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

Your Excellency,

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

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

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

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

The strategic discussion during the Security Dialogue emphasized the FSC's importance as a platform to address and discuss security issues. Specifically, an active dialogue took place on matters related to topical European security issues, including, *inter alia*, arms control and CSBMs, particularly the Vienna Document, Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of

Conventional Ammunition, the Arms Trade Treaty, Military Doctrines, UN Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000).

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

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

Annexes:

- FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence and security-building measures (Annex I)
- FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on efforts to improve further the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Annex II)
- FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Annex III)
- FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Annex IV)
- FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on efforts to support non-proliferation, implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 in the OSCE region (Annex V)
- FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on efforts to support implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in the OSCE region (Annex VI)



**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT
TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS
AND CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES**



December 2015, Belgrade

Original: ENGLISH

Table of Contents

1. Introduction and objective	3
2. Efforts by the FSC since the Basel Ministerial Council meeting	3
2.1 Decisions adopted.....	3
2.2 Heads of Verification Centres meeting	3
2.3 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.....	3
2.4 Annual Security Review Conference	4
2.5 Security Dialogues.....	4
2.6 Proposals of participating States for the Vienna Document.....	5
3. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation in 2014– 2015	5
3.1 Information Exchanges.....	6
3.2 Verification activities under Chapter IX and X of the Vienna Document.....	6
3.3 Activation of Chapter III “Risk Reduction”	6
3.4 OSCE Communications Network.....	6
4. Other activities and regional initiatives	7
5. Conclusion	8

1. Introduction and objective

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

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

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

2.1 Decisions adopted

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

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

2.2 Heads of Verification Centres meeting

In December 2014, the eighth HoV meeting was held in accordance with FSC Decision No. 4/14. The one-day meeting served for the exchange of experiences and information on technical aspects of implementation. The meeting featured two working sessions on multinational cooperation in verification, and another on how to sustain and reinforce transparency and compliance with the Vienna Document in both the spirit and the letter. The outcomes were reported on at the 2015 AIAM by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), which chaired the HoV.³

2.3 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) was held in March 2015. It provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions, and assess the state of implementation of the Vienna Document. The following subjects were discussed: clarification of questions arising from such implementation; the implications of all information originating from the implementation of any agreed measures for the process of confidence-

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

² FSC.GAL/14/15

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

and security-building in the framework of the OSCE; and suggestions aiming at improvement of the implementation of CSBMs. At the meeting, more than 45 suggestions were made on ways of further improving the implementation of agreed CSBMs.⁴

2.4 Annual Security Review Conference

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

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

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

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

at the same time that the Vienna Document should be implemented in good faith.

2.5 Security Dialogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

Institute for International and Security Affairs.

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

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

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

2.6 Proposals of participating States for the Vienna Document

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

- Information on command organization and combat units;
- Information on locations of headquarters of attached subunits at battalion level or the equivalent;
- Information on military training establishments and military repair or maintenance facilities;
- Information on military transport aviation units;
- Information on land forces and air forces deployed outside the national territory;
- The notification of permanent changes in the command organization;
- Information on naval forces;
- Risk Reduction Mechanism for Consultation and Co-operation regarding activities of military forces giving grounds for supposing preparations for offensive military operations;
- The creation of OSCE inspections for clarification of military activities giving rise to concern;
- Timelines for the demonstrations of major weapon and equipment systems;
- The lowering of thresholds for prior notifications;
- The notification of deployment of multinational rapid-reaction forces;
- The notification of large-scale military transits;
- The goal of inspections;
- Enhancement of the inspection quotas;
- The definition of *force majeure*;
- The scale of the specified area for inspections;
- The beginning of an inspection;
- The duration of inspections and evaluation visits;
- Financial responsibility for inspections and for evaluation visits;
- Enhancement of the size of inspection teams and evaluation visit teams;
- Devices used during inspections and evaluation visits;
- Enhancement of the quotas for evaluation visits;
- The definition of adjoining sea areas;
- Establishing an informal group of experts entitled “Friends of VD Chapter III”.

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

During the reporting period, the OSCE participating States continued to implement the commitments contained in the Vienna Document 2011. The CPC maintained records of exchanges of information taking place as part of those commitments. They are regularly reflected in the CPC

Monthly Reports and the CPC Quarterly and Annual Surveys on CSBM Information Exchanged.

3.1 Information Exchanges

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

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

3.2 Verification activities under Chapter IX and X of the Vienna Document

During the reporting period, 97 inspections and 41 evaluation visits, as well as 22 regional inspections and 32 regional evaluation visits, have been conducted under Chapter IX and Chapter X of the Vienna Document.

With regard to the situation in Ukraine, 20 verification activities were conducted in Ukraine during the reporting period (3 inspections, 9 regional inspections, 2 evaluation visits and 6 regional evaluation visits). In addition, 6 verification activities were conducted in the Russian Federation (3 inspections, 2 evaluation visits and 1 regional evaluation visit). Since the beginning of the crisis in and around Ukraine, 26 States have decided to send military inspectors and observers in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011, overall conducting 36 verification activities in Ukraine, and 15 States have conducted a total of 12 verification activities in the Russian Federation. This attests to continued trend to increasingly use the Vienna Document Chapter X on regional measures.

3.3 Activation of Chapter III “Risk Reduction”

In 2015, the Mechanism for Consultation and Co-operation as regarding unusual Military Activities under the Vienna Document’s Chapter III was invoked five times. All instances related to the situation in Ukraine.

3.4 OSCE Communications Network

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

user station (EUS) connectivity on the Network remains very high, with the availability of 36 participating States being 99 per cent of the time, and the overall availability of EUSs connected to the Network exceeding 98 per cent.

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

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

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

4. Other activities and regional initiatives

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek has facilitated communication between the Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence and the OSCE Communication Network for several years.

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

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

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

In May 2015, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organized a five-day training course on reciprocal inspection procedures under the Vienna Document for 19 officials from

the Ministry of Defence of Turkmenistan. Experts from the Belarusian Ministry of Defence shared experiences in implementing international commitments in the area of arms control and presented the main provisions of the 2011 Vienna Document.

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

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

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

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

5. Conclusion

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

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

The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation demonstrated to be a useful platform for discussing politico-military security concerns, thus valuably complementing the OSCE Permanent Council. It served also as a forum for participating States to clarify their positions and to bring new issues to the agenda. The participating States have been able to decide a high-

level agenda for the coming year, with the adoption of the decisions for the 2016 High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar and the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.

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

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

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

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

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



**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT
TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FURTHER THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**



December 2015, Belgrade

Original: ENGLISH

Table of Contents

1. Introduction and Objective	3
2. Efforts by the FSC	3
3. Information Exchange.....	5
4. Awareness-raising and Outreach.....	5
5. Conclusions.....	10

1. Introduction and objective

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

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

2. Efforts by the FSC

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

In January 2015, three participating States decided to co-sponsor a food-for-thought paper on voluntary additional information sharing on private military and security companies (PMSCs) as part of the annual Information Exchange on the Code of

Conduct.² This was in response to the call of several participating States for voluntary information exchanges on PMSCs to strengthen confidence and security building in this area, since such companies may provide services that fall under the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

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

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

The event brought together more than 50 high-level participants from 17 States who discussed the role of armed and security forces in democratic societies, challenges related to security sector governance, the respect of international humanitarian law by armed forces, and the importance of

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

² FSC.DEL/2/15/Rev.1

³ FSC.DEL/29/15

parliamentary oversight and civilian control of the security sector. Following the positive experiences of the conference in Malta for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in 2013, this was the first outreach event that included the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

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

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

The fourth Annual Implementation Discussion provided an opportunity for experts from delegations and capitals to discuss how to better promote and improve implementation, including the annual information exchange; to undertake an evaluation of the Code; and to examine its ap-

plication in the context of the existing political and military situation.

During the meeting, several proposals were made on the development and implementation of the Code of Conduct. The suggestions included: continuing further outreach activities; conducting qualitative assessments and analysis of the information exchanged; continuing and enhancing voluntary reporting on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and PMSCs; considering the inclusion of reporting on the use of new equipment and its relevance to international humanitarian law; strengthening the reminding mechanisms to ensure reporting on an even higher level; and exploring further ways of improving implementation. A survey of the suggestions made was prepared following the meeting.⁴

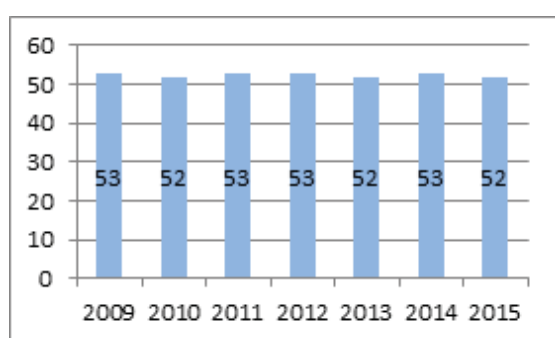
On 28 October 2015, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on the OSCE Code of Conduct entitled "Actors promoting democratic control of the armed forces – the role of ombuds institutions". Dr. Hans Born, Deputy Head of the Research Division, DCAF, and Mr. Roald Linaker, Ombudsman for the Armed Forces of Norway,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

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

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

3. Information exchange

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



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

A statistical report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was prepared by the CPC in July 2015.⁶ In accordance with FSC Decision No. 12/11, this report was based on the 2015 annual Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct and was limited to the provision of statistical data related to implementation. Common practices were highlighted in general terms only, and the report did not enter into comparisons of national policies or provide any assessment of implementation.

⁵ <http://www.osce.org/fsc/86841>

⁶ FSC.GAL/80/15

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

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

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

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

4. Awareness-raising and outreach

At a side event during the 2014 Ministerial Council in Basel, the Swiss Chairmanship launched a commemorative study⁷ on the history, development, achievements and outreach of the Code of Conduct over the past 20 years since its adoption in Budapest in 1994. The publication contains

⁷ The study is available at

<http://www.osce.org/cio/128961>

forewords by the 2014 Chairperson-in-Office, Didier Burkhalter, and OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, as well as contributions by experts from participating States, the CPC and academia.

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

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

In 2015 the **CPC** continued its activities in promoting and improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct across the OSCE area. In its Decision No. 1/08 on awareness-raising and outreach of the Code of Conduct, the FSC requested the OSCE Secretariat to organize, in cooperation with other international organizations or with participating States, at least one specialized seminar or workshop a year in order to facilitate better implementation, to promote awareness and to sup-

port outreach of the Code of Conduct. It also encouraged participating States to contribute extra-budgetary funds to make such events possible, and called upon the FSC Chairperson to engage the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

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

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

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

for implementing the corresponding provisions of the Code of Conduct.

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

During the reporting period, the **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly** (PA) continued to make a valuable contribution in connection with the Code of Conduct, reflecting its unequivocal support for the Code of Conduct as also demonstrated by a number of pertinent declarations and resolutions adopted by the PA over the past few years.

At its Annual Session in Helsinki in July 2015, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution on “OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Awareness-raising, dissemination, better implementation and outreach”. In this resolution, the PA calls upon OSCE participating States and OSCE executive structures to bolster the Code of Conduct as a fundamental principle of security sector governance and reform. It also encour-

ages participating States to support awareness-raising and dissemination of the Code in the whole OSCE area through workshops and seminars and to continue periodic discussions on better implementation and outreach. Furthermore, the PA declares its strong commitment to foster the implementation of the Code in all its aspects and to remain involved in discussions and activities of the participating States and in activities of OSCE executive structures related to the Code.

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

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

In 2015, the **OSCE Presence in Albania** undertook a comparative review of Albania’s Code of Conduct submissions. This

⁸ Civil and Political Rights of Armed Forces Personnel:

www.osce.org/odihr/135696?download=true

Conditions of Service and the Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces:

www.osce.org/odihr/150286?download=true

review resulted in a one-day workshop held in Tirana on 10 February 2015. The workshop was run by an international expert identified by the CPC and was aimed at familiarizing local drafters of the replies to the Code of Conduct questionnaire with best reporting practices.

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

The Office continued to provide comprehensive support in ensuring effective protection of human rights in the armed forces, as well as ensuring the open and transparent activities of military institutions. A wide range of activities, implemented with the MoD within the framework of the Cooperation Plan for 2014, have had a tangible positive impact on the human rights situation in the army and have resulted in improved professional civilian control over the armed forces. According to official statistics, the number of accidents and violations of human rights in the armed forces has decreased. In particular, the number of cases of death due to the violation of rules has decreased by 50% according to the MoD.

In 2015, the Office provided comprehensive support to the Parliamentary Committee on Defence, National Security and In-

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

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

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

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

various associations, and educational institutions. Participants were of the opinion that there should be more information about the Code in the media and concepts for additional educational programmes on the Code of Conduct and democratic oversight should be considered.

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

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

Therefore, the three objectives of the 7th Review Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina's compliance with OSCE and United Nations security commitments in the politico-military field were achieved and the Conference produced 23 recommendations and proposals for future progress to be implemented in 2015 and beyond.

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

It was assessed that the analyses conducted during the workshop on the OSCE ques-

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

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

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

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

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

Serbia, as the 2015 OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, organized, an OSCE-wide Conference on Security Sector Governance and Reform in Belgrade on 21 April 2015. The **OSCE Mission to Serbia** assisted in the organization of this conference. The main goal was to raise awareness about the ongoing efforts of the OSCE in the area of SSG/R among participating States, the OSCE executive structures and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, international partners, in particular United Nations agencies and European Union and regional actors, as well as civil society and academia. The Mission related this activity to its overall efforts in raising awareness and strengthening the implementation of the Code of Conduct and its provisions with regard to the democratic control of armed and security forces.

5. Conclusions

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

and highlighted the comparative value of the Code of Conduct beyond as well as within the OSCE area.

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

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

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

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

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

Based on the increased co-operation and the continued interest of the Parliamentary Assembly in the Code of Conduct, the focus in 2016 in terms of awareness-raising and outreach will be on parliaments and their invaluable role in the democratic control of armed and security forces. A dedicated OSCE-wide event in Berlin is envisaged in the first half of next year. At the same time, further avenues regarding outreach to interested Partners for Co-operation will be explored. Furthermore, several options for improving implementation and extending reporting on the Code of Conduct among the participating States are planned. These activities will be complemented by several Security Dialogues dedicated to the Code of Conduct. Finally, the fifth Annual Implementation Discussion will again provide a great opportunity for reviewing the status of the Code of Conduct and for making constructive proposals on how to strengthen its implementation.



**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT
TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
OSCE DOCUMENT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**



December 2015, Belgrade

Original: ENGLISH

Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, in line with its mandate, the OSCE Secretariat further enhanced its co-operation with other international organizations dealing with SALW-related issues. Formal co-operation agreements have been established to mainstream and enhance co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the Joint Action Plan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Memorandum of Understanding.

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
2. OBJECTIVES	5
3. IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT IN RESPECT OF THE OSCE DOCUMENTS ON SALW AND SCA.....	5
4. NORMATIVE ASPECTS	6
4.1 PROPOSALS ON SALW	6
4.2 INFORMAL GROUP OF FRIENDS ON SALW	6
5. IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING COMMITMENTS.....	6
5.1 INFORMATION EXCHANGES ON SALW	6
5.1.1 <i>One-off information exchanges</i>	7
5.1.2 <i>Annual information exchanges</i>	8
6. PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE ON SALW	8
6.1 OVERVIEW	8
6.2 NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION BODIES	8
6.3 WORKSHOP ON PHYSICAL SECURITY AND STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT ON SALW IN ARMENIA.....	8
6.4 INVENTORY APPLICATION SOFTWARE ON SALW	9
6.5 PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.....	9
6.5.1 <i>Republic of Belarus</i>	9
7. OUTREACH AND CO-OPERATION.....	9
7.1 PARTNERSHIP AND CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	9
7.1.1 <i>Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP</i>	9
7.1.2 <i>Joint Action Plan with the UNODC</i>	10
7.1.3 <i>Memorandum of Understanding with UNODA</i>	11
7.2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE	11
7.2.1 <i>Co-operation and information exchange with other international organizations</i>	12
7.3 OUTREACH TO PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION	12
7.3.1 <i>Conference on Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region through Information Sharing and Co-operation, Monaco, 1-2 June 2015</i>	13
8. CONCLUSIONS	13
8.1 NORMATIVE WORK ON SALW	13
8.2 PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE ON SALW	14
8.3 THE FUTURE SALW WORK OF THE FSC	14
9. ANNEXES	15
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	16
ANNEX B: OVERVIEW OF THE ANNUAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON: EXPORT-IMPORT OF SALW, SURPLUS SALW AND/OR SALW SEIZED AND DESTROYED	18
ANNEX C: DESTRUCTION OF SALW IN THE OSCE AREA	19
ANNEX D: MEETINGS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ON SALW ORGANIZED BY THE OSCE FROM NOVEMBER 2014 TO NOVEMBER 2015	20
ANNEX E: PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS ORGANIZED BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND IN JOINTLY ORGANIZED EVENTS	21

1. Introduction

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

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

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

2. Objectives

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

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

In order to facilitate the implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), an Implementation Assessment Meeting was organized on 14-15 July 2015 in accordance with FSC Decision No. 2/15. The meeting brought together over a hundred national officials and representatives of international organizations. The meeting aimed to assess how well the relevant OSCE commitments were being implemented at the national level. The meeting's participants also discussed the effectiveness and efficiency of practical assistance provided by the OSCE in the areas of SALW and SCA. Finally, the issue of how future OSCE action could best complement international efforts without duplicating them was examined, and the OSCE contribution to the United Nations SALW process

and the way forward were also discussed. It was proposed that assessment meetings should be held every two years to review the existing challenges and jointly seek relevant solutions.

4. Normative aspects

The OSCE Document on SALW establishes the OSCE normative base for the development and implementation of national legislation, rules and procedures. The review of these norms and the development of supplementary and/or complementary decisions by the FSC constitute a core part of the FSC's regular work, which in 2014 centred on the following issues.

4.1 Proposals on SALW

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

4.2 Informal Group of Friends on SALW

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

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

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

- Record-keeping;
- Making the results of information exchanges public;
- Export controls;
- Status of personnel during assessment visits;
- Expanding the assistance mechanism to Partners for Co-operation;
- Introducing best-practice guidelines on subsequent transfer (re-export) controls for SALW;
- System for the control of maritime trafficking in SALW.

5. Implementation of existing commitments

5.1 Information exchanges on SALW

The OSCE Document on SALW commits the participating States to a number of standards which, if fully implemented, will assist States in their efforts to abide by many of the paragraphs on national implementation in the United Nations Programme of

Action on SALW. Among other things, the Document on SALW established a mechanism consisting of transparency measures aimed at raising confidence and security and at further promoting trust among OSCE participating States.

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

OSCE information exchanges relevant to SALW transfer controls include:

- Information exchange on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/13/97 and FSC.DEC/8/98);
- Questionnaire on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/20/95);
- Information exchange on small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year (FSC.DOC/01/00, Section III, (F)1).

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

- Information exchange on national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/01/00, Section II, (D)1);

- Information exchange on national procedures for the control of manufacture of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/01/00, Section II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national legislation and current practice in small arms export policy, procedures, documentation, and brokering controls (FSC.DOC/01/00, Section III, (F)2).

5.1.1 One-off information exchanges

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

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

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

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

In March 2011, the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) issued a revised template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11), with the suggested start date for reporting being

30 June 2011, in accordance with the deadline for reporting updated in the OSCE Document on SALW. By 13 November 2015, 13 participating States had provided updated inputs to the one-off information exchange on SALW in the new format.

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

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

5.1.2 Annual information exchanges

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

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

6. Practical assistance on SALW

6.1 Overview

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

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

6.2 National co-ordination bodies

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

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

As a concrete follow-up on the recommendations provided by the CPC on the results of the SALW Roundtable held in Yerevan in 2014, and at the request of Armenia, the government of Armenia and the CPC, supported by the OSCE Office in Yerevan, organized a workshop seminar on physical security and stockpile management of SALW in Yerevan from 6 to 8 October 2015.

During the three-day event, experts from participating States as well as from other international organizations presented best international and national practices and discussed voluntary SALW and conventional ammunition guidelines and standards elaborated at the United Nations. Subsequently, Armenia presented its national experience with regard to safe and secure storage of SALW and conventional ammunition. The presentations were followed by a visit to two ammunition storage sites belonging to the Ministry of Defence of Armenia. In the course of discussion following the visit, technical experts discussed concrete measures that could be implemented in order to alleviate the humanitarian and proliferation threat as well as to ensure the implementation of commitments on SALW and SCA by Armenia as regards safe and secure storage of ammunition. In particular, follow-up activities that could be undertaken in the framework of an OSCE assistance mechanism were discussed.

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

6.4 *Inventory application software on SALW*

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

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

6.5 *Practical assistance projects*

6.5.1 Republic of Belarus

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

7. Outreach and co-operation

7.1 *Partnership and co-operation agreements with other international organizations*

7.1.1 Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP

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

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

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

7.1.2 Joint Action Plan with the UNODC

In October 2011, the OSCE and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed a Joint Action Plan in order to improve synergies in the activities of the two organizations. The Plan specifically foresees joint development of policy and programmes. In December 2014, the

Parties extended the Joint Action Plan until the end of 2015. It covers the following areas for co-operation and co-ordination:

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

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

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

- Raising awareness regarding the ratification of/accession to the Firearms Protocol by OSCE participating States;
- Supporting specific initiatives aimed at the implementation of the Firearms Protocol and the relevant OSCE documents, in such areas of preventing and combating illicit trafficking in firearms/SALW and ammunition as: firearms/SALW record-keeping, standards for deactivation of firearms, and the establishment and maintenance of effective systems of export control for firearms/SALW in the OSCE

- area in the context of existing initiatives, projects and other activities;
 - Providing technical assistance to countries, at their request, to help them comply with the requirements of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and
 - Enhancing co-operation among representatives of law enforcement bodies, the judiciary and prosecution authorities for the purpose of countering illicit trafficking in firearms/SALW, including the tracing of illicit firearms/SALW.
- a. Exchange of information and co-ordination of policies and activities;
 - b. Organization of joint activities;
 - c. Resource mobilization for joint activities;
 - d. Exchange programmes;
 - e. Common visibility strategy to support and promote joint activities; and
 - f. Synergies in the planning of meetings.

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

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

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

7.1.3 Memorandum of Understanding with UNODA

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

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

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

7.2 Operational support and information exchange

The OSCE Secretariat holds annual staff talks with the United Nations to share information about the latest

developments and new initiatives, both on the setting of norms and standards and on practical assistance in connection with SALW.

7.2.1 Co-operation and information exchange with other international organizations

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

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

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

Furthermore, the OSCE Secretariat conducts biannual staff talks with

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

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

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

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

7.3 Outreach to Partners for Co-operation

In response to MC Decisions No. 8/13 and No. 10/14 tasking to the FSC to “explore ways to enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on

issues related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition”, the OSCE continued its outreach activities on SALW.

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

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

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

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

Over 60 participants from the OSCE area and the countries of the Partners for Co-operation Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Morocco, the OSCE Secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, the International Organization for Migration, the European External Action Service, and the European Commission, as well as representatives from civil society and the private sector, shared experiences, views and

good practices in finding ways to address irregular migration, trace illicit financial flows and assets emanating from transnational organized crime, improve seaport and airport security, and prevent illicit cross-border trafficking in weapons.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Normative work on SALW

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

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

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

Although, through the FSC and the Informal Group of Friends on SALW, participating States have taken an active approach to further implementing the OSCE *acquis* on SALW issues, much remains to be done, and in some areas control

measures are not in compliance with norms at the international level. Constant attention is required to assess implementation of the Plan of Action on SALW, to review the effectiveness of OSCE principles, norms, and measures, and to ensure that capacity and efficiency are satisfactory. Some first steps have been taken towards the streamlining and synchronization of SALW information exchanges with those at the UN.

8.2 Practical assistance on SALW

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

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

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

8.3 The future SALW work of the FSC

Activities undertaken in 2015 within the FSC and in other forums such as the United Nations provide a platform on which to strengthen efforts to

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

9. Annexes

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

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

Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area

Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2013 to November 2014

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

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

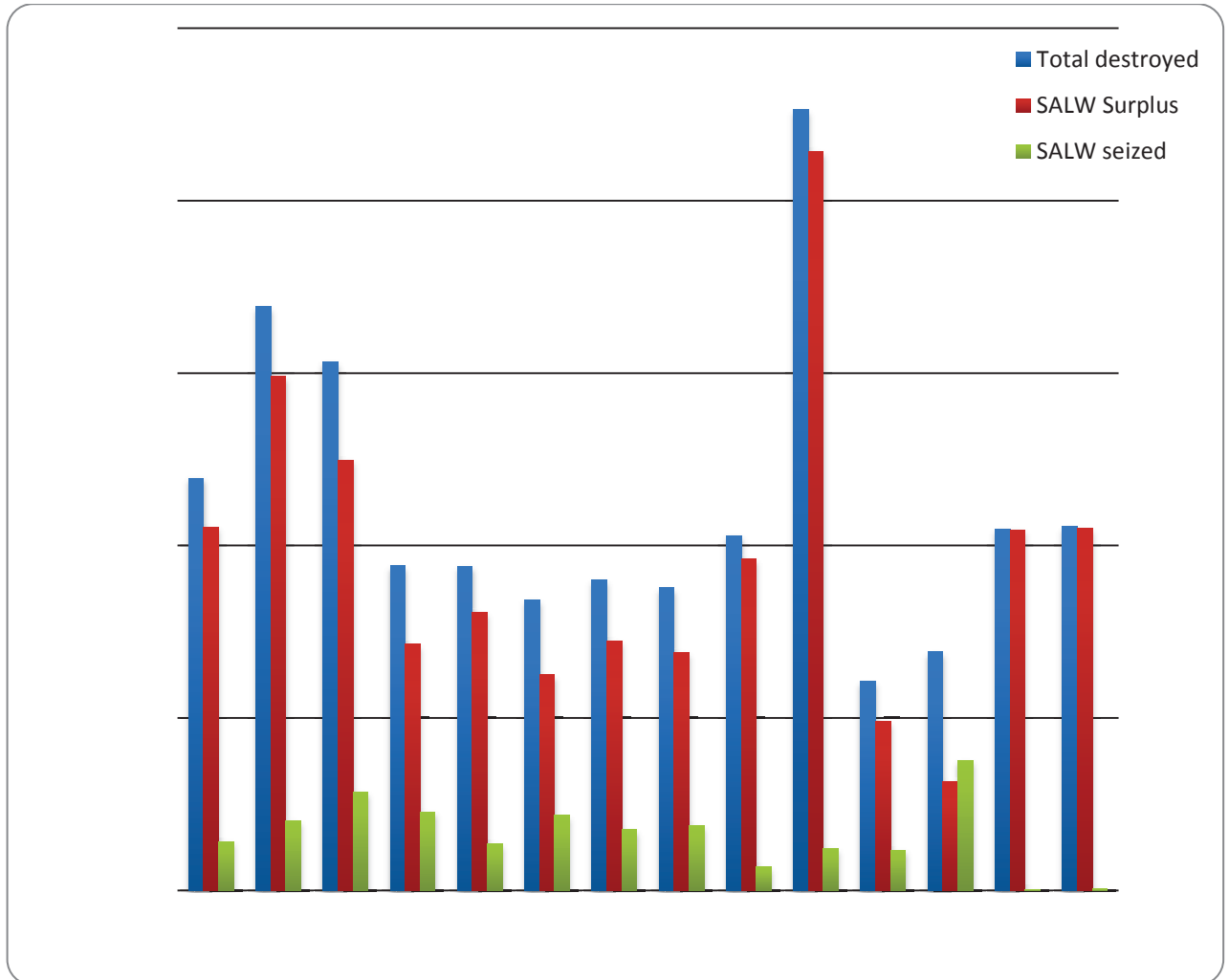
Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2014	Updates in 2015
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange on their national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms.	56 participating States	11 participating States	20 participating States
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange with each other available information on national procedures for the control of the manufacture of small arms.	56 participating States	10 participating States	19 participating States
Section III, (F)2 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States will exchange with each other available information on relevant national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering in small arms in order to spread awareness of “best practice” in these areas.	56 participating States	12 participating States	19 participating States
Section IV, (E)2 (starting from 30 June 2002)	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a “best practice” guide, designed to promote effective stockpile management and security.	54 participating States	11 participating States	18 participating States
Section IV, (E)3 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange information on their techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms. The FSC will consider developing a “best practice” guide of techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms.	55 participating States	11 participating States	19 participating States

FSC Decision No. 11/07 (by 25 January 2008)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to small arms and light weapons.	48 participating States	-	1 Participating State
FSC Decision No. 11/08 (by 30 June 2009)	The FSC decides that the participating States shall provide, as an update to the one-off information exchange established by Section III, part F, paragraph 2, of the OSCE Document on SALW, additional information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.	47 participating States	2 participating States	1 participating States
FSC Decision No. 12/08 (by 27 March 2009)	The FSC requests participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.	53 participating States	1 participating State	1 participating State
FSC Decision No. 17/10 (by 30 June 2011)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW.	n/a	9 participating States	18 participating States

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

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

*Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area**



* 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.

Total destroyed:	1,055,094.00
Total surplus destroyed:	1,050,496.00
Total seized, confiscated and destroyed:	4,598.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OSCE/FSC participation in SALW-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2015		
Date	Title	Place
2–3 Feb	Addressing Threats from Conventional Weapons in Libya	Wilton Park, UK
20–21 Apr	ATT: Informal Preparatory Meeting for the First Conference of States Parties	Vienna, AT
19–23 Oct	UN First Committee	NY, USA



FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT

THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT ON STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION



December 2015, Belgrade

Original: ENGLISH

Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. OSCE ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO THE DOCUMENT ON STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION	1
2.1 PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION	1
2.2 TRAINING.....	5
2.3 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES ON THE DISPOSAL OF ROCKET FUEL COMPONENTS.....	6
3. CO-OPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.....	7
3.1 CO-OPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS	7
3.2 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	7
4. CONCLUSIONS	7

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

- Ensuring the safety and security of stockpiles of ammunition;
- Destruction of ammunition;
- Disposal of rocket fuel components;

- Clearance and disposal of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

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

2.1 Projects under implementation

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

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

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

After the completion of several joint demilitarization programmes with the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) and the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), the Albanian authorities started considering joint regional co-operation in this area. In November 2014, Albania and Montenegro entered into a bilateral agreement. As a result, fifty thousand 20-mm anti-

aircraft ammunition rounds (approximately 17 tonnes) were demilitarized in an industrial way in Albania. This initiative may attract the attention of other players in the region and has the potential to result in joint projects that would require the support of donors.

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

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

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

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

Additionally, in 2015, the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to

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

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

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

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

As part of the project on improving physical security and stockpile management within the MoD, the OSCE CiB organized the deployment of an electronic record-keeping system for weapons and ammunition. Training and equipment, including desktops and printers, were provided to 60 representatives of the MoD. Furthermore, the OSCE CiB provided

assistance for the construction of one storage facility and the renovation of three existing MoD storage facilities in the north of Kyrgyzstan. The construction work should be completed by the end of 2015. Preparatory work for the construction of two new storage facilities and renovation of one existing storage facility in the south of Kyrgyzstan in 2016 is under way, including tendering.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The delaboration and subsequent packing of the remaining lots of white phosphorus-filled ammunition and special chemicals ammunition for export was completed in Tehnički Remontni Zavod (TRZ) Kragujevac at the end of the first quarter of 2015. It will be disposed at a specialized facility in Spain.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To assist Ukraine in the introduction and piloting of the Information Management System in Mine Action (IMSMA), the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine equipped five IMSMA sta-

tions at the State Emergency Service regional bases and headquarters.

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

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

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

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

The budget for the project is 1 million euros. It was fully funded by the German Government. Project activities started in July 2015. To date, the implementation framework has been established (personnel and project team), equipment procurement has been initiated and training planned. In September 2015, a study visit to Germany was organized for six Ukrainian specialists

in the area of ERW clearance. New contacts were established with peers and experience was shared on the use of modern detection equipment, on general clearance operation procedures and personnel training.

2.2 Training

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

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

workshop in September 2015. The training was delivered for the trainers from education institutions of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior and National Border Guards Services.

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

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

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

From 12 to 14 November 2015, in Almaty, **Kazakhstan**, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan co-organized a regional

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

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

In May 2015, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organized a five-day training course on reciprocal inspection procedures under the Vienna Document for 19 officials from the Ministry of Defence of **Turkmenistan**. Experts from

the Belarusian Ministry of Defence shared experiences in implementing international commitments in the area of arms control and presented the main provisions of the Vienna Document 2011.

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

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

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

2.3 Projects and activities on the disposal of rocket fuel components

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

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

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

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

3. Co-operation and exchange of information

3.1 Co-operation with the United Nations

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

3.2 Exchange of information with other international organizations

Since 2008, the OSCE has engaged in exchanges of information with partner

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

4. Conclusions

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

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

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

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

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



FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT

EFFORTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) IN THE OSCE AREA



December 2015, Belgrade

Original: ENGLISH

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE.....	5
2. MANDATE	5
3. EFFORTS BY THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION.....	6
3.1 DECISION ON POINTS OF CONTACT ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION	6
3.2 APPOINTMENT OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION CHAIRPERSON’S CO-ORDINATOR ON NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES	6
3.3. INFORMAL GROUP OF FRIENDS ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004).....	7
3.4 SECURITY DIALOGUES OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION.....	7
4. PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE	7
4.1 ASSISTANCE TO OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES	7
4.1.1 <i>National round table with Kyrgyzstan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540</i>	8
4.1.2 <i>Meetings on the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Program in Ukraine (ICSSP), including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)</i>	8
4.1.3 <i>National round table with Uzbekistan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540</i>	9
4.1.4 <i>Country-specific dialogue with Tajikistan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540</i>	9
4.1.5 <i>Joint meeting with the Serbian Working Group on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540</i>	10
4.1.6 <i>Joint Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 in Montenegro</i>	10
4.1.7 <i>Workshop on the National CBRN Strategy and 1540 National Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova</i>	10
4.2 AWARENESS-RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS ON UNSCR 1540.....	11
4.2.1 <i>Peer Review on UNSCR 1540 between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan</i>	11
4.2.2 <i>Meeting with non-governmental organizations on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan)</i>	11
4.2.3 <i>Second Annual Meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540</i>	11
4.2.4 <i>National outreach in Turkmenistan</i>	12
5. CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION	13
5.1 CO-OPERATION WITH THE 1540 COMMITTEE AND ITS GROUP OF EXPERTS, AND THE UNODA	13
5.2. CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.....	13
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	14
7. ATTACHMENTS.....	15
ATTACHMENT A: OVERVIEW OF EVENTS ATTENDED BY OSCE/CPC IN 2014-2015	15

1. Introduction and objective

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

The report covers the period from November 2014 to November 2015.¹

2. Mandate

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

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

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council held in Athens in

2009, a Ministerial Council Decision was adopted on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability (MC.DEC/2/09).

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

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

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

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

On 4 December 2013, recalling Minis-

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

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

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

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

3. Efforts by the Forum for Security Co-operation

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

On 14 December 2011, in FSC Decision No. 19/11 on Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 (FSC.DEC/19/11), the FSC decided to establish a complementary and voluntary directory of national and OSCE Points of Contact

with the purpose of facilitating information-sharing, promoting best practices and strengthening relevant international information exchange networks (where appropriate), between participating States on issues related to the national implementation of UNSCR 1540.

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

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

3.2 Appointment of the Forum for Security Co-operation Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues

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

- Facilitation of discussion in the FSC on the implementation of relevant Ministerial Council decisions as well as the FSC Decisions No. 7/13 and No.4/15;

- Preparation of proposals and food-for-thought papers, as appropriate, for the review and approval of the FSC Chairmanship and subsequent consideration by the FSC, related to the implementation of the relevant Ministerial Council decisions with regard to UNSCR 1540 and FSC Decisions No. 7/13 and No. 4/15;

- Remaining informed on developments in the area of non-proliferation, inter alia on UNSCR 1540 and its regional implementation, by, if required and possible, attending external events that are relevant to this mandate and reporting to the FSC as needed on the developments and fulfilment of the mandate;

- Co-ordination with the FSC Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat on the organization of meetings and events, associated with this mandate;

- Carrying out any other relevant duties and responsibilities as may be given by the FSC Chairmanship.

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

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

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

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

3.4 Security Dialogues of the Forum for Security Co-operation

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

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

A) "Non-proliferation issues" and "The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". Speakers: Amb. Mr. Cristian Istrate, Romania and Mr. Cornel Feruta, IAEA.

B) "Status of implementation of UNSCR 1540 – challenges and perspectives". Speaker: Amb. Mr. Roman Oyarzun Marchesi, Chair of the 1540 Committee.

C) "UNSCR 1540 regional implementation: co-operation between the OSCE and the IAEA". Speaker: Ms. Rhonda Evans, IAEA.

4. Practical assistance

4.1 Assistance to OSCE participating States

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

In particular, the FSC Decision on "OSCE's role in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)" (FSC.DEC/4/15) adopted on 22 July 2015 highlights the OSCE's role in facilitating the implementation

of resolution 1540, including through effective assistance to participating States, upon their request, including in preparing national implementation measures.

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

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

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

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

The OSCE CPC, with support of the UNODA, the Ukrainian Chemists Un-

ion (UCU), and the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security in Poland (ICCSS), and in partnership with international partners, national governments, chemical industries, academia and civil society, launched an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Program (ICSSP) in Ukraine to coordinate international co-operation in promoting awareness of chemical security and safety in Ukraine.

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

As a follow-up, the “Vienna meeting of the leading stakeholders and international partners on the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Program in Ukraine (ICSSP), Including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)”, was held at the OSCE, with the support of the UNODA, from 24 to 26 February 2015. The national participants agreed on a road map for ICSSP implementation, and as the first stage of the programme, a “Comprehensive Review of Chemical Safety and Security” is currently being conducted. A report on the outcomes of the review will comprise of a number of chapters related to

chemical safety and security in Ukraine, and is expected to be finalized by the end of 2015. Political support for the Comprehensive Review is ensured at the level of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and close government involvement is expected throughout the review process.

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

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

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

Therefore, a co-ordination meeting with the authorities of Uzbekistan, the

Project Co-ordinator for Uzbekistan, and the OSCE CPC took place on 10 March 2015 in Tashkent to establish national priorities and the necessary assistance that might be required for the effective implementation of the National Implementation Action Plan.

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

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

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

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

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

Once the National Action Plan is approved, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan will continue co-operation with the Government of Tajikistan on implementation of the Plan.

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

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

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

The OSCE CPC, together with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and the UNODA, assisted the Government of Montenegro with the

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

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

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

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

As a follow-up to these activities, Moldova has now developed a National Security Strategy on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks, also as envisioned un-

der the National Action Plan for the implementation of Republic of Moldova-European Union Association Agreement (2014-2016).

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

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

4.2 Awareness-raising and capacity building events on UNSCR 1540

4.2.1 Peer Review on UNSCR 1540 between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

The Kyrgyz authorities have developed a National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1540, which was adopted by their government in 2013. Tajikistan has followed the same path, and with the support of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the UNODA, and the OSCE CPC has been in the process of development of their NAP. In order to assist their efforts, peer review between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has been initiated, to provide a platform for sharing of effective practices between the two States, specifically on border and export controls, physical protection measures of CBRN materials, etc. The first coordination meeting on the peer review took place in Bishkek, on 16-17 December 2014. Follow up vis-

its between the two States are currently in a preparation stage.

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

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

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

The first meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 was held on 10 April 2014, in Vienna with the support of the Swiss Chairmanship. As the participants proposed holding the

Points of Contact meetings on an annual basis, the Serbian Chairmanship together with the OSCE CPC, organized the “Second Annual Meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540”, held in Belgrade on 27 May 2015.

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

- States are encouraged to provide effective implementation practices to the OSCE;
- The OSCE should find a way to contribute to the 2016 Comprehensive Review of UNSCR 1540;
- Proposal for the Points of Contact training on the Resolution was welcomed, regionally and sub-regionally, and a host country for the training within the OSCE region is sought;
- 1540 Matrices and National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs) have been recognized as valuable tools for national authorities in implementation of the Resolution, however both documents have very distinct purpose;
- The OSCE’s role in assisting participating States with elaboration of their NAPs was recognized by the States and the UNSC 1540 Committee Experts and such assistance should be continued;
- Innovative regional activities, in the field of resolution 1540, specifically in data analysis and delivery systems were discussed;

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

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

4.2.4 National outreach in Turkmenistan

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

Twenty officials, including officials from the Ministries of Defence, National Security, and Internal Affairs, as well as from the State Border and Customs Services and the State Service to protect the Security of a Healthy Society of Turkmenistan attended the event, in addition to international experts from the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, and the UNODC, and the Deputy Director of the Multilateral Department, Directorate for Political Security of the Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The latter shared its experience of developing of such an action plan, and stressed the importance of national co-ordination and prioritization of needs.

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

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

5. Co-operation and co-ordination

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

In line with UNSCR 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), as well as the FSC Decision on “OSCE’s Role in Support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)” (FSC.DEC/4/15) adopted on 22 July 2015, which highlights the need to strengthen co-operation with the UNODA, to support the leading role and global efforts undertaken by the 1540 Committee, the OSCE CPC has developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the UNODA. In October 2011, the two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Joint Implementation of Projects on Non-

Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Means of Delivery, in Response to OSCE Participating States’ Requests”, with the goal of enhancing both organizations’ capacities in the implementation of resolution 1540. The Memorandum has now been extended twice, each time for a period of two years, currently until October 2017.

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

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

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

Since the start in 2010 of an extra-budgetary activity on assisting OSCE participating States with the implementation of UNSCR 1540, the OSCE CPC has established extensive relations with the following international

or regional, and technical organizations:

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW);
- Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) / Implementation Support Unit
- Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO);
- European Union (EU);
- INTERPOL;
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);
- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);
- World Health Organization (WHO).

6. Conclusions and recommendations

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

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

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

The Forum for Security Co-operation Decision on "OSCE's Role in Support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)" formalized the Organization's role in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540. Its adoption will strengthen the effectiveness of OSCE's support to participating States in implementing the resolution as well as its engagement with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the UNODA, and other relevant international and regional organizations, academia, industry and private sector.

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

7. Attachments

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

OSCE/CPC participation in UNSCR 1540-related events		
Date	Title	Place
11-12 December 2014	Meeting on “Capacities in the domain of chemical safety and security in Ukraine and the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Programme in Ukraine, including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)”	Kyiv, Ukraine
16-17 December 2014	Preparatory meeting on peer review on UNSCR 1540 implementation between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
24-26 February 2015	“Meeting of the leading stakeholders and international partners on the development of an Integrated Chemical Safety and Security Program in Ukraine (ICSSP), Including Promotion of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)”	Vienna, Austria
4-5 March 2015	Ad hoc seminar to promote cross-border cooperation in strategic trade control: Strengthening the adaptability and resilience of national trade control systems to regional security challenges	Kyiv, Ukraine
16 March 2015	Global Partnership Working Group meeting on Chemical Security	The Hague, The Netherlands
22 April 2015	G7 Global Partnership Working Group Meeting	Munich, Germany
2-3 June 2015	Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)	Amman, Jordan
25-26 June 2015	Joint National Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540	Podgorica, Montenegro
29-30 June 2015	Seminar on Voluntary National Implementation Action Plans for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)	Zagreb, Croatia
28-29 September 2015	National Workshop on “UNSCR 1540 / Strategic Trade Controls and National Implementation Action Plans That Meet the Needs”	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
5-7 October 2015	Expert meeting with the Tajik authorities on National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540	Vienna, Austria
8-9 October and	Workshop on the National CBRN Strategy and 1540 National Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova	Chisinau, Moldova
19-23 October 2015	First Committee meetings and bilaterals with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts,	New York, USA

	and the UNODA	
27-28 October 2015	Second Programme Committee Meeting for the 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Se- curity: Commitments and Actions	Vienna, Austria
11 November 2015	Follow-up Workshop on the National CBRN Strategy and 1540 National Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova	Chisinau, Mol- dova
13 November 2015	Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meet- ing	Vienna, Austria



**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TWENTY-
SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**EFFORTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 (2000)
IN THE OSCE AREA**



December 2015, Belgrade

Original: ENGLISH

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
2. MANDATE	5
3. FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION.....	5
3.1. FSC SECURITY DIALOGUES	5
3.2. IN THE AREA OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY.....	6
3.3. IN THE AREA OF SALW AND SCA	7
4. GENDER SECTION OF THE OSCE SECRETARIAT.....	7
5. FIELD MISSIONS.....	9
5.1 OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	9
5.2 OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO	11
5.3 OSCE CENTRE IN BISHKEK.....	12
5.4 OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO	14
5.5 MISSION TO MOLDOVA	15
5.6 MISSION TO SERBIA	15
5.7 OFFICE IN TAJIKISTAN.....	16
5.8 OFFICE IN YEREVAN.....	16
6. CO-OPERATION WITH THE ODIHR.....	16
7. CONCLUSIONS	17

1. Introduction and objectives

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

The report covers the period from November 2014 until November 2015¹.

2. Mandate

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

organizations to implement UNSCR 1325 by such means as adopting regional frameworks, and encourages them to further pursue implementation.

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

In 2011 the Ministerial Council tasked the Forum for Security Co-operation to "examine ways that it can assist in the implementation in the OSCE region of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on the issue of gender and security" (MC.DEC/7/11) in 2012.

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

3. Forum for Security Co-operation

3.1. FSC Security Dialogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This year, 33 of the 52 participating States who submitted a report on the framework of the information exchange on the OSCE Code of Conduct voluntarily provided information on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, which covers 63 per cent of all reports. In comparison, in 2014 36 out of 52 participating States (69%) and in 2013 33 out of 53 (62%) reported on Women, Peace and Security. The number of reports therefore remains at a high level and demonstrates the con-

tinued interest in exchanging voluntary information on this issue.

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

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

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

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

3.3. In the area of SALW and SCA

Ministerial Council Decision 10/14 tasks the FSC to exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, on the impact of illicit SALW on women and children as well as on creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat illicit SALW.

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

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

The SALW/SCA Project in Kyrgyzstan addressed the issue of achieving gender balance when hiring project assistants; and the project on explosive remnants of war clearance in Ukraine engaged a female interpreter during the study trip to Germany to ensure that gender balance was maintained.

4. Gender Section of the OSCE Secretariat

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

and the need to monitor and evaluate NAP implementation.

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

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

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

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

Moreover, in April 2015 the Gender Section, in co-operation with UN Women and the Lithuanian government, arranged for a regional conference and consultations in Vilnius in order for the OSCE area to feed into

the UN-led Global Study on UNSCR 1325 implementation entitled “Preventing Conflict / Transforming Justice/ Securing the Peace”. The Study additionally served as an input to the Global Study, which was commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General to commemorate the resolution’s 15th anniversary. The most important conclusions of the Vilnius meeting are:

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

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

3. The resolution has had a real impact on how security is viewed across the OSCE area. More and more security institutions are including women in their ranks and gender analysis has had an impact on what is considered to be of national importance. For instance domestic violence has been recognized as a national security issue that the State needs to tackle -

moving away from the inactive attitude of the past when it was viewed as a family matter.

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

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

5. Field Missions

5.1 OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

As part of the 7th Review Conference on Compliance with OSCE/UN Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina co-organized by the Mission and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Affairs on

20 and 21 November 2014, it was recommended that Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions should consider their legal obligation to use non-discriminatory language in all of their documents and to adopt gender-responsive budgeting methods. It was also concluded that institutions should plan and implement special activities for improving gender equality, and integrate the gender dimension into the legal and institutional frameworks.

Statements were made on improvements needed in regulations related to women in the Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces in order to address the problem of lack of career advancement opportunities (particularly in regard to the issue of availability and equality in training opportunities), and regulate women's rights in the armed forces during pregnancy more precisely. The Office of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces Inspector General were appointed to monitor this initiative. The progress achieved on applying these recommendations will be analysed during the 8th Review Conference on Compliance with OSCE/UN Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina to be held in November 2015.

In March 2015, the Mission organized a Workshop on Women, Peace and Security in response to one of the recommendations of the 7th Review Conference on Compliance with the OSCE-UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which took place in 2014. During the workshop, participants reflected on the Reference List concerning Women, Peace, and Security, which Bosnia and Herzegovina voluntarily includes as an Annex in its annual response to the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of

Security. The analysis of the Questionnaire and the implementation of National Actions Plans was intended to increase the comprehensiveness, coordination, awareness, ownership and accountability of the government's WPS activities. During the workshop, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 was examined and recognized as a useful tool for integrating resolution provisions at both policy and strategic levels, and ongoing and planned government activities related to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 were presented. Moreover, the workshop confirmed the value of Bosnia and Herzegovina's voluntary reporting on WPS issues in the framework of the OSCE Code of Conduct Annual Information Exchange.

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

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

From 21 to 26 June, the Mission organized its first annual Youth and Security Summer School, which brought together students of security studies and political science from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The programme included a presentation and discussion on gender and security sector governance and reform (SSGR), which emphasized the principle that gender equality and gender perspectives lead to increased operational effectiveness in security institutions. Summer School participants were introduced to UNSCR 1325 and the international legal framework pertaining to gender equality and the rights of women. This event once again illustrated the value of applying a holistic approach to security sector reform, with particular emphasis on cross-cutting issues such as gender in SSGR and the promotion of the perspectives of young women and men.

In June 2015, the Mission published the report "Combating Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Progress and Challenges", which analyses crim-

inal proceedings before the courts of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina between 2004 and 2014. The report examined progress and obstacles in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating cases of conflict-related sexual violence within the entity level and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina criminal justice systems. The analysis is expected to inform ongoing policy discussions regarding responses to conflict-related sexual violence and the delivery of justice to victims.

5.2 OSCE Mission in Kosovo²

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

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

In 2015, OMiK supported the establishment of a municipal co-ordination mechanism on domestic violence in five pilot municipalities. 118 municipal stakeholders were trained (57 female, 61 male) and terms of reference were created for the mechanism in order to facilitate efficient collaboration.

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

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

The promotion of women’s participation in political decision-making continued through municipal and central-level women caucus groups (WCGs). Advanced training modules (on such topics as women’s access to property rights, budget scrutiny, and the like) were delivered to selected WCGs, which also benefited from the handing over of materials and toolkits. A new WCG was established within the Assembly of Kosovo after the 2014 elections. For the first time the Kosovo-Serb majority northern municipalities (Leposavić/Leposaviq, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok and Zvečan/Zveçan) were also targeted and so far three out of four WCGs have been established. They receive enhanced support in the form of project-drafting, action plans and information-sharing visits. Furthermore, for the first time, a municipal gender equality committee was established in Kosovo.

A manual and a number of training modules on the subject Women’s Access to Property Rights were created, with the support of a media

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

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

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

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

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

the Kosovo Police is decreasing and support is being provided to the Kosovo Police Women’s Association in order for this issue to be addressed.

5.3 OSCE Centre in Bishkek

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

April 2015 saw the launch of a dedicated project on “Enhancing gender equality and women’s potential as conflict prevention agents in Kyrgyzstan: phase IV” which focused on women’s involvement in security and the sensitizing of security forces on gender issues. The project supports the network of the OSCE-established “Women Initiative Groups network” in identifying vulnerabilities at grassroots level and addressing gender-based violence. The network consisting of more than one hundred women from three southern provinces is conceived as a tool to support the implementation of the National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality 2012-2020 and the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 calling for a broader participation of women in post-conflict reconciliation and peace-building. The project also brought together governmental officials and civil society groups to discuss the role of women in promoting security and conflict prevention in the border areas of Batken province in June 2015. A dedicated research survey increasing the understanding of gendered upbringing and socialization of boys and girls will be completed by the end of 2015.

Throughout the year, law enforcement has been engaged in a series of capacity-building undertakings on

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

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

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

As an issue, the CiB has started rendering assistance by bringing high-level female policymakers on board the po-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.4 OSCE Mission to Montenegro

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

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

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

5.5 Mission to Moldova

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

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

In October 2015, the Ministry of Defence initiated a process of self-assessment in relation to work in the area of women, peace and security, which is being conducted in consulta-

tion with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). The self-assessment process is expected to be completed in 2016.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Defence regularly gathers agencies active in the WPS field from civil society, government agencies and international organizations, for discussions on how to advance the implementation of its work. The Ministry works towards the objective of reducing the masculinity phenomenon for certain specialities and functions within the National Army. During the academic year 2013-14 of the Military Academy “Alexandru cel Bun”, 10 out of the 70 students who enrolled were women: two in the infantry, two in the artillery, and six in transmission.

5.6 Mission to Serbia

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

The Mission plans to continue with this project in 2016, also through the Unified Budget, by supporting the organizational capacity at both headquarters and district level. Furthermore, there will be support for policy development and procedures of the specialized department for domestic violence which will be formed in the Serbian

Ministry of Interior under the Criminal Investigation Directorate by the end of 2015. Special focus will also be placed on the utilization of legal frameworks and the processing of domestic violence cases, as well as on further development of risk assessment.

5.7 Office in Tajikistan

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

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

5.8 Office in Yerevan

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

6. Co-operation with the ODIHR

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

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

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

On 2 and 3 March 2015 the ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to Serbia contributed to the Conference of Women Parliamentarians from South East Europe entitled “Equal and Empowered - Stronger Together” held in Belgrade, Serbia. The conference was organized by the Serbian Women’s Parliamentary Network with the aim of boosting co-operation between women parliamentarians in the SEE Region. The conference brought together around 150 representatives of parliaments, governmental structures,

NGOs, academia and international organizations. During the conference participants presented and discussed gender equality trends and good practices in the region by focusing on the issues of women's participation in politics and parliaments, women and security, social and economic position of women after the outbreak of the economic crises in 2008, and domestic violence. During the conference, women parliamentarians from 11 countries signed a Memorandum of Cooperation expressing their intention to co-operate in the development and implementation of the activities aimed at promoting gender equality in their respective countries and the SEE Region.

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

7. Conclusions

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

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

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