



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

**As delivered by State Secretary Bård Glad Pedersen
to the 795th meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation,
Vienna, 9 September 2015**

Excellencies,
ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to welcome you to the first meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) under Norway's chairmanship.

I would like to commend Mongolia and Montenegro for their excellent chairmanship of the FSC earlier this year, and I welcome the Netherlands as a new member of the FSC Troika.

We are looking forward to working with you in the months leading up to the Ministerial Council in Belgrade in December.

There is no doubt that the security situation in Europe is challenging. We are facing multiple crises, some of which dominate the OSCE agenda. Others are dealt with primarily in other forums. They are all, nonetheless, important to our common security.

We are currently experiencing an extraordinary refugee crisis in and around Europe. Globally, 60 million people are fleeing war, conflicts and persecution. Developments in recent weeks and months – with increasing numbers of refugees here in Vienna and elsewhere in Europe – call for common action. Dealing with the refugee crisis is not the responsibility of the OSCE, but I would support an initiative by the Serbian Chairmanship to launch a discussion of a possible OSCE contribution to resolving the crisis. It is part of the overall security landscape within which we operate.

There is a clear and obvious connection between the refugee and migrant crisis on the one hand and the security situation south of Europe's borders on the other. Criminal networks and terrorist groups are profiting from human smuggling and trafficking. We are facing a complex security situation and a severe humanitarian crisis in the south, as evidenced by the violent

conflict in Syria, ISIL's atrocities in Syria and Iraq, and the situation in Libya and North Africa.

Our security is, to an increasing extent, affected by non-traditional threats and criminal and often violent non-state actors. The dramatic developments in parts of the Middle East and Africa since 2011 are a reminder of what can happen when states are unable or unwilling to provide security and basic services for their populations. Globalisation has intensified the interconnection between various global security challenges. The fact that ISIL has been financing its campaign of terror through the illegal sale of oil and antiquities, and has been spreading its extremist ideology on social media, is a clear indication of this.

In June, the Norwegian Government presented a white paper on global security challenges. We proposed a more effective and coherent effort to address terrorism, organised crime, piracy and cyber threats. The international community must work together to build a robust framework for stability, security and prosperity. International and regional actors need to strengthen their capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, organised crime, piracy and cyber threats. These are also important topics for the OSCE.

A dominant issue on the OSCE agenda is the security situation in the Eastern part of Europe. The situation there has ramifications for all of Europe.

Our number one priority must be to end the armed conflict that takes place in Eastern Ukraine. This is not a Ukrainian conflict. And it has not been caused by a failure in the European security system. It has been caused by Russia's failure to live up to OSCE commitments and to respect international law.

A renewed willingness to abide by international law is necessary to end the conflict. All participating states must comply with the basic principles of the Helsinki Final Act. These principles include respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-intervention in internal affairs, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Unwillingness to comply with international law and the Helsinki principles is also the main cause of many of the other conflicts on the OSCE agenda, including Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Respect for each other's territorial integrity includes adherence to the principle of host nation consent.

The Minsk agreements must be implemented. We expect Russia to also use its influence to ensure that the separatists implement these agreements. The Russian Federation holds the key to ending the conflict in Ukraine.

We need to return to a situation where all OSCE participating states comply with international law. That also includes an end to the illegal annexation of Crimea.

The role of the OSCE has also changed significantly during the past year and a half. The OSCE – including the Forum for Security Co-operation – has proved its continued relevance. The Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and other conflict-specific tools are particularly important in this context.

Other useful tools are the conventional arms control agreements: the Vienna Document, the Open Skies Treaty, and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. If used in good faith and in line with their intentions, these agreements can prove vital for confidence building, de-escalation of disputes and even conflict resolution. If selectively implemented, the agreements have less value.

One important task is to update the Vienna Document. A more long-term objective could be to re-establish a broader conventional arms control agreement in line with the Istanbul declaration and its obligations.

The situation in Ukraine will obviously continue to be a prominent theme at the meetings of the FSC this autumn. We need to continue to exchange views on developments on the ground, but also focus on how we can contribute to de-escalation and resolution of the conflict. I encourage you to continue your discussion on specific FSC contributions to the SMM, drawing upon the politico-military expertise of this forum.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The schedule for Plenary Meetings under our chairmanship was distributed on 3 September 2015. Please allow me to elaborate on the Norwegian priorities for the autumn session.

We will draw attention also to the northern part of our continent. It has been some time since a Northern European country last held the chair of the FSC. We will therefore dedicate one of the Security Dialogues to the security situation in Europe seen from a Nordic perspective. In these challenging times for Europe we should also focus on some positive examples of security cooperation.

In agreement with the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship, we have decided to devote the joint meeting of the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to a topic that we attach great importance to, namely gender equality in the armed forces. Guest speakers from participating States will provide us with examples of best practices from their respective armed forces.

With the current situation in Ukraine in mind, we will set aside one Security Dialogue to discuss conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in Europe. This crisis has demonstrated that the CSBMs agreed upon in the OSCE are useful tools to de-escalate the situation, if they are implemented fully. The 2011 Vienna Document on CSBMs is particularly important in this context.

However, the crisis has also made it clear that the Vienna Document needs to be updated in order to become a more useful instrument for dealing with the changed European security environment. We must draw lessons from this situation so that the organisation can be better prepared for future challenges.

Another topic on our agenda is small arms and light weapons (SALW). In light of the First Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which took place in Cancun, Mexico on 24–27 August, we find it timely to address this topic in the FSC. We look forward to discussing the results from this important conference and the treaty's relevance to the OSCE's work on small arms and light weapons.

The FSC has decided to hold a High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar in Vienna on 16–17 February 2016. We would therefore like to discuss this theme at one of the FSC meetings this autumn.

In addition, one meeting will be devoted to the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Democratic control of armed forces is essential both during war and in times of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Ministerial Council in Belgrade will be the most important event this autumn, for the FSC and for the OSCE as a whole. We will work closely with the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE with a view to ensuring tangible outcomes from this meeting.

The month of November will be devoted to negotiating draft decisions on issues relevant to the FSC. We will do our best to create an environment that is conducive to productive discussions.

We will do our utmost to submit draft decisions to the Ministerial Council that support the common goal of strengthening the security and stability of all in Europe and the Eurasian region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In agreement with the FSC Troika members and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, I announce the following FSC coordinators and their mandates:

- Lieutenant Colonel Michael P Cullinane as FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Lights Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition
- Dr Pierre von Arx as Co-ordinator of the FSC Chair for the Vienna Document
- Ms Neval Orbay as FSC Co-ordinator on matters relating to UNSCR 1325
- Colonel Ivan Dvořák as FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

- Mr Vasily Pavlov as FSC Co-ordinator on Non-proliferation Issues
- Colonel Magnus Bratt as Chef de file of the FSC for the 2016 High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar
- At this point, the position as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons is vacant. I strongly encourage those of you who are interested to contact the Norwegian delegation.

We are grateful to all coordinators for volunteering to undertake these important tasks. Likewise, we are grateful to the Conflict Prevention Centre and the FSC Support Section for their invaluable assistance in planning our FSC chairmanship.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise our determination to carry out the FSC Chairmanship in the spirit of inclusiveness, transparency and cooperation. We look forward to stimulating and constructive discussions on European security and negotiations on documents for the Ministerial Council.

We are looking forward to working with you in the coming months. Our common success is dependent on cooperation by all and on your willingness to achieve results.

Thank you for your attention.