

Chairmanship: Armenia

983rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 21 July 2021

Opened: 11 a.m.

Closed: 12.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Papikyan

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

Agenda item 1: CLOSING SESSION

– *Closing statement by Ambassador A. Papikyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the OSCE and Chairperson of the FSC*

Chairperson (FSC.DEL/289/21), Russian Federation (Annex 1), Slovenia-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/291/21), United States of America (FSC.DEL/285/21 OSCE+), Sweden (Annex 2), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/286/21 OSCE+), Canada, Switzerland (Annex 3), Albania (Annex 4), Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Turkey (FSC.DEL/287/21 OSCE+)

Point of order: Azerbaijan, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Matters of protocol:* Serbia, Germany, Finland, United Kingdom, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

FSC.JOUR/989

21 July 2021

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

983rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 989, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear Armen,

Allow me to extend our heartiest congratulations to the delegation of Armenia and to you personally on the successful conclusion of your Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

We have four months of intensive and, in our opinion, very fruitful work behind us. All of the Forum meetings, without exception, have been marked by the intellectual richness and diversity of the views presented, with this undoubtedly being facilitated by the contributions of high-ranking diplomats and military officials, along with respected representatives of the academic community as guest speakers. We note the balanced nature and broad thematic scope of the meetings within the framework of the Security Dialogue. We believe that many of the ideas presented could be taken into account in our practical work here in Vienna.

In the present circumstances, the FSC remains one of the few multilateral platforms for frank discussions on military security issues. Let me remind you that this is precisely its intended purpose. The Forum was conceived by its founders as the main and, indeed, only pan-European structure responsible for politico-military stability in Europe. In this respect, the meetings on topics at the heart of our negotiating body's mandate – conventional arms control in Europe, transparency in military exercises and the impact of advances in military technology on stability – were extremely productive in our view. We note the capable organization and high quality of the major event that was the tenth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The current global instability and persistently high level of transborder threats make capacity-building among regional organizations imperative. In this context, the inclusion of the activities of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in the Forum's agenda is most welcome. The discussion, attended by the Secretary General of the OSCE, Helga Maria Schmid, and the Secretary General of the CSTO, Stanislav Zas, was useful, including in terms of substantive preparations for their meeting in Moscow on 22 June this year. It is encouraging that relations between the two organizations are developing in the

spirit of the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999.

We regard as timely the discussion on the OSCE's contribution to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. Its outcomes show that not only can the OSCE help countries to implement the resolution's goals and objectives, but the resolution itself also allows the OSCE to make better use of its unifying potential, thereby contributing to the establishment of a common security space from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We trust that "The OSCE's contribution to the 2020–2021 Comprehensive Review of the Status of Implementation of UNSCR 1540" agreed upon at the FSC will be reflected in the final recommendations and future United Nations Security Council resolution on the extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee in New York.

The issue of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition remains an important area of our joint work. The thematic meeting chaired by Armenia provided an opportunity to lay the groundwork for increasing the effectiveness and practical impact of OSCE project activities. We are gratified to see progress in the updating of the best practice guides on the management of stockpiles of SALW and their ammunition. Reaching agreement on the improved guide on the destruction of SALW, the work on which was overseen by our distinguished US colleagues, was another step towards our common goal of preventing weapons from ending up on black markets.

Mr. Chairperson,

We face many global and regional challenges, including the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition, armed conflicts and crises in which compliance with international humanitarian law is crucial. The common tasks on which the distinguished Armenian Chairmanship has focused can be solved on the basis of the principles of equal and indivisible security, openness, and the rejection of confrontation or the imposition of ideologies in international relations. There is a need for continued joint and mutually respectful analysis of problems.

Unfortunately, the last round of negotiations has shown that by no means all participating States take this approach, seeking instead to use the Forum's platform to legitimize the security imbalances that have emerged 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 provocative military activities and increases its military presence near Russia's borders. Under these circumstances it is too early to talk about the modernization of the Vienna Document 2011.

In our view, this essential tool for building confidence and transparency in the military sphere should be seen, above all, as an instrument for developing professional co-operation between the armed forces of the participating States. In this regard, we reject the attempts to politicize the risk reduction mechanism contained in the Vienna Document 2011, and likewise its misuse for the purpose of supporting some participating States while exerting pressure on others.

The ill-considered statements about the alleged massing of Russian armed forces in the border areas (they returned to their places of permanent deployment upon completion of

the inspections) are being used by Ukraine's representatives at the FSC as a "smokescreen" for the "unusual military activities" that have been going on in Donbas for seven years and involve up to 60,000 Ukrainian military personnel. If the delegation of Ukraine continues with its false, irresponsible rhetoric, there will be no professional discussion and the weekly insinuations of our southern neighbours will continue to be listened to by their Western sponsors without the participation of the Russian delegation.

The Russian Federation condemns the Ukrainian Government's bloody punitive operation against the population of Donbas and advocates a peaceful settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict through direct dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk on the basis of strict compliance with the Minsk agreements in their entirety and in the correct sequence. We urge others to do the same.

In the current circumstances, efforts are needed to develop practical steps to de-escalate tensions in Europe, reduce military confrontation along the line of contact between Russia and NATO countries, restore military contacts and improve incident prevention mechanisms. We look forward to tangible progress on these matters within the framework of the Structured Dialogue.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, we should like to emphasize that the Armenian delegation's approach is also in line with our views on how the work of the FSC can be better structured in today's challenging times, in accordance with its mandate. We share the position of our Armenian friends regarding the need to seek consensus by finding agreement on the basis of mutual benefit, focusing on open and constructive dialogue on a wide range of European security problems. We sincerely thank all the members of the Armenian Chairmanship team for their professionalism, their innovative approach in drawing up the FSC agenda, and the substantively rich marathon negotiations.

We warmly welcome the Republic of Austria as the next Chairmanship of the Forum and heartily wish it every success in this difficult and highly responsible function in the lead-up to the Ministerial Council in Stockholm. We look forward to close and fruitful co-operation with our distinguished Austrian colleagues. We share their sentiment as regards the need for our negotiating platform to return to its politico-military origins and as regards the accumulation of "intellectual capital" in terms of discussions on the future of conventional arms control.

We are grateful to the distinguished delegation of the United States of America, which is leaving the Troika. We welcome the distinguished delegation of Azerbaijan as the new member of the Troika and wish our Azerbaijani colleagues every success.

Thank you, Mr. 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/989

21 July 2021

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

983rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 989, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

With the start of the Armenian Chairmanship, an ambitious and from our point of view a most relevant Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) programme was initiated. The topics were at the centre of the OSCE's work in a broader context. As Chairmanship of the OSCE, we perceive the Armenian FSC Chairmanship as a successful one, which has deepened our knowledge on many important issues. It should encourage us all to continue the important work of the OSCE for the benefit of all participating States.

The security dialogues have facilitated useful insight and exchange of views and were of the highest quality. Especially the event on 12 May on challenges of the new generation warfare was an important reminder for us all, on what challenges the OSCE and its participating States have to master. We must prepare ourselves for the new challenges we will face in the, most likely, not so distant future.

The dialogue on arms control and confidence- and security-building measures on 26 May was also very useful and fully in line with Sweden's top priorities. This will remain a key confidence-building, conflict-prevention and military risk-reducing measure, which we as participating States of the OSCE have at our disposal.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week, Sweden and Armenia organized a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on the OSCE's role and commitments to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms – trends and challenges. Our delegations prepared and conducted a meeting on this important topic in a constructive and productive manner and the outcome was from our point of view most valuable.

During the Armenian Chairmanship, the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was conducted successfully. The Annual Security Review Conference was also supposed to be held. This has not been possible so far, which we sincerely regret.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your very able team for your efforts. I also wish Austria a warm welcome as Chairmanship of the FSC. We have taken note of your comprehensive FSC programme, which we find both innovative and inspiring. This autumn, our countries have the important task of working together towards the Ministerial Council in Stockholm. We are truly looking forward to that co-operation.

Finally, I thank the United States of America for your strong commitment to the FSC Troika and welcome Azerbaijan as a new member.

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



983rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 989, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Swiss delegation would like to thank you, Ambassador Papikyan, for your leadership in chairing the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) during the past few months, which were still marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated challenges. We also thank your competent and dedicated team, especially Ms. Martirosyan, who led Working Group A and most of the FSC Troika meetings.

We wish to extend our thanks to the United States of America as it leaves the FSC Troika and welcome Azerbaijan as a new member of the Troika. Looking ahead, we also welcome the incoming FSC Chairmanship and assure our Austrian friends of our strong support.

Our consensus-based Organization is currently navigating turbulent waters and, as it were, having to sail by sight. We experience this every week, not only at the Permanent Council, but also increasingly in our work in the politico-military dimension and especially at the FSC. The erosion of trust and confidence is creating uncertainties, misunderstandings and dangerous misinterpretations, which could well result in an accidental escalation.

We therefore welcomed the Armenian Chairmanship's decision to ensure continuity on several topics, such as the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which remains in our view an undisputed cornerstone of our common OSCE *acquis*. Switzerland also particularly appreciated the Security Dialogue on the OSCE assistance mechanism in the field of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, and likewise the Security Dialogues on arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, and transparency in military exercises and activities.

The instruments and mechanisms covered by these meetings are key OSCE achievements, and they have already inspired similar initiatives around the world. It is important to preserve and protect these tools and to adapt them accordingly in order to ensure that they retain their effectiveness. The platform provided by the FSC allows us to discuss important issues and reach agreements designed to advance the security of our countries and, by implication, that of the entire OSCE area.

Switzerland would also like to commend the Chairmanship for its decision to hold a Security Dialogue on United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325. The women, peace and security agenda remains a priority for my country. The Security Dialogues and the Tenth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct demonstrated the willingness of most participating States to promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 nationally and within our Organization. Ensuring the non-discriminatory access of women to the security sector makes it possible for the full potential of societies to be harnessed for inclusive peacebuilding and strengthens equality in this sector.

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland attaches great importance to the continuity of our discussions within the FSC and in the OSCE as a whole. Our Organization is an important arena for dialogue, where we should all be able to express our opinions – even diverging ones – in a constructive environment.

My delegation deeply regrets that we have still not reached consensus on the dates and agenda of the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC). If we continue to politicize even the preconditions for facilitating dialogue among the participating States, then we are putting at risk the very foundations upon which this Organization was built. We encourage all the participating States to join in reaching consensus as soon as possible on the dates for this year's ASRC. The credibility of our Organization and of our respective countries is ultimately at stake here.

As we come closer to the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, we must think about how to strengthen and revitalize the OSCE as a platform for dialogue and co-operation. If we fail to do this, we shall not be able to overcome our current security challenges and could even pave the way for new tensions.

Mr. Chairperson,

I do not wish to end my statement on a pessimistic note. Therefore, I emphasize once again that security in the OSCE area remains indivisible. The pursuit and preservation of consensus by strengthening dialogue should consequently be our common goal.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/989

21 July 2021

Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

983rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 989, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the OSCE MenEngage group to highlight the support of this group for the women, peace and security agenda. Over the last two decades, United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 has been complemented by an additional nine resolutions on women, peace and security, providing guidance to national and international actors on their roles in relation to women, peace and security.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 is a wide-ranging resolution that reaffirms the important role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction. It stresses the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security. We reiterate that the women, peace and security agenda continues to be critically important for the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security.

Referring to last year's OSCE publication on implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in the OSCE region, it is encouraging to note that the number of National Action Plans implementing the women, peace and security agenda has steadily grown since 2010. Of 57 participating States in the OSCE area, 36 (63 per cent) have current National Action Plans for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. However, more needs to be done not only with additional States adopting United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in their National Action Plans but also providing adequate funding for their implementation.

This call was reinforced at last year's OSCE Ministerial Council, when 52 participating States signed the Tirana joint statement on the implementation of concrete actions in regard to the women, peace and security agenda.

During the first half of this year, Security Dialogues on the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the armed and security forces, and the Tenth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct again demonstrated the overwhelming support of participating States for furthering the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 at and through the OSCE and the FSC.

As has already been said, United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 is a very practical agenda that foresees that women's full, equal and meaningful participation ensures better outcomes, whether that be in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict or increasing the operational effectiveness of our armed forces. And it is also true that, at a higher level, this is an issue of promoting human rights. Women's rights are indeed human rights.

The MenEngage group would also like to encourage those participating States who did not support the Tirana joint statement to work constructively with the OSCE Chairmanship up to and at the Ministerial Council in Stockholm to ensure meaningful progress on women, peace and security at the OSCE this year.