
Chairmanship: United States of America**971st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 24 March 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 11.05 a.m.

Closed: 1.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. C. Austrian

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the technical modalities for the conduct of FSC meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in FSC.GAL/2/21 OSCE+.

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

Agenda item 1: **DECISION ON THE OSCE MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 2/21 (FSC.DEC/2/21) on the OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Austria

Agenda item 2: **CLOSING SESSION**

– *Remarks by Ms. L. Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, United States Department of Defense*

- *Remarks by Mr. R. Hudson, member of the House of Representatives, United States Congress, and Chairperson of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s General Committee on Political Affairs and Security*

Chairperson (FSC.DEL/103/21), Ms. L. Cooper (FSC.DEL/102/21), Armenia (Annex 1), Portugal-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/106/21), Albania (Annex 2), Sweden (Annex 3), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/100/21 OSCE+), Turkey (Annex 4), United Kingdom, Canada, Azerbaijan (Annex 5), Georgia (FSC.DEL/97/21 OSCE+), Ukraine (FSC.DEL/101/21), Russian Federation (Annex 6), Portugal, Serbia (Annex 7), Mr. R. Hudson (FSC.DEL/109/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council (FSC.DEL/78/21/Rev.1 Restr.) on the dates of the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference: Chairperson*

The Forum for Security Co-operation agreed to forward the letter from the Chairperson of the FSC on the dates of the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference (FSC.DEL/78/21/Rev.1 Restr.) to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council.

- (b) *Call for applications for the 2021 OSCE-UNODA Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre (Annex 8)*
- (c) *Matters of protocol: Russian Federation (Annex 9), Chairperson, Belarus, Portugal-European Union, Serbia*
- (d) *Location of the “DEFENDER-Europe 2021” military exercise, to be conducted from 1 May to 14 June 2021: Serbia (Annex 10)*
- (e) *Handover of the insignia of the FSC Chairmanship from the United States of America to the incoming Armenian FSC Chairmanship: Chairperson, Armenia, Germany*

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



971st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

First of all, I should like to thank you and Deputy Assistant Secretary Cooper for your insightful closing remarks.

Armenia thanks the US Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and its able team for successful leadership of the FSC during the first trimester of the year, and commends your dedication to promoting a goal-oriented dialogue on current security issues. We share your view that without genuine efforts to look into and address the problems we are doomed to suffer further erosion of the concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Guided by this vision and the determination to protect our shared commitments, the incoming Armenian Chairmanship will launch Security Dialogues on pressing security issues in the OSCE area of responsibility with a view to contribute to strengthening of the OSCE's co-operative, indivisible, inclusive and comprehensive security.

Madam Chairperson,

Your Chairmanship enabled us to engage in discussions on some of the central topics of the FSC, such as the Vienna Document and small arms and light weapons (SALW). These topics will remain high on the agenda of Armenia's FSC Chairmanship. As the world's largest regional security organization and the cradle of confidence- and security-building and other norm-setting measures, the OSCE is a unique platform where such issues should be addressed. Furthermore, the high human cost of violations of our commitments in these fields calls for a strong OSCE with effective structures.

The Armenian Chairmanship will continue the efforts of the US Chairmanship by devoting a Security Dialogue to the OSCE assistance mechanisms related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA). We are pleased to note that today we all adopted the decision on the OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of the OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. Regrettably, in recent years there has been a politicization of this topic, resulting in selective approaches to the requests for assistance submitted by participating States, instances in which the work of the whole Organization has been hampered, and attempts to misuse the assistance mechanisms in order to advance certain

political narratives. A case in point is the cancellation of the biennial meeting to review the implementation of the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA in 2019. Unapologetic malpractices of political manipulations and instances of selective implementation of our commitments on a case-by-case basis should be categorically rejected.

Upholding the implementation of our politico-military commitments inevitably entails discussions on the conventional arms control regime. The current crisis of the conventional arms control regime and the uncertainty over its future, together with the direct link between the current situation and the emergence of new security threats, will be the focus of a number of Security Dialogues during our Chairmanship.

Furthermore, in an environment of evolving security challenges, the co-ordination of efforts and co-operation among relevant organizations is imperative. Our planned Security Dialogues on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and regional security arrangements with a focus on the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) will be aimed at discussing the co-ordination of activities and exploring ways of further enhancing collaboration between the organizations.

Madam Chairperson,

We believe that peace can be sustainable when women are equal partners in peace and security processes. We will build upon your efforts to promote the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 by devoting a Security Dialogue to the topic of how to achieve the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the armed and security forces.

In closing, I wish to thank the US Chairmanship for the excellent co-operation and support. We also appreciate the work of the German delegation now leaving the FSC Troika and thank it for its important contribution as the FSC Chairmanship. We welcome Austria as the new member of the Troika and stand ready to continue our close co-operation with the latter and indeed with all our colleagues at the FSC.

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

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/977
24 March 2021
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

971st Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

I wish to congratulate you and your team for your successful and very professional handling of the work of the Forum for Security and Co-operation (FSC) during this first trimester of 2021.

At this closing session of the FSC, allow me to commend you, dear Courtney, for your excellent leadership, and likewise your team for their tireless efforts.

I also wish to commend Ms. Laura Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia at the United States Department of Defense, for her remarks and for addressing the Forum today.

Madam Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Albania values the FSC as a crucial component of our collective efforts in discussing security issues and challenges that concern us all, but also opportunities – the ultimate goal being to work together to promote stability and security amongst us.

Accordingly, the United States FSC Chairmanship has brought forward, in its programme, dialogue on the politico-military dimension of security, and it has also injected an innovative approach for enhanced interaction.

We should like to underline two of the key areas of the Forum's work – which were also our priorities during the 2020 Albanian OSCE Chairmanship – namely, modernizing the Vienna Document and implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

In this regard, we also wish to recall the two joint statements issued at the Tirana Ministerial Council meeting in December 2020: one on the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Document, which was co-signed by 45 participating States, and the other on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, which was co-signed by 52 participating States. We very much hope that these numbers will increase in the future.

Let us also hope that these important and timely security topics will continue to remain high on the agenda over the coming months and that we can ultimately achieve substantial outcomes that benefit us all. Such positive results are much needed in view of the growing security challenges in the OSCE area.

At the same time, we highly appreciated the United States FSC Chairmanship's focus on NATO's enhanced Forward Presence as an important component of NATO's defence and deterrence posture in the eastern and south-eastern parts of Alliance territory.

Madam Chairperson,

In addition to the highly topical Security Dialogues, we also appreciated the following events that took place during your Chairmanship:

First, the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine in February, which featured senior military participation from across the OSCE area and was particularly relevant given the present European security situation and the need for mutual understanding.

And, secondly, the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in March, which adopted an innovative approach to promote greater interaction among the participating States.

Madam Chairperson,

In closing, allow me once again to commend you and your team for your leadership, commitment, dedication and hard work in chairing this important platform.

Allow me also to take a moment to welcome our Armenian colleagues in connection with their country's forthcoming Chairmanship of the Forum in the second trimester. We wish you the best of luck, as you will soon be taking on this important commitment.

Let me also welcome Austria as the new member of the FSC Troika and thank Germany as it leaves the Troika for the tremendous work and efforts of its delegation during the German FSC Chairmanship in the last trimester of 2020.

Thank you for your attention.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.



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

FSC.JOUR/977

24 March 2021

Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

971st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Dear Madam Chairperson,
Dear Courtney,

Time moves very fast when you discuss important topics in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). That is from my point view exactly what we have experienced this last trimester.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to you and the whole US team, for successfully chairing the FSC.

You have been dealing not only with a pandemic and related technical challenges, but also had to co-ordinate speakers and input in two totally different time zones. Your agenda has been ambitious, innovative and very useful with a variety of important topics, all worth further discussion in detail. Much has been achieved under your Chairmanship.

Sweden has made its opinion clear that a return to the core principles and rules of the OSCE and thereby fostering confidence- and security-building measures is essential. The topics raised during the US FSC Chairmanship have been supportive to this approach, which we highly appreciate. It is important that the FSC does not shy away from difficult issues, in particular when views among the participating States diverge. By addressing points of disagreement, we have learned a lot in the process and the FSC has taken steps forward.

To mention just a few of these steps, you have given us an in-depth presentation on enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic region, a topic which is also of specific interest to Sweden. This session clearly demonstrated how transparency on military posture, with the purpose of confidence-building, can work in practice.

The Security Dialogue on the modernizing of the Vienna Document in conjunction with the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting highlighted two matters: Firstly, that many participating States share the view that there is a pressing need to update the Vienna Document 2011 and that this should be on top of the agenda. Secondly, that the participating States' views on what changes need to be done are not too far from each other. What is lacking, is the political will to start negotiating in order to adjust the Vienna Document 2011

to current conditions. There are several proposals on the table, among them the joint proposal, which could be an excellent starting point.

The High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar fostered the possibility to discuss doctrinal issues and exchange views on for example defence planning, inspired by an exceptionally competent line-up of speakers. It was almost unanimously voiced from the participating States that similar seminars must be conducted more often. Vienna Document 2011 provides for just that, these issues cannot be discussed often enough and this desire should be endorsed.

The Joint Meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security proved its value on a topic that must be kept high on the agenda. As was discussed, we have taken steps forward on gender equality, but there is much, much more to be done. That applies to the way we conduct business in the field, but also to the representation of women on all levels and forums of the OSCE. To have two women chairing a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council with a female Secretary General must be seen as a good starting point.

To summarize – you have from our point of view conducted an exceptionally good Chairmanship that will leave a lasting impact on many levels here in Vienna and the FSC. I commend you for your efforts. Further, you have not only provided us with important food for thought, but also with actual food for our stomachs – I am of course referring to the delicious lunches you have treated us to here in Vienna. Thank you also for that.

I also thank Germany, which now leaves the FSC Troika, for sharing important experience and advice during this last trimester. Thank you very much for what you have achieved, both as Chairmanship and in the FSC Troika.

Finally, a warm welcome to Armenia as Chairmanship and Austria as member of the FSC Troika. We are looking forward to a close co-operation and dialogue also in the future. Good luck to you all.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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



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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

First of all, I should like to thank Ms. Laura Cooper for her comprehensive closing statement.

I also congratulate the US delegation for its successful chairing of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

Despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States of America meticulously steered the FSC throughout the first trimester of the year. Our dialogue was kept alive and dynamic.

We are pleased to have witnessed two consecutive FSC Chairmanships that have been highly successful, namely those of Germany and the United States. These last two trimesters have provided many concrete inputs for our Forum's work.

I also wish to emphasize the role played by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and, in particular, by its FSC Support Section in ensuring the success of FSC Chairmanships.

Madam Chairperson,

The US Chairmanship pursued a balanced and relevant agenda in the Security Dialogues that it organized.

For example, the participating States were able to exchange their views on NATO's enhanced Forward Presence.

We welcomed the fruitful discussions on such topics as modernization of the Vienna Document, man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), explosive hazards in Central Asia, and women, peace and security.

The interactive simulation during the Security Dialogue themed "Confidence- and Security-Building amid Strategic Ambiguity" was also thought-provoking.

We appreciate the successful organization of the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar and the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.

We believe that the discussions held during these major events generated significant “added value” in relation to the matters that we work on at the FSC.

Turkey for its part actively and constructively engaged in all these meetings.

Madam Chairperson,

Creating a constructive atmosphere that is conducive to mutual understanding is vital to ensure the success of our efforts at the FSC. This is our common Forum. The efforts are joint. Our time is precious.

Meaningful progress in many topics in the FSC field require professional, responsible and careful approach by all delegations.

Aggressive rhetoric or distortion of the facts fully contradict with the spirit of this Forum.

In this regard, we look forward to having a respectful dialogue, based on mutual understanding and constructive engagement, during the forthcoming FSC meetings.

Madam Chairperson,

Taking this opportunity, we also register our call on all participating States to strictly adhere to their commitments and obligations in order to strengthen the security in the OSCE region.

The Vienna Document, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Treaty on Open Skies – all three being cornerstones of our collective security – should be fully implemented by all the participating States.

Madam Chairperson,

We once more thank you and your team for all your efforts.

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

Thank you.



971st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes Ms. Laura Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and thanks her for her intervention. Azerbaijan congratulates the delegation of the United States of America to the OSCE for successfully chairing the FSC in the first trimester of 2021. We also take this opportunity to thank Germany as an outgoing FSC Troika member for its contribution to the work of the Forum during the last and current year, and welcome Austria as a new Troika member.

Azerbaijan takes note of the incoming Armenian FSC Chairmanship and to this end, we are looking forward to establishing a working relationship with the Armenian delegation in fulfilling our OSCE commitments as well as in support of the implementation of the two trilateral statements signed on 10 November 2020 and 11 January 2021, and with a view to ultimately normalizing relations between our countries. We expect Armenia to conduct its FSC Chairmanship in an orderly and impartial manner, and to use its Chairmanship as an opportunity to contribute to the vision of durable peace, security and stability in our region provided by the trilateral statements, while upholding the values and foundational principles of our Organization, in particular those related to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders. These principles remain the basis for our co-operation within the OSCE and beyond.

The US Chairmanship has demonstrated commitment, dedication and leadership in guiding our discussions within the FSC on a wide range of politico-military topics of high relevance and importance to the work of the OSCE in general and the FSC in particular. A well-balanced programme and well-organized Security Dialogues allowed participating States to engage in discussions and exchange their views on these issues. We also appreciate that the role of women in the context of the maintenance of international peace and security has been kept high on our agenda and a dedicated joint FSC-PC meeting on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 was convened to this end.

We thank the US FSC Chairmanship for its support to Azerbaijan's practical assistance request for implementing explosive hazards risk reduction and response action. Expert consultations regarding our request convened by the US Chairmanship on

18 March 2021 provided a good opportunity for Azerbaijan's Mine Action Agency (ANAMA) to thoroughly present the problem at hand, and for experts from other participating States to actively engage in discussion with ANAMA on the requested assistance. We call on the upcoming FSC Chairmanships to proceed further with Azerbaijan's assistance request and facilitate the formulation and start of the project.

In closing, we once again thank the United States for the excellent work, co-operation and professionalism during its leadership in the FSC. We are looking forward to continuing to work closely with you as well as with forthcoming FSC Chairmanships and Troika members in order to explore ways for further advancing the work of the Forum and enhancing implementation of our shared commitments.

I kindly request you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/977

24 March 2021

Annex 6

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

971st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 2

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

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you and the delegation of the United States of America on the conclusion of your Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The US Chairmanship occurred during a very challenging period in our negotiating body's history. There are increasingly clear signs that the framework for pan-European security is weakening. The declared principles of the indivisibility of security, interdependence and the refusal to strengthen one's own security at the expense of the interests of other States are not being adequately reflected in practical policies. Confrontations are escalating, including as a result of attempts to use the FSC to promote the unilateral interests of individual States and their alliances. The situation in Europe as a whole is highly fluid, dynamic and in some respects fraught with increased risk and uncertainty.

Under these circumstances, a frank discussion on the politico-military aspects of security on the continent takes on particular significance and relevance. The Forum objectively remains one of the few permanent channels for multilateral, professional communication on such issues. It is crucial that the exchange of views takes place without politicization and mutual accusations, otherwise it simply loses its meaning.

Today, we should like to take the opportunity to give our assessment of the meetings held in the first trimester of this year and share our thoughts on how to organize our joint work in the future. Let me remind you that the Russian delegation continues to believe that there is a need to gradually move our negotiating body away from confrontation towards restoring interaction and co-operation. We are convinced that this goal is attainable if all participating States demonstrate the political will.

We note the high level of organization of the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM), which is traditionally regarded as one of the main events of the year within the OSCE politico-military dimension. Although this year's AIAM was held in a video format, thanks to the efforts of the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre and the FSC Support Section the event involved numerous interactive online surveys on various aspects of the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures, which made it

possible to identify a number of new points. We believe that the main takeaway from the meeting is that the Vienna Document 2011 continues to be an important tool for ensuring security, which can prevent a decline in confidence in the military sphere. In the context of COVID-19, the OSCE participating States need to take every measure to ensure its smooth functioning.

The OSCE High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar – held, as a rule, every five years – provided an opportunity to examine pressing aspects of the current politico-military situation in the OSCE area and changes in doctrinal documents brought about by the evolution of threats and the emergence of new technologies. However, we are compelled once again to note that by no means all of the topics and issues included in the Seminar’s programme were directly concerned with military doctrine, and some of them clearly had confrontational potential. The common thread running through most of the working sessions was that NATO countries are determined to continue expanding their policy of “containment” vis-à-vis the Russian Federation. We are confident that no one will now question why representatives of the Russian Ministry of Defence did not attend the Seminar.

We regret that the US Chairmanship has not heeded our calls and has used the Forum to legitimize the security imbalances that have emerged in Europe. Our US colleagues dedicated a separate FSC meeting to the issue of NATO’s enhanced Forward Presence. However, the meeting failed to achieve its goal, which was allegedly to “respond to Russia’s concerns”. The statements by the keynote speakers and a number of participating States further entrenched our conviction that the Alliance’s military policies and practices are hostile. We hope that our colleagues are aware that the trends emerging from the policy of “containment” are counterproductive and only weaken stability in Europe.

It is clear to us that it will be impossible to build confidence in the military sphere as long as the North Atlantic Alliance continues its activities and increases its presence near Russia’s borders. Under these circumstances, orchestrated efforts to support the package of proposals from 34 OSCE participating States on modernizing the Vienna Document are futile and will have no effect. For a start, our colleagues need to make up their minds: either containment or dialogue with our country. You cannot sit on two chairs at once.

The scenario simulation of the international situation in the FSC once again revealed a range of approaches by participating States to ensuring European security that are “below the threshold of armed conflict”. But have we managed to converge the approaches mentioned? Hardly. Instead, in the long term, we believe it would be useful to focus the Forum’s activities on finding solutions to the truly pressing problems that weigh on participating States and require urgent resolution, without wasting the valuable resource inherent in its mandate.

We believe that the work of the FSC should be concentrated primarily on unifying issues, the work on which makes a tangible contribution to ensuring the security of OSCE countries. These include the issue of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. We confirm our readiness to continue joint work on updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides in this area. We note the usefulness of the discussions that have taken place on man-portable air defence systems and explosive hazards in Central Asia. Discussions on these topics could be continued in the FSC in the future.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank the Spanish Chairmanship of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue for leading the process. The Russian Federation is ready to continue participating in the meetings of the format, but notes that if the discussion is politicized or confrontational topics are dragged in, dialogue will achieve nothing. We believe that participating States should focus their efforts on developing practical steps to de-escalate tensions, reduce military confrontation along the line of contact between Russia and NATO countries, restore military contacts, and improve incident prevention mechanisms. We are convinced that the problem of hybrid, information and cyberthreats, which was touched on at yesterday's Structured Dialogue meeting, should be discussed in the relevant OSCE formats, avoiding duplication of the efforts of the various forums.

In conclusion, allow me once again to express my gratitude to you, Madam Chairperson, and to all the members of the US Chairmanship's team for the work done and the intensive marathon negotiations.

We warmly welcome Armenia as the next Chairmanship of the Forum and wish it great success in this highly responsible function. We look forward to close and fruitful co-operation with our esteemed Armenian friends; they can count on our full support.

We are grateful to the distinguished delegation of Germany, which is leaving the Troika, and welcome the distinguished delegation of Austria as the incoming member of the Troika.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/977
24 March 2021
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

971st Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Madam Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Serbia joins in the positive assessment of the US Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and is grateful for the informative statement by Ms. Laura Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia at the United States Department of Defense.

We should like to thank Germany as the outgoing member of the FSC Troika, welcome Armenia as the incoming FSC Chairmanship, and also to welcome Austria as the new Troika member. We look forward to close and fruitful co-operation with our distinguished Armenian and Austrian colleagues and wish them every success.

On this occasion, we should like to take the opportunity again to kindly remind the FSC Chairmanship of the need to ensure that the OSCE's status-neutral position towards Kosovo and Metohija is respected in all documents and materials officially distributed, including the biographies of speakers invited to meetings of the Forum.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/977

24 March 2021

Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

971st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONFLICT PREVENTION
CENTRE**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

I wish to inform you that the call for applications for the fourth edition of the OSCE-UNODA Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme on “Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in the OSCE Area” was published on the OSCE website and in various social media on 22 March. I kindly invite you to share the information on this training programme with the authorities in your capitals, and to encourage young professionals from your countries, in particular women, to apply.

The training programme is a joint endeavour of the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). Thanks to the donations generously made by Andorra, Finland, France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland, we are now able to look forward to the 2021 edition. The training programme has proven its relevance in the past – to quote a graduate of the 2019 edition:

“My participation significantly enhanced my understanding and encouraged me to get myself more immersed in specific arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The programme has strengthened my conviction that women need to make greater use of networks and mentoring opportunities to be able to present their perspectives and participate in a meaningful manner.”

The training programme consists of two components: an inquiry-based online course starting on 24 May 2021 and lasting eight weeks; and a one-week in-person course, which is envisaged to be held in Vienna in the second half of 2021, subject to COVID-19-related restrictions. A total of 150 participants will be selected for the online course. Among these, 50 motivated female participants who have successfully completed the online training will subsequently be selected and offered the opportunity to take part in the in-person course.

More detailed information on the training programme, the eligibility criteria and a link to the application form can be found on the OSCE website by opening the link: <http://bit.ly/OSCE-UNODA2021>. Applications by candidates from all 57 OSCE participating States and the 11 countries recognized by the OSCE as Partners for Co-operation are welcome and should be received at the OSCE by 9 April 2021.

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/977

24 March 2021

Annex 9

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

971st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 3(c)

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

Madam Chairperson,
Your Excellency,
Distinguished colleagues,
Dear friends,

Thank you for giving me the floor in a personal capacity. I will try not to take up too much time.

I should like to inform my distinguished colleagues that I am concluding my work in the delegation. I very much regret that, due to the restrictions related to COVID-19, I was unable to organize the reception that is traditional on such occasions and personally thank each of you for your excellent co-operation.

For more than 30 of my 42 years at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have been fortunate to work for the OSCE, occasionally travelling to Vienna as part of the Delegation on Military Security and Arms Control. Thus, the dream of a little boy who was proud of his parents' profession came true.

Time flew by very quickly and work became the meaning of life. I had the great honour and responsibility of participating in the negotiations on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the four editions of the Vienna Document, the Global Exchange of Military Information, the Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea, the agreement establishing BLACKSEAFOR, bilateral agreements on confidence-building measures, decisions of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), as well as many other important instruments – I shall not bore you with the list.

When young diplomats came to this duty station, they were immediately thrust into the heated atmosphere of negotiations, learning on the spot from senior, experienced colleagues. I should therefore like to thank our mentors, who have taught us to respect and cherish the OSCE and to negotiate in a positive spirit, avoiding confrontation and maintaining a sense of optimism and a consensus-seeking mindset.

Of course, there have been many interesting and important developments in the course of our work; there have been successes, but there have also been sleepless nights and worries. On such occasions, we were comforted by the knowledge that we were involved in a great and extremely important undertaking for all participating States.

We have all gathered in this hall for a reason. We are united by a common desire to make the European continent more secure and stable, to strengthen and develop co-operation, using the mechanisms and capabilities that have been built into the OSCE since its inception. These capabilities are enormous; it is important to use them effectively and creatively.

You are all highly professional and you know better than I do how to negotiate. I will therefore refrain from making any recommendations in this regard.

I will just tell you what I have learned for myself.

It is very easy for diplomats to work when there is an agreement at the political level. Then things move quickly. Suffice it to mention the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which was drafted in a record time of less than two years, although negotiations on Central Europe had remained at an impasse for more than thirteen years before that. The Treaty on Open Skies and other documents were also written with similar speed.

However, it is precisely when there is a lack of understanding at a high political level that there begins a particularly challenging period for diplomats, which requires the highest degree of professionalism, empathy, the ability to put oneself in one's partner's shoes, the art of listening, dialogue and persuasion, and, if I may say so, even courage. I think this is exactly the period in which we are currently living.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said: "The only real luxury is the luxury of human communication." I will really miss communicating with you. During my years at the OSCE, I have learned from you every day that the inner world of each person is as vast and diverse as the boundless universe. The rich culture of countries and the unique mentality of each nation, irrespective of its size, are human civilization's greatest assets, which must be preserved. This is the goal of our work to strengthen European security and stability and to develop co-operation. Europe seems very big, but at the same time it is very small.

Distinguished colleagues,

As I conclude my role in the delegation, I will not say: "Goodbye". After so many years working together in the OSCE, I will continue to follow your successes with the utmost attention. And, knowing as I do your dedication and the utmost professionalism of your diplomats and military experts, I am absolutely certain that there will be successes.

I wish to thank each and every one of you for your co-operation and to emphasize that I could not have achieved even half of what I have done without your knowledge and expertise, support, invaluable advice and kind attention. It was in working together with you that the profound meaning of the ancient motto inscribed on the Hofburg – *viribus unitis* – which means "through joint efforts", was revealed to me. I am sure that, by working in this way, you, distinguished colleagues, will make a significant contribution to European security.

I warmly thank the Austrian side for their hospitality and the opportunity to work in the Hofburg Palace. My thanks go to the leadership of the OSCE Secretariat and the Conflict Prevention Centre, to the FSC Support Section, the various functional units, Conference Services and our excellent interpreters for their professionalism and valuable facilitation of the negotiations.

Let me conclude with the words of a prominent ambassador I heard thirty years ago: “Forward, forward! Weiter!”

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Thank you for your attention, distinguished colleagues.



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

FSC.JOUR/977
24 March 2021
Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

971st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Madam Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

The United States of America, in its notification CBM/US/21/0003/F25/O announcing the military activity “DEFENDER EUROPE 21 AND LINKED EXS” (specifically in points 3(D)(1), 3(D), 3(C) and 4 thereof), included among the locations of the exercise the territory of the self-proclaimed and unrecognized state of “Kosovo” – a territory that is an integral part of the Republic of Serbia, namely its Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

We should like to take this opportunity to emphasize once again that Kosovo and Metohija is an autonomous province of the Republic of Serbia and remains under the interim administration of the United Nations pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Affirming, as in the aforementioned OSCE notification by the United States, the illegal and unilaterally declared independence of so-called Kosovo is absolutely unacceptable given that the legally binding United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) upholds the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia.

In addition, we should like to remind you that the OSCE has proclaimed its neutrality regarding the future status of this Serbian southern province. Compliance with and implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 must always proceed in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The Vienna Document may under no circumstances be misused.

In that regard, the Republic of Serbia adamantly rejects making reference to and prejudging the status of Kosovo in OSCE notifications of any type.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



971st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 977, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 2/21
OSCE MEETING TO REVIEW THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE
FIELD OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND
STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Mindful of the OSCE's important role in combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and of its endeavours to help prevent and reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Recognizing the continuing importance of OSCE measures aimed at addressing the security and safety risks and threats related to stockpiles of SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening efforts aimed at ensuring the full implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1, 20 June 2012), the OSCE Document on SCA (FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1, 23 March 2011) and related FSC decisions,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 (MC.DEC/10/17), the Ministerial Council Declarations on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA (MC.DOC/3/16) and on the OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA (MC.DOC/5/18),

Commending the successful projects conducted by the OSCE to address a wide range of security and safety risks related to the presence of surpluses of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices; the presence of highly toxic rocket fuel components; degraded physical infrastructure and poor stockpile management and security practices; the presence of explosive remnants of war and landmines; and illicit trafficking in SALW,

Decides:

1. To organize an OSCE meeting to review the implementation of OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA, to be held in Vienna on 5 and 6 October 2021 (with the possibility of being held remotely via video conference), in accordance with the programme, indicative timetable and organizational arrangements annexed to this decision;
2. To request the OSCE Secretariat to support the organization of this meeting;
3. To invite the OSCE participating States to consider providing extrabudgetary contributions for the above-mentioned event.

**OSCE MEETING TO REVIEW THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE
FIELD OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND
STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

Vienna, 5 and 6 October 2021

I. Programme and indicative timetable

Tuesday, 5 October 2021

10–10.30 a.m.	Opening session
10.30–11 a.m.	Working session I: Assistance mechanism under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA
11–11.30 a.m.	Coffee break
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Continuation of working session I
1–3 p.m.	Lunch break
3–4 p.m.	Working session II: Progress in the implementation of SALW and SCA assistance projects
4–4.30 p.m.	Coffee break
4.30–6 p.m.	Continuation of working session II

Wednesday, 6 October 2021

10–11 a.m.	Working session III: Challenges and trends in the implementation of SALW and SCA assistance projects
11–11.30 a.m.	Coffee break
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Continuation of working session III
1–3 p.m.	Lunch break

3–4 p.m.	Working session IV: Application of OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and Conventional Ammunition and other international standards to the assistance projects
4–4.30 p.m.	Coffee break
4.30–6 p.m.	Closing session

II. Organizational arrangements

Background

Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 (MC.DEC/10/17) on SALW and SCA tasked the FSC, *inter alia*, with continuing to strengthen efforts to fully implement the existing measures and commitments set out in the OSCE Document on SALW, the OSCE Document on SCA and related FSC decisions, with continuing to hold periodic meetings to review practical assistance projects on SALW and SCA, and with exploring ways to enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on issues related to SALW and SCA. Accordingly, this meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the implementation of OSCE assistance projects on SALW and SCA, and also serve as a forum for examining further ways of improving the effectiveness of such projects.

Furthermore, the Ministerial Declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA (MC.DOC/5/18) acknowledged the need for the OSCE to continue to enhance its SALW- and SCA-related norms and best practices and their implementation, and underlined the participating States' resolve to jointly address the risks and threats associated with SALW and SCA by making full use of the OSCE norms and best practices. The Second Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA was held on 13 and 14 October 2020.

Organization

The FSC Chairpersonship will chair the opening and closing sessions.

Each working session will have one designated moderator and one rapporteur throughout. The task of the moderators will be to facilitate and follow the discussion, while the immediate task of the rapporteurs will be to draft brief summary reports for use by the Chairperson of the closing session. After the meeting, the rapporteurs are expected to draft more comprehensive summary reports to be incorporated into the FSC Chairperson's report on the meeting. The rapporteurs will also assist the moderators in the preparation of their respective working sessions.

Each working session will be introduced by the moderator, after which several presentations will be given on specific aspects of the session's topic, either by the moderator or by the keynote speakers.

The OSCE Rules of Procedure and standard working methods will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the meeting. For remote meetings, participants are strongly encouraged

to read the Procedural and Technical Guidelines for Remote Meetings (SEC.GAL/45/20) and the Addendum on Naming Conventions (SEC.GAL/45/20/Add.1/Rev.1).

Interpretation from and into all six working languages of the OSCE will be provided at all sessions. The FSC Chairperson will provide a report on the meeting not later than 6 December 2021, including a summary of suggestions and recommendations made during the meeting. The OSCE Secretariat will assist the FSC Chairperson in all matters concerning the organizational arrangements for the meeting.

Participation

The participating States are encouraged to ensure the participation of senior officials, including those from their capitals, in the meeting. The OSCE institutions will participate in the meeting. The Partners for Co-operation will also be invited to participate.

Other international and regional organizations that are involved in relevant SALW activities, such as the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union and the Wassenaar Arrangement, will also be invited by the FSC Chairperson.

General guidelines for participants

The advance circulation of briefings, overviews or statements is encouraged. To promote interactive discussion, delegations are requested to provide formal statements by 8 October 2021. Delegations are asked to limit the length of their oral statements to five minutes.

For remote meetings, all written statements are preferably to be submitted one day prior to the virtual meeting date to facilitate their interpretation under remote conditions. Speakers are requested to speak slowly. Delegations may also take the floor just to announce the circulation of their statements via Documents Distribution when there are time constraints or when they are experiencing technical difficulties.

Guidelines for moderators and keynote speakers

The moderators will chair the working sessions and should facilitate and streamline the dialogue among the participants. In particular, moderators should set the scene for the discussion, stimulate the debate by introducing items related to the subjects, suggesting potential recommendations related to the main points covered in order to broaden or refine the scope of the discussion.

Prior to the meeting, the moderators will prepare and circulate “point papers” listing the topics and questions designed to facilitate discussion in their working session by 28 September 2021.

To facilitate discussion within the time constraints of the meeting, the keynote speakers will be limited to 15–20 minutes.

The presentations of the keynote speakers should be in line with the “point papers”. The introductions and presentations are meant to be brief, so as to allow maximum time for discussion, and should therefore highlight only the most important elements of the point papers by way of providing information and setting the scene for the discussion.

Keynote speakers should submit their written contributions/presentations to the moderators no later than 5 October 2021.

Keynote speakers should remain present during the entire session they are addressing and should be ready to engage in the debate following their presentation.

The moderators may provide input for the FSC Chairperson’s subsequent report on the meeting.

For the sake of promoting interactive discussion, formal statements and interventions at the working sessions should be as concise as possible (not exceeding five minutes). The speakers should also contribute to the further deliberations of the meeting as it evolves and as time permits. The advance circulation of statements and interventions would make it easier for all the participants to engage in the discussion.

Guidelines for moderators and rapporteurs

The rapporteurs’ reports should address issues raised during the respective sessions. Rapporteurs should provide more comprehensive written summaries after the meeting. They should not include any personal views in their reports and summaries.