

Chairmanship: Tajikistan

917th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 5 June 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.50 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Kalandar

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325: “LEAD-UP TO
THE 20th ANNIVERSARY – LET US WORK TOWARDS
CLOSING THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP”

- *Presentation by Vice Admiral M. Mellett DSM, Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces*
- *Presentation by Lieutenant Colonel T. Strebel, United States Marine Corps, Policy Officer, United States Department of the Navy*
- *Presentation by Ms. P. Kannisto, Acting Director of the Policy and Programme Division and Chief of the Peace and Security Unit, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)*

Chairperson, Vice Admiral M. Mellett DSM, Lieutenant Colonel T. Strebel, Ms. P. Kannisto, Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/125/19), Ireland, Slovenia (Annex 1), Slovakia, Sweden, Canada

(Annex 2), Kyrgyzstan, Finland (FSC.DEL/122/19 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Italy (Annex 3), Armenia, Iceland (Annex 4), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/114/19 OSCE+), France (FSC.DEL/113/19 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Russian Federation (Annex 5), Holy See, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (Italy), Czech Republic, Ms. T. Jiteneva (representative of UN-Women)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine, Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/124/19), Russian Federation, United States of America, Canada

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Visit of a group of representatives of OSCE participating States to the Joint Forces Operation area in the Donbas region of Ukraine from 23 to 25 May 2019:* Ukraine, Russian Federation
- (b) *Briefing on the meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), held on 28 May 2019:* Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA (Latvia) (Annex 6)
- (c) *Food-for-thought paper on contributions of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference, to be held in Vienna from 25 to 27 June 2019 (FSC.DEL/112/19 Restr.):* Co-ordinator of the FSC Chairperson for the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference (Greece)
- (d) *Eighth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held in Vienna on 12 June 2019 (FSC.GAL/52/19/Rev.1 OSCE+):* FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Romania)
- (e) *Briefing on the military exercise “Dragon-19”, to be conducted from 15 to 19 June 2019:* Poland
- (f) *Briefing on the military exercise “Iron Wolf 2019”, to be conducted from 8 to 22 June 2019:* Lithuania
- (g) *Matters of protocol:* United States of America

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 19 June 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



917th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by commending you personally and the team of the Tajik FSC Chairmanship as a whole for organizing this Security Dialogue. By emphasizing the importance of integrating women into the defence and security sectors of the OSCE participating States you have continued with the good practice of a number of previous Chairmanships, including the Slovenian one, which have placed the issue of women's empowerment high on their agenda. The continuity of such efforts is important and deserves to be acknowledged. This continuity is also natural in the sense that Tajikistan itself exemplifies a good practice to be emulated, since it ensures an almost perfect gender balance in its contingent in the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, where 9 out of the 19 Tajik members are women. In that respect, Mr. Chairperson, you yourself have already provided part of the answer to the question raised in your introductory remarks and the concept note as to how to close gaps in the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

I should now like to share, in my capacity as the Chairperson of the OSCE MenEngage Network, some views on this issue. As you know, the Network's aim is to mobilize male ambassadors and military advisers here in Vienna in support of the task of promoting women's rights. Accordingly, in my role as Chairperson I took an active part in early May in the OSCE Conference on Combating Violence against Women and Girls, which served as a platform for presenting the results of the recent OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women. I myself moderated a session addressing knowledge gaps and root causes of violence against women. One of its findings was that there is still a significant lack of understanding of the importance of equal opportunities, and that this nonchalant attitude is especially pronounced among high-ranking civil servants and government officials in a number of participating States. In that sense, these observations dovetail with what Vice Admiral Mellett of Ireland described in his presentation as "pushback". This is worrying because, as pointed out earlier by Ms. Kannisto of UN-Women, the women, peace and security agenda really does depend on leadership for its implementation. To answer your question about what support the OSCE can provide to promote the forward-looking goals of UNSCR 1325, I would therefore say that keeping this issue high on the list of the Organization's priorities and mainstreaming it into all of its activities, both here in Vienna and in the field operations, remain as important as ever. We should never assume that progress achieved cannot be rolled back.

Allow me also to point out that visibility is something that should never be underestimated. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. In the experience of my country, Slovenia, the appointment of women to the position of Minister of Defence directly paved the way for what happened last year, when Slovenia became the first NATO country to appoint a woman as Chief of the General Staff. Last year, by the way, when she had not yet been promoted to her current rank, Major General Ermenc took part in a Security Dialogue in this very room. Similarly, the fact that Lieutenant Colonel Strebel is a high-ranking officer in the United States Marine Corps sends a very important message in and of itself. The more opportunities she receives to speak about her work and experience, the better for all of us. And that is why it is so important to implement the “Panel Parity Pledge” that all members of the International Gender Champions network are required to sign up to. Indeed, we should all make sure that there are no more “manels”, as all-male panels are now called – especially not in activities conducted under the politico-military dimension of the OSCE, dealing as it does with the defence and security fields, in which men are still disproportionately represented.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairperson, I should like to seize this opportunity to put a few questions to Vice Admiral Mellett: Admiral Mellett, as a veteran of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan, how do you view the challenge of promoting women’s rights in a different cultural environment? What arguments, in your experience, work best in such a setting when encouraging other men to stand up for these rights?

With this, Mr. Chairperson, I should like to thank you again for organizing this Security Dialogue and request you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



917th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

Mr. Chairperson,

Good morning. I should like to begin by thanking the Tajik FSC Chairmanship for their selection of this important topic of discussion for today's Security Dialogue. I should also like to extend a warm welcome to our guest speakers and convey our sincere gratitude to them for their informative and enlightening presentations, and, more generally, for their continued efforts to advance gender equality and the goals of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions regarding women, peace and security (WPS).

The issue of WPS remains an integral part of the Government of Canada's feminist agenda, which prioritizes gender equality and the protection of the rights of women and girls. Following the launch of Canada's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in November 2017, we have already submitted our first progress report on the implementation of the new Action Plan. As mentioned in the foreword to that report, the Canadian Government, in connection with the Action Plan, has "increased available funding, launched multiple new initiatives, increasingly worked with civil society, and called upon Canadian officials at home and abroad to mobilize support for women as active agents of peace".

Canada's approach to WPS is based on the understanding that addressing root causes of gender inequality requires the transformation of power relations associated with discrimination, coercion and violence in Canada and abroad. In November 2017, our Government launched the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations – named after Canadian women's rights pioneer Elsie MacGill (1905–1980) – to increase the number of women peacekeepers globally and make their work environment safer, more inclusive and ultimately more effective. As part of this effort, our country has deployed 18 female police officers to Ukraine. They make up 44 per cent of a Canadian contingent of instructors tasked with enhancing the training of Ukrainian police in such areas as: gender-based violence response and investigation; the implementation of community policing models; police safety standards; and improving internal accountability and oversight mechanisms. We have also met with some success in our efforts to increase the participation of female personnel in international peace operations. Thus, our current contingent deployed, under the Canadian Government's "Operation PRESENCE – Mali", to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) comprises 14 per cent female

personnel, who are involved in all aspects of the mission, including senior leadership roles within the Task Force command staff.

Mr. Chairperson,

The vast majority of occupations in the Canadian armed forces were made fully available to women in 1987 with the last barrier, submariner, being unrestricted on 8 March 2000, making the Canadian armed forces a fully gender-integrated national institution where women serve in all roles and at all levels of the institution. After almost 20 years with an armed force where there are no barriers to the employment of women, our experience has proven that opening all aspects of service to the entire population allows Canada to truly access the most qualified and talented individuals available for service. The Canadian armed forces have delivered Gender-Based Analysis (GBA+) training pan-service and continue to strive to harness the enhanced capabilities that exist within a more diversified combat fighting force. The balance of perspective and talent this diversified workforce brings to bear has proven to be an invaluable asset and key force multiplier in increasing capability and operational readiness.

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite these significant efforts, women remain under-represented and underutilized in peace operations worldwide. At present, only 4.8 per cent of uniformed personnel deployed on UN missions are women. Even following the call issued as part of UNSCR 2242 (2015) to double the numbers of women in military and police contingents of such operations by 2020, progress (on a large scale) has been negligible, with an increase thus far of only 0.2 per cent. The main reasons for lack of progress include: low rates of participation of women in the national military and police forces of contributing countries; a failure to take into account women's specific needs (even seemingly simple concepts such as the need for properly fitting combat dress and equipment continue to pose problems); insufficient opportunities for women to access training and win promotion to higher ranks; and latent institutionalized barriers in some States. As we work to remove the barriers that women face in entering the security sector and strive for gender balance there, we must acknowledge that attracting women to this sector remains a challenge. If we are to succeed in recruiting talented, qualified and motivated women for such positions, we must make it clear that they have an equally valuable and necessary contribution to make alongside their male counterparts. We must highlight our successes so that these serve not only as an example to young women of the opportunities that are available to them, but also as a demonstration that there is no limit to what they can achieve. If we want the best and brightest to work in this field, we must reach out to them. We must convince young women that there is value in this work and that their contribution can make a genuine difference.

Mr. Chairperson,

We recognize that advancing the WPS agenda is not plain sailing. We have come to realize that achieving enduring results in line with our Government's ambitions requires frequent and honest reflection on those areas in which improvements are necessary. Administrative hurdles, the difficulties involved in measuring and attributing the impact of WPS efforts, and the specific challenges of operating in conflict situations all compel our

Government to adapt its tools continually. Despite all these obstacles, Canada remains wholly committed to ensuring that progress towards our WPS objectives continues steadily.

Mr. Chairperson,

By way of conclusion, let me restate our main message: the empowerment of women and girls in efforts to prevent, end and recover from armed conflict benefits us all. Gender equality and inclusive peace processes build more stable societies and are prerequisites for creating a peaceful world for everyone: women, men, girls and boys. The rights of women and girls cannot and should not be compromised, and Canada will continue to implement policies and programmes aimed at promoting these rights.

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

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/923

5 June 2019

Annex 3

ENGLISH

Original: ITALIAN

917th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I align myself, of course, with the statement by the European Union and should like to make a few comments in a national capacity.

First of all, I should like to express my sincere appreciation to the Tajik Chairmanship for having included the important topic of women, peace and security (WPS) on the agenda of the Forum for Security Co-operation and my thanks to today's speakers for their interesting contributions to the discussion.

I should like to take this opportunity to present some recent initiatives that confirm Italy's traditional commitment to promoting women's rights, gender equality and the full implementation of the WPS agenda and describe our response to the need to promote the participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution and in peacekeeping processes.

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy, which has fervently supported resolution 1325 since its early stages, participated actively on 23 April in the high-level event "Preparing for the 20th anniversary of 1325: pledge of commitments on Women, Peace and Security" organized by the German Presidency of the United Nations Security Council together with the United Kingdom and UN-Women. This meeting offered States the possibility of reaffirming the commitments made to implement UN resolution 1325 in the period from April 2019 to October 2020, in other words, during the preparations for the 20th anniversary of the resolution.

On that occasion, Italy committed itself to proceed with 15 further specific actions or results and I should like to draw your attention to some of them today.

On the issue of funding, we have guaranteed the necessary resources for implementing the National Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

With regard to policy, Italy has stated that:

- It will draw up the fourth National Plan on Women, Peace and Security with the involvement of representatives of civil society and the academic world;
- It will implement the 2017–2020 National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women;
- It will support and promote the participation of women in decision-making and peace processes, from initial planning to the implementation phase;
- It will organize a women’s forum on the margins of the Mediterranean Dialogue, as well as two high-level seminars, on the role of women and girls as agents of peace, and on the role of the State in enhancing the participation of women in peace processes;
- It will promote the further consolidation, already under way, of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN) established in our country in October 2017 as part of our mandate in the Security Council, and contribute to the launching of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks.

Finally, the organization of a conference in preparation for the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019 was announced. The event, co-organized by the International Development Law Organization and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, took place in Rome from 27 to 29 May, with the aim of providing an opportunity to take stock of global progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. The conference emphasized the integrated, indivisible and comprehensive nature of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chairperson,

The full implementation of the WPS agenda is also achieved by stimulating progress at the regional level, and we firmly believe that the OSCE can play an essential role in this regard.

The issue of gender equality is one of our priorities in all international forums, also since we joined the OSCE Troika. The first meeting this year of the Asian Contact Group on 5 April was specifically devoted to the commitments of the OSCE, its participating States and Partners for Co-operation to implementation of the WPS agenda.

At a similar event in 2017, during our Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, we were able to announce to the OSCE the launch of the MWMN established in October 2017 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation as part of Italy’s mandate as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in collaboration with the Istituto Affari Internazionali and the association Women in International Security-Italy.

The MWMN aims to promote the role of women in the region in conflict prevention and mediation. It plays an important role in training women to enable them to contribute to the mediation process as expert mediators.

A few weeks ago, the first local branch of the MWMN was established in Cyprus, which we are pleased to have been able to contribute to.

The branch and the regional women mediator networks make it possible not only to foster an exchange of experiences, promote co-operation and create connections at the local and regional level, but also to bring together the necessary conditions, starting from the political will, to ensure greater participation of women in peace processes, in this way implementing one of the aspects of Security Council resolution 1325.

The role of women in mediation processes was further explored in 2018 at a seminar on the conflict cycle organized by us together with the Conflict Prevention Centre. By devoting a session specifically to strengthening conflict resolution through mediation, we highlighted the importance of significant participation of women in peace processes not only as an essential requirement of justice and equality but also to ensure that the solutions identified are more sustainable and durable.

We firmly believe that the gender approach is a key component of conflict resolution. Women experience conflicts differently to men and can bring different experiences and points of view to the negotiating table, providing a broader and more comprehensive perspective. Their involvement in all phases of the peace process should therefore be strengthened.

Last year we also organized a conference on women's participation in the security sector in order to continue the efforts of the preceding Austrian Chairmanship, which brought us very close to the adoption of an important decision on this subject at the Vienna Ministerial Council meeting.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to reach a consensus at the time, but the efforts to promote this issue continue. The success of today's Security Dialogue convinces us that we are on the right track.

Last December in Milan, under our Chairmanship, we succeeded in adopting an important Ministerial Council decision on preventing and combating violence against women, which, among other things, recognizes the role of the armed forces, police and judicial systems in responding to all forms of violence against women and girls. We also undertook to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls through appropriate training of military and security forces.

Many initiatives are being promoted this year by the Slovak Chairmanship, and I hope that all of these efforts, along with active participation in the Security Dialogue on this topic, will soon produce practical outcomes and enable us to arrive at the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325 in the knowledge that, even if there is still much to be done, much has already been done and will continue to be done to achieve full gender equality, including in the politico-military dimension.



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

FSC.JOUR/923

5 June 2019

Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

917th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND

Mr. Chairperson,

Almost 20 years ago the UN Security Council first recognized the special position of women in armed conflict with resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

When organizations and States engage in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, this landmark resolution and the follow-up ones are of importance. The OSCE is no exception in this respect. Effective implementation of resolution 1325 would strengthen the comprehensive security role of the OSCE. The provisions of the resolutions should be well integrated into OSCE structures and field missions. We support an OSCE-wide action plan on women, peace and security.

A considerable responsibility rests on the shoulders of the participating States which have been given the tool of national action plans (NAP) on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325.

Now only 79 UN Member States, or 40 per cent of all UN Member States, have adopted national action plans. This includes 32 OSCE participating States, or 56 per cent of States represented around this table.

Allow me to use this opportunity to encourage those participating States who have yet to adopt their first NAP to do so at their earliest convenience.

In November 2018 Iceland published its third NAP on Women, Peace and Security. Drafting this third generation NAP involved the academia, ministries, the civil society and relevant stakeholders. The new NAP places greater emphasis on broader co-ordination between and education of key actors in the domestic implementation of the plan. This includes activities regarding women in vulnerable positions, trafficking in human beings, women refugees and asylum seekers, as well as activities related to sexual and gender-based violence.

Iceland remains a firm supporter of UN Security Council resolution 1325 and the values it represents. Sustainable peace can only be accomplished with the active inclusion and meaningful participation of those affected by conflict, irrespective of their gender. Women must have a seat at the table and their voices must be heard.

Mr. Chairperson,

We should use the upcoming 20th anniversary of the resolution as an opportunity to assess what has been achieved and where we could do better in mainstreaming the UN Security Council resolution 1325 into the work of the OSCE.



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

FSC.JOUR/923
5 June 2019
Annex 5

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

917th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to join in thanking the Tajik Chairmanship of the Forum for preparing and organizing today's Security Dialogue. We are grateful for the document outlining the concept of this meeting and note its practical usefulness in preparing for it. We are very grateful to the distinguished keynote speakers for their interesting and informative presentations.

The almost 20-year history of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 has confirmed in practice the importance of that document in enhancing the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution and in post-conflict reconstruction.

The report of the UN Secretary-General on the global implementation of resolution 1325 in 2018 shows that progress has been made in this regard, despite a number of continuing challenges. In particular, the proportion of peace agreements with specific provisions concerning women has increased over the past two decades. The number of women in parliaments and governments of States overcoming the consequences of armed violence is growing, and their participation in decision-making relating to conflict prevention and resolution is increasing overall. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which, together with the UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, provides the necessary legal and political framework for effective co-operation, is the basic document in terms of the more active involvement of women in the decision-making process. We also take a positive view in this regard of the OSCE's efforts to promote the 1325 agenda at the regional level.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me say a few words about the participation of women in peacekeeping operations – one of the priorities of the global efforts to implement the resolution. For more than 45 years, we have been sending peacekeepers to UN peacekeeping operations. The proportion of Russian women in these operations currently stands at around 17 per cent. Our women peacekeepers are working in UN missions in Congo, Kosovo, South Sudan, Western Sahara and Cyprus. It is gratifying to note that they receive high marks for their service in the

various UN peacekeeping missions. With regard to the participation of Russian women in the OSCE Missions, it is clear that significant reserves remain here.

Of course, we agree that there is a need to ensure equal opportunities for the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and to remove structural barriers. However, increasing the number of women in field missions should not be an end in itself. The process of involving women in peacekeeping or other security policy activities must be carefully tailored to the actual needs. We believe that priority should be given to professional qualities over quantitative indicators.

Mr. Chairperson,

The concept of today's meeting raises an important question: how to increase the participation of women in decision-making? In our view, dealing with our common tasks relating to women, peace and security cannot be a substitute for the efforts of each individual State to ensure equality and to empower women. In that regard, we take the position that voluntary national action plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 can be seen as an additional but not the main criterion and tool for evaluating national policies for the advancement of women.

In our country, the necessary conditions are being created for the full realization of women's potential in the professional environment. If we look at history, it should be noted that certain decisions on ensuring gender equality were actually made at the beginning of the twentieth century. Subsequently, this made it possible to attract many bright, high-calibre women to politics and government bodies. As far as the diplomatic service is concerned, we can cite the example of Alexandra Kollontai, who in 1917 became the first female minister in the world and then the first female ambassador.

Today Russian women are active participants in political life. They make up more than 70 per cent of civil servants and hold high-level positions of responsibility as Chairperson of the Federation Council, Deputy Prime Ministers, Chairperson of the State Duma, ministers of health and education, and heads of the executive authorities in many regions of our country.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the current environment, the question of women's active participation in addressing critical security issues at all levels is undoubtedly becoming increasingly important. Today's lively discussion in the Forum is clear evidence of the progress made in creating equal opportunities in this area.

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



917th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 923, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF FRIENDS ON
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Distinguished Chairperson,
Distinguished participants,
Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to have been given this opportunity to report to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on the third meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), which took place on 28 May 2019. The meeting was attended by 32 participants from 26 participating States and the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC).

A food-for-thought paper on “Updating, expanding and adapting the OSCE Best Practice Guides on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition - the way ahead” was presented and discussed.

The participants exchanged their views on the way forward in reviewing and updating the Best Practice Guides (BPGs), particularly on the conduct and co-ordination of this work using a step-by-step approach, and on the importance of inclusiveness. With regard to prioritizing the BPGs to be reviewed and updated, the proposal was made to draw up some “guiding questions” in order to support the participating States in this task. Accordingly, the Informal Group of Friends will produce a short questionnaire which all participating States can use to provide feedback and recommendations on the BPGs. The responses to this questionnaire will inform the updating process.

A number of participants indicated their interest in leading the work on updating specific BPGs and in encouraging representatives of other States to join them in this work.

A fact sheet developed by the CPC, which provides an overview of the existing BPGs on SALW and conventional ammunition, was also presented. It was agreed that this was a very useful document, and that it should be distributed widely. The fact sheet will soon be uploaded to the OSCE Delegates Dashboard (DeIWeb) to facilitate its dissemination.

The CPC provided a briefing on a workshop on the “Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW” that was held in Minsk on 16 and 17 April 2019. This workshop was noted as a good example of how to promote the use of a BPG.

Mr. Chairperson, I should like to thank the FSC Support Section within the CPC for its support in preparing the recent meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA, and for having provided all the necessary assistance.

Thank you for your attention.