Trust Fund and the OSCE Office in Tajikistan held, in November 2011, in Bishkek, a regional Conference on

“Explosive Hazards Reduction and Response in Central Asia”. The OSCE Office in Tajikistan organized an event “Technical Co-operation on Explosive Hazards Reduction and Response in Central Asia” in November 2012.

In April 2012 military officials from the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan successfully completed OSCE-supported training seminars on the physical security and stockpile management of SALW and CA conducted in Ashgabat. In Kyrgyzstan, between 27 February and 16 March 2012 the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, with the support from the Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence and in co-operation with the United States of America’s Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), conducted three-week training on physical security and stockpile management.

In 2012 there was some increase in donor funding available for SCA projects as compared to the previous year. For the mentioned reporting period participating States pledged 1,889,804 euros for projects relating to CA. The mélange projects in Ukraine and Kazakhstan have attracted 3,002,000 euros. In addition, the full amount, required for the completion of the mélange project in Ukraine in 2013, was provided by the United States in excess of 10 million euros. Although the report concludes that the reporting period has been successful, it emphasizes the need for further donations. Projects on demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are one of the tangible and visible successful endeavours of the OSCE work. SCA projects have good public relations value and are therefore of high importance to the Organization as such. The OSCE has a number of important projects that are in urgent need of funding. Participating States are therefore encouraged to seriously consider contributions for these projects.

1. Introduction

At the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Vilnius, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) was requested to submit, through its Chairperson, to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA (MC.DEC/6/11). The present report covers ongoing efforts to address the challenges posed by stockpiles of ammunition. The report presents conclusions and suggests focus areas¹.

It has been recognized that surplus SCA, including rocket fuel component mélange, adversely affect the security and stability of countries and regions. Since 1995, the world has seen at least 376 known unplanned explosive events in ammunition storage areas². During the period 2011–2012 alone, unplanned ammunition explosions occurred in at least twelve participating States, causing human losses and injuries in the OSCE area. This underlines the strong need to further develop 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 ten countries intended to address the problem.

1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 21 November 2012.

2 Source: “Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites”. Geneva: Small Arms Survey, posted on 19 October 2012. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets/stockpiles/unplanned-explosions-at-munitions-sites.html#c5998>.

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 life, 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 2012, the OSCE continued to provide practical assistance to participating States. As shown in the report, the OSCE has been able to respond to requests and assist participating States in removing the risks, and in building or strengthening their national capacities by providing expertise, mobilizing both technical and financial resources, and implementing projects, including through co-operation with other international organizations.

2. Objective

This report is intended to provide an update on the implementation of the general principles regarding CA agreed on by all the participating States in the Document on SCA. It also describes the progress achieved in project activities on CA carried out in response to requests for assistance from participating States. The report covers the period from November 2011 to November 2012.

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

3. National efforts

3.1 National efforts related to stockpiles of CA

The OSCE Document on SCA identifies areas of responsibility to be embraced by all the participating States. These include the management and security of national SCA; the management of explosive materials and explosive devices; and the identification and reduction of surpluses.

4. OSCE assistance pursuant to the Document on SCA

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 34 requests for assistance in the area of SCA from 17 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; ten requests for assistance in the disposal of rocket fuel component (mélange) and five requests for assistance with the disposal of UXO and ERW.

In 2012, the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on CA submitted by participating States. This year was marked by a strong implementation phase in many projects.

4.1 Requests for assistance in destruction and management and security of SCA³

4.1.1 Requests being assessed or in the project-development phase

Following the request for assistance submitted by Kyrgyzstan, as well as assessment visits conducted in 2008 and 2011, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, together with the CPC, recently finalized the development of the OSCE SALW and SCA Programme for Kyrgyzstan, which comprises the following elements:

- Provision of training on physical security and stockpile management;
- Construction and/or refurbishment of three SALW and ammunition storage sites (Buzhum, Gul'cha and Koi-Tash);
- Destruction of surplus or unserviceable SALW, including MANPADS, and ammunition.

Since the end of 2011, the Centre in Bishkek actively started activities related to this project with an overall budget of 1,160,564 euros. At present, the United States Government, which is the only donor, has allocated for the SCA component of this project 376,612 euros. The Buzhum, Gul'cha and Koi-Tash storage facilities hold one third of the Ministry of Defence's overall stockpiles. Implementation of the project has currently been extended until 31 December 2014.

In August 2012, extrabudgetary implementation team members were hired to begin the launch and implementation of the project. In September 2012, the project team conducted short visits to all three sites to observe and check the real situation and conditions of the existing stockpiles and to establish contacts with the commanders of Ministry of Defence military bases and with officials in charge of warehouses in the respective locations.

In parallel, the project team, jointly with the Ministry of Defence, developed the technical requirements for the design work, in accordance with national regulations, international norms and OSCE best practice for SALW and SCA. The Ministry of Defence has requested that the first works should start in Buzhum. That was mutually agreed. Since the project budget is not at present adequate to complete all the work on all three sites, it was decided to complete the work on Buzhum (Batken Province) with funds from the United States pledge. Note: the construction work is expected to be launched at the Buzhum site in late April/early May of 2013.

4.1.2 Co-operation within the OSCE

The position of the Security Co-operation Adviser on SALW and SCA Projects in the Western Balkans (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 2011⁴.

3 Detailed information on sources of funding can be found in annex B.

4 FSC Chairperson's progress report to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council: The continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA (MC.GAL/4/11/Corr.2).

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 has been posted in the OSCE Mission to Serbia and reports to the FSC through the CPC on issues related to the implementation of SALW and SCA commitments and projects.

Since May 2012, 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; and (2) ensured quality control of initial safety and security improvements implemented in 2012 in co-operation with the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearing House for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC); (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).

In Central Asia, on 22 and 23 November 2011, the Centre in Bishkek, in co-operation with the International Trust Fund and the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, conducted a regional conference on reduction of and response to explosive hazards in Central Asia, which was held in Bishkek. The conference provided a regional platform for exchange of information and experience in addressing challenges related to explosive hazards. The event highlighted the opportunities and modalities of a regional approach to preventing the potential risks and threats related to explosive hazards. The participants shared information on best national and international practices and examples of national/regional programmes for reduction of and response to the risk of explosive hazards.

On 21 and 22 November 2012 the regional conference on “Reducing the risk of, and responding to, explosive hazards” was held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan. The event was organized by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, ITF Enhancing Human Security, the OSCE Centre in Astana, and Kazakhstan’s Defence Ministry. This conference provided a forum for a technical-level exchange of experience and best practices in reducing and responding to explosive hazards. It included sessions on national capacities, the identification of areas for co-operation between various initiatives, and the promotion of technical co-operation among interested states and other stakeholders.

4.1.3 Projects under implementation

In February 2012, the finalization of the framework document for the capacity development programme for CA stockpile management for the Republic of Serbia marked the launching of this joint programme between the Ministry of Defence, the OSCE and the UNDP⁵. The project within the first component of the CASM programme for disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous-filled ammunition was developed and agreed with all the stakeholders by the end of spring 2012. It is planned to deal with the napalm powder and white-phosphorous-filled ammunition separately in phases. Following the international tender, it is envisaged to remove 110 tonnes of napalm powder from Serbia by the end of

5 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 the UNDP-Serbia jointly conducted an assessment visit from 11 to 14 September 2011.

2012. The preparation of the next international tender for the disposal of the white-phosphorous-filled ammunition will also start at the end of the year.

The joint Government of Montenegro/UNDP/OSCE Capacity Development Programme for SALW (CA) Demilitarization and Safe Storage for Montenegro, known as the MONDEM, continued to contribute to a safer and more secure Montenegro⁶. The Phase II-Ammunition Demilitarization component of the MONDEM, under which more than 700 tonnes of unstable and excess ammunition were safely and efficiently destroyed, was completed in November 2012.

The MONDEM partners remain committed to the fulfilment of the two outstanding objectives within the MONDEM, i.e., the destruction of remaining unstable and surplus munitions and the “Brezovik” upgrade⁷. The co-ordination and synergy of these two objectives is essential to ensure that overall stockpile security improves as the unstable and excess ammunition is removed from the storage sites and destroyed. With these two objectives fulfilled, the security threats posed by the existing stockpiles in Montenegro will be largely eliminated in the near future, with international donor support further provided, *inter alia*, to the MONDEM Programme.

The OSCE SALW and CA Programme in Moldova, launched in 2009, comprises eight main projects. As regards destruction of weapons systems, three projects have been largely completed: destruction of 78 cluster bombs, 48 surface-to-air missiles, and 105 250 kg air bombs.

The final disposal of the surface-to-air missiles, begun in 2010, was made possible by the disposal in spring 2012 of the remains of samin and mélange in some of the missiles.

The destruction of the remaining 19 air-to-air missiles, stored in Georgia since 1992, is under consideration with the OSCE implementing partners in Georgia.

The capacity and expertise of the Ministry of Defence of Moldova to dispose of various types of ammunitions was significantly improved through these major projects.

The project to refurbish storage sites for SALW and ammunition in Floresti, Cahul, Balti and Chisinau has been completed. In addition to this refurbishment, an anti-intrusion alarm system is being installed in the depot at Floresti.

As a result of these improvements and in order to allow the implementation of sustainable training for ammunition specialists, the OSCE is working along with the Ministry

6 Previous accomplishments under MONDEM include the dismantling and melting for scrap of some 3,500 tonnes of T-55 tanks and various heavy artillery pieces; safe and environmentally benign disposal of more than 100,000 litres of mélange oxidizer and other toxic substances; infrastructure and perimeter upgrade of the “Taras” ammunition depot in line with internationally accepted standards for safe stockpile management; safe and efficient destruction of 480 tonnes of unstable and excess ammunition within Phase I-Ammunition Demilitarization. The UNDP is the implementing agency for the programme.

7 Engineering project design for the perimeter and infrastructure upgrade of the largest military ammunition depot in Montenegro, which holds most of the stockpile, namely “Brezovik”, was presented to donors in November 2011. A progress update was provided on 30 October 2012.

of Defence to put in place the necessary conditions for running SALW and ammunition management systems in accordance with OSCE best practice standards.

Notwithstanding the success of the above projects, the programme's largest project is still to be implemented. The need for the construction of a new ammunition storage depot has been assessed. This new depot should fully comply with international safety standards. An initial assessment visit by a French expert 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. Another site had to be selected. A second visit by the French expert led to the assessment that a potential site could be at the military base of Danceni. In addition, a new design for the depot meeting international standards needs to be defined. A new project taking into account these changes will be provided by mid-2013.

In March 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina requested assistance from the OSCE in enhancing the security and stockpile management of Ministry of Defence storage sites containing their CA (five sites) and SALW (two sites). The OSCE assessment of 2011 confirmed the need for assistance in enhancing security and stockpile management of SALW and SCA storage sites.

Specifically, the assessment recommended the refurbishment of the SALW storage sites at Teufik Buza and Rabic to enhance the current levels of safety and security, so as to bring them into compliance with the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on SALW, and the refurbishment of the CA storage sites at Kula 1 and Krupa to bring them into compliance with the OSCE Best Practice Guide on Procedures for Management of SCA.

During the reporting period, OSCE activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina focused on assisting the respective Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions and representatives in assessing, organizing, planning and fundraising for increasing the safety and security of the country's prospective ammunition and weapons storage sites. To this end, on 1 June 2012, the OSCE and the UNDP presented a joint project proposal (for the EU named the "EXPLODE" Project) to the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina for consideration for funding under its Instrument for Stability (IFS). The Programme 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 will be the UNDP Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while for component III, the UNDP will partner with the OSCE. The "EXPLODE" project, due to an EU IFS regulation, will exclusively cover the activities to reduce the risk of accidental explosion by upgrading the "safety" of the Bosnia and Herzegovina prospective ammunition/weapons storage sites.

At the same time, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has also developed a project that is complementary to the "EXPLODE" project, which will address the remaining "security"-related activities aimed at upgrading the security infrastructure at the ammunition/weapons storage sites in order to prevent possible thefts and illicit proliferation of the stored weapons and ammunition.

This effort, which is in full compliance with the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on SALW and SCA, will not only result in the upgrading of Bosnia and Herzegovina prospective ammunition and weapons storage sites, but will also contribute to the establishment of applicable national physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) standards, thus strengthening the long-term capacity to manage its stockpiles of SALW and CA.

Following the closure of the OSCE Mission in Georgia in 2009, the OSCE Secretariat, the 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 the UNDP are developing a joint ammunition-demilitarization and community-security programme. The recently launched pilot project of the programme envisions the destruction within less than two years of Georgia's stockpiles of aircraft cluster bombs, which consist of 1,085 RBK-250 and RBK-500 aerial cluster bombs.

During the reporting period, the project implementation framework has been established (a cost-sharing agreement between the OSCE and the UNDP has been signed) for the destruction of the envisaged quantity of aerial cluster bombs in a safe, environmentally acceptable and cost-efficient manner. The destruction works are progressing on schedule and within the estimated budget. To date, more than 60 per cent of the cluster bombs were transported and disposed of at Vaziani demolition range.

Since 2008, the OSCE Presence in Albania has been supporting 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 CA) and has helped with the disposal of 60 tonnes of mélange rocket fuel and 120 tonnes of dichloroethane. In 2012, around 80 tonnes of hazardous chemicals needing to be destroyed remain in the military premises.

The Ministry of Defence has requested the Presence's support to this end. With this in view, a one-year extrabudgetary project requesting 232,785 euros has been presented and partial funding has been received from two participating States (the Czech Republic and Turkey). A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Presence and the Ministry of Defence, and the first phase of the project is to be launched as soon as possible. At the same time (2012), the Ministry of Defence requested the Presence's assistance for some further equipment needed for the destruction of ammunition. A participating State (Germany) has agreed to provide funds to purchase additional blades for bandsaws. That will allow the Ministry of Defence to complete its demilitarization action plan regarding SCA (around 20,000 tonnes are still to be destroyed) in good time.

In November 2011, the Republic of Cyprus requested technical assistance for the destruction of expired and obsolete CA. The OSCE participating States responded promptly to that request and were in a position to send an assessment team to the relevant storage sites on Cyprus on 20 and 21 December 2011. The assessment report was presented to the FSC on 1 February 2012. The findings and recommendations of the assessment team were taken into consideration by Cyprus during the destruction of 40 mm Bofors ammunition by open demolition.

From 7 to 25 May 2012, another OSCE team consisting of an OSCE expert and experts from Bulgaria, Serbia and the United States assisted in the practical demolition of the Bofors ammunition referred to above. The OSCE expert also assisted in defining explosive limit licences. On 15 June 2012, the last Bofors ammunition was destroyed.

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

The mélange project in Ukraine has become 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.

By 31 May 2012, the OSCE Secretariat, supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, successfully completed Phases III-A and III-B fully and Phase III-C partially. Since the project was launched in November 2009, the OSCE has succeeded in removing a total of 9,000 tonnes of mélange from five storage sites in western, central and part of eastern Ukraine, thereby freeing the entire western and central parts of Ukraine from the toxic hazard and making them a safe place to live in. This hazardous substance was transported to two chemical plants in the Russian Federation that have extensive experience in 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.

During the period from November 2011 to March 2012, the project was put on hold due to the lack of funding. In the period from March to May 2012, thanks to the financial support of the United States Congress, provided through the United States Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Fund, the OSCE succeeded in removing another 2,000 tonnes of mélange from the most precarious storage tanks in Shevchenkove (Kharkiv) prior to the UEFA football championship in June 2012. For the time being, some 7,000 tonnes of mélange still remain at two storage sites in Shevchenkove and Lyubashyvka (Odessa). In addition, the full amount required for the completion of the mélange project in Ukraine in 2013 was provided by the United States in excess of 10 million euros.

In Kazakhstan, the total amount of mélange to be disposed of was assessed by the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan and the OSCE at 410 tonnes. Also in 2012, Kazakhstan provided its decisive financial and technical contribution to removal of the mélange, for disposal by the same contractor in the Russian Federation. The project is being implemented through the OSCE Centre in Astana, with the support of the OSCE Secretariat.

On 10 October 2012, the Republic of Bulgaria submitted its request at the 694th meeting of the FSC for the OSCE's assistance in the disposal and destruction for the Bulgarian Army, of surplus special rocket fuels, namely, mélange AK-20K, samin TG-02 and product TM-185. The project is planned to be developed and implemented in 2012 and 2013, provided the required funding is available.

4.3 Training

In April 2012, 38 military officials from the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan successfully completed OSCE-supported training seminars on the physical security and stockpile management of SALW and CA conducted in Ashgabat. The two-week training seminars, organized by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, in close co-operation with the United States DTRA, presented international standards and best practices in arms and ammunition storage and security management.

The team teaching the course included international experts from Canada, Germany, Switzerland and the United States of America, jointly representing the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG). During the seminars, executive-level officials and ammunition-storage managers of the Ministry of Defence of Turkmenistan discussed the threat of SALW proliferation, risk management, emergency response and planning, and arms trafficking and border security, as well as ammunition storage, compatibility, surveillance and transportation mechanisms and management of external and internal security measures at ammunition depots.

In Kyrgyzstan, between 27 February and 16 March 2012, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, with support from the Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence and in co-operation with the United States DTRA, conducted three weeks of training on PSSM in Koy-Tash, Bishkek and Osh. The training included theoretical and practical sessions and was delivered by instructors from the DTRA and Sweden. The curricula covered such topics as international best practices on the security of ammunition stockpiles, storage and compatibility of ammunition types, risk management, transportation and disposal of ammunition.

4.4 Donors

The overall list of donors to OSCE SCA projects, including those relating to *mélange*, is provided in annex D. In 2012, the following participating States contributed to the designated projects (including national agencies): Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Ireland (Irish Aid), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden (SIDA), Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

5. Co-operation and exchange of information

5.1 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 the UNDP. In addition to two joint projects launched in Belarus and Montenegro in 2007, since the end of 2011, three new joint projects have been started in Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

From 2009 to 2011, the OSCE Secretariat contributed to the work of the United Nations on development of the technical guidelines for the management of conventional arms and ammunition stockpiles to assist UN member States in the implementation of adequate stockpile-management systems. Finalized in 2012, these

technical guidelines⁸ allow UN member States to gradually institute a series of progressively more comprehensive stockpile-management systems, and also serve as a useful tool in aid of those providing international assistance in stockpile management. These guidelines make extensive use *inter alia* of the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on CA.

5.2 Exchange of information with other international organizations

Since 2008, the OSCE has been exchanging 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 learnt, as well as avoiding unnecessary overlapping.

6. Conclusions

The OSCE Document on SCA remains an effective and useful tool for addressing the problems arising from SCA. 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.

When it comes to the normative aspects of the Document on SCA, an appreciable development in the past year has been 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 CA in the efforts to ensure its safe and secure storage. The OSCE should work further in this area at both the norm-setting and 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, 2012 has been a dynamic year. Ongoing projects were partly completed in Albania and Moldova. New projects have been started in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Serbia and Kazakhstan.

On the one hand, this bears out the OSCE's credibility in helping participating States with their SCA problems. However, from another point of view, 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 2012, there was some increase in donor funding available for SCA projects, as compared to the previous year. During the reporting period, participating States pledged 1,889,804 euros for projects relating to CA.

The *mélange* projects in Ukraine and Kazakhstan attracted 3,002,000 euros last year, accounting for a substantial share of the total amount of donor contributions. In addition, the

8 <http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Ammunition/IATG/>.

full amount required for the completion of mélange project in Ukraine in 2013 was provided by the United States in excess of 10 million euros.

On the other hand, for quite some time already, there have been other projects in need of donor funding, such as a project to build a new storage site in Moldova.

Projects on demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are one of the tangible and visible successful endeavours of the OSCE's work. They have a good public relations value and are therefore of great importance to the Organization.

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

7. Annexes

Annex A: Active requests for assistance and current status

Chart I. Current status
(Lists requests in the alphabetical order of participating States)

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
Albania	Date of request: 20 February 2008 Elimination of 30 tonnes of rocket fuel component (mélange) Status: Completed Date of request: September 2008 Project on demilitarization of ammunition by provision of relevant equipment (bandsaws) Status: Completed Date of request: December 2011 Project for disposal of 72 tonnes of hazardous chemicals Status: Starting Date of request: January 2012 Project on demilitarization of ammunition by provision of additional equipment Status: Started
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Date of request: 29 March 2011 Improvement of the security and management of stockpiles of SALW and CA Status: Two ammunition storage sites were identified as most suitable for OSCE-supported refurbishment. Project started in 2012
Bulgaria	Date of request: 10 October 2012 Elimination of mélange AK-20K, samin TG-02 and product TM-185 Status: OSCE Assessment visit has been conducted on 21 and 22 November 2012 and the report is being prepared

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
Cyprus	Date of request: 2 November 2011 Technical assistance to improve destruction capacities. All relevant work to be done by the National Guard of Cyprus. Status: Completed
Georgia	Date of request: 25 July 2007 Demilitarization of 4,300 tonnes of surplus ammunition (artillery shells, guided and unguided missiles, aviation bombs, pyrotechnic ammunition and shells of various calibres); Remediation of soil at five former military airfields; Disposal of 9,000 warheads by smelting; Destruction of 4,705 items of ammunition by open detonation. Status: Started
Kazakhstan	Date of request: 15 December 2004 Assistance in the disposal of transportable CA using industrial facilities in Arys and Kapchagai; Assistance in the disposal of non-transportable CA in its storage location (Ayaguz, Uch-Aral, Semipalatinsk and Ust-Kamenogorsk); Re-establishment of CA test laboratory to carry out regular examination of CA; Establishment of a CA management system as an integral part of a common armed forces procurement and management system; Elimination of 410 tonnes of rocket fuel component (mélange). Status: Kazakhstan has taken the lead in the ammunition disposal and the establishment of an ammunition-management system. The OSCE will provide assistance for the disposal of mélange in conjunction with the mélange project in Ukraine. The project is expected to start in late 2012–early 2013. A project proposal has been developed for the CA test laboratory, but remains unfunded.
Kyrgyz Republic	Date of request: 5 February 2008 Improvement of the security and management of stockpiles of SALW and CA Status: Two assessment visits were carried out. An OSCE programme for SALW and CA was designed to include five separate but interlinked projects addressing different aspects of stockpile management and security. The project proposal was developed in late 2011 and the implementation started in February 2012.

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
Moldova	<p>Date of request: 20 December 2006</p> <p>Construction of a new ammunition storage facility in Danceni; (provided the Moldovan Ministry of Defence agrees);</p> <p>Upgrade of SALW and ammunition storage facilities (Floresti, Cahul, Balti, Chisinau);</p> <p>Procurement and equipping of a mobile system for visual inspection of CA;</p> <p>Destruction of cluster bombs; Destruction of air bombs;</p> <p>Disposal of 19 R60 air-to-ground rockets;</p> <p>Disposal of five V28 surface-to-air missiles;</p> <p>Ammunition technician training.</p> <p>Status: Four projects (2, 4, 5 and 7) have already been completed. Project 1 is in the design phase and has to be amended in order to take into account the changes that have occurred. Donor funds are needed. Other projects are under development.</p>
Montenegro	<p>Date of request: 28 February 2007</p> <p>Destruction of heavy weapons systems;</p> <p>Destruction of 9,900 tonnes of surplus CA;</p> <p>Elimination of 160 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel components (mélange, samin) and napalm; Improvement of stockpile security and management.</p> <p>Status: Projects 1 and 3 have been completed. The first phase of the destruction of CA has also been finalized (project 2), and the first of the two ammunition storage sites has been refurbished (project 4). Both projects are continuing subject to the availability of continued funding.</p>
Serbia	<p>Date of request: 1 June 2011</p> <p>Provision of equipment for ammunition demilitarization and training to operate this equipment;</p> <p>Disposal of 1,133 tonnes of white-phosphorous- and napalm-powder-based ammunition;</p> <p>CA stockpile management and security (two ammunition storage sites).</p> <p>Status: A joint OSCE-UNDP assessment visit was conducted in September 2011. A framework agreement for a CASM programme, has been signed by the UNDP, the Ministry of Defence and the OSCE. The project to address the first component of the programme (disposal of napalm powder and the white-phosphorous-filled ammunition) has been developed and is now under implementation.</p>

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
Ukraine	<p>Date of request: 29 September 2004, additional request, 2 October 2007</p> <p>New destruction capacities for RDX charges in Western Ukraine;</p> <p>Improvement of security system for ammunition stockpiles;</p> <p>Disposal of 16,764 tonnes of liquid rocket fuel component (mélange).</p> <p>Following consultations between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE, it was planned to eliminate 3,168 tonnes of mélange as the pilot project;</p> <p>Assistance in overcoming the consequences of the Novobohdanivka storage-site disaster (destruction of remaining ammunition, area clean-up);</p> <p>Assistance in clearing unexploded ammunition left on the territory of Ukraine.</p> <p>Status: The UXO/ERW clearance project has been completed.</p> <p>The mélange project is being implemented; approximately 9,000 tonnes of mélange have been removed from western, central and part of eastern Ukraine.</p>

Annex B: Donor funding for planned/running CA projects

Albania

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Project
2009		
Denmark	120,000	Demilitarization
2010		
Germany	78,000	Destruction of ammunition, phase II
2012		
Czech Republic	14,753	Disposal of hazardous chemicals
Germany	41,000	Demilitarization
Turkey	50,000	Disposal of hazardous chemicals
Total	303,753	
Funds needed: Disposal of hazardous chemicals		168,032

Georgia

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Project
2009		
Denmark	29,991	Disposal of cluster bombs
2010		
Ireland	50,000	Disposal of cluster bombs
2011		
Austria	15,083	Disposal of cluster bombs
Denmark	59,308	Disposal of cluster bombs

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Project
2012		
Denmark	89,300	Disposal of cluster bombs
Spain	40,000	Disposal of cluster bombs
Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)	132,473	Disposal of cluster bombs
Switzerland	55,000	Disposal of cluster bombs
Total	471,155	
Funds needed:		105,560

Kazakhstan (ammunition laboratory)

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Project
2009–2012		
–	–	
Total	–	
Funds needed:		302,500

Kyrgyz Republic

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Project
2012		
Kazakhstan	10,000	SALW and CA programme in Kyrgyzstan
United States of America	376,612	SALW and CA programme in Kyrgyzstan
Total	386,612	
Funds needed:		773,952

Moldova

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2009		
Finland	62,000	Refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities
Spain	61,000	Destruction of cluster bombs
2010		
Germany	210,000	Refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities
Germany	25,420	Disposal of surface-to-air missiles
Ireland	7,400	Destruction of air bombs
Luxembourg	14,000	Construction of a new storage facility in Bulboaca
Norway	In kind	Destruction of cluster bombs
Spain	19,000	Destruction of air bombs

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2010		
Russia	In kind	Disposal of surface-to-air missiles
Austria	15,500	Disposal of surface-to-air missiles
2012		
Luxembourg	14,000	Construction of a new storage facility in Bulboaca
Spain	5,000	Refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities
Spain	10,000	Construction of a new storage facility in Bulboaca
Switzerland	41,006	Construction of a new storage facility in Bulboaca
Switzerland	33,204	Construction of a new storage facility in Bulboaca
SUM	517,530	
Funds needed: Construction of a new storage facility in Bulboaca		787,098
Refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities		27,294

Montenegro

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2009		
Spain	100,000	Improvement of CA stockpile storage security (Taras)
2010		
Denmark	20,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Hungary	10,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition later reverted to; Improvement of CA stockpile storage security (Taras)
Luxembourg	25,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Norway	63,194	Destruction of surplus ammunition
2011		
Hungary	20,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition later reverted to; Improvement of CA stockpile storage security (Taras)
Liechtenstein	20,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition later reverted to; Improvement of CA stockpile storage security (Taras)

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2011		
Luxembourg	25,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Slovenia	15,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition later reverted to; Improvement of CA stockpile storage security (Brezovik)
2012		
Denmark	1,600	Destruction of surplus ammunition – MONDEM administrative costs
Germany	200,000	Improvement of CA stockpile storage security (Brezovik)
Luxembourg	25,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition – MONDEM Phase II – ammunition demilitarization
Turkey	50,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition – MONDEM Phase II – ammunition demilitarization
Total	574,794	
Funds needed:		
MONDEM programme component – stockpile management and security (“Brezovik”)		300,000
Funds needed: Improvement of stockpile-security management		2,200,000

Ukraine

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2009		
Denmark	50,000	Clearance of ERW
2010		
Germany	52,650	Clearance of ERW
United States of America	In kind (equivalent of 79,100)	Clearance of ERW
2011		
Ireland	10,000	Clearance of ERW
2012		
–	–	ERW underwater clean-up
Total	191,750	
Funds needed:		
Underwater ERW clean-up		70,000
ERW clean-up		88,445

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2011		
Czech Republic	20,000	Replacement of openings at SALW and SCA storage buildings
Liechtenstein	1,674	Replacement of openings at SALW and SCA storage buildings
SEESAC	212,000	Replacement of openings at SALW and SCA storage buildings
Switzerland	41,006	Replacement of openings at SALW and SCA storage buildings
2012		
Switzerland	166,022	
Total	440,702	
Funds needed: Security infrastructure upgrade of Bosnia and Herzegovina ammunition and weapons storage sites		272,538

Serbia

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2012		
Czech Republic	30,000	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition
Denmark	30,063	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition
Germany	94,200	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition
Luxembourg	25,000	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition
Norway	30,000	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
2012		
Spain	100,000	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition
Switzerland	41,583	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition (50 per cent to Stockpile management)
Switzerland	83,011	CASM/Stockpile management
Turkey	41,087	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition
United Kingdom	59,890	CASM/Disposal of napalm powder and white-phosphorous ammunition
Total	534,834	
Funds needed:		344,466

Annex C: Donor funding for planned/running/recently completed mélange projects

Kazakhstan

The project on disposal of Kazakhstan's mélange stockpiles is envisaged to start in late 2012–early 2013.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
2011	
Spain	150,000
2012	
Kazakhstan	605,000
Total	755,000

Ukraine

Between 2006 and 2008, donor countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden) pledged a total of 3,197,080 euros. Details can be found in the progress report of 2009 (MC.GAL/8/09). The table below reflects funding pledged in the period from 2009 to 2012.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
2009	
Denmark	500,000
Germany	250,000
2010	
Denmark	140,000
Sweden	1,736,220
USA	1,846,821
2011	
Norway	193,906
2012	
United States of America	2,247,000
Total	6,913,947
Funds needed (estimated):	
Melange project	7,200,000
ERW clean-up projects	273,600

Annex D: Overall funding for all SCA projects

The table below indicates pledges of financial support made by delegations towards the implementation of projects on CA, explosive material and detonating devices in the period from 2009 to 2012 (excluding mélange).

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2009		
Denmark	30,000	Comprehensive programme on SALW and SCA (Task: Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs)
Denmark	50,000	Ukraine – ERW clearance
Denmark	120,000	Albania (demilitarization)
Finland	62,000	Refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities – Moldova
Spain	61,000	Destruction of cluster bombs – Moldova
Spain	100,000	Montenegro – improvement of CA stockpile storage security
Total	423,000	Year 2009

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2010		
Denmark	20,000	Montenegro – destruction of surplus ammunition
Germany	78,000	Albania – destruction of ammunition, Phase II
Germany	210,000	Moldova – refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities
Germany	25,420	Moldova – disposal of surface-to-air missiles
Germany	52,650	Ukraine – ERW clearance
Hungary	10,000	Montenegro – improvement of CA stockpile storage security
Ireland	50,000	Comprehensive programme on SALW and SCA (Task: Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs)
Ireland	7,400	Moldova – destruction of air bombs
Luxembourg	14,000	Moldova – construction of a new storage facility
Luxembourg	25,000	Montenegro – destruction of surplus ammunition
Norway	63,194	Montenegro – destruction of surplus ammunition
Spain	19,000	Destruction of air bombs – Moldova
United States of America	In kind (equivalent to 79,100)	Ukraine – ERW clearance
Total	653,764	Year 2010
2011		
Austria	15,500	Moldova – disposal of surface-to-air missiles
	15,083	Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs
Denmark	59,325	Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs
Ireland	10,000	Ukraine – ERW clearance
Liechtenstein	20,000	Montenegro
Liechtenstein	1,674	Bosnia and Herzegovina – SALW/SCA
Luxembourg	25,000	Montenegro – destruction of surplus ammunition
United States of America	250,000	Kyrgyzstan, SALW and SCA programme, construction and refurbishment of storage sites
Total	396,582	Year 2011

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2012		
Czech Republic	14,753	Disposal of hazardous chemicals in Albania
Czech Republic	30,000	Serbia – CASM programme
Denmark	1,600	MONDEM
Denmark	89,300	Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs
Denmark	30,063	Serbia – CASM programme
Germany	41,000	Albania – ammunition demilitarization
Germany	200,000	MONDEM
Germany	94,200	Serbia – CASM programme
Kazakhstan	10,000	Kyrgyzstan, SALW and SCA programme, construction and refurbishment of storage sites
Luxembourg	14,000	Construction of a new storage site in Bulboaca
Luxembourg	25,000	MONDEM
Luxembourg	25,000	Serbia – CASM programme
Norway	30,000	Serbia – CASM programme
Spain	40,000	Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs
Spain	10,000	Moldova – SCA storage refurbishment
Spain	5,000	Construction of a new storage site in Bulboaca
Spain	100,000	Serbia – CASM programme
Sweden (SIDA)	132,473	Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs
Switzerland	166,022	Bosnia and Herzegovina – SALW/SCA
Switzerland	41,006	Moldova – SALW/SCA
Switzerland	33,204	Moldova – SCA storage refurbishment
Switzerland	41,583	Serbia – CASM programme
Switzerland	83,011	Serbia – CASM programme
Switzerland	55,000	Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs
Turkey	50,000	Disposal of hazardous chemicals in Albania
Turkey	41,087	Serbia – CASM programme
Turkey	50,000	MONDEM
United Kingdom	59,890	Serbia – CASM programme
United States of America	376,612	Kyrgyzstan – SALW/SCA
Total	1,889,804	Year 2012
Total for stockpiles of CA	3,363,150	2009–2012

The table below indicates pledges of financial support made by delegations towards the implementation of projects on the elimination of rocket fuel component (mélange) in the period from 2009 to 2012⁹.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
2009		
Denmark	500,000	Ukraine, mélange
Germany	250,000	Ukraine, mélange
Total	750,000	Year 2009
2010		
Denmark	140,000	Ukraine, mélange
Sweden	1,736,220	Ukraine, mélange
United States of America	1,846,821	Ukraine, mélange
Total	3,723,041	Year 2010
2011		
Norway	193,906	Ukraine, mélange
Total	193,906	Year 2011
2012		
Kazakhstan	605,000	Kazakhstan, mélange
Spain	150,000	Kazakhstan, mélange
United States of America	2,247,000	Ukraine, mélange
Total	3,002,000	Year 2012
Total for mélange	7,668,947	2009–2012
Total for SCA and mélange	11,032,097	2009–2012

⁹ In addition, the full amount required for completion of mélange project in Ukraine in 2013 was provided by the United States in excess of 10 million euros.

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

(MC.GAL/7/12 of 27 November 2012)

1. Introduction and objective

This report provides a review 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 from November 2011 until November 2012¹.

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. 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 participating States to fully implement UNSCR 1540 by adopting a decision supporting its effective implementation (FSC.DEC/7/05/Corr.1).

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

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

The Forum for Security 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 Council 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).

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

¹ The deadline for submitting input for this report was 21 November 2012.

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 exploring ways of updating the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994, as well as to supporting the ongoing activities in assisting in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information-sharing on national progress and lessons learnt in this regard, as called for 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 Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/11 (MC.DEC/8/11), the FSC is tasked with continuing to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States, at their request, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540, in close co-ordination with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and to complement its efforts. UNSCR 1977 (2011) encourages the States to prepare, on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans, and urges States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to provide assistance as appropriate. It also extends 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), establishing a directory of national and OSCE points of contact with the purpose of facilitating information-sharing, promoting best practices and strengthening relevant international information exchange networks (where appropriate), between participating States on issues related to the national implementation of UNSCR 1540. The decision also seeks to enhance capacity-building and to synchronize any non-proliferation activities in order to prevent duplication of efforts, including by third parties.

To date, 46 participating States have provided detailed information on their national points of contact on UNSCR 1540 to the OSCE.

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 and its Group of Experts, with a view to becoming an integral part of the global 1540 network. This was acknowledged by the 1540 Committee chairperson during the joint briefing to the Security Council by the three relevant committees (established under resolutions 1267/1989, 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004)), on 10 May 2012.

The network has been active in sharing documents related to non-proliferation, as well as information about a number of events organized by the CPC, including the FSC Security Dialogue, chaired by the Latvian Ambassador, on UNSCR 1540 implementation efforts, which took place in July 2012.

3.2 CPC annual work plan for 2012 in support of regional implementation of UNSCR 1540

In its second year, the extrabudgetary project on support of regional implementation of UNSCR 1540 led by the CPC has moved from awareness-raising towards provision of concrete assistance, such as results-oriented training events and the facilitation of assistance to interested participating States in the development of their national action plans (NAPs) on UNSCR 1540. The CPC's annual work plan for 2012 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 implementation of UNSCR 1540 by establishing a strong stakeholder's network through which the co-ordination and promotion of needs and requirements in respect of implementation 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 with:

- (a) Exploring ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994;
- (b) Supporting the ongoing activities in assisting the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information-sharing on national progress and lessons learned in this regard;
- (c) Continuing 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.

4. Proposals and initiatives

A number of specific proposals and initiatives have been presented and discussed in the FSC working framework, 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/65/10/Rev.2);
- Practical assistance to participating States, at their request, including provision of assistance for the development of NAPs/strategies and national legislation;
- Targeted awareness-raising and training programmes (FSC.DEL/25/12).

Discussions aimed at reaching consensus on the 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 ten requests for assistance in developing NAPs or strategies to tackle the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In particular, the NAPs and/or strategic planning documents of Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia have been finalized with the assistance of the OSCE executive structures and under the lead of the 1540 Committee Experts.

It is now proposed that the issues relevant to implementation of UNSCR 1540 be addressed in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner through a country-specific dialogue. This involves all interested national authorities of a participating State and representatives of the 1540 Committee through its Experts, relevant international organizations and NGOs dealing with various aspects of the implementation of UNSCR 1540. The OSCE facilitates the organization and conduct of these activities. In particular, concrete examples of assistance provided by the OSCE to its interested participating States in the field of non-proliferation are the ongoing country-specific dialogues with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as the initial talks with Georgia and Ukraine, which *inter alia* include development of an NAP on implementation of UNSCR 1540.

To this end, within the framework of the country-specific dialogues and finalized NAPs, a number of participating States have requested training events and capacity-building for customs and border officials, as well as law-enforcement agencies and policymakers. In particular, it is desired that the training be focused on identification of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. In response, the CPC, in close co-operation with other relevant actors, is planning to hold a series of commodity identification training events throughout 2013 and 2014.

5.2 The OSCE's support to national implementation of UNSCR 1540

5.2.1 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 and the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

During the second stage, in March 2012, a one-week drafting session was held in Vienna with various Belarusian authorities, the CPC, a 1540 Committee Expert, representatives from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and VERTIC (an NGO). 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 during the Security Dialogue of the FSC plenary meeting devoted to implementation of UNSCR 1540 on 4 July 2012.

5.2.2 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 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 its Group of Experts and the UNODA.

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

5.2.3 Kazakhstan

In May 2012, a national round-table meeting on implementation of UNSCR 1540 was held in Astana, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

On 4 July 2012, at the Security Dialogue of the FSC plenary meeting devoted to implementation of UNSCR 1540, a representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan informed the delegations of Kazakhstan's initiative for the development of an NAP on implementation of UNSCR 1540, as a direct follow-up to the national round-table meeting held in Astana in May.

The initial OSCE proposals on a possible outline of an NAP are now under consideration in Astana.

5.2.4 Kyrgyzstan

Following recommendations from a national round-table meeting, which took place at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in December 2011, the inter-agency group formed by the Government of Kyrgyzstan prepared a draft NAP on UNSCR 1540. The action plan was intended to enable Kyrgyzstan to streamline the assistance programmes supported by donors and to serve as a road map for complying with its international obligations in the areas of non-proliferation, security and counter-terrorism.

In March 2012, national authorities from various ministries, representatives of the OSCE executive structures, a 1540 Committee Expert, the UNODA and the IAEA held a one-week drafting session in Vienna in order to map out the Kyrgyz national priorities compiled into an NAP, which was subsequently presented to the OSCE participating States during the FSC plenary meeting in March 2012.

The Kyrgyz NAP on implementation of UNSCR 1540 is currently undergoing government approval.

In addition, in the second issue of the *1540 Compass*, published by the Center for International Trade and Security of the University of Georgia (United States of America), in co-operation with the UNODA, the Kyrgyz authorities have acknowledged the OSCE's contribution to the format and content of their NAP. Furthermore, the action plan, in the view of Kyrgyzstan, can become an important vehicle for co-ordination among relevant ministries and agencies, as well as enhancing the overall effectiveness of national governance as a spill-over effect.

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, relating to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and defending against CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials) threats. The OSCE is currently supporting the development of a comprehensive Moldovan NAP.

In addition, the OSCE executive structures, jointly with the German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA), and in co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and the UNODA, has initiated a country-specific dialogue with Moldova, reviewing its national export-control legislation relating both to dual-use and to military goods.

5.2.6 Montenegro

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

The meeting, in Podgorica, was attended by 16 representatives of various ministries, OSCE executive structures and a 1540 Committee Expert, as well as by a representative of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro.

Montenegro is considering integrating the element of CBRN risk mitigation into their NAP on UNSCR 1540.

5.2.7 Serbia

Following the Republic of Serbia's request for assistance in 2011, and the collective efforts carried out to date by the Serbian authorities, the OSCE executive structures, the 1540 Committee Expert and the UNODA, the Serbian NAP for the Implementation of 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 of Serbia on 19 April 2012. A representative of the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially distributed and presented the national document (FSC.EMI/252/12) during the Security Dialogue of the FSC plenary meeting devoted to UNSCR 1540 on 4 July 2012.

The CPC, together with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, as well as the UNODA, is currently initiating follow-up activities related to the implementation of this national document.

5.2.8 Tajikistan

Following another request to organize a national round-table meeting on implementation of UNSCR 1540, the OSCE executive structures, a 1540 Committee Expert and the UNODA, in October 2012, co-ordinated a country-specific dialogue with the relevant national authorities, in Dushanbe, in order to review the existing national legislation and on other matters relevant to UNSCR 1540, under the terms of reference of a newly established national working group. It is planned that the NAP on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 will be drafted by the working group early next year.

5.2.9 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In the opening statement of the Macedonian Chairmanship of the FSC, the Government expressed its readiness to develop an NAP for implementation of UNSCR 1540 in co-operation with partners from the OSCE executive structures and the United Nations.

Subsequently, in October 2012, the Chairperson of the FSC in his national capacity delivered a statement during the FSC plenary meeting, outlining Macedonian commitments and national priorities and expressing its commitment to ensuring 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, the UNODA and VERTIC in the June 2012 national round-table meeting held in Skopje, was also acknowledged in this statement.

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 UNSCR 1540 took place in Tashkent in May 2012, and resulted in the decision to draft the Uzbek NAP on implementation of the resolution in 2013.

The initial OSCE proposals regarding a possible outline of an NAP are now under consideration in Tashkent.

5.2.11 National round tables

National round tables have proved to be a beneficial platform for launching country-specific dialogues where government authorities together with the assistance of the OSCE and relevant international experts, under the lead of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, can discuss their national priorities as well as the current level of implementation of resolution 1540 and create a solid basis for further co-operation and results-oriented action, possibly through national action plans.

5.3 Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the 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 UNODA. In October 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both parties with the goal of enhancing the capacities of both organizations in facilitation of the implementation of resolution 1540.

The OSCE and the UNODA co-operate and co-ordinate their efforts in assisting the OSCE participating States (at their request) in the development of their legislative frameworks and technical capabilities. These collaborative efforts, under the lead of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, have led to a number of successful national round tables, continued country-specific dialogues, and three national action plans and/or strategies (Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia).

In addition, regional awareness-raising events and tailored training courses, jointly organized by the two organizations, have been held throughout the reporting period.

5.4 Training course on implementation of UNSCR 1540

From 3 to 6 April 2012, the CPC, in co-operation with the UNODA and with the support of the OSCE Border Management Staff College, held a training course on implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The comprehensive four-day pilot training course covered all the relevant aspects of UNSCR 1540. It brought together experts from various international organizations and academia dealing with implementation of the resolution, including the 1540 Committee, the BAFA (EU), the IAEA, the OPCW, the UNODC, the WHO, the University of Georgia and others.

The training course was attended by 26 senior officials from 11 countries in the OSCE region and the Partners for Co-operation, such as Mongolia and Thailand, who ranged from policymakers to law-enforcement officers.

Apart from a number of relevant lectures, the participants were actively engaged in discussions and scenario exercises, and also shared their national experiences relating to successes and obstacles in the implementation of the resolution.

5.5 Regional workshop on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in the Baltic Sea region

The CPC, jointly with the UNODA, organized a regional workshop on implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the Baltic Sea region. The workshop, hosted by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took place in June 2012 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The workshop focused on the main elements of border and export controls, prevention, detection and response to illicit trafficking of CBRN materials, and was specifically tailored for border, customs and regulatory officials from the participating States, as well as for policymakers and experts from the relevant ministries. It encouraged exchange of information, and sharing of experience and good practices in related areas among the participating States, as well as the identification of specific capacity-building measures that are responsive to regional and specific national requirements.

In addition, capacity-building programmes, including the provision of assistance, were discussed at length. Many countries from the region, as well as international organizations, provided outlines of their assistance mechanisms already in place.

In its turn, the CPC advocated the NAP as a possible flexible format, not only for streamlining national implementation of various operative paragraphs of the resolution, but also for offering assistance to those States that might require it.

5.6 Regional workshops on customs procedures and licensing issuance: integrating national processing of dual-use goods and conventional weapons

All the participating States of the OSCE have 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 transshipment controls over such items. As an integral part of the implementation of such measures, effective information-sharing among the multiple government agencies that are responsible for implementation needs to be in place.

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.

During the three days of each event, licensing and customs experts exchanged experiences and information with a view to facilitating risk assessment and detection in order to prevent illicit transfers of controlled and dual-use goods.

Based on the assessment of the workshops and the evaluation of the feedback provided by the participants, the CPC and the Transnational Threats Department plan to hold a series of follow-up events focusing on related subjects, such as integrated training on the commodity identification of military and dual-use goods.

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 (the OSCE, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)). The event, supported by the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and the 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 implementation of UNSCR 1540 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 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 as well as shortfalls relating to facilitation of implementation of resolution 1540. Information on activities planned for 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 strongly encouraged by all.

6.2 Co-operation with the United Nations

With reference to UNSCR 1977 (2011), and the Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/11, adopted in 2011 in Vilnius, specific forms of the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States, upon their request, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540, are to be closely co-ordinated with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, 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 UNSCR 1540, and the establishment of an OSCE 1540 adviser, the establishment of a close working relationship with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts became a priority. The CPC has co-ordinated all 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 development of NAPs and/or strategies of several interested OSCE participating States.

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

Regular consultations between the OSCE Secretariat and the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts in this framework has been very rewarding for all concerned and a follow up in a structured way would be recommendable.

6.2.2 United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding concluded in 2011 between the two organizations, the OSCE and the UNODA hold regular consultations on various practical issues related to facilitation of implementation of resolution 1540 for OSCE participating States that might require it.

In addition, the OSCE and the UNODA have jointly organized regional-outreach, capacity-building and awareness-raising regional events.

More concretely, the UNODA has contributed to the staff-level Round-Table Meeting on UNSCR 1540 Co-ordination Needs and Practices, the OSCE regional workshops on customs procedures and licensing issuance held throughout the OSCE region and the training course on UNSCR 1540 held at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and has jointly with the OSCE organized the regional workshop on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) in the Baltic Sea region.

Furthermore, the OSCE and the UNODA have worked closely on organizing national round-table meetings on implementation of UNSCR 1540 for interested OSCE participating States, as well as on supporting the OSCE participating States in the drafting of their NAPs.

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 intend to undertake substantive, long-term co-operation also in the area of promotion of implementation of UNSCR 1540.

UNODC representatives have actively participated in the events organized by the OSCE on matters related to UNSCR 1540, including providing a trainer for the training course on UNSCR 1540 held at the OSCE Border Management Staff College, in co-operation with the CPC and the UNODA.

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 the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the European Commission and the 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 technical assistance mechanisms for the facilitation of implementation of UNSCR 1540, stressing the need to avoid duplication of efforts among all the relevant international players.

The conference brought together national as well as international experts from a number of countries, as well as relevant international organizations assisting its member States with elements of CBRN risk mitigation.

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 2010 in Vienna, and the establishment of the four-year extrabudgetary project dealing with supporting OSCE participating States in implementation of the resolution, the OSCE has established all-embracing relations with the following organizations:

- International Atomic Energy Agency;
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;
- Biological Weapons Convention – Implementation Support Unit;
- Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization;
- European Union;
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization;
- Commonwealth of Independent States;
- German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control – acting as an implementing agent of the EU-funded co-operation programme on dual-use export controls;
- World Health Organization.

6.3.1 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, elements from the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans are incorporated into the initial drafts of NAPs on UNSCR 1540, provided that the State considers it to be a priority.

More concretely, IAEA representatives have been attending NAP drafting sessions and were also involved in the OSCE training course on implementation of UNSCR 1540 at the OSCE's Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

6.3.2 Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The CPC and the OPCW are actively and regularly exchanging information on activities related to the implementation of UNSCR 1540. Possibilities are being considered for combining efforts in joint projects to address chemical components as part of NAPs and/or strategies. An OPCW expert actively participated in the training course on implementation of UNSCR 1540 at the OSCE's Border Management Staff College.

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

The BWC is one of the key components of the international community's effort to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the 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 the OSCE's activities on implementation of UNSCR 1540.

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

The OSCE and the CTBTO engage in a regular exchange of information on matters related to the relevant mandates of both organizations.

An example of the mutual co-operation is the sharing of information on different training and awareness-raising activities focusing on building and maintaining the necessary capacity in respect of the technical, legal and political aspects of nuclear non-proliferation.

6.3.5 European Union (EU)

The EU strongly supports regional and national efforts towards the implementation of UNSCR 1540, including through information sharing, enhanced co-operation with the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to UNSCR 1540, as well as provision of effective assistance to those States that require it. To this end, two Council Joint Actions have been adopted, respectively in 2006 and 2008, and implemented by the UNODA, while the adoption process of a new Council Decision in support of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 is currently ongoing.

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 EU are currently looking into strengthening their co-operation in order to avoid duplication and to create synergies of efforts.

6.3.6 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

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

NATO has been diligent in inviting the CPC representative to participate in their annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

In addition, the CPC, during the NATO Advanced Research Workshop in the Framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme held in October 2012, outlined the efforts made by the CPC in assisting its participating States in facilitation of the implementation of the resolution.

6.3.7 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 the best practices and national experience on resolution 1540 and its relevant elements, the OSCE, together with the UNODA and the CIS Executive Secretariat, is planning to hold a workshop on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Minsk, Belarus, targeting the CIS countries, at the beginning of 2013.

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

The BAFA is mandated by the 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.

In 2012, the OSCE, jointly with the BAFA, has provided assistance to Moldova in updating their export-control legislation on dual-use goods, in order to meet international requirements.

In addition, the BAFA has been actively supporting the OSCE in the series of regional workshops on customs procedures and licensing issuance, as well as by providing a trainer and a speaker for the training course on implementation of UNSCR 1540 held at the OSCE's Border Management Staff College, and the Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the Baltic Sea region.

The OSCE in return has participated in the Conference of International, Regional and Subregional Industry Associations on UNSCR 1540, hosted by the Government of Germany and co-organised by the UNODA and the BAFA, in its capacity as implementing agent for the EU's export-control co-operation programme, with financial support from the Governments of Norway and the United States. The meeting was the first industry conference

on UNSCR 1540, with representatives from more than 25 international, regional and subregional industry associations with active memberships in more than 100 UN Member States and representing the different sectors of nuclear, biological, chemical, transport and financing as well as aerospace industries.

In addition, during the 13th International Export Control Conference (Partnerships for Non-Proliferation), the CPC briefed the 300 international strategic trade-control experts on the topic: “UNSCR 1540: Opportunities for Regional Co-operation”.

6.3.9 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.

The OSCE recognizes the important role that the WHO plays in countering biological threats and has therefore established a close working partnership with the Organization. Biosafety and biosecurity are vital pillars of both UNSCR 1540 and the IHR, relevant to both public health and security.

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

6.4 Civil society and academia

6.4.1 Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC)

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

VERTIC 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 Center 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 OSCE has been steadily strengthened through an enhanced exchange of information, and joint participation in events and training courses.

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

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

The OSCE has benefited enormously from the knowledge of the University of Georgia (United States of America), since a representative of the institution was actively involved as a trainer in the training course on implementation of UNSCR 1540 held at the OSCE's Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

In addition, the CPC provided an overview of possibilities for regional co-operation related to implementation of the resolution during the Workshop on Implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in October 2012, which was organized by the University of Georgia and sponsored by the Export Control and Related Border Security Program of the United States Department of State.

The CPC has also contributed with an article to the *1540 Compass*, a journal of the UNODA and the Center for International Trade and Security, entitled "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, acknowledged the OSCE's support in the development of their national action plan on resolution 1540.

7. Conclusion and recommendations

Comprehensive and effective implementation of UNSCR 1540 requires innovative and inclusive actions by participating States, effectively supported by the OSCE Secretariat. It is equally vital that the participating States look at the obligations arising from UNSCR 1540 not as imposed duties, but rather as opportunities for national benefits through enhanced co-operation at the regional and global levels.

Implementation of resolution 1540 is a long-term process that requires commitment not only by the participating States, but also by key international actors, such as international and regional organizations, academia, civil society and industry.

Therefore, the key OSCE activity in facilitating implementation of the resolution needs to concentrate on supporting the participating States in their national efforts, while ensuring synergies with other relevant actors, under the lead of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

In this connection, establishment of the position of an OSCE 1540 adviser has been of great importance, and played a pivotal role in the outreach and support of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts. The co-ordination and planning of activities, upon request of participating States, as well as information sharing to complement the efforts of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts has been vital in furthering the process of implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the OSCE region.

However, all the above results have been achieved under the auspices of an extrabudgetary project, and since the funding for this project might come to an end at the end of 2012, this institutional set-up jeopardizes successful continuation of the assistance provided to interested participating States. Therefore, in order to secure the outcome of the project in a more sustainable way, incorporation of the two positions into the 2013 Unified Budget was proposed and is currently being discussed by the participating States.

8. Annexes

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

CPC participation in UNSCR 1540-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2012		
Date	Title	Place
6 February	Second Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting	Vienna, Austria
24 April	Seminar: "Towards a CBN Security Culture: Developing a Holistic Approach"	Vienna, Austria
23–25 April	Conference of International, Regional and Subregional Industry Associations on UNSCR 1540	Wiesbaden, Germany
7–9 May	The 13th International Export Control Conference (Partnerships for Non-Proliferation)	Portoroz, Slovenia
8 May	VCDNP half-day seminar: "Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: Ideas from Russia, Ideas for Russia"	Vienna, Austria
14–15 May	Working with the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence: What Concrete Role for EU Stakeholders and Partners?	Brussels, Belgium
14–15 June	Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation	Budapest, Hungary
12–13 July	Workshop on Implementation of UNSCR 1540: Innovative Approaches to Capacity-Building and Assistance	Warsaw, Poland
25–27 July	IAEA Regional Workshop on Facilitating Adherence to and Implementation of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material	Karlsruhe, Germany
9–10 October	NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Political, Scientific and Technological Approaches to the Implementation of UNSCR 1540	Chisinau, Moldova
8–9 November	International Meeting on Chemical Safety and Security (Poland/OPCW)	Tarnow, Poland

Annex B: Overview of CPC events planned for 2013

FSC events on implementation of UNSCR 1540 planned for 2013		
Date	Title	Place
15–16 January 2013	OSCE-UNODA-CIS Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 for CIS countries	Minsk, Belarus
February–March 2013	BAFA (EU)-MFA of Germany-OSCE-UNODA Regional Workshop on Key Elements of Export Control for Central Asia	Location (TBC)
Second half of 2013	UNSCR 1540 regional event, at the request of Serbia, following the development of a national action plan (sharing of effective practices)	South-Eastern Europe (TBD)
Second half of 2013	OSCE/UNODA Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540, Black Sea region	Odessa, Ukraine (TBC)
Through 2013/2014	Regional commodity identification training courses on military and dual-use goods	Location and countries (TBD)

Annex C: Draft OSCE Secretariat 2013 Annual Work Plan

Support of Regional Implementation of the UNSCR 1540

During its first year, the extrabudgetary project on “Support of Regional Implementation of the UNSCR 1540” has closely followed participating States’ recommendations voiced during the January 2011 Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UNSCR 1540. As such, the CPC has established a solid co-operation mechanism with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, as well as with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), sealed in October 2011, when the OSCE and the UNODA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on joint project activities to promote regional implementation of the resolution 1540.

Additionally, the CPC has continued promoting further awareness raising activities and supported interested participating States in possible establishment of further chapters of the Handbook on Best Practice Guides, based on principles of national consent and co-operative efforts. Provision of tailored training activities has been accomplished through a series of regional workshops, which in 2011 have been launched for the South-Eastern European region and continued in 2012 for Mediterranean Partners, and regions of Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

Most importantly however, in 2011 and 2012, the CPC has been instrumental in facilitating assistance to interested participating States on development of their national action plans (NAPs) on UNSCR 1540. More specifically, advice and technical assistance was provided to Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Tajikistan and

Uzbekistan. Such tailor-made efforts have led to development of three national action plans, namely for Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Republic of Serbia. The 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts have played a vital role in these activities and provided expertise to support the OSCE participating States in their implementation efforts.

In addition, the participating States have expressed their commitment to support the ongoing activities in assisting in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by, using the OSCE's relevant decision-making bodies to identify and strengthen the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States in their implementation of UNSCR 1540, as stated in the Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/11 on the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (MC.DEC/8/11). This includes, *inter alia*, maintaining the information sharing on national progress and lessons learnt in this regard, as stated in the Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation (MC.DEC/7/11). In this connection, the FSC has adopted a decision on Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 (FSC.DEC/19/11), thus establishing a complementary and voluntary tool to enhance co-operation and co-ordination among participating States. Up to date, 46 participating States have appointed their national UNSCR 1540 Point of Contact to the OSCE. This network of Points of Contact has been subsequently shared with the 1540 Committee, in line with the resolution 1977 encouraging international organizations to co-operate closely with the Committee.

Lastly, in July 2012, the FSC Chairperson appointed a Co-ordinator on Non-proliferation Issues (FSC.DEL/86/12) who was tasked, among others, to explore ways to update the OSCE 1994 Principles Governing Non-Proliferation as well as to continue to identify and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States in the full implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Therefore, as a direct follow-up to the above developments, the CPC has planned the below objectives for the year 2013, provided that the 1540 taskings will be included into 2013 Unified Budget or obtain further extrabudgetary funding.

OBJECTIVE 1: TO ASSIST INTERESTED PARTICIPATING STATES IN IMPLEMENTING OF UNSCR 1540 OBLIGATIONS

Outcome 1.1: Technical assistance provided on concrete matters related to implementation of UNSCR 1540, awareness raised.

Output 1.1.1: Country specific dialogue visits, by the 1540 Adviser in co-ordination with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts. National round-table meetings on implementation of UNSCR 1540, upon request of interested participating States.

The 1540 Team in co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and where appropriate, with other relevant actors, organizes and participates in country specific dialogue visits and expert discussions with various governmental authorities in order to share experience and examine possible ways to improve UNSCR 1540 implementation at the national level and co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

Focus Areas: Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine

Time: Throughout 2013

Budget: TBD

Output 1.1.2: The 1540 Adviser, in close co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, assists with initiation, development and implementation of NAPs of interested participating States, upon request of interested participating States.

The 1540 Adviser holds consultations with interested participating States in a form of an interagency round-table discussions in order to update national reports being submitted to the 1540 Committee as well as technically assists in development of their national action plan and its subsequent implementation.

Depending on the complexity of the issues to be addressed, and on case-by-case basis, taken into consideration national priorities, the 1540 Adviser will foster co-ordinated approach and co-operative effort with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the UNODA, the European Union, including the BAFA, the CIS, the IAEA, the OPCW, the BWC-ISU, the UNODC, the CTBTO, the WHO and other relevant organizations, on specific assistance required. Examples from other participating States and best practices can also be explored, where appropriate.

Focus areas: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Time: Throughout 2013

Budget: TBD

Outcome 1.2: Practitioners from participating States are better skilled to implement specific UNSCR 1540 obligations.

Output 1.2.1: Tailored training activities on specific 1540 implementation matters will be organized at the national and subregional level.

Several participating States expressed interest to expand their knowledge on UNSCR 1540 and more specifically on practical matters of the implementation, including commodity identification trainings.

The 1540 team, in close co-operation with other thematic units of the OSCE, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, relevant organizations, and supported by the field operations, where appropriate, facilitates training workshops on WMD export controls legislation, logistics for customs and border police to policymakers and practitioners from participating States.

Focus areas: all 56 participating States

Time: Throughout 2013

Budget: TBD

Output 1.2.2: OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe, and other relevant training facilities in the OSCE region are integrated as a focal points for trainings targeting export controls managers, customs and border officers, law enforcement officers as well as policymakers dealing with UNSCR 1540 implementation within the OSCE region.

The 1540 team, in close co-operation with other thematic units of the OSCE, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and other relevant international actors such as the UNODA, arranges training courses on relevant aspects of the UNSCR 1540 Implementation.

Focus areas: all 56 participating States

Time: Throughout 2013

Budget: TBD

Outcome 1.3: Best practices are broadly disseminated.

Output 1.3.1: Additional chapter(s) of the Handbook on Best Practice Guides on 1540 is developed, provided there is interest and consensus among the participating States.

The CPC will provide support to the interested participating States in these efforts.

Focus areas: all 56 participating States, disseminated also to Partners for Co-operation

Time: Throughout 2013

Budget: TBD

OBJECTIVE 2: STRENGTHENING THE OSCE EXPERTISE AND CAPACITIES IN PROMOTING IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1540

Outcome 2.1: Information-sharing among the participating States on UNSCR 1540 is facilitated.

Output 2.1.1: Following FSC Decision No. 19/11 (FSC.DEC/19/11) on appointing national Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540, the CPC continues to assist in facilitation of information-sharing and promoting best practices among participating States and with the 1540 Committee on the issues related to national implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Output 2.1.2: A potential role for the OSCE Communications Network to exchange sensitive information in the most secure way among participating States is explored.

Focus areas: all 56 participating States

Time: Throughout 2013

Budget: TBD

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FURTHER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**
(MC.GAL/3/12 of 27 November 2012)

1. Introduction and objective

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is a key normative document, which was adopted by the CSCE participating States at the Budapest Summit in December 1994. The Code entered into force on 1 January 1995. By adopting this landmark document in security sector governance, the CSCE 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 occupies a fundamental place in the body of normative documents developed within the politico-military dimension of the OSCE and remains unparalleled by other international organizations.

In line with Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, 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, efforts undertaken in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) since the Vilnius meeting of the Ministerial Council and other activities conducted within the Organization. The report covers the period from November 2011 to November 2012.¹

2. Efforts by the FSC

Since the Vilnius meeting of the Ministerial Council in December 2011, the FSC has continued to work towards enhanced implementation of the Code.

In June 2012, a meeting was held in the framework of a Security Dialogue which focused on the democratic and parliamentary control of armed forces.

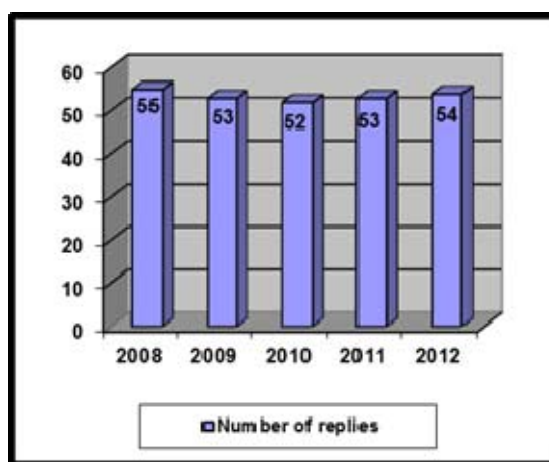
On 11 July 2012, the first Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct was held in Vienna. The meeting was organized pursuant to FSC Decision No. 12/11, in which it was decided to “regularize a focused discussion on implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security by devoting an annual special one-day meeting to the Code of Conduct”. The first Annual Implementation Discussion, in July 2012, 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.

¹ The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 21 November 2012.

During the meeting, a great number of proposals were put forward on the development and implementation of the Code of Conduct. The suggestions pertained, *inter alia*, to a strengthened outreach of the Code of Conduct to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation as well as to major stakeholders such as parliamentarians, the enlargement of the scope of the annual questionnaire, a qualitative assessment of the yearly information exchange, as well as to a stronger involvement of OSCE field presences in promoting the Code. A survey of suggestions was established pursuant to the meeting.²

3. Information exchange

The OSCE participating States have agreed to exchange information on an annual basis on the implementation of the Code of Conduct according to 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 graph below). All the participating States have provided replies to the questionnaire at least once since the adoption of the questionnaire in 1998.

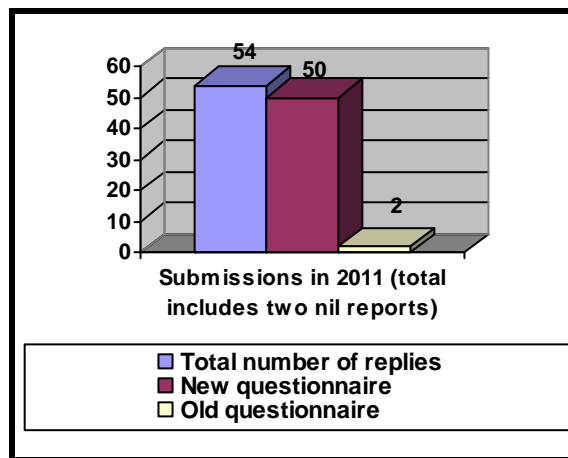


The annual information exchange is a unique mechanism for fostering international transparency with regard to armed forces and their control by constitutionally established authorities. Since 2008, the replies have been published on the OSCE website, where they can be accessed by the public.

A statistical report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was prepared by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). In accordance with FSC Decision No. 12/11, this report was based on the 2012 annual information exchange under the Code of Conduct and was limited to the provision of statistical data related to implementation. Moreover, common practices were only identified and highlighted in general terms and the report did not enter into comparisons of national policies or provide any assessment of implementation.

In 2012, by 21 November 2012, 54 participating States had provided information on their implementation activities.

In 2009, the participating States agreed to update the format of the questionnaire. However, two participating States still provided their replies in the old format in 2012 (see graph below). It can be noted positively, however, that this number is steadily declining.



Several replies included additional voluntary information. In accordance with the interpretative statement appended to FSC Decision No. 5/11 (FSC.DEC/5/11), 27 participating States provided information on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. Furthermore, in accordance with the interpretative statement appended to FSC Decision No. 2/09 (FSC.DEC/2/09), five participating States included information related to private military and security companies (PMSCs) in their 2012 returns.

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 of the Code of Conduct. The decision also encourages participating States to contribute extrabudgetary funds to make possible such events. Furthermore, it calls upon the FSC Chairmanship to engage the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

In accordance with this decision, in June 2012, the CPC organized the fifth regional seminar for the Baltic Sea area in Riga, Latvia. The seminar was attended by high-level participants from Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. Participants included senior officials from ministries of defence and foreign affairs, and armed forces, as well as representatives of national parliaments, the ODIHR, academia and the FSC Chairmanship.

The seminar 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 forces, parliamentary oversight, security sector reform, and the respect for international humanitarian and human rights law were discussed. In addition, relevant aspects of UNSCR 1325, the rights of armed forces personnel, cyber-security, as well as security and co-operation in the Baltic Sea region, were included in the agenda. Previous regional seminars were held in Kazakhstan (2008), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2009), Belarus (2010)

and Ukraine (2011). These seminars were funded by Austria, Germany and Switzerland through extrabudgetary contributions.

The CPC also facilitated a thematic discussion on the Code of Conduct with the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on 16 March 2012. The Mediterranean Partners showed interest in the Code of Conduct and the lessons learned in the OSCE area.

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

In November 2011, the OSCE Office in Yerevan, together with the Armenian Ministry of Defence, promulgated a publication entitled “Armenia and Democratic Control of the Armed Forces: Analysis and Perspectives”. The publication includes articles on the Code of Conduct, its history and political context, and the experience of Armenia and other countries in implementing it. The volume was prepared by experts from the Drastamat Kanayan Institute for National Strategic Studies under the Armenian Ministry of Defence, with the collaboration of other institutions, including the Human Rights Defender’s Office and Yerevan State University.

In November 2011, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the fourth Politico-Military Review Conference was held with the support of the OSCE Mission. The Conference addressed 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 opportunity was taken to promote the principles set forth in the Code of Conduct and to address any deficiencies in implementation and information exchanges. A conclusion of the Conference called for the establishment of an official Council of Ministers Co-ordination Team for Implementation of the OSCE/UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina to co-ordinate the activities for preparing information exchanges, and to analyse and monitor the implementation of politico-military commitments.

In December 2011, the OSCE Office in Baku organized a full-day launch event to present the Azerbaijani-language version of the ODIHR/DCAF “Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel”. The event was supported by the ODIHR and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and was hosted by the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The event was attended by government officials, including officials from the Defence Ministry and the Institution of the Ombudsman; international experts; and representatives of civil society and academia. Since the event, the Institution of the Ombudsman has taken a leading role in communicating the significant contents of the book to national interlocutors.

In December 2011, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, together with the Committee for Security and Defence of the Parliament of Montenegro, and with the support of the CPC and DCAF, organized a seminar on the democratic control of armed forces and the implementation of the Code of Conduct in Budva, Montenegro.

The seminar, held from 15 to 16 December 2011, increased awareness of the Code’s implementation in Montenegro. International and national experts discussed the most recent

experiences related to the Code's implementation and future initiatives in the field of democratic parliamentary oversight of armed, internal and security forces. Special attention was devoted to fostering co-operation among parliamentarians; government ministries; heads of military, police and intelligence; as well as the NGOs involved in the oversight of the security and defence sector in Montenegro.

Furthermore, the Mission supported the participation of the President of the Committee for Security and Defence of the Parliament of Montenegro in the first Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct. The President of the Committee delivered a keynote presentation entitled "National Experiences: Legislation on the Democratic Oversight of the Security and Defence Sector in Montenegro and the Relevance of the Code of Conduct".

In February 2012, the Department of Security Co-operation of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a politico-military briefing to inform new officials within national institutions about the OSCE politico-military dimension and to present the principles embodied in the Code of Conduct, as well as the information exchange on the Code. In addition, the Mission supported the participation of two officials (Ministry of Defence and Joint Staff of the Armed Forces) in the first Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct.

In September 2012, the CPC supported RACVIAC – the Centre for Security Co-operation – in organizing a regional seminar on the Code of Conduct. The seminar, which took place from 18 to 20 September 2012 near Zagreb, Croatia, brought together experts and practitioners from the region of South East Europe, representing ministries of defence and foreign affairs, armed forces, national parliaments, academia, and civil society. During the seminar, the countries of the region presented their replies to the annual information exchange. The idea of a regular and focussed peer-to-peer review mechanism was discussed in this respect as a potential follow-up to the seminar.

In October 2012, the OSCE Centre in Astana and the CPC supported the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan in organizing a regional seminar on the Code of Conduct for the Central Asian region. The seminar included participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, representing armed forces, ministries of defence and foreign affairs, as well as the Kazakh Ministry of Emergency Situations and the ODIHR. Issues such as security sector reform, accountability of armed forces and related parliamentary oversight and the rights of armed forces personnel, as well as respect for international humanitarian law, were addressed at the seminar. The event also helped to promote dialogue and co-operation between defence and law enforcement agencies at the national, but also the regional, levels.

From 14 to 15 November 2012, the fifth Review Conference on Compliance with the OSCE/UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Sarajevo-Ilidža. The Conference addressed national compliance with OSCE and UN politico-military commitments. These review conferences have become a major forum for reflection and constructive discussion and debate amongst political leaders and experts with regard to the implementation of politico-military obligations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This year's Conference was designed to assess compliance and to formulate an action plan for co-ordinated initiatives in order to increase national compliance capabilities. The Code of Conduct constituted a primary element of the Review Conference and represents an important focus for the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On 20 November 2012, a one-day launch event of the Macedonian language version of the ODIHR/DCAF “Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel” was held in Skopje by the ODIHR and the Ministry of Defence. The event also included presentations on the Code of Conduct and on the role of the ombudsperson institutions, with participation by the CPC and a representative of the German Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces, respectively. The event was attended by officials from various ministries and parliamentary commissions, as well as representatives of academia and civil society.

5. Conclusions

In 2012, the Code has once more proven that it has an important role to play as a set of principles and guidelines reflecting inter-State and intra-State norms of behaviour which are of critical relevance to security sector reform.

The highlight of 2012 was undoubtedly the first Annual Implementation Discussion on the Code of Conduct, held in July 2012 in Vienna. This important event allowed participants to consider ways of improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct and to discuss the principles inherent in it. A great number of suggestions were made at the meeting. The efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct were also supported by initiatives of the FSC Chairmanships addressing and promoting the Code within the framework of Security Dialogues in 2012.

A second highlight was the numerous outreach and awareness activities supported by the FSC, the CPC and OSCE field missions. Such events were held in the regions of the Caucasus, South East Europe, the Baltic Sea region and Central Asia. They afforded unique opportunities to deepen the knowledge of the Code’s provisions and to anchor its important principles by engaging major stakeholders from armed forces and ministries of foreign affairs, as well as parliamentarians, civil society and academia.

Participating States hosting or participating in such seminars made an important contribution to transparency as well as to national and regional stability and security. As stipulated in FSC Decision No. 1/08, all the participating States are encouraged to continue supporting and hosting seminars or workshops among participating States, and with OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

Regarding the information exchange in 2012, a continuing very high level of commitment in terms of the number of replies could be observed. 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 2012 annual information exchange in terms of quality. Several participating States stated in this respect that it would be greatly welcomed if an agreement could 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.

As in preceding years, reports differed significantly with regard to substance and scope. Again, two participating States did not submit their reports at all, while two participating States still used old formats.

In the future, further dialogues, seminars and workshops on the Code of Conduct, organized for OSCE participating States as well as for the Partners for Co-operation, will contribute to increasing awareness, outreach and above all better implementation of this important document.

In particular, the translation of the Code of Conduct into Arabic, and a possible event on the Code of Conduct in 2013 for the Mediterranean and North African region could contribute to the positive momentum in the Arabic world. Furthermore, presentations on best practices and country-specific implementation of the Code would constitute promising prospects.

Last but not least, the second Annual Implementation Discussion in 2013 will also serve as an important opportunity to discuss the Code of Conduct and its implementation in a structured and focused manner. In view of this meeting, several participating States have suggested enhancing the tasking given to the CPC by requesting a more detailed overview and assessment of the status of implementation of the Code of Conduct.

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

(MC.GAL/4/12 of 27 November 2012)

1. Introduction and objective

This report is submitted in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, held in Vilnius. The 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 2011 to November 2012¹.

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 and Other Measures Addressed, which was submitted to the 2012 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting².

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

The Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting, in 2011, tasked the FSC in 2012, to “give further impetus to negotiations on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures with the aim of increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States”³.

In the reporting period, the participating States continued negotiations in the FSC to update and modernize the Vienna Document.

On 30 November 2011, the Vienna Document was reissued by FSC Decision No. 14/11 as the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures⁴.

1 The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 16 November 2012.

2 FSC.GAL/27/12/Rev.1.

3 See Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 (MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1) including a corresponding interpretative statement.

4 Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures reissued under the reference number FSC.DOC/1/11 according to the FSC decision on reissuing the Vienna Document (FSC.DEC/14/11) adopted at the 665th special meeting the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna on 30 November 2011 (see FSC.JOUR/671).

The reissued Vienna Document incorporated nine Vienna Document Plus decisions⁵ and entered into force on 1 December 2011.

In the reissued Vienna Document 2011, the title and introduction of the Vienna Document were updated; the accuracy of geographical co-ordinates was improved; new modalities were defined for visits to military air bases operating multipurpose attack or specialized attack helicopters; and the possibility for the organization of a demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems before formal deployment takes place was provided for. Furthermore, participating States are now requested to take into account official national and religious holidays of the receiving State when requesting and conducting inspection activities and evaluation visits. Lastly, the quality of briefings at inspection activities and evaluation visits was also enhanced.

In December 2011, a Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres was held. The Meeting served to exchange experiences and information on technical aspects of implementation⁶.

In March 2012, the twenty-second Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting was held. 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 30 suggestions were made on ways of further improving the implementation of agreed CSBMs⁷.

In September 2012, the debate among participating States in the Forum was enriched by the holding of a Security Dialogue, focused on verification activities. In addition, 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.

On 17 October 2012, the FSC adopted Vienna Document Plus Decision No. 9/12 on prior notifications of major military activities, which was the first Vienna Document Plus decision adopted since the reissuing of the Vienna Document in November 2011. FSC Decision No. 9/12 entered into force upon adoption and requests participating States, in the absence of a notifiable military activity in a calendar year, to provide at least one notification of a military activity or military exercise below the thresholds specified in the Vienna Document. Participating States will be guided, at their own discretion, by the criterion of

5 The Vienna Document Plus decisions included were: Decision No. 10/10 on taking national holidays into account when planning verification activities; Decision No. 11/10 on the timing of a demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems; Decision No. 12/10 on incorporating FSC Decision No. 1/10 into the Vienna Document Chapter XII; Decision No. 13/10 on updating the listing of Partners for Co-operation mentioned in Chapter XII; Decision No. 15/10 on the eligibility of air bases for hosting visits; Decision No. 4/11 on updating the list of OSCE participating States mentioned in the introduction; Decision No. 6/11 on the accuracy of co-ordinates of formations, combat units, air formations and air combat units; Decision No. 7/11 on amendments and additions to Chapter IX "Compliance and Verification" paragraphs 98 and 127; Decision No. 10/11 on updating the title and the introduction of the Vienna Document 1999.

6 A report on this meeting is available under FSC.GAL/161/11.

7 The survey of suggestions is available under FSC.AIAM/31/12.

military significance in determining the specific military exercise or military activity for which notification will be provided.

In addition, 20 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 military training establishments and military repair or maintenance facilities;
- Information on land forces and air forces deployed outside the national territory;
- Information on military transport aviation units;
- The notification of permanent changes in the command organization;
- Information on naval forces;
- The reporting of military expenditures;
- 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 on military activities giving rise to concern;
- The lowering of thresholds for prior notifications;
- The notification of deployment of multinational rapid reaction forces;
- The notification of large-scale military transits;
- The definition of *force majeure*;
- The scale of the specified area for inspections;
- Enhancing the inspection quotas and evaluation visit quotas;
- Enhancing the size of inspection teams and evaluation visit teams;
- The duration of inspections and evaluation visits;
- Financial responsibility for inspections and for evaluation visits;
- Devices used during inspections and evaluation visits;
- The definition of adjoining sea areas.

3. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation in 2011–2012

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, measured by the number of submissions under various information exchanges, such as the Annual Exchange of Military Information, the Exchange on Defence Planning, or the Global Exchange of Military Information, relatively steady during the past five years.

By 16 November 2012, 53 participating States had provided information under the AEMI in 2012. For defence planning and defence budgets, the numbers are significantly lower. So far, only 43 participating States have provided information on their defence planning in 2012, while 44 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 under Chapter IX of the Vienna Document were also conducted. By 16 November 2012, 81 inspections and 34 evaluation visits had been conducted. Those numbers are significantly lower than last year's numbers, which were 93 and 36, respectively, by 7 November 2011.

In 2012, no activity took place under Vienna Document Chapter III – Risk Reduction.

In 2012, 51 participating States were connected to the OSCE Communications Network; only one participating State having military forces, remained unconnected. The reliability of the Network remained very high, with the central servers in Vienna available 100 per cent of the time. In addition, over half (36) of the participating States were available at least 99 per cent of the time, and the overall availability of all the end-user stations connected to the Network exceeded 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.

Also 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. 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 November 2011, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a seminar on the implementation of CSBMs, at which members of the armed forces were informed about the reissued Vienna Document 2011. In addition, an update on politico-military commitments was presented to participants. During the seminar, the Annual Exchange of Military Information was also drafted and prepared.

In March 2012, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Co-operation, with the support of the CPC, organized a course entitled “Vienna Document 2011: Efforts to Revitalize Confidence- and Security Building, Compliance and Verification Course” for inspectors of South East Europe. The course included a training evaluation visit and inspection, organized in co-operation with the Croatian Armed Forces.

In May 2012, the OSCE Centre in Astana and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized an annual regional training course on the Vienna Document 2011. The workshops brought together participants from Central Asia and the South Caucasus to discuss issues related to the Annual Exchange of Military Information as well as practical verification activities.

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan supported the Verification Centre of the Ministry of Defence to stay connected to the OSCE Communication Network, and provided training for the Vienna Document inspectors of the Verification Centre. From 30 May to 1 June 2012, a regional training workshop on the Vienna Document 2011 was held. Participants were able to improve their knowledge regarding the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 and to learn about the role of CSBMs and their development. The need for enhanced military co-operation between the OSCE participating States and regional co-operation on CSBMs was stressed at this meeting.

In addition, the CPC also provided regular lecturers on the reissued Vienna Document 2011 at courses of the NATO School in Oberammergau in February, September and November 2012.

5. Conclusion

The Vienna Document has the comparative advantage of politically binding all participating States of the OSCE to military CSBMs, with the aim of providing for more stability, transparency and predictability in the military field. The Vienna Document has proven to be a well-balanced instrument with a high level of implementation.

The Vienna Document 2011 was adopted by the FSC on 20 November 2011 and entered into force on 1 December 2011. Its adoption constitutes a positive example of the ability of the participating States to negotiate and adapt important politically binding

commitments in the first dimension of the OSCE. This adoption put an end to an 11-year deadlock in negotiations on CSBMs.

The reissued Vienna Document includes elements with political implications, notably the provision for a regular assessment, including its reissuing at intervals of five years or less. The participating States explicitly reaffirm in the introduction the political heritage of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, as well as all subsequent CSCE/OSCE concluding documents.

The Vienna Document 2011 represents the first concrete achievement in the process now underway to review and reinvigorate CSBMs. Most of the participating States underlined the necessity of taking a more strategic and forward-looking approach to modernizing the Vienna Document in order to adapt it to today's and to tomorrow's politico-military realities. The adoption of FSC Decision No. 9/12 on prior notifications of military activities was a first important step in this direction.

Throughout 2012, the FSC engaged in active discussions on a great number of proposals, taking into consideration more substantive issues concerning both the improvement of current implementation modalities and the development of new CSBMs. As strategic issues are taken up, further modernization requires greater efforts, in-depth discussions and comprehensive negotiations. Substantial updates would increase military transparency, predictability and prospects for early warning, transforming the Vienna Document into a modern strategic tool and a substantial contribution to our common and indivisible security.

The Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in 2012 proved to be a valuable platform for discussing CSBMs in the OSCE region, including their implementation and further development.

The outcome of the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres held in December 2011 was considered to have fallen short of expectations. Therefore, in order to allow for more space for exchange of views, the concept of the 2012 meeting has been revised with the aim of facilitating focused technical discussions to further enhance the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011.

In 2012, the participating States also made increased use of Security Dialogues in order to present significant military exercises below threshold, thereby using the OSCE as a platform to provide for transparency and confidence-building.

The OSCE Communications Network, which represents a CSBM in itself, continues to be a highly reliable tool and has been expanded for supporting regional confidence-building.

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

(Annex 10 to MC(19) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2012)

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 2012.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted this year's FSC Chairmanships, which in addition to the Republic of Macedonia, are Kyrgyzstan and Latvia. During 2012, the Chairmanships continuously worked in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity, balance and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum's annual work programme in accordance with its mandate and the tasks from the Ministerial Council meeting in 2011.

The focus of the FSC's work in 2012 continued to be on the core politico-military issues, such as small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCR) 1540 (2004), arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and efforts to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994 as well as exploring the role of the FSC in the area of implementation of the UNSCR 1325 (2000). Separate progress reports on further implementation of the commitments on those issues were submitted to the Ministerial Council and contain more detailed information about developments in the FSC during 2011–2012 regarding these aspects of its work.

Initiatives put forward by delegations had by November led to the adoption of nine 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) that provided an opportunity to exchange views on arms control and CSBMs, as well as to the preparation of Dublin Ministerial Council meeting's documents.

In line with the priorities identified in the Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010) and in Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, in 2012, the Forum engaged in further discussions to update, revitalize and modernize CSBMs. Particularly, by November 2012, the FSC had adopted one Vienna Document Plus decision. Active discussions on a number of other concrete proposals related to the Vienna Document took place in 2012.

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*, the strategic security environment in the twenty-first century; the democratic control of the armed forces as an integral part of the OSCE Code of Conduct; missile defence

and the European Phased Adaptive Approach; the EU civilian crisis management and response capabilities; the improved security and stability through co-operation, capacity-building and reform; the Republic of Armenia's approaches in the context of the concept of co-operative security; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; the Wassenaar Arrangement; the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Belarus and Serbia; the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme; the Bundeswehr Verification Centre and a possible way ahead for implementation; South-Eastern Europe's response to the security challenges outside of the region; the Mine Action Programme of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan; implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the OSCE region and the gender perspective in relation to military and security operations; the work in the political military dimension of the OSCE addressed by the OSCE Secretary General; the international small arms control standards and Article IV of the Dayton Peace Agreement Annex 1-B.

As envisaged by Chapter XI of the Vienna Document 2011, the FSC held the twenty-second Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) on 5 and 6 March 2012. 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 to assess the state of implementation. The Heads of Verification Centres (HoV) meeting, held on 14 December 2011 on the margins of the Annual Exchange of Military Information, served to exchange experiences and information on technical aspects of implementation of agreed measures under the provisions of the VD 2011. The next HoV meeting will take place on 13 December 2012, for the first time as a full day event, consisting of specialized working groups.

The FSC also contributed to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, held from 26 to 28 June 2012. The discussions during the Conference focused on enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States, including the Astana Commemorative Declaration and recent Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 6/11, 7/11 and 8/11. The session 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, and to address outstanding challenges and opportunities at a strategic level.

The OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition remained one of key topics on the FSC's agenda. Two years after the adoption of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, the FSC held a meeting to review its implementation and an Expert Level Session on SALW Stockpile Management, Surplus Reduction and Destruction from 22 to 24 May 2012. A number of concrete proposals were made to improve the implementation of the Plan of Action. Accordingly a document outlining possible implementation steps of the Plan of Action was suggested and issued by the FSC Chair based on the proposals made during the Meeting. Next, the FSC Chair participated in the UN Second Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held from 27 August to 7 September 2012, at which the OSCE achievements to implement the UN Programme of Action were introduced. Furthermore, in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11 on SALW and SCA and the subsequent FSC Decision No. 3/12, the OSCE Document on SALW was reissued incorporating all supplementary decisions related to SALW. The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), together with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, has conducted an analysis of the States' methodology for compiling annual information exchange on SALW exported to and/or

imported from other participating States during the previous calendar year. The report uncovered possible reasons for mismatches in the information provided by participating States and put forward recommendations in this regard.

In 2012, the OSCE continued implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on SALW and SCA. Dealing with the requests from participating States with regard to destruction and stockpile management and security of SALW and SCA remains one of the most dynamic areas of implementation of the Documents on SALW and SCA. During the year, one project in Albania was completed. Also during the year, the OSCE continued the implementation of three joint assistance programmes with the UNDP, one in Montenegro, one in Georgia and the other one in Belarus, and launched two projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. This year, the Forum also received one new request for assistance on SALW and SCA from Bulgaria. In the field of practical assistance on SALW and SCA, special attention should be paid to resolving issues regarding the financing of the projects in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. The FSC continued to manage a comprehensive SALW and SCA programme. In addition to regular donations to established projects, this programme facilitates contributions to SALW and SCA projects under development.

The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security retained its importance in the work of the FSC in 2012. For the first time an Annual Implementation Discussion on the Code of Conduct was held on 11 July 2012 in Vienna. This meeting provided a unique opportunity to discuss how to promote and improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct including its annual information exchange, to undertake an evaluation discussion and to examine the application of the Code of Conduct in the context of the existing political and military situation. In addition, the fifth regional seminar pursuant to FSC Decision No. 1/08 was held in Riga, Latvia, from 18 to 20 June 2012, for the countries of the Baltic Sea area. The focus of the seminar was on issues such as the parliamentary oversight of armed forces, security sector reform and UNSCR 1325, the respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and the rights of armed forces personnel. Lastly, the Code of Conduct also continued to remain on the agenda of the FSC meetings during the year. In particular, a Security Dialogue which focussed on the democratic and parliamentary control of armed forces was organized in June 2012.

The general level of implementation of information exchanges in 2012 was stable and high. FSC Chairs continued to make extensive use of the Announcing and Reminding Mechanism in order to improve the availability of information among participating States. These efforts helped increase compliance with obligations, although not all participating States have yet provided the required information.

Activities also continued to support the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In 2012, a number of country-specific dialogue visits were organized in co-ordination with the UNSC 1540 Committee and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. As a direct result of these visits, the national action plans on the implementation of the resolution have been developed by the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Serbia and Kyrgyzstan. In addition, such a dialogue was initiated with ten more countries from the OSCE region. The success of the OSCE efforts in the facilitation of the implementation of the resolution has been recognized by a number of OSCE participating States, as well as the UNSC Committee

1540 and its experts. Worthwhile mentioning is the OSCE/UNODA Workshop on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 held in Vilnius in June this year.

Furthermore, the Forum has been instrumental in facilitating information sharing among participating States on matters related to non-proliferation. In line with the FSC Decision No. 19/11, the CPC has developed and currently maintains a network of points of contact on UNSCR 1540, which has also been shared with the UNSC 1540 Committee. Forty-six participating States have identified and appointed to the OSCE their national point of contact on UNSCR 1540 implementation. In addition, throughout 2012, several regional events and tailor-made trainings on UNSCR 1540 were organized in the OSCE region. The OSCE has become one of the most active regional organizations in advancing the implementation of the resolutions 1540 and 1977, in close collaboration with the UNSC 1540 Committee.

Lastly, in July 2012, the FSC Chair appointed a Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues (FSC.DEL/86/12) who was tasked, among others, to explore ways to update the OSCE 1994 Principles Governing Non-Proliferation as well as to continue to identify and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States in the full implementation of UNSCR 1540.

In line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, the FSC continued to examine ways in which it can assist in the implementation in the OSCE region of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. In order to promote specific activities related to the implementation of the Resolution two Security Dialogue Meetings were organized by the FSC Chair dealing with the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the OSCE region and UNSCR 1325, related resolutions and gender perspectives in relation to military and security operations/missions. In addition, in 2012, the FSC Chair appointed an FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (FSC.DEL/32/12).

Finally, all three FSC Chairmanships in 2012 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, two joint FSC-PC meetings had been held by December 2012 on peacekeeping operations and on transition aspects in Afghanistan to address cross-dimensional issues relevant to the work of both the FSC and the PC.

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

(MC.GAL/10/12 of 5 December 2012)

As Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2012, Ukraine focused on fostering an open and interactive dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners and on following a demand-driven approach to responding to the interests and priorities of the Mediterranean Partners, in line with the Ministerial Council Decision on Partners for Co-operation adopted at Vilnius in 2011. Important steps have been taken by the Chair to strengthen the results-oriented co-operation between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners.

After a number of informal discussions in January and February in close co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat, a list of potential projects and topics of potential co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners was developed and circulated among the participating States and the Partners. The list reflects the OSCE areas of expertise and interests initially expressed by the Partners. To date, it serves as a working tool and is intended to help Mediterranean Partners and participating States to identify concrete activities and to prioritize their implementation. The project ideas listed can be further refined and tailored in accordance with the indications of Mediterranean Partners and potential donors. Notably, the projects can be undertaken by individual Partner States based on their needs and priorities, but may also entail the involvement of a number of interested States, thus promoting regional co-operation.

During the year, the Mediterranean Contact Group in the OSCE remained the key format for political dialogue with full participation of the Partners and the participating States. The rolling schedule of the Contact Group meetings, as well as the agenda of the 2012 Mediterranean Conference, were elaborated in close consultation with the participating States and the Partner countries.

In 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. The Mediterranean Partners actively contributed to the meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group with regular presentations on the situation and developments in their respective countries and region. These presentations contributed to enhancing reciprocal knowledge and allowed for mutually enriching exchanges of information and views on security issues of shared concern. The meetings covered topics in the three dimensions of OSCE security, with presentations by experts from OSCE executive structures, international organizations and academia.

In the first meeting of the Mediterranean Contact Group, held on 17 February 2012, the OSCE Irish Chairmanship presented its priorities and planned activities, emphasizing the valuable experience possessed by the OSCE in many areas which could be of relevance for Partner countries, and noting that the OSCE toolbox was already fully available to the Partners for Co-operation. The OSCE Secretary General stressed the importance of further strengthening the relationship between the OSCE and its Partners as a two-way street and of pursuing practical and results-oriented co-operation, as pledged in the Vilnius MC Decision on the Partners. Participants shared their views on how to best implement the provisions of the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision on Partners for Co-operation and discussed the

prospects for the 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference. The Ambassador of Tunisia, H.E. Samir Koubaa, made a presentation on the ongoing developments and challenges faced by his country in the aftermath of Arab Spring and the subsequent democratic transition.

During the second meeting of the Contact Group, on 16 March 2012, the Irish Chairmanship provided information about the tentative interest of Libya's Deputy Foreign Minister in exploring further the possibility of Libya becoming an OSCE Partner for Co-operation. The meeting focused on the first dimension and featured a presentation by Ambassador Adam Kobieracki, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, followed by a thematic discussion on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, with interventions by Dr. Alexandre Lambert from the School for International Training, Geneva, and Dr. Heinz Vetschera BGen, Academic Lecturer, Peace Support Operations Training Centre, Sarajevo. The Moroccan Ambassador, H.E. Ali El Mhamdi, made a presentation on the developments in Morocco. In addition, a representative of the Secretariat presented the list of potential projects and topics of potential co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, which had originated from the OSCE Secretary General's consultations with Mediterranean Partners on areas for possible stronger practical engagement and had been distributed prior to the meeting under the symbol SEC.GAL/51/12.

The third meeting of the Contact Group was held on 18 May 2012, and focused on the second dimension, with a presentation by Ambassador Makram M. Queisi of Jordan on the organization of the first Workshop on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region. A discussion on the topic of sustainable energy and water management followed, with interventions by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Goran Svilanovic. Mr. Nickolai Denisov, ENVSEC Regional Desk Officer for Eastern Europe, of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, made a presentation on "The Dniester Project: Transboundary water cooperation for Eastern Europe", and Dr. Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Deputy Director of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), intervened to present the results of the "Global Energy Assessment". The OSCE Secretariat provided an update on the progress and feedback received regarding the list of potential projects and topics for potential co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners.

During the fourth meeting, on 20 July 2012, Ambassador of Israel, H.E. Aviv Shir-On, gave a presentation on the current situation in Israel and its region. Also, issues related to the third dimension were discussed. Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, delivered a presentation on "Ongoing Opportunities for Engagement and Co-operation, Engagement in 2012 and Future Activities", reiterating the ODIHR's readiness to offer its support and to continue the dialogue with all the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Presentations were also made by Mr. Damian Gjoknuri, Co-chair of the Special Committee for Electoral Reform of the Albanian Parliament, and Mr. Richard Lappin, ODIHR Election Adviser, to provide some information on the recent OSCE/ODIHR support to the Special Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reform in Albania and the follow-up to the ODIHR election-related recommendations. Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna, informed the participants of the outcomes of the 21st Annual Session of the OSCE PA and the Mediterranean Forum, held on 5 and 6 July in Monaco. The participants also exchanged views on the modalities of the upcoming 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference.

At the fifth meeting, held on 8 October 2012, Ambassador Mohammed Benhocine made a country presentation on developments in Algeria. Also, the participants exchanged views on the preparations for the 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, to take place in Rome on 30 and 31 October. The group was also briefed by representatives of the OSCE Anti-Terrorism Unit about the upcoming events planned by the Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit (TNT/ATU) of potential interest to the Mediterranean Partners.

The last meeting of the year took place on 27 November and provided an opportunity for the 2012 OSCE Irish Chairmanship to brief participants on the preparations for the upcoming Ministerial Council meeting. Ambassador Makram M. Queisi of Jordan made a presentation on economic and social developments in his country. The agenda of the meeting focused on the outcomes of the 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference. The participants exchanged views on the follow-up to the deliberations held in Rome and were briefed by Mr. Reinhard Uhrig, Deputy Head of the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, and Ms. Elena Rigacci Hay, Policy Coordination Officer, Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC Division of Treaty Affairs, on relevant upcoming activities. In particular, representatives of the Action against Terrorism Unit of the TNT Department and UNODC, in their joint presentation, provided an update regarding the workshop being prepared on enhancing counter-terrorism co-operation in the Mediterranean Basin, while implementing the universal legal instruments against terrorism. The representative of Gender Section also discussed with the Partners the potential follow-up to the interest in the topic of women's empowerment that had emerged during the meeting. In conclusion, the participants welcomed the incoming Swiss Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

The annual joint meeting of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups was held on 8 June and focused on the topic "Regional Organizations as Contributors to Comprehensive Security", with interventions by three speakers, Mr. Wolfgang Zellner, of the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, University of Hamburg; Mr. Ettore Greco, Director of the Institute of International Affairs, Rome; and Ambassador Marcel Pesko, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General. 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, in implementation of the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision on the Partners.

Consistent efforts were made by the Ukrainian Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, directed at successful preparation of the annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference, which took place in Rome on 30 and 31 October 2012. Reflecting upon the priorities expressed by Mediterranean Partners in preparation for the event, the agenda of the meeting was focused on one main topic, and one entire day of discussions was dedicated to exchanging views and information on the theme "Economic Co-operation with Mediterranean Partners in the Democratic Transition Processes and Political Reforms". Particular attention was devoted to issues related to economic and social challenges in the Mediterranean Partner countries. The participants discussed how to enhance the economies of Mediterranean Partner countries by applying relevant OSCE best practices, and how to promote dialogue and to develop co-operation on sustainable energy, including renewable energy sources. High-level officials from participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, along with representatives of international organizations and NGOs, contributed to the event, thus enhancing the interactive and productive character of the discussions. The participants also exchanged views and explored avenues for potential

co-operation on the topics in which the OSCE had experience, in connection with addressing transnational threats to security and enhancing the participation of women in political and public life.

The distinctive feature of the 2012 Mediterranean Conference was an open and interactive exchange of views, which contributed to better understanding of the nature of the assistance that can be provided by the OSCE to support the national reform agendas in the Partner States. The discussions testified to the participating States' and Partners' expectation that more focused and strategic approaches would be adopted, and that the partnership would gradually be made more operational through implementation of concrete projects, particularly in the area of economic and social development. Participants from the OSCE participating States and countries of the Mediterranean region introduced many ideas that could enhance co-operation and an exchange of best practices. Specific proposals of particular interest related to setting up a Track II focal point that would promote establishment of an academic network with the Mediterranean region; to holding a seminar on combating human trafficking, in view of the implications of this crime for the Mediterranean Partners; and to conducting an expert workshop on sustainable energy to share good practices and seek possible avenues for the way forward.

An important task for all the participating States and the Partners should be to establish an effective connection between the discussions which took place at the Conference and the activities pursued in the course of work as its follow-up in 2013. In its capacity as holder of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2013, Ukraine will continue to promote action-oriented activities, also in relation to the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

The 2012 Ukrainian 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. Ukraine will continue to support and promote an effective and productive Mediterranean Partnership, in terms of both political dialogue and practical co-operation.

REPORT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE OSCE
ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION TO THE NINETEENTH
MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
(MC.GAL/9/12 of 4 December 2012)

The adoption in Vilnius in December 2011 of the three Ministerial Council decisions on the Partners for Co-operation, on strengthening OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, and on the application of Mongolia to become a participating State underscored the great importance placed on the OSCE Partnerships and gave fresh impetus to a further pursuit of the co-operation with the Partners.

The 2012 Lithuanian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group assisted the Irish OSCE Chairmanship in implementing those decisions, focused on continuing the OSCE's dialogue with its Asian Partners for Co-operation, on furthering practical co-operation and on exchanging views regarding the Eurasian, Euro-Atlantic and Asia-Pacific security architectures. The Asian Contact Group meetings continued to play an important role in facilitating the interaction between the OSCE and the Asian Partners. The six meetings of the Asian Contact Group in 2012 provided an opportunity to further the OSCE's dialogue with the Asian Partners.

At the first meeting of the Asian Contact Group, held on 20 January 2012, the Irish Chairmanship presented its priorities for the year and outlined planned activities that were of particular relevance to the Asian Partners. Participants shared their views on how to best implement the provisions of the Vilnius Ministerial Council decisions on Partners for Co-operation and on strengthening OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. The Ambassador of Mongolia, Dr. Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan, made a presentation, highlighting areas where his country could work with the OSCE because the Organization's cross-dimensional approach fully echoed Mongolia's line on security. Regarding its application for participating State status, Ambassador Enkhsaikhan noted that that was in compliance with Mongolia's "third neighbour" policy in foreign relations.

During the second meeting, held on 2 March, a presentation was made by the Ambassador of Japan, Shigeo Iwatani, on the current security situation in the East Asia region, and the contribution of his country to Asian and European security, followed by a discussion on regional security and potential threats emanating from both natural disasters and politico-military tensions. The Group discussed the 2012 OSCE-Asian Conference, which had taken place on 13 and 14 February in Chiang Mai. The participants commended Thailand for successfully hosting the event and discussed the outcomes of the Conference. The Secretariat updated the Group on the second package of projects related to Afghanistan and pointed out that funding was needed for the implementation of the projects.

The third meeting of the Contact Group, held on 27 April, focused on counter-narcotics activities and related regional co-operation. The Ambassador of Afghanistan, Abdul M. Shoogufan, made a presentation on counter-narcotics action and the importance of regional co-operation. He called attention to extensive regional co-operation initiatives that had been undertaken by Afghanistan, its neighbours and the international community. UNODC representative Ms. Smera Rehman, Associate Officer at the Regional Section for West and Central Asia, presented the UNODC regional programme for promoting

counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, which aimed at enhancing the counter-narcotics capacities across the Central Asian region.

At its fourth meeting, held on 29 June 2012, the Asian Contact Group welcomed the presentation by Ms. Paik Ji-ah, Director-General, International Organizations Bureau, Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on multilateral security and co-operation in Northeast Asia, referring in particular to the Korea-Japan-China trilateral co-operation. Ambassador Çınar Aldemir, Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), made a presentation on the new threats and challenges faced by Asian countries. The Group was also briefed by a representative of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre on the work of the Organization in Central Asia.

During the fifth meeting, held on 21 September, a thematic discussion on the activities of the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation aimed at combating trafficking in human beings took place, with expert presentations by Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and Ms. Francesca Friz-Prguda, Head of the UNHCR Liaison Office to the OSCE and Vienna-based UN Agencies. Mr. Vafa Ghazavi, representative of the Australian Delegation to the OSCE, presented an overview of the human trafficking issue in the region and the measures being taken by the Australian Government to tackle the phenomenon. All the speakers stressed the importance of co-ordinated national, regional and international efforts and the need to adopt a gender-sensitive approach.

With the adoption through a silence procedure on 21 November of the Ministerial Council decision on the accession of Mongolia to the OSCE, the promise of Vilnius was fulfilled, and Mongolia joined the Organization as the fifty-seventh participating State, in which capacity it continued to contribute to the objectives and activities of the Asian Contact Group.

During the sixth and last meeting of the Asian Contact Group in 2012, held on 23 November, the Ambassador of Thailand, Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, made a presentation on integrated global crime and justice policies for the rule of law and development. Dr. Frances Mautner-Markhof, Director of the Austrian Center for International Studies (ACIS), reported on the outcome of the ACIS seminar that had been held on 13 and 14 November 2012 on the process of regional security co-operation in Northeast Asia and the importance of the OSCE's experience. The meeting was also the first Contact Group meeting attended by Mongolia, not as a Partner for Co-operation but as the newest OSCE participating State, and Ambassador Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan was warmly welcomed by the participants in his new role.

The annual joint meeting of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups on 8 June focused on regional organizations as contributors to comprehensive security, with interventions by three speakers: Mr. Wolfgang Zellner, Head of the Centre for OSCE Research at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, University of Hamburg; Mr. Ettore Greco, Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (Italy); and Ambassador Marcel Peško, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General. 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, in implementation of the Vilnius Ministerial Council decisions on the Partners.

The 2012 OSCE-Thailand Conference on “Strengthening Security through Regional Co-operation: the OSCE Comprehensive Approach and Experiences of Asian Partners for Co-operation” was held in Chiang Mai on 13 and 14 February. The discussion focused on enhancing regional security through confidence- and security-building measures; promoting sustainable transport and energy security; and protecting and promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law at the national and regional levels. The Conference was marked by open and frank discussions and active participation by representatives of the Asian Partners for Co-operation; OSCE participating States; other Asian States; international organizations in the region, including the Secretary-General of ASEAN; and academia.

During the Conference, a Workshop on Promoting Security through a Comprehensive Approach to Development in Border Areas – a Capacity-Building Programme According to Thai Experiences was launched for a group of Afghan experts. As a follow-up to the 2010 Workshop on “Combating Illicit Crop Cultivation and Enhancing Border Security and Management: Thailand as a Case Study”, the Workshop in 2012 afforded experts the possibility of exchanging best practices and benefiting from Thailand’s experience in addressing the threats deriving from illicit crop cultivation in border areas through projects supporting a human-centred, inclusive and sustainable development. This event provided opportunities for sharing the OSCE’s expertise on countering transnational threats, with a special focus on officials from Afghanistan and Central Asia, and on strengthening co-operation between the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation, and provided an excellent example of Partner-to-Partner co-operation under the auspices of the OSCE.

Throughout the year, the Chair of the OSCE Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation assisted the Irish OSCE Chairmanship in elaborating the second package of capacity-building and support projects addressed to our Partner for Co-operation Afghanistan. As a result, 9 out of 32 project ideas were prioritized, and sufficient support by the participating States was mobilized for three of the new projects to enter the implementation phase.

In the framework of the OSCE Partnership Fund, Afghan diplomats took part in the training programme “Afghanistan capacity-building: strengthening the diplomatic service”, held from 15 to 28 April 2012 in Ulaanbaatar. The aim of this event was to increase the capacity of young Afghan diplomats to address the multitude of regional issues facing their country and to enable them to benefit from the experience of Mongolia in democratic transition, while familiarizing them with the activities, values, and commitments of the OSCE. The participants were thus exposed to a wide range of topics relevant to their country, including the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, approaches to combating terrorism and extremism, as well as international law and the role of international organizations.

The Partnership Fund also made it possible to hold a high-level expert seminar on co-operation for security and development in Northeast Asia and the OSCE’s experience, which was jointly organized by the Irish OSCE Chairmanship, the Austrian Centre for International Studies and the Lithuanian Chair of the OSCE Asian Contact Group on 13 and 14 November. The discussions focused on measures to advance the process of multilateral co-operation for security and development in Northeast Asia; the OSCE’s experience relevant to multilateral security co-operation in Northeast Asia; confidence- and security-building measures for the prevention and reduction of risks and conflicts, and for the achievement of

stability, security and co-operation in Northeast Asia; and means of furthering the peace process on the Korean peninsula.

The 2012 Lithuanian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group expresses its sincere gratitude to the Asian Partners for Co-operation, participating States and OSCE Secretariat for their unstinting support in making the OSCE Partnership a useful platform for an open dialogue and exchange of information, as well as in promoting a result-oriented co-operation and mutually enriching exchanges of experiences.

**REPORT ON
THE MEETING BETWEEN THE OSCE TROIKA
AND THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION
AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**
(MC.GAL/16/12 of 17 December 2012)

The annual meeting between the OSCE Ministerial Troika and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, with the participation of the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, took place on 7 December 2012, on the margins of the Dublin Ministerial Council meeting. The meeting was chaired by Joe Costello, Minister of State of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland.

Minister of State Joe Costello opened the meeting by noting Ireland's commitment during its Chairmanship to deepening the OSCE's engagement with the Partners, including by encouraging the three committee chairpersons to invite Partners to relevant meetings. He also noted the Partners' active participation in the 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference. A key element in the Conference's success had been the prominent role of the Partners in shaping the agenda and the scope of the discussions. He commended and supported the Secretary General's efforts to enhance the dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners, both through informal consultations and through high-level meetings, with a view to identifying areas for initiating concrete co-operation activities, and he encouraged Partners to formally express their interest in further engagement with the OSCE. In conclusion, he noted that the Helsinki+40 process afforded an important opportunity for the OSCE to adopt a more strategic approach, an essential element of which should be a stronger Partnership.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier gave a briefing about his engagement in promoting more practical co-operation as well as high-level political dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners. He provided information about projects to be implemented in early 2013 on the fight against terrorism, the combating of human trafficking and sustainable energy, and stressed the importance of involving the Mediterranean Partners in the Helsinki+40 process.

Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk, the Ukrainian Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, stated that interaction with the Mediterranean Partners had been intensive and results-oriented in 2012. Ukraine's main focus had been on enhancement of political dialogue and exchanges of experiences as well as practical co-operation. Meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group had been marked by interesting presentations by most Partners and interaction with experts from the OSCE and other international organizations. Ukraine supported the upcoming initiatives in the areas of the combating of human trafficking, the fight against terrorism and sustainable energy. The interest expressed by Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria in enhancing their co-operation with the Organization was particularly encouraging. The 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference had been particularly successful in forging a better understanding of the nature of the OSCE's assistance to its Partners.

The Secretary of State in charge of European Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Touhami Abdouli, assessed positively the OSCE's goals and its tailored approach to relations with the Partners. He stated that the OSCE had a vital role to play in assisting democratization processes, especially with regard to elections. He strongly

advocated greater involvement of civil society and suggested creating an action plan to that end.

Ambassador of Israel Aviv Shir-On stated his country's interest in enhancing co-operation with the OSCE and with the group of Partners, and its readiness to do so. He noted that the OSCE was rooted in the promotion of dialogue despite political differences, and that constituted a useful example in the Middle East context.

Ambassador of Morocco Ali El Mhamd appreciated the promotion of informal dialogue and concrete co-operation initiatives by the Secretary General. Morocco looked forward to contributing to the Helsinki+40 process and to developing further practical co-operation, including on Track II initiatives. He further mentioned that a mechanism to ensure follow-up to the outcomes of the Mediterranean Conferences would be needed.

Ambassador of Jordan Makram M. Queisi stressed the importance of practical co-operation and stated Jordan's readiness to co-operate across the three dimensions of security. He announced that Jordan would elaborate a proposal for co-operation on inter-cultural and religious dialogue.

Ambassador of Algeria Mohamed Benhocine briefed the meeting about Algeria's concern regarding the security threats stemming from the situation in Mali. He supported a more intensive engagement of the Partners in the Helsinki+40 process. Algeria would welcome a positive response by the OSCE participating States to the application for Partnership submitted by the Palestinian National Authority. Algeria was ready to participate in the upcoming regional initiatives on the fight against terrorism, the combating of human trafficking and sustainable energy and was interested in pursuing closer co-operation with the OSCE on responding to transnational threats.

Ambassador of Egypt Khaled Shamaa stated that co-operation could be usefully expanded to areas related to social development and the empowerment of civil society, including women. He supported the upcoming regional workshop on sustainable energy, noting that the OSCE could serve as a platform for dialogue and co-operation in that field. Egypt also supported the inclusion of the Palestinian National Authority in the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership.

Ambassador Heidi Grau, Head of the Swiss Task Force and incoming Chairperson of the Mediterranean Contact Group, said that she appreciated the positive new impetus within the Mediterranean Group. She stated Switzerland's determination to promote regional and bilateral co-operation in the region as well as high-level political dialogue. Switzerland would promote a practical and results-oriented working method based on dialogue. It also hoped to consolidate the partnership with civil society and with other international organizations in strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, including with the League of Arab States and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Areas of co-operation of particular relevance for Switzerland included the fight against terrorism, transnational threats, border management, migration, the fight against trafficking in human beings, democratic elections, and people's empowerment.

Mr. Gustavo Pallares, Deputy Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, noted the importance attributed by parliamentarians to the Mediterranean dimension. He commended the deep and broad interaction, including also with the Palestinian

National Authority and Libya, at the 2012 Mediterranean Forum. He expected that interaction to continue at the next Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly, which was to take place in 2013 in Istanbul.

Ambassador of Lithuania Giedrius Čekuolis concluded by praising the progress being made towards a more results-oriented co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners.

**REPORT ON
THE MEETING BETWEEN THE OSCE TROIKA
AND THE ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION
AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**
(MC.GAL/17/12 of 17 December 2012)

The annual meeting between the OSCE Ministerial Troika and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, with the participation of the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, took place on 7 December 2012, on the margins of the Dublin Ministerial Council meeting. The meeting was chaired by Joe Costello, Minister of State of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland.

In opening the meeting, Minister of State Joe Costello noted that, during its Chairmanship, Ireland had worked towards enhancing the Partners' involvement in the OSCE's meetings and activities. He praised the Asian Partners' contributions to the OSCE's work and further described the Asian Partnership as a mutually beneficial process for exchanges of views on issues of common interest and for practical co-operation in addressing shared security challenges.

Representing the Chairperson of the Asian Contact Group, Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Evaldas Ignatavičius expressed appreciation of the work done by the Group throughout the year. The Contact Group meetings provided opportunities for briefings by and exchanges with representatives of international organizations, NGOs and OSCE experts. Contributing to a more secure Afghanistan constituted a priority for Lithuania, and the projects initiated by Mongolia, for training Afghan diplomats; and Thailand, for sharing their approach to countering drugs production with alternative and sustainable development initiatives, were greatly appreciated.

Ambassador of Australia David Stuart noted that his country supported a number of OSCE projects and planned to continue contributing to the work of the Organization, the values of which Australia shared. Australia appreciated in particular the OSCE's innovative approach as well as its co-operation with civil society and believed that the Organization could be a source of inspiration for other regions, especially with reference to regional security arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region. He also provided more information about Australia's offer to host the 2013 OSCE Conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, which would focus on gender issues.

Mr. Kazuya Shimba, Japanese Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that Japan's contribution to the OSCE was based on two main pillars: active participation in OSCE meetings and financial support to projects, especially related to Central Asia and Afghanistan. The OSCE's experience was considered of significance in building a multilateral security framework in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Cho Hyun said that his country had long considered how best to apply the OSCE's multilateral approach to security to Northeast Asia and the six-party talks. The experience of Mongolia, a Partner which had become an OSCE participating State, suggested the possibility that the same path could be followed. That would have an effective impact if other actors would consider it too. Korea was very satisfied

with the level of its co-operation with the OSCE, especially on addressing non-traditional security threats and soft security issues.

Mr. Sarun Charoensuwan, Director-General of the Department of European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, stated his Government's continued support for co-operation with the OSCE and in particular with Afghanistan. As Europe and Asia faced common challenges and their security was interdependent, they were natural partners. Thailand would support a strengthening of co-operation between the OSCE and ASEAN; in particular, it would encourage closer networking with the ASEAN Regional Forum. Thailand would be ready to serve as a bridge-builder in that respect. It also considered the OSCE's work in the human dimension to be of great importance and hoped that co-operation in that field would be intensified.

Ambassador of Ukraine Ihor Prokopchuk, representing the incoming 2013 OSCE Ukrainian Chairmanship, said that he looked forward to enhancing co-operation with the Asian Partners, both in Vienna and in their capitals, in order to fully implement the Vilnius Ministerial Council decision on the Partners.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier expressed his satisfaction with the positive assessments made of the Asian Partnership. Encouraging developments in 2012 included the informal exchanges that had taken place in Vienna between the Secretary General and the Partners and the intensification of Partner-to-Partner co-operation. He also briefed the meeting about the progress being made on the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan. He supported an even stronger engagement of the Partners in the OSCE dialogue, including in the Helsinki+40 process on the future agenda and vision of the OSCE role, and an expansion of the dialogue to include civil society through wide Track II initiatives.

All the participants expressed appreciation of the successful 2012 OSCE-Thailand Conference and thanked Australia for offering to host the 2013 OSCE Conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation. They also thanked the Secretary General for initiating a process of informal consultations with the Partners, in implementation of Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11. The admission of Mongolia as a new OSCE participating State was welcomed as a sign of the continued relevance of the Organization.

In concluding, Minister of State Joe Costello noted that the Asian Partnership was widely considered to be mutually beneficial and that the Helsinki+40 process could be expected to promote that relationship.