

Chairmanship: Denmark

532nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 5 December 2007

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 10.40 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. J. Bernhard

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Outcome of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, held in Madrid, on 29 and 30 November 2007:* Spain (FSC.DEL/573/07 OSCE+), Chairperson

(b) *Tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction:* Canada (Annex), France

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Chairperson

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Informal meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, held in Madrid, on 28 November 2007:* Spain (FSC.DEL/572/07 OSCE+)

(b) *Matters of protocol:* Azerbaijan, Chairperson, Slovenia, Canada, United States of America, Conflict Prevention Centre

(c) *FSC side event on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, held at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Madrid, on 29 November 2007:* Chairperson

- (d) *Extra-budgetary contributions to assist the Government of Ukraine in eliminating stockpiles of the liquid rocket fuel component melange:*
Chairperson
- (e) *Invitation to a reception hosted by the FSC Chairmanship, to be held in Vienna, on 19 December 2007:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 12 December 2007, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

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Annex

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532nd Plenary Meeting

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

3 December marked the tenth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. On that historic occasion in Ottawa 10 years ago, Canada was the first of 122 nations to sign the Convention.

Today, there is much to celebrate. One hundred and fifty six States are party to the Ottawa Convention and many states not party have adopted its norms. It is widely regarded as the definitive legal framework addressing anti-personnel mines largely because it imposes clear, time-bound obligations for action in order to bring an end to the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

Over the past decade, States parties, working in close partnership with the OSCE, UN agencies, international organizations and civil society, have destroyed approximately 42 million landmines, cleared vast tracts of land and assisted many thousands of landmine survivors and their families. The trade in anti-personnel landmines has all but ended and the number of direct victims has been reduced from approximately 26,000 known victims per year to fewer than 6,000 reported last year, a decrease of more than 75 per cent.

Still, many challenges remain. Landmines continue to kill or maim thousands of people each year. They also prevent the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and present a significant obstacle to sustainable development.

Canada has contributed in excess of \$250 million for mine action in every affected region of the world over the past 10 years, including in Tajikistan where Canada has spent over \$3 million, through the OSCE, since 2004. We have been particularly active in Afghanistan, where Canada supported the original pilot project to destroy Afghanistan's stockpile of anti-personnel mines. With assistance from Canada and other members of the international community, Afghanistan has developed a strong indigenous capacity for mine action and has become a world leader in this area.

Earlier this week, the Government of Canada was proud to announce an \$80 million contribution to the United Nations Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan to begin next year.

The Ottawa Convention has been a remarkable achievement in the annals of international disarmament, humanitarian and development co-operation. It has saved thousands of lives, limbs and livelihoods, and has clearly illustrated the reciprocal relationship between peace/security, humanitarian and development concerns.

In conclusion, the Ottawa Convention has also demonstrated that an integrated, comprehensive approach to a complex problem that affects much of the world can generate significant, concrete results. At a time when the global multilateral framework is under considerable pressure, the Convention also provides a tangible example of effective multilateralism involving most of the world's nations, the OSCE, UN agencies, international organizations and civil society.

Canada has played a crucial role in the establishment and implementation of the Ottawa Convention to date and is committed to working together with its partners to achieve our collective goal of a mine free world.