



CONCEPT NOTE

OSCE SECURITY CHAT

The Framework for Arms Control in an age of Emerging Technologies

Wednesday 16 June

16:30 - 18:00 hrs (Vienna time/CEST)

Via Zoom

Twenty-five years ago, OSCE participating States at the Ministerial Council in Lisbon agreed to develop a framework for arms control negotiations, designed to create a web of interlocking and mutually reinforcing arms control obligations and commitments. The basis for this web consisted of, amongst others, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Vienna Document, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the arms control process initiated by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Open Skies Treaty (ratified in 2002).

The [Framework for Arms Control](#) was designed to contribute to the further development of the OSCE area as an indivisible common security space by guiding negotiations on further arms control measures. Issues such as military imbalances, inter-state tensions and conflicts, in particular in border areas, internal disputes, and enhancement of transparency and predictability should be addressed. At its heart were the **negotiating principles of sufficiency, transparency through information exchange, verification and limitations on force.**

However, the past two decades have seen the unravelling of the OSCE's arms control acquis. The CFE and Open Skies treaties suffer from a decline in the number of implementing states parties, and the Vienna Document is under challenge with regard to its implementation to the letter and spirit, with no real modernization since its 1999 edition. At the same time, there are some positive signs, notably the 2016 Hamburg Declaration and subsequent launch of a Structured Dialogue to explore the reversal of the negative developments, and create an environment conducive to reinvigorate conventional arms control (CAC) and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBM) in Europe. This dialogue process is still ongoing.

Current challenges are not only rooted in trying to identify and bridge the differences in interpretation of terms such as "indivisibility of security", "strengthen security at

the expense of others", or "conditions conducive to develop further CSBM". It also pertains to matters of transparency and how perceived risks and threats can best be reduced.

Furthermore, over the past 25 years, new technologies and their potential for military applications have emerged. These emerging technologies have a profound impact on how states perceive risks and threats and how best to address them by means of confidence building and risk-reduction. When the Framework was signed, states defined "arms" still overwhelmingly in terms of their kinetic effects (tanks, artillery, combat aircraft and helicopters) and in conjunction with classical ground operations (combat forces, armoured vehicles). Nowadays, confidence building and risk-reduction policies will also have to address issues such as hypersonic weapons, long-distance precision guided munitions, the weaponization of space and cyberspace, the impact of artificial intelligence, and the use of unmanned or autonomous weapon platforms.

Do governments still perceive the 1996 Framework and its principles as relevant, and even relevant enough to deal with these developments?

How do we kick-start a renewed discussion about the principles of sufficiency, transparency through information exchange, verification and limitations when it comes to such emerging technologies?

Is there a gap between the communities dealing with the OSCE's CAC/CSBM acquis and those predicting and assessing the impacts of emerging technologies? If so, how can this gap be bridged?

Through this online **Security Chat**, co-organised by the OSCE and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), four prominent experts (see names and biographies in the Annex) will share their views on the framework for arms control, its relevance and its relation to technological change, and emerging technologies in current and future weapon systems. The virtual panel will be introduced by the OSCE Secretary-General, Helga Maria Schmid, followed by a statement by Ambassador Luis Cuesta Civís, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE. The Security Chat will be moderated by Dr Alexander Graef (IFSH).

Please use this link to register for this event:

https://osce-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c83AqGTzR8OzNw3bdaQQRg