

Chairmanship: Liechtenstein**707th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**1. Date: Wednesday, 30 January 2013Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Closed: 11.55 a.m.2. Chairperson: Ambassador M.-P. Kothbauer3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentation on Mongolia's national security strategy and defence policy by Mr. Munkh-Ochir Dorjjugder, Director of the Administration Department of the Ministry of Defence of Mongolia: Chairperson, Mr. M.-O. Dorjjugder (FSC.DEL/7/13 OSCE+), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia and Moldova, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/9/13), United States of America, Turkey, Russian Federation, Canada

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Elimination of the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule barring women from certain military positions in the United States of America: United States of America (Annex 1), Turkey, Chairperson, Russian Federation*
- (b) *Financial contribution to the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM): Denmark (Annex 2), Montenegro (Annex 3)*
- (c) *Financial contribution to the project on storage of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition in Kyrgyzstan: Kazakhstan (Annex 4), Kyrgyzstan (FSC.DEL/12/13), FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms*

and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Bulgaria

- (d) *Briefing on new training exercises for the year 2013 for the armed forces in the Russian Federation:* Russian Federation (Annex 5)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Briefing on the 59th meeting of the OSCE Communications Group and on the suggestion for the date of the Global Exchange of Military Information:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Chairperson
- (b) *Briefing on the outcome of the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres, held on 13 December 2012:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Germany (Annex 6), Luxembourg
- (c) *Financial contributions by Liechtenstein and Lithuania to activities related to the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and appeal for further support:* FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Germany)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 6 February 2013, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal

707th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 713, Agenda item 2(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to brief the Forum for Security Co-operation about the recent decision by the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding the role of women in our armed forces. On 24 January 2013, the United States officially eliminated the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule barring women from certain military positions normally associated with direct ground combat.

The United States supports the full implementation of UNSCR 1325. We reaffirm the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building. We stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution. I would like to read the following statement to the FSC:

“The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense are fully committed to removing as many barriers as possible to joining, advancing, and succeeding in the U.S. Armed Forces. Success in our military based solely on ability, qualifications, and performance is consistent with our values and enhances military readiness. Today, women make up 15 per cent of the U.S. military and are indispensable to the national security mission. In fact, thousands of women have served alongside men in Iraq and Afghanistan, and like men, have been exposed to hostile enemy action in those countries. However, many positions in our military were closed to women because of the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule.

Currently closed units and positions will be opened by each relevant Service, consistent with the guiding principles set forth and after the development and implementation of validated, gender-neutral occupational standards and the required notifications to U.S. Congress. The Military departments shall submit by May 2013, their detailed plans for the implementation of this directive.

Integration of women into newly opened positions and units will occur as expeditiously as possible, but must be completed no later than January 2016. Any

recommendation to keep an occupational specialty or unit closed to women must be personally approved by the Secretary of Defense. Exceptions must be narrowly tailored, based on a rigorous analysis of factual data regarding the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for the position.”

The U.S. delegation will provide an update on the implementation of this decision at the Wednesday, 27 February, Security Dialogue coinciding with the presentation by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and Ms. Rachel Natelson, Legal Director, Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN), on “Human rights and fundamental freedoms in armed forces – including women’s access to combat positions”.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.

707th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 713, Agenda item 2(b)**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

I am happy to announce that the Kingdom of Denmark has decided to donate 37,000 euros to the Ammunition Demilitarization Component, Phase III, of the Joint Government of Montenegro – OSCE – UNDP Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM). I would kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of this meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

707th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 713, Agenda item 2(b)**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MONTENEGRO**

Madam Chairperson,

Montenegro is very grateful to Denmark for a donation and continued support for the MONDEM programme which is of utmost importance for us.

As a small contribution in keeping the FSC informed about SALW projects I would like to inform you that second phase of MONDEM programme has successfully finished. In second phase 99.97 per cent of planned 712 tons of ammunition has destroyed.

Approximately 32,000.00 USD remained from the second phase, and we need additional 75,000 euros for the start of third phase.

Bilaterally, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has donated 200,000 euros for the reconstruction of the two buildings in Brezovik depot. The reconstruction of that part of Brezovik was finished in December 2012 providing excellent conditions for the 800 tons of ammunition and other ordnance.

In the end, I would like to thank once again Denmark and other contributors to MONDEM for recognizing its value and importance. I sincerely hope that the funds necessary for beginning of the third phase of MONDEM will be provided for successful continuation of planned activities.

Madam Chairperson, I kindly ask you to attach this statement on the journal of the day.

Thank you.

707th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 713, Agenda item 2(c)**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN**

Madam Chairperson,

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to projects implemented in the area of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition. It goes without saying that these projects contribute substantially to safety and security in the OSCE area. With this in view I am pleased to inform the Forum that Kazakhstan has contributed 10,000 euros to the project entitled “Upgrading Kyrgyz Republic’s capabilities for storage of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Conventional Ammunition (CA) in Buzhum, Gul’cha and Koy-Tash”.

We hope that our humble contribution will help to realize the goal of the project, which is to enhancing national capabilities in managing SALW and CA and to reduce the risks to health and life of the civilian population living in the neighbourhood of the ammunition storage depots.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

707th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 713, Agenda item 2(d)

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

Madam Chairperson,

On 1 December 2012, the new training year began in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. Accordingly, in keeping with our established good practice, we should like to familiarize our colleagues with information from the Russian Ministry of Defence on the results of the past year and on the plans for the year ahead.

During the training year that has just come to an end, the main efforts were focused on enhancing the individual training of military personnel and improving the team training and readiness of formations, units and subunits for independent, fast-moving and autonomous operations involving different forms of combat and using modern means of warfare.

In order to achieve the goals set, more than 100 operational training activities and 35 international exercises within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and under other bilateral agreements with foreign States, were conducted.

In the final stage of the training year, the large-scale, strategic headquarters exercise "Caucasus 2012" was held, during which troops (forces) carried out in practice a wide range of combat training exercises and demonstrated a high level of combat skills.

In the 2013 training year, the training activities of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation will be aimed at further improving the combat readiness of the army and navy, taking into account the results achieved in combat training.

In order to further improve the quality of the operational and combat training of troops, provision is made in the plans for 2013 for an increase in the number of combat training activities.

In this connection, particular attention will be paid to inter-service and inter-branch training, with practical exercises in the command of joint operations involving units and formations of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Aerospace Defence Forces, using new forms and means of conducting military (combat) operations.

As part of the operational training, there are plans to conduct a number of headquarters exercises and training activities both with central military command bodies and with units (formations) of the services and branches of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, under the leadership of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and the troop commanders of the military districts.

The main feature of the combat training in the new training year is a differentiated approach to the duration of the stages and periods of team training for units and formations depending on the circumstances and the nature of the combat training exercises, and also on the particular characteristics of the combat role of the troops.

There will be more intensive training in marksmanship and the driving of combat vehicles in 2013. These exercises will be conducted on average two to three times a week, and no less than 50 per cent of the weapons training and driving exercises will take place at night.

In the new training year, particular attention will be paid in all troop units to improving the level of physical fitness of military personnel. The personnel will spend up to 25 hours a week on physical training, including sporting events.

On the instructions of the President of the Russian Federation, particular attention will be paid in 2013 to recruiting carefully selected and well-trained military personnel to serve under contract in formations and troop units. Their training (further training) will continue at the district training centres and the training centres of services and branches of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

There are plans to hold more than 100 headquarters and tactical (tactical specialist) exercises with formations and troop units in the military districts. They will be conducted as inter-service exercises – in other words, ways of working together in performing different tasks in the interests and under the unified leadership of a general commanding officer (commander) will be put to the test.

One of the important training activities for the military command bodies and troops will be the joint strategic exercise of the armed forces of Russia and Belarus “West 2013”.

Much attention will be paid in the 2013 training year to international military co-operation. Pursuant to agreements with the armies of foreign States, there are plans to hold more than 60 joint tactical training exercises. The main efforts in this connection are to concentrate on strengthening military co-operation with the CIS, CSTO and SCO member States.

All in all, the successful implementation of the armed forces training exercises envisaged for the new training year will make it possible to increase the professionalism of all categories of military personnel and achieve a qualitatively new level of team training and readiness of command bodies and troops for the tasks ahead of them.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

707th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 713, Agenda item 3(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY

Madam Chairperson,

The sixth Heads of Verification Centres meeting (HoV meeting) took place in Vienna on 13 December 2012. In the German view, these meetings give the heads of national verification centres a unique opportunity to exchange experience and information on the technical and operational aspects of the implementation of the Vienna Document outside the framework of the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM).

Unlike previous such meetings, this one extended over a whole day. After the opening of the meeting and the introduction by the representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Mr. Mathew Geertsen, the co-moderators of the three working groups delivered their prepared keynote addresses, which served as a basis for the discussions in the afternoon. After this, a joint working dinner took place. Here there was an ample opportunity to engage in the informal conversations that are so valuable and – most importantly also – to develop contacts with new colleagues. Not least, the HoV meeting allows uncertainties and misunderstandings that affect implementation on the working level to be cleared up.

We regard as particularly valuable the lively discussions that took place in the three parallel working groups during the afternoon of the meeting. The smaller number of participants ensured – quite clearly – a more frank and intimate atmosphere for the conversations. It is questionable whether the same frank exchanges would be possible in a plenary session.

The holding of the meeting in December, in parallel with the Information Exchange, makes it possible for many participating States to reduce costs by using a single trip for the Information Exchange and participation in the HoV meeting. It is also essential to have a few months of lead time before the AIAM in cases where proposals on which agreement has been reached among the participating States are to be submitted to the AIAM.

We consider that the sixth HoV meeting was a great success and are in favour of a continuation of the meetings in this form and at this time of year. That will only be possible if there are those who voluntarily assume additional tasks as co-moderators, keynote speakers, sponsors, etc.

Our thanks go to the staff of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Conflict Prevention Centre and to participating States that performed additional functions, since the meeting would not have been possible without their active support. We also wish to express our appreciation to the Belgian Verification Centre, which made all the organizational arrangements in Brussels for the preparatory discussions for this meeting among all the co-moderators.

I should like, already now, to urge all OSCE participating States to identify new – if possible, pressing – issues for the next HoV meeting in 2013, to take over co-moderator and keynote speaker functions, to consider sponsoring the working dinner or parts thereof and, through active participation, to make the next meeting a success also.

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