



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

B A S E L

2014

**Twenty-First Meeting of the
Ministerial Council
4 and 5 December 2014**

Statements and declarations by the Ministerial Council

Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Statements by delegations

Reports to the Ministerial Council

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I. STATEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS BY THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

**DECLARATION ON
FURTHER STEPS IN THE HELSINKI+40 PROCESS**
(MC.DOC/1/14 of 5 December 2014)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recall the decision on the Helsinki+40 process launched at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin in 2012, and the Declaration on Furthering the Helsinki+40 Process of the Kyiv Ministerial Council in 2013 in view of the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015;

Will continue to use the OSCE as a platform for addressing European security;

Call on the incoming Chairmanship of Serbia, supported by the Troika, to continue pursuing the Helsinki+40 process in a transparent and inclusive manner.

Attachment 1 to MC.DOC/1/14

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

The United States makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure and asks that it be attached to this Declaration.

“This declaration we have just adopted is considerably shorter than the Helsinki+40 decision and declaration that preceded it in Dublin in 2012 and Kyiv in 2013. In those texts, we reaffirmed our full adherence to all OSCE principles and commitments and we recommitted that, as participating States, we are responsible to implement our commitments fully and in good faith. Unfortunately, we have not been able to make the same reaffirmations in our Declaration this year for one simple reason: the egregious ongoing violations by the Russian Federation of its international legal obligations and its continuing contravention of the fundamental principles and the commitments of this Organization in its aggression in Ukraine. Russia’s ongoing violations of its OSCE commitments have made it very difficult for this Ministerial to agree on many substantive documents or credibly broaden and deepen the commitments made across all dimensions of security. More importantly, Russia’s conduct has eroded trust among participating States, had a grave impact on human lives, including many thousands of deaths, and is undermining security and stability in the OSCE area and beyond. While this Declaration on the Helsinki+40 process is meagre, previous Ministerial texts on Helsinki+40 provide us both with a framework from which to move forward in the

Helsinki+40 process, as well as with a key tool for addressing the crisis of Russia's aggression in Ukraine: focusing on implementing our commitments fully in good faith."

Thank you.

Attachment 2 to MC.DOC/1/14

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Ukraine:

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Ukraine makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of procedure of the OSCE.

"Ukraine has joined consensus on this declaration to support progress within the Helsinki+40 process in the course of 2015, a year that marks four decades since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

Ukraine viewed launching and pursuing the Helsinki+40 process as one of the priorities of its 2013 OSCE Chairmanship and invested substantial efforts towards implementation of this commitment.

We therefore deeply deplore that the flagrant violations of the OSCE core principles, in particular those enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, have negatively affected the process in 2014 in terms of achieving those ambitious goals set by the Dublin decision of 2012 and the Kyiv declaration of 2013, including advancing work towards a security community and recording practical results reflecting intensified efforts to fully implement OSCE commitments.

The lack of progress on this track stemmed from the Russian aggression against Ukraine, which resulted in illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and escalation in Ukraine's Donbas. In pursuing its aggression the Russian Federation has effectively violated the Helsinki Final Act with its Decalogue of guiding principles, which served as a basis of the Helsinki+40 process.

We note that the Russian aggression has led to further erosion of trust and confidence within the OSCE, which is particularly harmful for our dialogue within the Helsinki+40 process in 2015.

We consider that the dialogue in 2015 should focus, *inter alia* on identifying measures to prevent aggression against an OSCE participating State and to restore respect for the OSCE principles and commitments and to enhance their implementation."

The Delegation of Ukraine requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the Declaration just adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT
PROCESS IN THE “5+2” FORMAT**
(MC.DOC/2/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:

Recall the Ministerial Statement on the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv on 6 December 2013;

Reiterate their strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for Transnistria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;

Welcome the ongoing work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format and the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process;

Underline the need to achieve tangible progress in the negotiations on all three baskets of the agreed agenda for the negotiation process: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues;

Emphasize the importance of increasing the frequency of meetings of the political representatives of the sides in 2015 and encourage the sides to hold high level meetings;

Encourage the sides to increase the continuity and effectiveness of the process by agreeing at the beginning of the year on a calendar for the official negotiations in the framework of the Transnistrian settlement process for the whole year;

Invite the sides to implement existing agreed confidence-building measures and develop further measures in the framework of the negotiation process to the benefit of the people on the ground and further urge the sides to refrain from unilateral actions that could destabilize the situation in the region;

Call upon the mediators and observers of the OSCE, Russian Federation, Ukraine, European Union and the United States of America to redouble their co-ordinated efforts and to make full use of their potential to promote progress in achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.

DECLARATION ON YOUTH

(MC.DOC/3/14 of 5 December 2014)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, recall the OSCE commitments relating to youth and children, which are enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and other relevant OSCE decisions, and take note of the efforts of other international organizations in this regard, in particular the United Nations.

We acknowledge that youth and children require particular attention and that their needs, concerns and interests should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

We acknowledge the potential of young people to contribute to economic, political and social development, and that they can support participating States in the implementation of commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

We take note of the Swiss Chairmanship's initiative related to youth in the OSCE.

**DECLARATION ON THE
TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP TO THE PARTIES TO THE
AGREEMENT ON SUB-REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL, ANNEX 1-B,
ARTICLE IV OF THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR
PEACE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

(MC.DOC/4/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 1 of 8 December 1995 on OSCE action for peace, democracy and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Acknowledges the significant contribution to peace, security and stability in the area of application of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, Annex 1-B, Article IV of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Agreement) since its entry into force in 1996;

Welcomes the spirit of co-operation, trust and confidence of the Parties while implementing the Agreement;

Recognizes with satisfaction the continuous political will of the Parties to the Agreement to comply fully with all aspects of the process established under this arms control regime;

Welcomes the Parties taking ownership of the Agreement;

Reiterates the strong support of the OSCE community to the Parties for continuing the implementation of the Agreement in good faith.

**DECLARATION ON THE
OSCE ROLE IN COUNTERING THE PHENOMENON OF
FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
2170 (2014) AND 2178 (2014)**
(MC.DOC/5/14 of 5 December 2014)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Reaffirming Permanent Council Decision No. 1063 on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, and other relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering terrorism, and reiterating our strong support for the OSCE's comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism activities,

Recalling our commitment to work together to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute terrorism-related acts, and reaffirming our strong determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion,

Expressing our deep concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs)¹ as described in UNSCR 2178, namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their State of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the provision or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict,

Concerned that foreign terrorist fighters increase the intensity, duration and intractability of conflicts, and also may pose a serious threat to their States of origin, the States they transit and the States to which they travel, as well as States neighbouring zones of armed conflict in which foreign terrorist fighters are active and that are affected by serious security burdens, and noting that the threat of foreign terrorist fighters may affect all regions and States, even those far from conflict zones,

Declaring our intention to take resolute action to counter foreign terrorist fighters in full implementation of UNSCR 2170 and 2178, and in compliance with our OSCE commitments, and with all obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations and its entities, as well as other relevant actors, in countering foreign terrorist fighters, in particular the OSCE's work to promote a community policing approach on preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and taking note of the development of good practices and tools such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum's recommendations that encompass countering violent radicalization and the flow of foreign terrorist fighters,

1 The denomination of persons as "foreign terrorist fighters" is without prejudice to the legal status under applicable national and international law, in particular international humanitarian law.

We call upon the participating States:

1. To co-operate fully in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice foreign terrorist fighters, on the basis of the principle of “extradite or prosecute”, in accordance with their obligations under international law and their OSCE commitments concerning the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism;
2. To enhance international co-operation among States in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism, including with regards to foreign terrorist fighters;
3. To prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters through effective border controls and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents, to exchange information in this regard, and to implement Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 7/03, 4/04, 6/06 and 11/09 on travel document security while fully respecting our obligations under international law, including refugee and human rights law including to ensure that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts;
4. To enhance international co-operation to counter the use of the Internet for the purposes of inciting violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism and for recruiting foreign terrorist fighters, and to exchange information about this threat in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/06 on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes, while fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and freedom of expression;
5. To further promote public-private partnerships with civil society, the media, the business community, and industry in countering terrorism, in line with, *inter alia*, Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/08, in order to counter the incitement, recruitment, and travel of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as to prepare for and mitigate the threat posed by their return;
6. To support and inform each other about our specific efforts to counter the threat of foreign terrorist fighters and to continue to exchange good practices, strategies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in order to enhance practical co-operation;
7. To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage with us in these efforts;

We call upon the OSCE executive structures:

8. To facilitate thematic discussions in the OSCE, in a manner complementary to the ongoing efforts at the UN, focused on the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, in order to improve the understanding of the phenomenon, to exchange experiences and good practices, and to promote a comprehensive and coherent response;
9. To offer assistance in capacity-building activities to the requesting participating States, in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 1063, and to organize, where appropriate, regional and subregional events to identify potential weaknesses in international

legal and operational co-operation mechanisms in order to foster better co-operation and co-ordination nationally and internationally;

10. To continue to promote OSCE efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including through community policing approaches to preventing terrorism, in particular at the local level;

11. To facilitate, in close co-ordination with partner organizations such as the United Nations and other relevant actors, a coherent approach and tailored national assistance, upon request, to take account of, *inter alia*, the comprehensive set of good practices contained in the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Hague – Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon in order to assist interested participating States with the practical implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism legal and policy framework and to complement the work of the relevant United Nations counter-terrorism entities in these areas;

12. To support requesting participating States in the implementation of their commitments regarding travel document security and border management and to facilitate technical assistance in this field by Interpol and other relevant international organizations to requesting participating States.

**DECLARATION ON THE
OSCE ROLE IN COUNTERING KIDNAPPING AND
HOSTAGE-TAKING COMMITTED BY TERRORIST GROUPS IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2133 (2014)**

(MC.DOC/6/14 of 5 December 2014)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recalling the adoption of the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (2012), which highlights comprehensive operational principles and identifies the prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorism as one of the strategic focus areas of the OSCE's counter-terrorism role to guide future activities, and mindful of the OSCE Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (2012),

Recalling the instruments of the United Nations concerning the fight against terrorism and against kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999) and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979), and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 2133 (2014),

Reaffirming our commitment that all counter-terrorism efforts be conducted in compliance with the rule of law and with all obligations under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Strongly condemning incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions and expressing concern at the increase in such incidents, while underscoring that the payment of ransoms to terrorists funds future kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, creating more victims and perpetuating the problem,

Expressing our determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payment or political concessions,

Recognizing the need to further strengthen efforts to support victims and those affected by incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to give careful consideration to protecting the lives of hostages,

We call upon the participating States:

1. To prevent terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages;

2. To implement international instruments against terrorism, particularly UN Security Council resolution 2133 (2014), and to ensure that appropriate national legal frameworks are in place and in line with international standards;
3. To reach out to other States with the aim of enhancing the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2133 in order to make global efforts more effective;
4. To inform relevant employers and employees about the risks of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups in certain geographical areas and encourage them to take all necessary steps, in co-ordination with local authorities, in order to prevent such incidents;
5. To strengthen public-private partnerships, encouraging the business community to find common approaches for preventing and responding to kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups without the payment of ransoms;
6. To develop national programmes, as appropriate, for assistance to victims of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, notably hostages and their families;
7. To support capacity-building initiatives and facilitate exchanges among experts, for example by sharing good practices and preparing joint case studies, in order to support States in preventing and responding to future incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, to ensure that terrorists are brought to justice and held accountable, and to combat money-laundering and terrorist-financing networks, for example through tracking financial flows, while ensuring commitments to human rights and the rule of law are upheld;
8. To encourage close co-operation, communication, information sharing and networking among all relevant actors, such as through national contact points as appropriate, during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;
9. To invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage with us in these efforts;

We call upon the OSCE executive structures:

10. To support, under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, relevant United Nations entities, as appropriate, in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2133 (2014);
11. To facilitate, in close co-ordination with partner organizations such as the United Nations and other relevant actors, a coherent approach and tailored national assistance, upon request, to take account of, *inter alia*, the set of good practices contained in the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists;
12. To continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, and particularly instruments and resolutions relevant to kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and, in this context, to actively contribute to the discussion on this issue;

13. To explore ways to facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices, initiatives taken, and information at the strategic, operational and tactical levels between crisis centres, intelligence agencies, law enforcement and criminal justice officials;

14. To continue the promotion of capacity-building for practitioners, in co-operation with other relevant international and regional organizations and multilateral counter-terrorism platforms; and to support networking opportunities for experts with a view to preventing, managing, investigating and prosecuting cases of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;

15. To encourage public-private dialogue and co-operation relevant to kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups.

**MINISTERIAL COMMEMORATIVE DECLARATION ON THE
SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR**

(MC.DOC/7/14/Corr.1 of 5 December 2014)

The year 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, which caused unprecedented suffering and destruction. That war proved to be one of the greatest tragedies ever to have afflicted the peoples of Europe and the world and took tens of millions of lives. The war brought about violations of human rights and freedoms, as well as crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

We mourn all those who lost their lives as victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupations, or acts of repression. We pay our earnest tribute to the historic role of the allied forces and their sacrifices in the defeat of Nazism during the Second World War. We honour veterans and all those who fought for the victory of humanity. Time will not diminish the meaning of their sacrifice and we will never forget their heroic deeds.

Attachment 1 to MC.DOC/7/14/Corr.1

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegations of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan:

“We welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Commemorative Declaration on the Seventieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War – a major event next year.

Our detailed position regarding this anniversary is reflected in the joint statement on behalf of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) that is being circulated in the OSCE by the Russian delegation as the country chairing the CSTO.

We request that this statement be appended to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

Attachment 2 to MC.DOC/7/14/Corr.1

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Ukraine:

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Ukraine makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of procedure of the OSCE.

Ukraine has joined consensus on this Declaration to commemorate dozens of millions of those who lost lives and suffered from the atrocities of the Second World War – the greatest tragedy ever in human history. We pay tribute to those who fought and sacrificed for the victory of humanity, for peace and in defence of their own soil.

Ukraine was interested in a more substantive document and regrets that consensus has not been reached although we presently witness again military aggression, occupation and annexation, acts of repression on the occupied territories. All of them happen in the XXI century, are perpetrated by the Russian Federation and deserve unequivocal condemnation.

The actions by the Russian Federation have challenged the security achievements, that the participating States have been proud for decades after the Second World War. For the first time since the end of the Second World War a part of territory of one participating State has been illegally occupied and annexed by a neighbouring participating State, which thus grossly breached international law and OSCE principles and commitments. For the first time since the end of the Second World War Ukrainians, defending their native soil, are killed by military forces of another country. Thousands of killed and wounded, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, destruction, sufferings and grave human rights violations in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are the tragic outcomes of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

We must not allow the rule of law to be substituted by the rule of force. We must safeguard the core OSCE principles of sovereignty, independence, political unity and territorial integrity of participating States.

To prevent the recurrence of tragedies we must stay united and redouble efforts in countering aggression of one OSCE participating State against another. In particular, we must firmly counter any attempts to change by force the internationally recognized borders of sovereign states – the lesson, which is drawn from the history of the Second World War.

The Delegation of Ukraine requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the Declaration just adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.”

Attachment 3 to MC.DOC/7/14/Corr.1

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

The delegation of Italy, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

“Mr. Chairperson,

The EU wishes to make the following interpretative statement.

We pay our earnest tribute to the historic role of the allied forces and their sacrifices in the defeat of Nazism during the Second World War. However, likewise, we should remember that the Second World War brought about painful divisions in Europe. For many European countries, the end of the Second World War did not bring freedom, but more crimes against humanity committed against their people.

An honest and thorough research on the history of the Second World War contributes to reconciliation. Given our responsibility, towards all victims, past and present, we should avoid using, for extraneous purposes, divisive and selected approaches. In this regard, we condemn one-sided interpretations of history and attempts to justify the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact.

Whilst commemorating the victims of the Second World War, we deplore the fact that peace is still not a reality on the whole of the European continent. The violations of core OSCE principles in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine have seriously harmed our common vision.

In 2014, Russia has violated international law and the fundamental principles of the UN and the OSCE by illegally annexing a part of a sovereign State, under among other pretexts that of fighting neo-Nazism. We are determined to solve this crisis by diplomatic means and on the basis of international law and to press for a solution that fully respects Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

I request that this interpretative statement be duly registered and appended to this declaration and the journal of the day.”

**DECLARATION ON
ENHANCING EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM**
(MC.DOC/8/14 of 5 December 2014)

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, recall the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism held in Berlin in 2004, at which the OSCE participating States condemned all manifestations of anti-Semitism and committed themselves to common efforts to combat anti-Semitism throughout the OSCE area.

We express our concern at the disconcerting number of anti-Semitic incidents that continue to take place in the OSCE area and remain a challenge to stability and security.

We reject and condemn manifestations of anti-Semitism, intolerance and discrimination against Jews.

We recall the commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction to race, sex, language or religion, as enshrined in the provision of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

We appreciate the 2004 OSCE Chairman-in-Office's Berlin Declaration on Anti-Semitism and reaffirm the relevant OSCE commitments.

We take note of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship conclusions on the tenth anniversary of the Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism.

We acknowledge the essential contribution made by civil society to preventing and responding to anti-Semitism, including by their active participation in the relevant OSCE and OSCE-related events, in particular during the high-level commemorative event on the 10th anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin conference on anti-Semitism in 2014.

We stress the importance of States collaborating with civil society through effective partnerships and strengthened dialogue and co-operation on combating anti-Semitism.

We declare unambiguously that international developments, including with regard to the situation in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism.

We call on political, religious and civil society leaders to engage in open discussions with a view to combating and preventing anti-Semitism while fully respecting fundamental freedoms and human rights.

We call upon the participating States to:

- Encourage political leaders and public figures to speak out strongly and promptly when anti-Semitic incidents occur;
- Promote educational programmes for combating anti-Semitism and provide young people with opportunities for human rights education including on the subject of anti-Semitism;

- Increase efforts to implement existing OSCE commitments related to monitoring hate crimes and collecting relevant data, including motivated by anti-Semitism;
- Investigate effectively, promptly and impartially acts of violence motivated by anti-Semitism and prosecute those responsible;
- Promote and facilitate open and transparent intercultural, interfaith and interreligious dialogue and partnerships;
- Encourage the inclusion of religious and belief communities in public discussions of pertinent legislative initiatives;

We call upon the ODIHR to:

- Offer to participating States best practices on efforts to counter anti-Semitism, including by consulting civil society, to effectively identify and address contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism;
- Facilitate co-operation between governmental officials and civil society on issues related to anti-Semitism, including hate crime and Holocaust remembrance;
- Assist participating States in their efforts to collect data on anti-Semitic hate crimes, in co-operation with civil society, as appropriate;
- Facilitate the exchange of best practices among participating States on educational initiatives and other measures to raise awareness of anti-Semitism and overcome challenges to Holocaust education;
- Promote dialogue and strengthen the capacity of civil society to foster mutual respect and understanding in order to advance the cause of co-operation between different communities.

We highlight the work of the three Personal Representatives on tolerance issues in support of overall efforts of the OSCE to combat intolerance and discrimination, in particular through their country visits, the resulting recommendations and their reporting to the OSCE Permanent Council.

We encourage the participating States to elaborate Ministerial Council Declarations on enhancing efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions.

DECLARATION ON CO-OPERATION WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS

(MC.DOC/9/14 of 5 December 2014)

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, recognize that recent and ongoing international developments provide ample evidence that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, including the Mediterranean as a whole, as already acknowledged in the Helsinki Final Act and reaffirmed in the 2010 Astana Declaration. The fortieth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act will also mark the fortieth anniversary of the recognition in 1975 of the Mediterranean dimension and its relevance for security and stability in Europe.
2. We note that the changes unfolding in the Mediterranean region reflect a profound and complex process that may have enormous consequences for security and human rights in the OSCE region and beyond. We also note that these changes open up opportunities for development and co-operation and also increase the range of diverse and complex challenges, many of which are transnational in nature.
3. In this context, we reaffirm our strong belief in the relevance and the value of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, and in the need to further strengthen and tailor the existing dialogue to address common challenges such as terrorism, illicit traffic in narcotics, organized crime, money-laundering, trafficking in human beings, illegal migration, gender equality, energy security, environment and security, and other issues, in a manner consistent with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.
4. We also call for strengthened dialogue and co-operation with Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation with regard to ensuring the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, preventing intolerance, xenophobia, violence and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief, including against Christians, Muslims, Jews and members of other religions, as well as against non-believers, promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue, combating intolerance and discrimination against individuals or religious or belief communities, and promoting respect and protection for places of worship and religious sites, religious monuments, cemeteries and shrines, against vandalism and destruction.
5. We welcome the twentieth anniversary of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, which serves as the main forum for regular dialogue between the OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation within the work of the organization and should be more proactively used. We consider that having this dialogue is of value in itself and must be an essential part of our relations with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.
6. We reaffirm the OSCE's readiness, through its executive structures, as well as through the activities of its Parliamentary Assembly, within their respective mandates and available resources, in line with established procedures and when so requested, to support the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by them, as stated in Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 on Partners for Co-operation.

7. In this regard, we welcome the wide range of concrete and results-oriented co-operation initiated between the OSCE Secretariat and the Mediterranean Partners, across all three dimensions of security and we call for their continuation and potential expansion and diversification, if necessary and within available resources.

8. We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and our firm rejection of the identification of terrorism with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion. We reiterate our resolve to combat it, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and is incompatible with the fundamental values and principles shared by the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation alike. We welcome the dialogue on the efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and develop and implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, in full implementation of UNSCR 2170 and 2178, and in particular foreign terrorist fighters identified therein, to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, as well as to ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made directly or indirectly available to fund the terrorist activities. We reiterate our commitment to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls of issuance identity papers and travel documents. We welcome the opportunity to address the topic of the fight against terrorism during the Twenty-First Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

9. We encourage the Mediterranean Partners to voluntarily make concrete and greater use of existing opportunities for further co-operation, and to continue to make the best use, where appropriate, of the OSCE principles, norms and commitments, as well as its relevant tools.

10. The Helsinki+40 process provides an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. We encourage the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to contribute actively to the Helsinki+40 process on the issues which are relevant to the Partners, and especially to consider additional options for further enhancing the OSCE's relations with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

11. We take note of the initiatives by academia, non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society, which provide additional channels to support and expand the existing dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

12. We stress the importance of OSCE co-ordination and co-operation with other relevant international organizations in accordance with the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security and in the spirit of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership.

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON
CO-OPERATION WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS**
(MC.DOC/10/14 of 5 December 2014)

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the engaged participation of the Asian Partners for Co-operation in the OSCE, noting that, over the years, the partnership has been steadily strengthened and its importance and efficiency demonstrated. We renew our commitment to deepen and expand the dialogue and co-operation with the Asian Partners, on the basis of Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11, and call on the Partners to continue voluntarily implementing OSCE commitments.

2. We note with appreciation the generous contribution of Asian Partners to OSCE extrabudgetary projects and relevant OSCE activities, *inter alia* the support from Japan, Australia, the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Thailand for the establishment of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. We encourage the Asian Partners to continue to make use of existing OSCE mechanisms, including the Partnership Fund.

3. We remain committed to an open and frank exchange of information within the Contact Group with the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation, which serves as the main forum for regular dialogue between the OSCE participating States and Asian Partners for Co-operation within the work of the organization. We take note with appreciation of the practice of holding regular OSCE conferences in the Partners for Co-operation and call for a more proactive use by participating States and Partners for Co-operation of those events to intensify the dialogue. In that context, we note a growing interest among the Asian Partners for Co-operation in deepening their understanding of the OSCE's expertise in such areas as combating transnational threats, confidence and security-building measures, empowerment and inclusion of women in the political and economic spheres as well as providing equal opportunities for women and men to contribute to peace processes, and we reaffirm our readiness to continue to share OSCE's best practices through the various existing formats.

4. We reaffirm our long term commitment to further strengthen the OSCE's engagement across the three dimensions with Afghanistan pursuant to the request of the government of Afghanistan, as expressed in Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 4/07 and 4/11. We commend the progress achieved so far and call for continued implementation of those decisions beyond 2014, *inter alia* on border co-operation between the OSCE participating States and Afghanistan on bilateral and multilateral levels. We welcome the holding of elections in Afghanistan in 2014 and the formation of the Government of National Unity. We note with satisfaction the deployment of ODIHR election support teams to the Afghan elections in recent years and encourage the Afghan Government to make good use of the recommendations made.

5. We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and our firm rejection of the identification of terrorism with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion. We reiterate our resolve to combat it, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and is incompatible with the fundamental values and principles shared by the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation alike. We welcome dialogue on the efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and develop and implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, in full implementation of UNSCR 2170 and 2178,

and in particular foreign terrorist fighters identified therein, to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, as well as to ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made directly or indirectly available to fund terrorist activities. We reiterate our commitment to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls of issuance identity papers and travel documents. We welcome the opportunity to address the topic of the fight against terrorism during the Twenty-First Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

6. The Helsinki+40 process provides an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue with the Asian Partners for Co-operation. We encourage the Asian Partners for Co-operation to contribute actively to the Helsinki+40 process on the issues which are relevant to the Partners, and especially to consider additional options for further enhancing the OSCE's relations with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

7. We take note that initiatives by academia, non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society may provide additional channels to support and expand the existing dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

**COMMEMORATIVE DECLARATION ON THE
OCCASION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCE
CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**
(MC.DOC/11/14 of 5 December 2014)

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, we, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, recall the Code of Conduct as a unique, norm setting document and reaffirm the undiminished validity of the guiding principles and common values of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Helsinki Document 1992, embodying responsibilities of States towards each other and of governments towards their people, as well as the validity of other OSCE commitments.

II. DECISIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

DECISION No. 1/14
APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
(MC.DEC/1/14 of 7 May 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its second meeting in Prague in 1992 concerning the development of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/11, the term of office of the current Director of the ODIHR, Mr. Janez Lenarčič, will expire on 30 June 2014,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Mr. Michael Georg Link as Director of the ODIHR for a period of three years with effect from 1 July 2014.

DECISION No. 2/14
EXTENSION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE
OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL
(MC.DEC/2/14 of 14 May 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Third Meeting of the CSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm in 1992 to establish the post of Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/04 of 7 December 2004 on the role of the OSCE Secretary General and Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/08 of 22 October 2008 on the periods of service of the OSCE Secretary General,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/11 of 30 June 2011 on the appointment of Mr. Lamberto Zannier as Secretary General of the OSCE for a period of three years with effect from 1 July 2011,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the appointment of Mr. Lamberto Zannier as Secretary General of the OSCE for the second and final term of three years with effect from 1 July 2014.

DECISION No. 3/14
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2016
(MC.DEC/3/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Germany will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2016.

DECISION No. 4/14
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2017
(MC.DEC/4/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Austria will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2017.

DECISION No. 5/14
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION
(MC.DEC/5/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments on combating corruption, in particular the relevant provisions of the Charter for European Security adopted in 1999 at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/04 on combating corruption adopted in Sofia in 2004 and the Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism adopted in Dublin in 2012,

Recognizing that corruption at all levels is a potential source of political tension that undermines the stability and security of participating States, threatens the OSCE's shared values, and facilitates criminal activity,

Convinced that more effective prevention of corruption promotes good governance in all public sectors, reinforces trust in public institutions, increases corporate social responsibility in the private sector, enhances economic growth and contributes to social stability and security,

Reaffirming that freedom of information and access to information foster openness and accountability in public policy and procurement and enable civil society, including the media, to contribute to preventing and combating corruption, the financing of terrorism, money-laundering and its predicate offences,

Underlining the central role played by law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions in preventing and combating corruption,

Recognizing that the ability of an independent media to investigate and to publish the results of that investigation, in accordance with national legislation and international commitments, without fear of prosecution, persecution or physical harm is fundamental to preventing and combating corruption at all levels and in all sectors,

Acknowledging that efficient, accessible, accountable, and transparent public service delivery is one of the key components in building an anti-corruption environment in the public sector,

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building efforts for effectively preventing and combating corruption,

Recognizing the importance of international co-operation between national anti-corruption bodies for the exchange of best practices, further development of anti-corruption measures and exchange of knowledge among anti-corruption practitioners,

Welcoming the fact that almost all the participating States have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards meeting their commitments deriving from the Convention,

Highlighting the importance of co-operation with other relevant international organizations in preventing and combating corruption,

Encourages the participating States to:

- Further develop and implement preventive anti-corruption legislation and policies, and establish and promote practical measures and tools to address all forms and levels of corruption for both the private and the public sectors, and for other stakeholders;
- Take measures to enhance transparency, accountability and the rule of law in public administration, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, including through the introduction of effective measures facilitating public access to information and the promotion of effective public service delivery;
- Adopt, maintain and strengthen systems that prevent conflicts of interest in the public sector, including, for example, by addressing conflicts of interest through enforceable codes of conduct and by establishing and strengthening asset declaration systems applicable to public officials and politically exposed persons, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, and to provide for a fair and competitive environment for recruitment in the public sector, so as to increase transparency and integrity in public administration;
- Foster the involvement of the private sector, civil society organizations, the media and academia, including through the support of the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates, in developing national anti-corruption strategies and policies and to support their subsequent implementation;
- Promote a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability, across all sectors of society in order to contribute to the prevention of corruption;
- Recognize the important role whistle-blowers play in identifying and preventing corruption and defending public interest, and intensify individual national efforts to provide sufficient protection for whistle-blowers;
- Contribute to strengthening awareness-raising measures with respect to corruption throughout all sectors of society, by providing training and educational programmes in the area of corruption prevention and integrity, with special attention being given to youth, and recognizing the role played in this regard by an engaged and well-informed civil society and an independent, free and pluralistic media;
- Take the necessary steps, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to establish or enhance appropriate systems of public procurement that are based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making, that are effective in preventing corruption;

- Support measures to strengthen the integrity of the judiciary and to prevent opportunities for corruption among members of the judiciary and prosecution services;
- Implement and adhere to the relevant international standards to fight corruption, such as those prescribed by the United Nations Convention against Corruption and, where appropriate, by the OECD and the Council of Europe conventions on corruption and contribute to intensifying the involvement of civil society in their implementation as laid out in these conventions;
- Establish and implement effective, proportionate, and dissuasive sanctions and administrative penalties to penalize corruption for natural as well as, where appropriate, legal persons, with a view to discouraging and stemming corruption;
- Facilitate the recovery of stolen assets as part of national measures as well as in the framework of international and, where appropriate, regional co-operation and ensure beneficial ownership transparency;
- Make use of available OSCE tools, guidelines and projects in combating and preventing corruption;

Encourages the relevant OSCE executive structures, including, where appropriate, field operations, in accordance with their mandates and within existing resources, to facilitate the exchange of best practices in the prevention of corruption among participating States upon their request;

Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and, where appropriate, field operations, in co-operation with relevant international partners, *inter alia*, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Council of Europe (CoE), and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), to assist participating States, within existing resources and upon their request, in the implementation of their commitments within the UNCAC and in the formulation of national policies, in the exchange of best practices and in the delivery of capacity-building activities and projects in the area of preventing and combating corruption;

Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the OCEEA and, where appropriate, the OSCE field operations, to promote, within their available resources and mandates, the available OSCE tools and guidelines on combating and preventing corruption;

Tasks the OCEEA to explore, within its available resources and mandates, the opportunities for co-operation with national, regional and international initiatives, promoting the principles of transparency, citizen participation and accountability;

Tasks the Economic and Environmental Committee, with input and contributions from the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE field operations, to present a report to the Permanent Council no later than 1 June 2015 providing options for strengthening the current OSCE capacity on combating and preventing corruption and for enhancing co-ordination

among the OSCE executive structures in that field, taking available resources into consideration;

Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

Attachment to MC.DEC/5/14

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

While joining the consensus on the Ministerial Council Decision on Prevention of Corruption, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

“The Delegation of Azerbaijan has been actively engaged in the discussions on the adopted Decision since the very beginning by contributing to its draft with numerous constructive proposals which had been included to the final text of just adopted Decision.

As reflected in this Decision, corruption is among the factors which facilitates criminal activities. Azerbaijan proceeds from the understanding that criminal activities referred to in the adopted Decision are those identified in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, which includes terrorism, violent extremism, transnational organized crime, and illegal economic activities, including money-laundering, trafficking of all kinds, and illegal migration.

The Ministerial Council Decision welcomes the fact that almost all participating States have ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards meeting their commitments deriving from the Convention. Azerbaijan hopes that implementation of UNCAC by the OSCE participating States will be in compliance with their commitment in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention, which underlines the necessity of implementation of obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.”

We request that this statement be attached to the Decision adopted and be included in the journal of today’s meeting.

DECISION No. 6/14
ENHANCING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
(MC.DEC/6/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments and principles related to the environment, disasters and security contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1992 Helsinki Document, the 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration, the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security adopted at the Madrid Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2007, Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/13 on improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/13 on protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters,

Emphasizing the often cross-boundary nature of environmental challenges, including disasters,

Acknowledging that environmental degradation, including disasters, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict and that conflicts, poor governance, mismanagement and degradation of natural resources as well as migratory pressures can affect the vulnerability of society to disasters,

Emphasizing the importance of co-operation among participating States in disaster risk management, in order to diminish tensions as part of a broader effort to prevent conflict, and where appropriate, to build mutual confidence and promote good neighbourly relations,

Recognizing that natural hazards may become disasters because of, among other factors, the vulnerability of societies, and acknowledging that the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and natural resources such as soil, water and forests are essential for the prevention of disasters,

Noting the exacerbating effect climate change may have on the frequency and magnitude of disasters, and therefore the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation to effectively reducing disaster risk,

Acknowledging that each participating State has the primary responsibility for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risks,

Noting the efforts undertaken by regional and international organizations, *inter alia* the United Nations system, in the area of disaster risk reduction, and recognizing that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations has a complementary role to play within its mandate in addressing this challenge in its specific region while avoiding duplication, focusing on the OSCE's added value, namely its broad membership and its multidimensional concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Reaffirming the importance of co-operation with other regional and international organizations in addressing environmental challenges that have an impact on security, including disasters,

Noting the relevant UNECE multilateral environmental agreements to the disaster risk reduction efforts of participating States,

Noting the significance of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and encouraging the participating States to actively engage in the preparations for the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) aiming at adopting the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in 2015,

Noting the importance of the ongoing global negotiations on climate change in the context of the UNFCCC, aiming at adopting a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties from 2020, and of the discussions on the post-2015 Development Agenda,

Taking note of the relevant summary conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Twenty-Second OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area”,

1. Encourages the participating States, which have not done so, in an effort to foster security and resilience, to strive to adopt an integrated approach to disaster risk management including measures for prediction, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery at all levels;
2. Encourages the participating States to develop, co-ordinate and implement, where appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures with climate change adaptation and mitigation plans at all appropriate levels;
3. Encourages the participating States to promote technological development, innovation, and the transfer of technology and know-how among themselves and with all relevant stakeholders, in support of disaster risk reduction;
4. Encourages the participating States to promote good governance and transparency in the field of disaster risk reduction, to incorporate local knowledge and information into national plans, taking into consideration the capabilities of both men and women and the specific vulnerabilities of children, women, the elderly, the poor, and the disabled, and to actively engage all relevant stakeholders, including where appropriate local authorities, civil society, the private sector, the media and academia in all phases of disaster risk reduction;
5. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and where possible in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to support the participating States upon their request in strengthening disaster risk reduction and management at all levels, and to facilitate co-operation, where appropriate, within and across borders, including by making best use of the OSCE’s partnership within the ENVSEC Initiative;

6. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the OCEEA, within their available resources and mandates, to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experience, building upon the OSCE's good practices in disaster risk reduction gained particularly in the field of water management, flood risk management, and fire management;
7. Tasks the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to assist the participating States, upon their request, in implementing where appropriate increased preparedness for cross-border implications of disasters, with a view to building trust and confidence among the OSCE participating States;
8. Tasks the OCEEA and the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to support the participating States, upon their request, in raising disaster risk awareness at the local level, and to promote community-based and gender/age/disability-sensitive disaster risk reduction, including, where appropriate, through Aarhus Centres, civil society organizations and other multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives;
9. Encourages the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

DECISION No. 7/14
PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
(MC.DEC/7/14/Corr.1 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, as enshrined in the provision of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975,

Recalling that the full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area and that the OSCE participating States are committed to making equality between men and women an integral part of their policies, both at the level of their States and within the OSCE executive structures, as was declared at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999,

Reaffirming that the inherent dignity of the individual is at the core of comprehensive security, as asserted in the Astana Commemorative Declaration in 2010,

Reaffirming all relevant OSCE commitments, including those contained in Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 on the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/05 on preventing and combating violence against women,

Recalling that OSCE commitments on human rights and gender equality are inspired by the international human rights framework, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security,

Acknowledging commitments that participating States have undertaken in international and regional fora on combating violence against women,

Taking note of international and regional initiatives to combat sexual violence, in particular in armed conflict,

Taking note of the High-Level Gender Equality Review Conference, held in Vienna in July 2014, related to the progress of and gaps in implementation of relevant OSCE commitments,

Deeply concerned by the persistence of violence against women as one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the OSCE area, manifested as physical, sexual, and psychological violence and reiterating the particular need to take more vigorous measures in preventing and combating violence against women, to which gender inequality can be among the major contributing factors,

Reaffirming the importance of effective accountability with regard to violence against women and against children, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, and of undertaking adequate measures to combat such violence,

Calls on the participating States to take on the following measures related to combating and preventing violence against women in the areas of developing legal frameworks and partnerships, preventing and prosecuting violence against women, and protecting victims;

Calls on the participating States to ensure for all women the protection and full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and refrain from justifying it, as described in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

(A) Legal framework

1. Calls on the participating States to:

- Request, as appropriate, opinions produced by the ODIHR on legal and policy frameworks for preventing and combating violence against women, including domestic violence;
- Collect, maintain and make public reliable, comparable, disaggregated, and comprehensive evidence based data and statistics regarding all forms of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence, whilst ensuring compliance with their data protection laws, and include information on the number of cases reported to law enforcement bodies, the numbers investigated and prosecuted and the sentences imposed;
- Align national legislation with relevant international standards they have undertaken, if they have not done so already, and OSCE commitments on all forms of violence against women, and consider best practices when adopting relevant legislation;
- Give consideration to the signature and ratification of relevant regional and international instruments, such as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, where applicable.

2. Tasks the OSCE executive structures to, within their mandates:

- Promote the exchange of best practices regarding legislation related to combating all forms of violence against women;

(B) Prevention

3. Encourages the participating States to:

- Strengthen efforts to reach out to the public through public awareness and sensitization activities, in order to address negative stereotypes, attitudes, and prejudices which contribute to all forms of violence against women;

- Take appropriate measures to increase the engagement and participation of men and boys in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence;
- Take measures to raise awareness of the vicious cycle of violence that might emanate from physical, sexual, and psychological violence experienced in childhood and adolescence;
- Develop programmes to work with the perpetrators of violence against women, both during and after their sentence in order to avoid repeat offenses;
- Provide treatment, counselling and training courses and other measures to prevent re-victimization and trauma, including during judicial processes.

4. Tasks the OSCE executive structures to, within their mandates:

- Improve co-operation with relevant stakeholders of international and regional organizations on efforts to collect sex-disaggregated data and statistics on the occurrence of all forms of violence against women in the OSCE area;
- Assist the participating States, upon their request, in their efforts to promote comprehensive, effective and evidence-based approaches to combating all forms of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence, and better respond to the needs of all victims.

(C) Protection

5. Encourages the participating States to:

- Ensure that victims of all forms of violence against women receive timely and adequate information on available legal measures and support services, such as sexual violence crisis centres, shelters or other relevant structures, as well as healthcare, and to ensure that they are easily accessible;
- Promote programmes and activities that empower and support women who have been victims of violence.

6. Tasks the OSCE executive structures to, within their mandates:

- Assist the participating States, upon their request, in strengthening their capacities for protection of victims of all forms of violence against women;
- Facilitate the exchange between the participating States of information, experience, and best practices concerning protection;
- Provide technical assistance to the participating States that request so, in organizing support services such as telephone hotlines, crisis centres, etc.;
- Offer to participating States specialized training courses for relevant professionals from interested participating States dealing with victims or

perpetrators of all forms of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence.

(D) Prosecution

7. Encourages the participating States to:

- Strengthen the efforts to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of all forms of violence against women and provide victims with protection and appropriate remedies;
- Ensure the development and effective implementation of legislation that criminalize violence against women and that provides for preventative and protective measures, such as emergency barring orders and protection orders, where they exist, as well as the investigation, and submission for prosecution and appropriate punishment of perpetrators, including with a view to end impunity.

(E) Partnership

8. Encourages the participating States to:

- Develop comprehensive and co-ordinated national policies aimed at combating all forms of violence against women, encompassing all relevant actors, such as law enforcement and the justice sector, parliaments, national human rights institutions, healthcare and social services as well as civil society organizations.

9. Tasks the OSCE executive structures to, within their mandates:

- Enhance co-operation with relevant stakeholders of international and regional organizations;
- Facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and best practices among the participating States and all relevant stakeholders with regard to combating all forms of violence against women.

Attachment 1 to MC.DEC/7/14/Corr.1

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of Azerbaijan:

“While joining the consensus on the Ministerial Council Decision on Preventing and Combating violence against Women, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like

to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been actively engaged in the discussions on this Decision with a view to producing a comprehensive and substantial document that addresses the needs and concerns of all victims, including those of vulnerable groups referred to in the Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women.

Azerbaijan regrets that only one delegation – the Delegation of Armenia demonstrated obstinate resistance to include the reference to the vulnerable groups in the adopted Decision only because these groups incorporate, *inter alia*, refugees and IDPs. This is yet another example of Armenia's continuing disrespect to the rights of Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs, which have been gravely violated as a result of its military aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan accompanied by massive ethnic cleansing and expulsion of Azerbaijanis from their native lands in Armenia and in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan considers this Decision as an additional instrument to respond to the needs of the Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs and it will continue utmost efforts, including through this Decision, to remedy the violations of their rights deriving from international law and as envisaged in relevant documents of international organizations.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and be included in the journal of today's meeting."

Attachment 2 to MC.DEC/7/14/Corr.1

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

The delegation of Italy, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

"Mr. Chairperson,

The EU wishes to make the following interpretative statement.

The EU supports the adoption of this decision. We would, however, like to clarify our views in relation to the following three points:

The EU is firmly committed to preventing and combating violence against women. In this respect we recall Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/05 adopted at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council and call for its full implementation.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize that on the basis of the Helsinki Document from 1992, ODIHR has a general mandate to assist OSCE participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments. In the implementation of this mandate, ODIHR, as an autonomous institution, can develop guidelines, handbooks, organize workshops and other activities without the request of participating States.

Finally, we want to stress that human rights include reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Mr. Chairperson,

We request that this interpretive statement be duly registered and appended to this decision and also to the journal of the day.”

DECISION No. 8/14
ADDENDUM TO THE 2004 OSCE ACTION PLAN FOR THE
PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY
(MC.DEC/8/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming all the relevant OSCE commitments and in particular the 2004 OSCE Action Plan on the Promotion of Gender Equality (MC.DEC/14/04),

Recognizing the progress achieved in the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan on Promotion of Gender Equality since its adoption,

Recognizing that further improvements are needed in this ongoing process, as noted during the High-Level Gender Equality Review Conference, held in Vienna in July 2014, related to the progress of and gaps in implementation of relevant OSCE commitments,

Tasks the participating States:

To elaborate an Addendum to Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 on the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality to be presented to the Permanent Council for adoption in 2015.

DECISION No. 9/14
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
(MC.DEC/9/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Twenty-Second Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Belgrade on 3 and 4 December 2015.

DECISION No. 10/14
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES
OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION
(MC.DEC/10/14 of 5 December 2014)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the importance of OSCE measures aimed at combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and at contributing to the reduction and prevention of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Willing to complement and thereby reinforce the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, particularly by promoting co-operation, transparency and responsible action by participating States in the export and import of SALW,

Taking note of the upcoming entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty,

Noting the United Nations Security Council's focus on addressing the threats arising from illicit SALW and their destabilizing accumulations, and the importance of regional organizations to those efforts, as outlined, *inter alia*, in UNSCR 2117 (2013),

Noting the outcome documents of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which took place from 16 to 20 June 2014 in New York,

Recalling FSC Decision No. 8/08 and taking note of ongoing activity in the United Nations General Assembly on related issues,

Taking note of United Nations Security Council resolutions 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) where relevant to the mandate of the FSC,

Acknowledging the important work the OSCE has accomplished in establishing recognized standards and best practices in SALW management and security and a possible contribution the voluntary application of other international standards could make in this regard,

Recognizing the continuing importance of OSCE measures aimed at addressing security risks and safety of stockpiles of SALW, SCA, explosive materials and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area,

Also reaffirming the voluntary nature of the assistance provided by the OSCE participating States in the reduction of SALW, in the destruction after registration of surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition and in the upgrading of stockpile management and security practices of participating States that request assistance in this regard,

Also reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1, 20 June 2012), the OSCE

Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1, 23 March 2011), and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DEC/2/10, 26 May 2010),

Recalling Kyiv Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/13 of 2013,

Welcoming FSC-related activities on small arms and light weapons undertaken in 2014 with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation in the context of the FSC as well as of the OSCE Mediterranean Conference,

1. Welcomes and takes note, within the Forum for Security Co-operation's activities since the 2013 Ministerial Council, of:

- The active role taken by the OSCE during the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which took place from 16 to 20 June 2014 in New York;
 - The OSCE Implementation Assessment Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
 - The progress reports on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, as submitted to the Twenty-First Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
 - The ongoing efforts of the FSC on improving the implementation of commitments set out in the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW;
 - Agreement on voluntary guidelines for compiling national reports on SALW exports from/imports to other participating States during the previous calendar year, in order to improve the utility and relevance of the information provided;
 - The focused discussions in the Security Dialogue on topical security issues related to small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
 - The progress in and results of OSCE SALW and SCA projects;
2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2015, to:
- Continue to strengthen efforts to fully implement existing measures and commitments set out in the OSCE Document on SALW, the OSCE Document on SCA, and related FSC decisions;
 - Further intensify efforts to continue implementing the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects;

- Take note of the CPC synopsis of status of SALW and conventional ammunition projects and discuss issues arising from SALW and SCA projects, including, *inter alia*, issues pertaining to personnel and resources from participating States involved in such projects, with the aim of facilitating procedures for providing assistance to the OSCE participating States under the SALW and SCA mechanism;
 - Ensure coherence and complementarity with the relevant United Nations framework, *inter alia*, taking account of the outcome documents of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States on the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW;
 - Support the timely and full submission of OSCE SALW-related information exchanges, making use of the reporting template introduced by the CPC for one-off information exchanges related to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, including sample formats for national end-user certificates and/or other pertinent documents, regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW and the annual information exchange on the points of contact on SALW and SCA;
 - Consider the development of a voluntary online tool for submission of OSCE SALW-related information exchanges;
 - Continue to explore ways to review and, where appropriate, supplement the 2012 OSCE Document on SALW, the 2011 OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the OSCE Handbooks of Best Practices on SALW, as well as the 1993 CSCE Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers;
 - Exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, on the impact of illicit SALW on women and children as well as on creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat illicit SALW;
 - Explore ways to enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on issues related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
 - Submit progress reports, through its Chairperson, to the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2015 on work in relevant areas, in accordance with its mandate;
3. Invites the participating States to:
- Continue providing extrabudgetary contributions to support FSC assistance projects on SALW and SCA, either for a specific project or by providing resources and technical expertise to the OSCE's comprehensive programme on SALW and SCA;
 - Continue, within the Security Dialogue, discussions on topical security issues related to SALW and SCA;
 - Continue within the Security Dialogue general discussions related to the ATT.

III. STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS

**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE,
PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND HEAD OF THE
SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AT THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/7/14 of 4 December 2014)

“We Swiss will build bridges to strengthen security and co-operation in Europe beyond our Chairmanship”.

Ministers,
Dear friends and colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The world is a global village. So let us start by talking about a city: Donetsk. Two and a half years ago, Donetsk hosted five matches of the UEFA EURO 2012. Football fans from all over Europe came to see Cristiano Ronaldo, Xabi Alonso and Wayne Rooney play in the Donbas Arena.

Today, Donetsk is controlled by illegally armed groups. The Donbas Arena has been damaged by shelling. Donbas International Airport lies in ruins. The war in the region has claimed more than 4,000 lives. OSCE monitors are patrolling the area.

This has been no ordinary year for the OSCE.

Security has deteriorated markedly in Europe. The Ukraine crisis has brought hardship to the Ukrainian people and deep divisions regarding the country’s future. It has thrown into question many assumptions about the post-Cold-War European order. The Helsinki Principles have been repeatedly violated, most blatantly when Crimea was annexed.

The Ukraine crisis has fuelled a broader crisis of European security that has been in the making for years. Trust between Russia and the West has eroded. We have seen a dangerous increase in military activity and belligerent rhetoric lately. Economic polarization and geopolitical frictions are mounting. Are we all still committed to our declared goal of establishing a security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok?

In this year of crises, the OSCE has demonstrated its value as an inclusive Organization, linking the Euro-Atlantic and the Eurasian regions. The OSCE has come to play a seminal role in international efforts to prevent the further escalation of the Ukraine crisis.

You, the 57 participating States, agreed to set up two new field missions – the Special Monitoring Mission and the Border Observation Mission. The Chairmanship has fostered dialogue through CiO diplomacy, Permanent Council debates, participation in the Trilateral Contact Group, and support for the national round tables during their (all too short) existence in May. OSCE institutions too have been closely involved in Ukraine. International awareness of the OSCE’s role and potential as a platform for debate and action has grown in 2014.

Yet, despite the positive momentum of the OSCE, the situation is not good today.

Regarding the Ukraine crisis, implementation of the Minsk arrangements is more limited and uneven than we had wanted. The ceasefire is still not consolidated. A political process has yet to take off.

As for the OSCE, its recently gained momentum remains fragile. Sustaining it will require the political will to continue co-operation and find common solutions despite differences.

I interpret the large number of ministers present at this Ministerial Council as a commitment to use the OSCE as a platform to advance co-operative security for the benefit of all.

We are all aware that we have reached a critical point in European security. My main message to you today is this: Let us take good care of the OSCE. Let us take good care of it because an effective OSCE strengthens the security of all our nations and our people.

Frank exchanges about our grievances and disagreements are important. With its inclusive nature, the OSCE is the right format to have this debate. But let us do this in ways that preserve the space for common decisions and common activities on the ground. As a consensus-based Organization, the OSCE depends on the goodwill of everyone to act constructively and in a solution-oriented way. The OSCE is a bridge; and a bridge can be used from both sides simultaneously.

Twenty five years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it is our duty as political leaders never to allow Europe to be divided again. The OSCE can help prevent or resolve conflicts – provided that participating States have the collective political will to use it to that end.

In this spirit, I see three priorities for the OSCE's short- and mid-term agenda: First, we must co-operate concretely to provide new impetus to efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis and to ensure that the OSCE stays engaged with meaningful contributions.

Comprehensive and effective implementation of the Minsk arrangements remains the best way forward to resolve the Ukraine crisis, and we need to provide strong support to the Contact Group as it seeks to facilitate this. We also need to equip the Special Monitoring Mission with the necessary resources, and to ensure that all parties respect the safety and freedom of movement of our monitors.

As I announced last night at the informal dinner of ministers, Switzerland will support the Special Monitoring Mission with a further 2 million Swiss francs (1.7 million euros). We are also ready to provide substantial support to any political dialogue within Ukraine. And we are supporting a series of civil society projects in Ukraine, either through the OSCE or bilaterally.

Beyond the Ukraine crisis, participating States must continue to work towards common solutions to the many common security challenges they face. The OSCE has a responsibility to take care of the whole range of security issues that have a negative impact on people's lives in our region of the world. Divisions over Ukraine must not stand in the way of effective multilateral answers to these issues. I invite you to support the ministerial decisions and declarations that are still being negotiated.

As our second priority, we need to provide the OSCE with more continuity and capacity. The model of consecutive Chairmanships has proven its merit. Swiss-Serbian co-operation has been a success. Germany and Austria are set to be confirmed by the Ministerial Council tomorrow as the two Chairmanships following Serbia. This is very good news for the OSCE and European security.

As for capacities, the Helsinki+40 process provides an opportunity to adapt the OSCE to today's needs. The Ukraine crisis should intensify rather than slow our efforts to provide the OSCE with an even more effective toolbox and more resources for crisis prevention and resolution.

The OSCE is great value for the money. With a budget of approximately 140 million euros, it enhances the security of 57 States on three continents with more than one billion people. Switzerland will continue to promote a strong OSCE beyond its Chairmanship. One focal point will remain the strengthening of the OSCE's mediation capacity by providing respective Swiss know-how and resources.

The third priority for the OSCE should be to address the broader crisis of European security. We will have the opportunity to discuss this issue over lunch today.

The Swiss Chairmanship, in close co-operation with the subsequent two Chairmanships, will launch a Panel of Eminent Persons. This Panel is expected to come up with proposals on how to rebuild trust, how to re-establish respect for the Helsinki Principles and improve implementation of the OSCE commitments, and quite generally how to reconsolidate European security as a common project. This is not about a revolution in European security but about restoring a higher level of security for everyone.

We believe that the OSCE should also look more closely at the nexus between trade issues and European security. Building confidence and facilitating trade links between different economic zones, as well as among countries in conflict zones, has become an important aspect of stability in Europe. With its second dimension, the OSCE is well positioned to make valuable respective contributions. We are currently identifying ways of going forward on this – I invite you all to join our deliberations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

A year ago, at our meeting in Kyiv, I showed you a tableau with ten priorities of the Swiss Chairmanship. Irrespective of the Ukraine crisis, we have been working hard to advance those priorities.

In three Chairmanship trips, we sought to promote security and co-operation in the Western Balkans, South Caucasus, and Central Asia, and discussed respective OSCE roles. We organized OSCE conferences on terrorism, human rights defenders, the prevention of torture and disaster risk reduction. We engaged closely and fruitfully with civil society in five conferences and a series of encounters abroad and at home. And we conducted a Model OSCE where 57 young people from the participating States successfully negotiated a Model OSCE Youth Action Plan.

Although the Swiss Chairmanship soon ends, I do not wish to take stock here of what we have achieved. There have certainly been some successes; there have also been issues where no progress has been possible. But what matters most is that we all remain committed beyond any individual Chairmanship to taking the OSCE forward. Let us strengthen the OSCE as an anchor of co-operative security and use it responsibly to discuss our differences, rebuild trust, and find common solutions to the many challenges we face. We Swiss will continue to build bridges to this end.

**SUMMARY BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE,
PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND HEAD OF THE
SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OF THE
DAY ONE DISCUSSIONS AT THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/8/14 of 4 December 2014)

The foreign ministers of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe are meeting in Basel against the backdrop of one of the worst crises in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area since the end of the Cold War.

The ministers met informally yesterday evening for a discussion on “The Way Forward in Addressing the Crisis in and around Ukraine and the Role of the OSCE”. Today, they have gathered for plenary session 1 on “Addressing the Crisis of European Security and the Way Forward”. They also had a working lunch dedicated to the same topic.

In my capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE let me summarize our deliberations as follows:

There has been general concern that the crisis in and around Ukraine is having a negative impact on security and stability in the OSCE area and beyond.

The tragedy of lost lives and human suffering was deplored and serious concern was expressed about the human dimension of the crisis with more than 4,000 dead, about 10,000 wounded and hundreds of thousands who have lost their homes or who have fled as a result of military action or unbearable living conditions.

The downing of flight MH17 and the tragic loss of life it brought about was a shock for all of us. The importance of a thorough and impartial investigation and the determination to bring to justice those responsible for this crime cannot be stressed enough. I commend Ukraine’s readiness to involve international expertise and I call upon all parties concerned to allow the ongoing international investigation led by the Netherlands to proceed without restrictions or interference.

I note that in the negotiations on a draft Ministerial Declaration on the Role of the OSCE in the Crisis in and around Ukraine we have not been able to reach consensus by the 57 participating States on all issues. The negotiations and other exchanges of views during the Ministerial Council have illustrated that there are diverging assessments on the causes of the crisis. Many participating States held the view that:

- The crisis is the result of the pressure of one participating State against another;
- The so-called referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014 was not authorized by Ukraine and therefore in contradiction with the Ukrainian constitution;
- The steps subsequently taken regarding the status of Crimea, including by the Russian Federation, are in breach of fundamental OSCE commitments, incompatible with international law and contradict the Helsinki Final Act;

- And that with reference to the responsibility of participating States to adhere to the Helsinki Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between participating States, the territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders must be respected.

Our deliberations have further shown that, recalling the founding principles of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, participating States emphasize their commitment to upholding all the principles enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

Serious concern was expressed that the challenges to, and violations of, the fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act have shaken the foundations of international order and security in our area and undermined inter-State relations, and that they run counter to the spirit of mutual respect and co-operation as defined in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe of 1990 and as reflected in all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed.

The violations of OSCE principles jeopardize the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok and rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals.

While participating States disagree on the root causes of the current crisis, they have noted with deep concern that the current crisis has been aggravated by the gradual erosion of trust and confidence among OSCE participating States. Failures by participating States to implement OSCE commitments have contributed to this erosion of trust. The need to pursue a comprehensive and co-operative approach to security, based on the OSCE norms, principles and commitments, has been widely recognized.

The participating States are united in the conviction that there is no military solution to this crisis and pledge their strong collective support to its peaceful settlement and to all efforts that are directed towards the resolution of this crisis by diplomatic means and through inclusive political dialogue.

The OSCE's engagement in the Ukraine crisis has demonstrated the relevance of the Organization as a forum for inclusive dialogue and as a body that has the international standing and authority to respond jointly to critical situations. Participating States recognize that more needs to be done to reinvigorate the OSCE's capacities to effectively guard its core principles and address existing and emerging security concerns. In the common search for a peaceful and sustainable political solution to the current crisis and for ways to overcome the broader crisis in European security, they remain committed to making the best use of the OSCE as a unique platform for confidence-building, co-operation and crisis response.

The important contributions made by the OSCE to reducing tensions and fostering peace in Ukraine and the OSCE's swift response to the crisis through the effective use of its tools and mechanisms are widely acknowledged. All participating States welcome the deployment of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, which is an important means of monitoring and supporting the implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments and of assisting in the implementation of the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum. They applaud the monitors for their important work, underline the need for them to have safe access throughout all of Ukraine and stress the importance of maintaining their safety and security.

In my capacity as Chairperson-in-Office, I thank all participating States and Partners for Co-operation that have supported the Special Monitoring Mission through the provision of resources and that stand ready to continue to provide sufficient financial contributions and qualified monitors to enable the Special Monitoring Mission to fulfil its mandate throughout Ukraine.

In the same spirit, the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border was welcomed as an important confidence-building measure. An expansion of the Observer Mission's mandate was widely encouraged.

Participating States commend the work of the Trilateral Contact Group consisting of senior representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office as a platform for direct dialogue between the parties and highly value its contribution, in particular its facilitation of the signing of the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum.

There was a general call from participating States on all sides to ensure full and comprehensive implementation of the Minsk arrangements as the relevant framework and reference point for steps towards de-escalation and peaceful settlement of the conflict in some regions of Donbas and to build on the progress achieved so far.

There is a shared commitment among participating States to offer further support of the OSCE for the continuation of an inclusive national dialogue in Ukraine that reflects the diversity of its society and includes representation from all parts of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian authorities have been encouraged to take advantage of this offer.

The support that the OSCE institutions have provided throughout the year was widely acknowledged and combined with an invitation to them to continue working with the Ukrainian authorities and with representatives of civil society.

Appreciation was expressed of the efforts by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to make its specific contribution to establishing channels for inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Broad support was expressed for the renewed partnership between the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the Ukrainian authorities, while many participating States also underlined the importance for Ukraine to implement its ambitious reform agenda.

The need for all sides to continue effective co-operation with the OSCE in close co-ordination with other relevant international and regional organizations engaged in efforts to re-establish peace and stability in Ukraine was repeatedly stressed.

The OSCE engagement in Ukraine has amply demonstrated that the Organization remains an appropriate format for addressing current security challenges and has underscored the critical importance of its role as a forum for inclusive dialogue and joint action, particularly in times of crisis. In this context, my call to engage in a process of lessons learned from the current crisis in and around Ukraine in order to further strengthen the OSCE's capacity to act has been supported by many States.

Today's discussion also touched upon other existing conflicts in the OSCE area and showed the urgency of advancing solutions for them through established formats.

Regarding the Transnistrian conflict, the participating States reiterated their strong resolve to attain a comprehensive settlement based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with special status for Transnistria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population. In a ministerial statement, the sides were encouraged to increase the continuity and effectiveness of the settlement process and to agree on an annual calendar for the negotiations in the "5+2" format. The important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process is thereby reconfirmed.

Regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, 2014 was a particularly violent year with more than 50 deaths and daily violations of the ceasefire agreement. The Swiss Chairmanship welcomes today's joint statement by the Co-Chairing countries of the Minsk Group, the Russian Federation, the United States and France, and supports their appeal to Azerbaijan and Armenia to reinforce the ceasefire and to enter into negotiations on a comprehensive peace agreement as soon as possible.

With regard to the conflict in Georgia, the OSCE participating States have not been able to agree on a ministerial declaration since the war in 2008. The overall political climate and considerable disagreement on substantive issues, including so-called treaties recently concluded in the region, made it also impossible to adopt such a declaration today.

Lastly, concerning the need to address the broader crisis of European security, we had a good exchange of views on the way forward during the plenary session. We also had constructive and inspiring informal discussions on this issue during the working lunch today, where broad support was expressed for the Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project. Launched by the Swiss Chairmanship, in close co-operation with Serbia and Germany, this independent Panel is designed to complement and support the efforts of the OSCE participating States to conduct an inclusive and constructive security dialogue across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian regions.

The Panel is expected to come up with proposals on how to rebuild trust, re-establish respect for the Helsinki Principles and improve implementation of the OSCE commitments, and quite generally how to reconsolidate European security as a common project. There has been broad agreement that the Panel should seek input from participating States, OSCE institutions and structures, multilateral actors covering European security issues, think tanks and other relevant actors, including civil society.

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE,
PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND HEAD OF THE
SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AT THE
SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/9/14 of 5 December 2014)

**Strengthening the OSCE in the fight against terrorism:
Swiss Chairmanship efforts and priorities**

Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Terrorism is one of the major threats of our time: it can hit any of us, anywhere, at any time. It has brought much misery to people in various parts of the world. This year, it has been a particularly virulent problem in the Middle East where we have seen appalling atrocities and serious attacks on the territorial status quo. But terrorism is a global challenge.

Terrorism is a transnational threat that we only can address effectively if we all stand together and join forces. Switzerland is convinced that the OSCE has an important role to play in countering terrorism. This is why we have decided to make this a priority topic of our Chairmanship and also of today's debate.

In recent years, the OSCE has adapted to the growing importance of transnational threats by building up appropriate institutional capacities. The OSCE's comprehensive security approach is a major asset in dealing with these threats. Our Organization can link fighting terrorism to issues such as managing borders and building modern, democratic, and efficient policing conducted in accordance with international legal standards. Furthermore, as a regional organization of the UN, the OSCE can assist participating States in translating commitments undertaken at the global level into realities on the ground.

The Swiss Chairmanship's goal has been to take the successful work of the OSCE in the field of terrorism further by addressing two issues that are of major concern to participating States and Partners for Co-operation: foreign terrorist fighters and kidnapping for ransom.

The Swiss Chairmanship has organized several events to discuss these topics. Let me recall the Counter-Terrorism Conference in Interlaken last April, with around 200 participants from 43 participating States and 8 partner countries. Another example was a regional workshop on terrorist kidnapping and hostage-taking for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation that we held in Malta.

Why have we focused on these two issues?

According to recent United Nations figures, there are around 15,000 foreign terrorist fighters from over 80 countries associated with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant. Many of these fighters originate from

OSCE participating States. There are obvious risks to our societies when such radicalized people return home. This is a threat we can only address collectively.

As for kidnapping for the purpose of securing ransom, this has become one of the primary sources of funding for terrorist groups. Such ransom payments also encourage future kidnappings. Only by refusing to pay ransom can we break this vicious cycle.

The Swiss Chairmanship has proposed two declarations on these issues for adoption by the Ministerial Council. Both documents have been agreed upon in the Preparatory Committee.

The proposed Declaration on Foreign Terrorist Fighters seeks to enhance co-operation between participating States and to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters through effective border controls and controls on the issuing of travel documents.

The Declaration on Kidnapping for Ransom seeks to create a front of States fighting the scourge of kidnapping for ransom, by preventing terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions, and to secure the safe release of hostages.

Both ministerial declarations promote the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. By agreeing to these declarations, participating States would reinforce UN-sponsored efforts at countering terrorism, consolidate the OSCE's own role in tackling these issues, and give our Organization a basis for future work.

We encourage the incoming Chairmanship, as well as future Chairmanships, to continue the efforts launched during the Swiss Chairmanship.

Thank you.

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE,
PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND HEAD OF THE
SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AT THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/10/14 of 8 December 2014)

Excellencies,
Dear friends and colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

This OSCE Ministerial Council was a special one. With 53 ministers and around 1,300 delegates we have had record participation. More important than the statistics is the fact that we had two days full of dialogue, of sometimes heated debates, but always with a view to finding common ground.

This is what the OSCE is all about: a meeting place for dialogue, even – and especially – when there are issues on which we disagree.

The Ukraine crisis was obviously at the heart of our deliberations. As I mentioned yesterday, there remain major differences concerning the analysis of this crisis. At the same time, yesterday's Chairmanship summary showed that participating States do agree on important aspects of this crisis. We do have common interests. Among other things, there was very strong support for a continuous and broad engagement of the OSCE in the Ukraine crisis. I was also pleased to note that our discussions were frank but constructive, very much in the spirit of the OSCE.

In my opening address to this Ministerial Council, I urged participating States to continue to work towards effective multilateral solutions to the many common security challenges they face. In other words: even if this year's Ministerial Council has not been business as usual, we should also do some good business as usual.

In this regard, I am pleased that we were able to find consensus on a number of decisions and declarations in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

Regarding the first dimension, we have a Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transnistrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” Format.

We agreed on two declarations on the fight against terrorism; one concerning kidnapping for ransom and another one on foreign terrorist fighters. This demonstrates that the 57 OSCE participating States condemn terrorism in all its forms, no matter where it is committed and who commits it.

There is also the declaration on the transfer of ownership of Dayton Article IV, Annex 1-B to the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro.

Furthermore, we adopted a decision on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, as well as a Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

In the second dimension on economic and environmental co-operation, we agreed on two decisions, on enhancing disaster risk reduction and on the prevention of corruption, respectively.

In the third dimension – the human dimension – we reached consensus on a Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism that is building on the outcomes of this year's Berlin Conference.

However, no consensus was found on the proposed decision on the prevention of torture, which is a priority issue of Swiss Chairmanship. Improved implementation of existing commitments in the human dimension must remain a priority for the OSCE.

Regarding cross-dimensional issues, there is a decision on preventing and combating violence against women and a decision tasking us to elaborate an addendum to the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

I am also pleased to note that a Declaration on Youth has been passed, tasking the OSCE to deal with youth issues. The Model OSCE Youth Action Plan negotiated by our Youth Ambassadors was distributed to all delegations and will, I trust, inspire the OSCE to work out its own youth action plan.

Moreover, we have two declarations on co-operation with our Mediterranean and our Asian Partners, respectively.

Ahead of the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, I consider it important that we agreed on a declaration regarding the next steps in the Helsinki+40 process.

We also agreed on a Ministerial Commemorative Declaration on the Seventieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War.

I welcome our decisions on the future Chairmanships. With Germany and Austria following the Serbian Chairmanship in 2016 and 2017, the future of this Organization is in good hands. This multi-year perspective allows us to address the big challenges for European security in a continuous and co-ordinated way.

The Chairmanship welcomes the fact that a civil society conference has taken place in parallel to this Ministerial Council, and just next door. On Wednesday, I received the Basel Declaration and a comprehensive and inspiring set of recommendations put forward by civil society representatives. These recommendations have been distributed to all delegations and provide substantial input for our discussions. I am particularly pleased that the incoming Serbian Chairmanship will continue the dialogue with civil society.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This has been an intensive year. Around 100 statements as Chairperson-in-Office, 66 of which were on the Ukraine crisis alone, illustrate how rapidly events have unfolded.

The Swiss Chairmanship has been a major team effort. I wish to thank my Special Representatives Angelo Gnaedinger on the South Caucasus, Andrej Kasprzyk on the conflict

dealt with by the Minsk Group, Radojko Bogojević on the “5+2” process, Gérard Stoudmann on the Western Balkans, and Tim Guldmann, Wolfgang Ischinger and Heidi Tagliavini on Ukraine for their committed work to reduce tensions and build confidence.

My Personal Representatives on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination – Alexei Avtonomov, Rabbi Andrew Baker and Talip Kükükcan – had a very active year with country visits to the United States, Denmark, Russia and Turkey. I also thank my Special Representatives June Zeitlin on Gender and Madina Jarbussynova on Trafficking for their great efforts. And I thank Major General Michele Torres for the dedicated work done on the transfer of ownership of the subregional arms control agreement Dayton Article IV, Annex 1-B.

We also wish to acknowledge the work of the eight co-ordinators of the Helsinki+40 working groups.

I am particularly obliged to my dedicated teams within the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the OSCE Chairmanship Task Force headed by Heidi Grau and our Mission in Vienna headed by Thomas Greminger.

I wish to thank Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and the very dedicated OSCE staff in Vienna and in the 18 field missions. I am also grateful for the excellent co-operation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

I wish my successor as Chairperson-in-Office, Ivica Dačić of Serbia, every success. Ivica, you can rely on my full support and that of Switzerland as we continue our engagement within the OSCE Chairmanship as an active Troika partner.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Basel and its authorities and population, which hosted us in this beautiful city. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It was a privilege for Switzerland to chair the OSCE. We have been an active participant in the OSCE since the beginning, and we will continue to support it as much as we can in the years ahead.

We will remain fully committed to the efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis. We also remain fully committed to strengthening the OSCE’s capacity to act. We will seek to promote the discussion on how to reconsolidate European security as a common project, especially by means of the Panel of Eminent Persons that many of you have welcomed over the last days. We will also continue our deliberations on the link between trade issues and security and possible roles for the OSCE in this field, and I invite you to join in and share your own ideas.

As outgoing Chairmanship and Troika member, Switzerland will chair the Asian Partners for Co-operation group. We look forward to this new role, which will also give us the opportunity to promote the notion of co-operative security with countries in East Asia and hopefully build up close partnerships to this end.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

(Annex 1 to MC(21) Journal No. 2 of 5 December 2014)

The Armenian delegation would like to state that the interpretation of the position of Armenia at the negotiation of the decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women presented by the Azerbaijani delegation in its interpretative statement is distorted and misleading.

I request to attach this statement to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE HOLY SEE

(Annex 2 to MC(21) Journal No. 2 of 5 December 2014)

While joining consensus on the Ministerial Council Decision on an Addendum to the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, the Holy See wishes to underline that it remains open not to limit the elaboration of the Addendum to a certain period of time.

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**
(Annex 3 to MC(21) Journal No. 2 of 5 December 2014)

Mr. Chairperson,

We express our appreciation to the Chairmanship for the excellent organization of the Ministerial Council meeting and for the hospitality. Switzerland has proved its commitment to the role of an honest broker and has done everything possible to maintain dialogue in the OSCE at a time of crisis.

However, the full range of positions on the issues discussed was not duly reflected in the summary by the Chairperson-in-Office of the results of the first day of the meeting. It is important to respect the expression of will of the Crimean people who succeeded in exercising their right to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Decalogue.

The events in Ukraine are the result of a systemic crisis in the OSCE region that has been brewing for a long time. Its roots lie in the incapacity to ensure true unity in the Euro-Atlantic area based on recognition of the equal rights of all participating States, respect for the legitimate interests of each of them and non-intervention in internal affairs.

Construction of a “European House” of this type has been consistently undermined by unilateral actions: the expansion of NATO, the establishment of United States anti-missile defence facilities in Europe, the aggressive promotion of the concept of Eastern Partnership and the erection of artificial barriers to relationships between people. These are all links in the same chain.

Nevertheless, our discussions in Basel were not reduced to disagreements. An important outcome was the adoption of a joint declaration in which we affirmed the enduring importance of the victory over Nazism, honoured the memory of the victims of the Second World War and condemned attempts to deny the Holocaust.

A decision has been adopted on further steps in the Helsinki+40 process. We welcome the Chairmanship’s initiative to establish a Panel of Eminent Persons. This should help us to find a way together out of the deepening European security crisis.

We were also able to adopt other important decisions reflecting the OSCE’s comprehensive agenda – above all on combating terrorism, preventing corruption, reducing the risk of disasters and developing co-operation and dialogue with partner countries, including on countering manifestations of intolerance towards Christians and other religious communities.

The signing of amendments to the Florence Agreement marked the conclusion of international monitoring under one of the most important articles of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which remains the basis of the settlement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is an important step in transferring responsibility to the Balkan people themselves. This confirmed that the closure of the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina is long overdue.

Despite the attempts of certain countries to place the emphasis on confrontation and labelling, during the discussions in Basel we heard much calm and collected support for constructive ideas on ways to overcome the present crisis. We believe that the very fact that there is broad discussion on European security issues within the 57-State format is worth a great deal.

Next year, the Chairmanship baton will pass to Serbia. We wish our Serbian colleagues every success in this difficult undertaking. We trust that under the Serbian Chairmanship a balanced policy will be continued in full measure on establishing the prerequisites in the OSCE for constructive work to find answers in the area of European security.

Thank you for your attention.

I request that this statement be appended to the journal of the Ministerial Council meeting in Basel.

STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Annex 4 to MC(21) Journal No. 2 of 5 December 2014)

The delegation of Italy, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

Let me thank the Chairmanship for the warm Swiss hospitality we have enjoyed these days in Basel. We would like to thank the whole Chairmanship team as well as the Secretary General and his staff for the excellent organization of this Ministerial Council. 2014 has been a difficult year for the OSCE region. We wish to pay tribute to the efforts of the Swiss Chairmanship throughout the past twelve months.

We will of course reflect on the proceedings of the Basel Ministerial Council and study carefully the many statements that have been made around this table. In the meantime, we offer the following observations.

This year's OSCE Ministerial was very different from previous ones. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol and destabilizing actions in eastern Ukraine have seriously violated the basic OSCE principles and commitments, as enshrined notably in the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter. This is the larger issue we have to address.

Mr. Chairperson,

The crisis in and around Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression has dominated the discussions and outcomes of this Ministerial Council. At the same time, the value of the OSCE as a platform for dialogue has been reaffirmed and we note the results achieved in Basel on a number of issues.

We are confronted with the most serious challenge to European security in decades. We need to start to restore respect for the fundamental principles upon which this organization is based. From the discussions over the past days, it is clear that this goal was shared by nearly all participating States. We deeply regret that there was no agreement on a declaration on the crisis in and around Ukraine.

We all need to work towards a sustainable political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine. Any solution must be based on respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The EU strongly condemns the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol and will continue to pursue its policy of non-recognition. The Minsk arrangements are the only commonly agreed framework for de-escalation towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict in and around Ukraine. We reiterate Russia's special responsibility in this regard. The Minsk arrangements must be fully implemented without further delay. We welcome the announcement yesterday of steps towards a full ceasefire. The Ukrainian-Russian State border must be secured with permanent monitoring by the OSCE as envisioned in the Minsk protocol. Full and effective control by Ukraine of its borders is essential. We expect negotiations on a significant expansion of the OSCE Border Observer Mission to continue. We will support the continuation of an inclusive Ukrainian-led and Ukrainian-owned national dialogue in Ukraine. The OSCE can play an important role in facilitating this dialogue.

We reiterate our full support for the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and pledge to continue our significant financial support. We pay tribute to the efforts of the Swiss Chairmanship and to Heidi Tagliavini personally with regard to the crisis in and around Ukraine, including through the Trilateral Contact Group which must continue to play an essential role in the implementation of the Minsk agreements building on what has been achieved so far.

Progress in resolving the conflicts in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and over Nagorno-Karabakh should remain high on our agenda in 2015. Efforts to find solutions must be redoubled since the risk of increasing instability is high. The OSCE, with the support of all of us, must step up its contribution in support of the established conflict resolution processes. In this context, we welcome today's Ministerial statement on the "5+2" process. In addition, commitments regarding the withdrawal of Russian military force should be honoured. We regret that a statement on the Geneva International Discussions was not adopted.

The OSCE's southern region – the Mediterranean – should be kept on our agenda in 2015 as one area of priority. Events in the Middle East and North Africa, including Libya, represent a major risk to security in the Mediterranean region and the OSCE area as a whole.

We regret that freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly have not been on the agenda of the Ministerial Council despite the support of the large majority of participating States.

We commend the Civic Solidarity Platform for organizing this year again a parallel civil society conference ahead of this Ministerial Council. We take good note of the participants' Basel Declaration on rising intolerance, discrimination, and hate crimes. We would have expected that civil society representatives would have been given the opportunity to present their recommendations at the plenary. We also welcome the side-events organized by the OSCE Academic Network. We will study the network's report on the future of OSCE field operations.

Mr. Chairperson,

2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. We remain committed to continue the Helsinki+40 process with the common objective of reaffirming our commitment to the concept of comprehensive security by recording practical results reflecting intensified efforts to fully implement OSCE commitments. We hope that the Panel of Eminent Persons can contribute to relaunching a genuine dialogue.

We welcome the decisions concerning the German and Austrian Chairmanships in 2016 and 2017. We look forward to working with the incoming Serbian Chairmanship-in-Office. We look to Serbia to lead in focusing the Organization and all participating States on a return to respect for the fundamental principles of the OSCE. This will help us to ensure that the OSCE remains a key forum for dialogue on the significant challenges to European security we currently face. The European Union will do its utmost to contribute to this.

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

The candidate countries the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and of the European Economic Area.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CROATIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CANADA,
THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FRANCE,
GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, ITALY, LATVIA,
LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY,
POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN,
TURKEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

(Annex 5 to MC(21) Journal No. 2 of 5 December 2014)

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to make a statement on behalf of the following countries: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Mr. Chairperson,

Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation continue to play an important role in the achievement of our security objectives. Both the success and failure of these efforts can have a direct impact on our threat environment.

We reaffirm our long-standing commitment to conventional arms control as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security and emphasize the importance of full implementation and compliance to rebuild trust and confidence. Russia's unilateral military activity in and around Ukraine has undermined peace, security, and stability across the region, and its selective implementation of the Vienna Document and Open Skies Treaty and long-standing non-implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) have eroded the positive contributions of these arms control instruments. We call on Russia to fully adhere to its commitments. We are determined to preserve, strengthen, and modernize conventional arms control in Europe, based on key principles and commitments, including reciprocity, transparency, and host nation consent.

Mr. Chairperson,

The countries subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the journal of this Ministerial meeting.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVAKIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF AFGHANISTAN (PARTNER FOR
CO-OPERATION), ALBANIA, ANDORRA, ARMENIA, AUSTRIA,
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
CYPRUS, FINLAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, NORWAY, POLAND,
SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND
TUNISIA (PARTNER FOR CO-OPERATION))**

(Annex 6 to MC(21) Journal No. 2 of 5 December 2014)

Dear Mr. President,

Slovakia as a Chair of the Informal Group of Friends of Security Sector Governance and Reform, would like to make the following statement, also on behalf of: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia:

“We believe that an effective and accountable security sector without discrimination and with full respect for human rights, the rule of law, as well as for fundamental principles of good governance, is a cornerstone of peace, sustainable development, and the provision of security for the benefit of everyone.

The Slovak Republic jointly with other States commends the Swiss and the Serbian chairmanship for their much appreciated efforts and leadership to keep the topic of security sector governance and reform high on the OSCE’s agenda.

We applaud the efforts of the OSCE executive structures and in particular of the Secretary General in strengthening the coherence of the organization’s support in the important field of security sector governance and reform. The recommendations of the mapping exercise completed in 2013 were most useful in identifying ways to enhance the OSCE’s efforts in this area.

In this regard, we particularly welcome the launch of the development of internal guidelines for staff of the OSCE executive structures and we are confident that they will add great value to the organization’s SSG/R related activities. The first set of guidelines will focus on cross-dimensional approaches, regional approaches, comprehensive needs assessments, and sustainable and impact-oriented approaches.

Furthermore, we also commend the efforts aimed at increasing exchanges of best practices and lessons learned with other international organizations, particularly with the UN. Such co-operation will contribute to the efforts of reinvigorating the OSCE’s role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

We are convinced, that the continuous efforts will bear fruit and that the work towards more coherence will result in enhanced effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the organization’s work. I invite other delegations to join our activities in the open-ended Group of Friends and to support the ongoing endeavours.”

I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to kindly attach my statement to the journal of the day.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

(Annex 7 to MC(21) Journal No. 2 of 5 December 2014)

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to start with expressing gratitude to our Swiss hosts for the warm hospitality that all of us have enjoyed during our stay in Basel. The Swiss Chairmanship and Chairperson-in-Office have invested significant efforts in preparing this event, as well as in pursuing the OSCE activities across all three dimensions, and we are grateful for them.

Our today's session takes place on the day of 20th anniversary since signing of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which guaranteed Ukraine's security, political independence and territorial integrity. Ukraine's territorial integrity has been violated by a supposed guarantor – the Russian Federation. It resorted to illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to escalation in Ukraine's Donbas, violating international law, Helsinki Final Act and numerous OSCE commitments.

We are grateful for the overwhelming and firm support offered to Ukraine by the ministers and heads of delegations at this Ministerial Council. We witnessed clear condemnation of Russian aggression against Ukraine in Crimea and Donbas. We witnessed broad recognition that this aggression has not only affected my country, it endangers the European and international peace and security. We registered strong calls on the Russian Federation to halt its aggressive actions and to fully abide by its obligations under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and other norms and principles of international law.

There is an urgent need to correct serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Russia's occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The Russian Federation as an occupying power must stop all human rights violations and allow access of international observers to monitor the situation on the ground.

The Russian military aggression has strongly eroded mutual trust and confidence, which prevented us from adopting more substantive decisions at this Ministerial meeting. It will be important to underpin our activities and deliberations by 3C formula "Commitments cannot be Compromised for Consensus". There is urgency in elaborating practical tools to make this formula instrumental in safeguarding the OSCE principles and commitments, as well as correcting violations of the core principles and restoring respect to them.

The OSCE toolbox should be strengthened to prevent and halt aggression against an OSCE participating State.

Mr. Chairperson,

As Russian aggression and violations continue, there will be another challenging year is ahead of us. We count that the issues of safeguarding strict adherence to the OSCE principles and commitments and correcting their violations will be kept by the incoming

Serbian Chairmanship at the top of the OSCE agenda as we will approach the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015.

We encourage strong and practical support to the Serbian Chairmanship by the OSCE Troika.

In conclusion, I would like to thank again to Chairperson-in-Office, President Burkhalter and able Swiss Chairmanship team for leadership in the course of the year and to wish the Serbian colleagues success in their endeavours at the helm of the OSCE.

I request that this statement be included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

(Annex 8 to MC(21) Journal No. 2 of 5 December 2014)

Mr. President,

This was not my intention to intervene during this concluding session, but since my country was named by the distinguished Ambassador of the United States, I would like to stress the following.

Firstly, I wish to express our regret that the Permanent Representative of the United States delivered his statement under this agenda item that is open for public. While understanding his motives, I don't share his objective, since it does not add to trust, co-operation and dialogue between our delegations.

Secondly, as far as the case of Ms. Ismayilova is concerned, I have checked with our authorities in Baku, and wish to inform the Council that she was invited to Baku City Prosecutor Office to testify as a witness on a case related to an attempted suicide.

Therefore, I encourage the distinguished Ambassador of the United States and his Government to check and verify the facts before raising his concerns at such high level OSCE event.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson, and ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

IV. REPORTS TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

**REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**
(MC.GAL/6/14 of 4 December 2014)

Mr. Chairperson,

As you warmly welcome all of us here in Basel today, I would like to thank you personally and your dedicated teams in Vienna and Bern, led by Ambassadors Greminger and Grau, for your leadership, hard work and excellent co-operation with the OSCE executive structures throughout the year.

Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are all aware that this year has not been “business as usual” for the OSCE. The crisis in and around Ukraine has not only revealed a deepening East-West divide, but also called into question fundamental principles of security. Instability and insecurity are growing in the OSCE region and beyond.

The crisis in Ukraine caught the world by surprise. Yet as it escalated, the OSCE responded quickly and effectively. Our inclusive platform for dialogue and our flexible toolbox enabled us to take rapid action.

Every major OSCE structure is engaged in Ukraine – the institutions, including the Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretariat, and the Office of the Project Co-ordinator in Kyiv. And we have acted in close co-ordination with many partners, beginning with the UN, in line with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, whose operationalization was at the centre of our Security Days discussions this year.

But the most visible sign of OSCE engagement is the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. Within 24 hours of the 21 March decision authorizing the mission, we had first responders on the ground. Today, 341 monitors are deployed in 10 locations across Ukraine, including Donetsk and Luhansk, to monitor, facilitate de-escalation and report. By January, the SMM should reach its full strength of 500 monitors, with 350 deployed in the East.

In September, the Minsk Agreements tasked the SMM with monitoring the ceasefire and Ukraine’s border with Russia. So now we have civilians running what is essentially a peacekeeping operation, but without military support. Our monitors’ security is our top concern, but it also constrains their ability to carry out their mandate. We should applaud their courage and commitment, but we also need your firm political support to create the space for the Special Monitoring Mission to operate effectively and safely. Eight monitors were held captive by separatists for a month last spring. More recently, Special Monitoring Mission armoured cars have repeatedly come under fire. These actions against our mandate and our monitors – your monitors – must be firmly condemned.

The crisis in and around Ukraine has also affected the broader OSCE agenda, especially the protracted conflicts in Moldova and the southern Caucasus, which continue to require OSCE engagement. At the same time, we must not overlook other security challenges

in our region. We must enhance our efforts to combat transnational threats, in particular those related to terrorism. We should also further strengthen our relationship with OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

Dear ministers,

As the OSCE has shown that it can deliver, it needs your political vision to guide it, and sufficient resources to achieve its full potential.

Our response to the Ukraine crisis is negatively affecting the OSCE's ability to carry out its other mandates. Regardless of the current Special Monitoring Mission budget, resources are being diverted from other core activities, including flagship projects like the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, which may be forced to suspend activities in January if no additional funds are forthcoming. Compared to 2013, this year we are 9 million euros short on extrabudgetary funding overall, which is affecting important work in all three dimensions carried out by our field operations, the Secretariat and institutions across the OSCE region. Meanwhile, despite growing challenges that the OSCE is being called on to address, the Unified Budget continues to decrease in real terms.

We will continue to face challenges in 2015 – the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act – and I look forward to working with the incoming Serbian Chairmanship to address them. Allow me to assure all of you of the continued commitment of our staff, as well as my own personal commitment, to assisting the participating States in implementing your decisions, and supporting your efforts to restore peace and stability in our region.

Thank you.

**LETTER FROM THE 2014 CHAIRS OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE OSCE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON THE FSC'S CONTRIBUTION TO
THE HELSINKI+40 PROCESS**

(FSC.DEL/202/14 of 24 November 2014)

In accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/12 and the Ministerial Council Declaration on Furthering the Helsinki+40 Process (MC.DOC/1/13), the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of 2014 was called upon to contribute to the Helsinki+40 process. This report provides an update of the work of the FSC in the implementation of the above-mentioned decision.

On the road towards a security community, the FSC's work in 2014 continued to keep its focus on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and exploring the role of the FSC in the area of implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000).

By November 2014, initiatives put forward by delegations had led to the adoption of seven decisions, which were designed to support the implementation of existing commitments. The FSC has also contributed to the preparation of the Basel Ministerial Council meeting's documents.

The FSC has continued to provide an open and inclusive platform for discussion of current and ongoing security issues, including through the organization of topical Security Dialogues.

In the framework of the Security Dialogue an active discussion took place on matters related to current European security issues, including *inter alia*, Code of Conduct; Democratic Control and Parliamentary Oversight of Armed and Security Forces; Effective and Verifiable Multilateral Arms Control: The Role of the CTBT in International Peace and Security; Activities of the European Union in the Field of Non-Proliferation; Fighting against Illicit Maritime SALW Trafficking – a Corporate Code of Conduct for the French Vessel Owners Corporation; Comprehensive Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management Programme in the Republic of Moldova; Illicit Trafficking of Armaments in the Mediterranean Region; The United Nations Approach to Security Sector Reform: Potential Role of the OSCE; Developing SALW Control Concepts for the Future Contemporary Operating Environment; UNODC Global Firearms Programme and Possible Areas of Co-operation; Progress of the Capacity Development Programme for SALW Demilitarization and Safe Storage for Montenegro (MONDEM); Main Activities of the SEEBCRIG; European Security Overview: Challenges and Future Prospects; Efforts in the Field of Disarmament; Fighting Illicit Trafficking of SALW; Regional efforts to combat the threat posed by SALW in South East Europe; Project for Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites (SECUP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Status and Perspectives; New Spirit of RACVIAC and Regional Co-operation; The Arms Trade Treaty: Possible Implications of Its Implementation; Russia's Proposals to Improve the Effectiveness of Control over Illegal Supplies of Arms, Promoted in Multilateral Formats; UNSCR 1540: 10 Year Anniversary; Strengthening Export Control Regime of Small Arms and Light Weapons by Maritime

Transport to Conflict Areas; Outcome of the Fifth Biannual Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of Tracing Instruments; Conditions of Service and the Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces; The OSCE and Women, Peace and Security: The Way Forward; The position of women in the French Ministry of Defence; Civil and Political Rights of Armed Forces Personnel; Preventing Sexual Violence: Next Steps; Small Arms and Additive Manufacturing: Current and Emerging Trends; Vienna Document – Presentation of the Slovenian Study: Effectiveness of the Vienna Document CSBM Regime; ATT – The Road towards Effective Implementation; UNSCR 1540 – The OSCE’s Role in Facilitating the Implementation – Russian View; Follow-up on the 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference; and the Dayton Peace Accords.

In 2014, the Forum held one Security Dialogue on the Vienna Document with the participation of an expert speaker from academia. In line with the priorities identified in the Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010) and in Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, in 2014, the Forum engaged in further discussions on confidence- and security-building measures. Particularly, by November 2014, the FSC had adopted three Vienna Document decisions. Active discussions on a number of other concrete proposals related to the Vienna Document took place in 2014 in the working groups of the FSC. Furthermore, as part of the Vienna Document’s Chapter III on “Risk reduction”, three joint meetings of the FSC and Permanent Council (PC) were held on the situation in and around Ukraine.

In line with Chapter XI of the Vienna Document 2011, the FSC held the twenty-fourth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) on 4 and 5 March 2014. The Meeting provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions and to assess the state of implementation. The Heads of Verification Centres (HoV) Meeting, to be held on 16 December 2014 on the margins of the annual exchange of military information, will serve as an opportunity to exchange experiences and information on technical aspects of implementation of agreed measures under the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011.

The OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition remained one of the key topics on the FSC’s agenda. This year’s work focused on the implementation of agreed commitments as well as elaboration or enhancement of new norms, measures and principles to close existing loopholes. Particularly the Implementation Assessment Meeting on SALW and SCA provided an opportunity to take stock of the implementation rate of the existing measures and look at the effectiveness of the existing control norms. The work of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW positively contributed to revitalizing the work of the Forum on this issue, as well. The Forum adopted a decision on the “Best Practice Guide on Annual Information Exchange on SALW Exports to/Imports from other participating States during the previous calendar year”. Currently a number of other proposals on export control, trafficking by sea, transparency measures and extension of assistance mechanism to Partners for Co-operation are being discussed. In line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/13, the OSCE actively participated in the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Plan of Action on SALW, also by organizing a side event. Furthermore, at the request of Armenia, the OSCE organized a national round table on SALW, providing for a better understanding of the national priorities with regard to SALW control and facilitating initiatives to further improve those controls.

In 2014, the OSCE continued implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance by participating States on destruction and stockpile management and security of SALW and SCA, which remains one of the most dynamic areas of implementation of the Documents on SALW and SCA. In April 2014, the OSCE signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Georgia and developed the demilitarization project on disposal of aircraft rockets and bombs, and TNT melting from artillery shells. Throughout the year, the OSCE continued the implementation of four joint assistance programmes with the UNDP – in Belarus, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The implementation of the project on physical security and stockpile management of SALW and CA in Kyrgyzstan has continued. The implementation of the mélange disposal project in Ukraine was successfully finalized in March 2014. The legal framework (MoU) for the rocket fuel disposal project in Bulgaria was signed in May 2014 (with the protocol clarifying privileges and immunities signed in October 2014). The Forum also received two new requests for assistance on UXO clean-up and chemical safety and security from Ukraine. In the field of practical assistance on SALW and SCA, there are still outstanding issues regarding funding for the projects in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. Following the Joint Geneva Statement by the European Union, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America on 17 April 2014, the OSCE established the repository programme on arms control and non-proliferation to provide assistance to Ukraine. This is an umbrella programme to contain a number of projects once the main study – “Baseline assessment of non-State armed groups and their weapons and ammunition” – is completed. The FSC also continued to manage a comprehensive SALW and SCA programme. In addition to regular donations to established projects, this programme facilitates contributions to SALW and SCA projects under development.

The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security retained its importance in the work of the FSC in 2014, which marked the 20th anniversary of this landmark document for security sector governance. The third Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct was held on 9 July 2014 in Vienna, following a commemoration event organized on 8 July 2014. This annual implementation discussion provided a unique opportunity to discuss how to promote and improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct including its annual information exchange, to undertake an evaluation discussion and to examine the application of the Code of Conduct in the context of the existing political and military situation. In addition, the seventh event held pursuant to FSC Decision No. 1/08 was organized in Belgrade from 26 to 28 March 2014, for the staff of all OSCE executive structures. The conference focused on issues such as defence reform and the democratic control of armed forces, parliamentary oversight, security sector governance and reform, human rights in the armed forces and international humanitarian law, the Code of Conduct information exchange, as well as related aspects of UNSCR 1325. Lastly, the Code of Conduct also continued to remain on the agenda of the FSC meetings during the year. In particular, three Security Dialogues focusing on parliamentary oversight, conditions of service and human rights of armed forces personnel were held in 2014.

The general level of implementation of information exchanges in 2014 was stable and high. FSC Chairs continued to make use of the announcing and reminding mechanism in order to improve the availability of information among participating States. These efforts helped increase compliance with obligations, although not all participating States have yet provided the required information.

The OSCE has remained committed to the support of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In 2014, a number of country-specific dialogues were organized in co-ordination with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The OSCE remains to be one of the most active regional actors in the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540, an achievement highlighted in a number of international fora. Furthermore, the FSC continued to be instrumental in facilitating information-sharing among participating States on matters related to non-proliferation, in line with FSC Decision No. 19/11 on a network of Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540, by *inter alia* holding the first meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 on 10 April 2014, in Vienna, Austria. Fifty-one participating States have appointed their national Point of Contact on UNSCR 1540 to the OSCE. In addition to the three Security Dialogues, throughout 2014, several awareness-raising events on UNSCR 1540 were organized for the OSCE region.

In line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, the FSC continued to examine ways in which it can assist in the implementation in the OSCE region of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. In order to promote specific activities related to the implementation of the resolution, three Security Dialogue meetings were organized by the FSC Chairperson dealing with these issues.

The FSC also contributed, within its mandate, to the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) held from 24 to 26 June 2014. In light of the widening gap between participating States' positions on security in the OSCE area, the Conference aimed to build a bridge through enhancing security dialogue on addressing current security challenges within the framework of the OSCE, as well as through reviewing security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States, including the Astana Commemorative Declaration and recent Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 6/11, 7/11 and 8/11. The third working session provided an opportunity to exchange views on issues related to arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in the OSCE area, such as the Vienna Document 2011, and to address outstanding challenges and opportunities at a strategic level.

Furthermore, all three FSC Chairmanships in 2014 continued to work jointly with the Permanent Council on issues of relevance to both bodies as part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. To this end, six joint FSC-PC meetings were held by November 2014 on the situation in and around Ukraine, on efforts in the field of disarmament and on the fight against transnational threats in the Mediterranean region.

In addition to the joint FSC-PC meeting dedicated to the Mediterranean region, in 2014, the FSC Chairmanships have enhanced the Forum's work with the Partners for Co-operation, with a special emphasis on the Mediterranean Partners, through organizing several Security Dialogues of direct interest to the Partners. This goal was further pursued by providing speakers as well as the Chairperson for the first session of the 2014 Mediterranean Conference held in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, that was dedicated to "The Issue at Stake – Current and Emerging Threats in Small Arms and Light Weapons Illicit Trafficking". Moreover, at the request of Tunisia, the OSCE has conducted the first needs assessment mission to Tunisia, discussing opportunities for co-operation in the areas of SALW, border security and counter-terrorism and exploring possibilities for a closer OSCE engagement with interested OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND HEAD OF THE
SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF
THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/2/14 of 1 December 2014)

Your Excellency,

As the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is a pleasure for me to inform you about FSC-related activities in 2014.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted this year's FSC Chairmanships, which, in addition to Monaco, were Malta and Moldova. During 2014, the Chairmanships continuously worked in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity, balance and efficiency in the implementation of their working programme.

The focus of the FSC's work in 2014 continued to be on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000). Progress reports on the implementation of those issues are annexed to this letter and contain factual information about the developments in the FSC during 2014 regarding these aspects of its work.

List of annexes:

- FSC Chairperson's progress report on efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures;
- FSC Chairperson's progress report on efforts to improve further the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;
- FSC Chairperson's progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- FSC Chairperson's progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
- FSC Chairperson's progress report on efforts to support implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the OSCE region;
- FSC Chairperson's progress report on efforts to support implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in the OSCE region.

FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS AND CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

(Annex 1 to MC.GAL/2/14 of 1 December 2014)

1. Introduction and objective

This report provides an overview, in chronological order, of the efforts undertaken in the FSC in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) during the period from November 2013 to November 2014.¹

The report also addresses the information exchanged in the FSC between participating States on the implementation of agreed CSBMs, on normative initiatives and on developments in the Forum, as well as other related activities carried out in the OSCE. The report reflects the discussions that took place and the decisions that were adopted in the FSC. Detailed information on implementation can be found in the Conflict Prevention Centre's Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document and Other Measures, which was submitted to the 2014 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM),² and in the quarterly and monthly survey provided.

2. Efforts by the FSC since the Kyiv meeting of the Ministerial Council

In the reporting period the participating States continued negotiations and discussions in the FSC with a view to updating and modernizing the Vienna Document (VD).

As of November 2014, the FSC had adopted three decisions on the Vienna Document, two relating to the holding of the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) and one on the Heads of Verification Centres (HoV) meeting.

In December 2013, the seventh HoV meeting was held in accordance with FSC Decision No. 5/13. The one-day meeting served for the exchange of experiences and information on technical aspects of implementation. The meeting featured consecutive plenary discussions, which included (1) a presentation on implementation challenges related to national holidays and cases of *force majeure*, (2) a presentation on a multinational verification centre, (3) a presentation entitled "A view on the future development of the Vienna Document", and (4) presentations on arms control courses and on a seminar on the implementation of the VD 2011. The outcomes were reported on to the 2014 AIAM by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), which chaired the meeting.³

The Twenty-Third Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) was held in March 2014. It provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss the present and

1 The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 14 November 2014.

2 FSC.GAL/12/14.

3 The report is available under FSC.GAL/148/13/Rev.1.

future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions, and assess the state of implementation of the VD. Discussion extended to: the clarification of questions arising from such implementation; implementation of agreed measures, including the use of additional equipment during inspections and evaluation visits; and the implications of all information originating from the implementation of any agreed measures for the process of confidence- and security-building in the framework of the OSCE. At the meeting, more than fifty suggestions were made on ways of further improving the implementation of agreed CSBMs.⁴

On 14 May, a Security Dialogue entitled “European security overview: challenges and future prospects” was held, with speakers from the European Union Military Staff and the Headquarters of the United States European Command.

On 21 May, a joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council was held on “Efforts in the field of disarmament”, with the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs taking part as a speaker.

At the 2014 Annual Security Review Conference, which was held from 24 to 26 June, the Forum for Security Co-operation provided input to working session II on “Arms control and confidence- and security-building measures: challenges and opportunities”.

On 15 October, a Security Dialogue was held entitled “Vienna Document – presentation of the Slovenian study: effectiveness of the Vienna Document CSBM regime”. The presentation was given by academic experts and was based on an independent analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Vienna Document as a regime.

On 10 November 2014 there was an informal Security Days event on CSBMs and conventional arms control in Europe, organized in Vienna by the OSCE Secretary General. The meeting with the expert community showed the great relevance of these instruments for our security and attested to the role of the OSCE in providing platforms for such discussions.

Last but not least, several participating States made use of FSC meetings, in a spirit of transparency and confidence-building, to provide information about below-threshold military activities or military exercises.

In addition, 23 proposals covering five chapters of the Vienna Document 2011 are under discussion in the FSC. They pertain to:

- Information on command organization and combat units;
- Information on locations of headquarters of attached subunits at battalion level or the equivalent;
- Information on military training establishments and military repair or maintenance facilities;
- Information on military transport aviation units;

4 The survey of suggestions is available under FSC.AIAM/25/13.

- Information on land forces and air forces deployed outside the national territory;
- The notification of permanent changes in the command organization;
- Information on naval forces;
- Risk reduction mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards activities of military forces giving grounds for supposing preparations for offensive military operations;
- The creation of OSCE inspections for clarification of military activities giving rise to concern;
- Timelines for the demonstrations of major weapon and equipment systems;
- The lowering of thresholds for prior notifications;
- The notification of deployment of multinational rapid-reaction forces;
- The notification of large-scale military transits;
- The goal of inspections;
- Enhancement of the inspection quotas;
- The definition of *force majeure*;
- The scale of the specified area for inspections;
- The beginning of an inspection;
- The duration of inspections and evaluation visits;
- Financial responsibility for inspections and for evaluation visits;
- Enhancement of the size of inspection teams and evaluation visit teams;
- Devices used during inspections and evaluation visits;
- Enhancement of the quotas for evaluation visits;
- The definition of adjoining sea areas.

3. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation in 2013–2014

During the reporting period, the OSCE participating States continued to implement their joint commitments under the Vienna Document 2011. The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) maintained records of exchanges of information taking place as part of those commitments. They are regularly reflected in the CPC monthly reports and the CPC quarterly and annual surveys on CSBM information exchanged.

The level of CSBM implementation under the Vienna Document 2011 in the OSCE area – as measured by the number of submissions under various information exchanges, such as the annual exchange of military information (AEMI), the exchange on defence planning, or the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI) – has remained steady during the past five years. However in terms of verification activities and requests for clarifications under Chapter III, the Vienna Document has recently witnessed a significant increase in use on account of the situation in Ukraine.

By 14 November 2014, 51 participating States had provided information under the AEMI in 2014. This number is lower than in the previous year, when 55 participating States provided information. As regards defence planning and defence budgets, 46 participating States have provided information on their defence planning in 2014, while 45 have provided information about their defence budgets (last year 47 and 49). In addition, there are four participating States that have not submitted any information on their defence planning or defence budgets during the past five years. All four possess armed forces.

In the reporting period, verification activities were also conducted under Chapter IX and Chapter X of the Vienna Document. By 14 November 2014, 88 inspections and 45 evaluation visits had been conducted, as had 15 regional inspections and 19 regional evaluation visits.

With regard to the situation in Ukraine, 24 countries have so far decided to send military inspectors and observers in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011. In all, they conducted 17 verification activities in Ukraine (three inspections, ten regional inspections, one evaluation visit and three regional evaluation visits). In addition, ten countries conducted a total of six verification activities in the Russian Federation (three inspections, two evaluation visits and one regional evaluation visit). This also attests to the increased use of the Vienna Document's Chapter X on regional measures.

In 2014, the mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities under the Vienna Document's Chapter III was invoked 16 times. All instances related to the situation in Ukraine; they resulted in three joint meetings of the FSC and PC, on 7, 17 and 30 April 2014.

In addition, with regard to the voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about military activities under paragraph 18 of the Vienna Document, two visits were held in 2014.

In 2014, 53 participating States were connected to the OSCE Communications Network; one participating State having military forces remains unconnected. The reliability of the Network remains very high, with the central servers in Vienna being available virtually 100 per cent of the time as there was no system downtime other than for planned maintenance. In addition, 2014 saw an increase of participating States' availability on the

Network as they continued to replace obsolete equipment. This migration to new technologies alleviates issues that were persistent in a small number of participating States. Availability of end-user stations (EUSs) remains very high, with 36 participating States being available over 99 per cent of the time, and the overall availability of EUSs connected to the Network exceeding 98 per cent.

The custom-designed OSCE software applications used to process notifications (the Integrated Notification Application, INA) and to prepare annual information exchanges (the Automated Data System, ADS) were updated and provided to participating States for their use. During the year, the underlying infrastructure and data storage capabilities of both applications were updated in order to extend usability for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, upgrading of the central servers was completed so that they now stand ready to expand the capabilities of the Network to other programmatic areas of the OSCE while maintaining the high availability, reliability and security of the Network.

In 2014, the Communications Network was crucial in supporting response to the crisis in Ukraine. Participating States used the Communications Network to exchange time-sensitive information and notifications pertaining to the Vienna Document 2011 and the Treaty on Open Skies. The number of notifications distributed on the Network in 2014 increased by over 22 per cent from the previous year, requiring 24/7 monitoring by staff.

The OSCE Communications Network remains a highly reliable, safe and secure tool for use by participating States in support of CSBMs and for complying with their mutually agreed commitments.

4. Other activities

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek has now facilitated communication between the Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence and the OSCE Communications Network for several years. The Ministry of Defence representatives were able to participate in the 2014 annual seminar on the Vienna Document and a training event organized by the OSCE Centre in Astana. The CSBM seminar in Astana served as a platform where participants were able to share information and experience on aspects of the implementation of Vienna Document 2011, including inspection of weapons and equipment systems.

In November 2014, 30 members of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina demonstrated improved understanding and knowledge in the arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, as well as skills in conducting verification regimes and preparing data for information exchanges in the seminar supported by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, with the assistance of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina they were given the opportunity to increase their understanding of the OSCE security dimensions in general. The armed forces members were familiarized with meaningful implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as part of confidence-building and with emphasis on democratic oversight and integration with civil society. In consideration of the promotion of women's participation in conflict resolution processes and in line with UNSCR 1325, the Verification Centre staff were encouraged to nominate female candidates to participate in the confidence- and security-building seminar.

The Mission Compliance Project Officer and the two representatives of the Council of Ministers' Co-ordination Team for Implementation of the OSCE/UN Security Commitments in Bosnia and Herzegovina observed a highly relevant annual assessment meeting on the confidence- and security-building measures in 2014. The AIAM, which had a serious context this year on account of circumstances affecting all participating States, confirmed that transparency and predictability are two key elements of CSBMs. The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina noted these circumstances as well as the fact that the first step towards improving military transparency could be to adapt various current annual exchanges of information.

Awareness on confidence- and security-building measures was increased amongst representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina executive institutions during a politico-military briefing organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in April 2014.

In July 2014, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat supported a seminar on CSBMs and the implementation of related OSCE documents. The two-day event was organized by the Centre, in close co-operation with the CPC, for some 20 members of the Defence Ministry of Turkmenistan. The seminar addressed the novel mechanisms for implementing national commitments under the Vienna Document 2011 regarding reciprocal military verification procedures and visits to military facilities. OSCE experts, along with national experts from the Defence Ministries of Belarus and Kazakhstan, presented provisions of the Vienna Document such as conducting and receiving evaluation and inspections visits and organizing visits to airbases and military formations. During the seminar, participants shared national experiences in conducting verification activities and discussed the support role of the OSCE Communications Network in transmitting information related to the Vienna Document 2011.

In addition, in January, April, May and November 2014 the CPC also provided regular lecturers and keynote speeches on the Vienna Document 2011 and CSBMs at courses of the NATO school in Oberammergau. Furthermore, the CPC sent representatives to VD contact visits in Norway (June) and the Czech Republic (October).

5. Conclusion

Confidence- and security-building measures and arms control are integral parts of comprehensive security. The conventional arms control regimes play an important role for stability in the OSCE area and are key elements for the Transatlantic, European and Eurasian security architecture.

The year 2014 has seen an extensive use of the conventional arms control instruments and CSBMs in relation to the crisis in and around Ukraine. The Treaty on Open Skies thanks to its high level of co-operative transparency continued to be a well-functioning instrument with reliable implementation. In addition to the existing quota flights, the first-ever extraordinary observation flights under the Open Skies Treaty were carried out in the context of the crisis, along the border of Russia and Ukraine, in order to monitor the forces deployed in this area.

Never before has the Vienna Document been more widely used than in 2014. It has demonstrated its usefulness as an early warning instrument and as a tool for dialogue in crisis situations. Chapter III "Risk reduction" and Chapter X "Regional measures" have been

frequently referred to. The mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities under Chapter III (paragraph 16) was activated 16 times, leading to 3 joint meetings of the Permanent Council and Forum for Security Co-operation under paragraph 16.3; these joints meetings allowed the participating States to assess the situation and to discuss stabilizing measures. A new interpretation of the commitments' implementation allowed an intensive use of the Vienna Document in the field throughout a period of several weeks during the crisis; additional quotas for visits and the exhaustive use of Chapters III, IX and X led to the presence of multinational military experts for longer periods in the field. This is also the first time that a Vienna Document inspection team has been taken hostage.

The Vienna Document 2011 has significant potential for development and modernization, as illustrated by the 23 proposals published and sponsored by a large number of participating States. The updating and modernization of the Vienna Document 2011 is an ongoing process; in 2014, the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document and the participating States started a chapter-by-chapter review of the Vienna Document.

A Security Day in November was an opportunity for representatives from academia to present thought-provoking ideas.

The OSCE Communications Network, which is a CSBM in its own right, continues to be a highly reliable tool.

The regional and subregional CSBMs and conventional arms control arrangements also represent important contributions to regional stability. The numerous regional agreements contributed to regional and subregional security, although the implementation of some of them has been suspended.

The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, which was adopted under Article IV of Annex 1-B to the Dayton Peace Agreement, has made an invaluable contribution to confidence- and security-building since 1996. December 2014 will see the transfer of ownership of the Parties to the Agreement, which symbolizes the success of subregional arms control arrangements and is an example for all participating States.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FURTHER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

(Annex 2 to MC.GAL/2/14 of 1 December 2014)

1. Introduction and objective

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security adopted at the Budapest Summit in December 1994 is a key normative document and as such a landmark in the field of security sector governance. In it, the participating States agreed to reform their domestic politico-military affairs and to apply internationally agreed principles of democracy and rule of law to their national security policies and doctrines. The Code of Conduct occupies a fundamental place in the body of normative documents developed within the politico-military dimension of the OSCE and remains unparalleled in other international organizations. In the year 2014 it celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its adoption.

The present report highlights the progress achieved in efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct in 2014. The report addresses the 2014 information exchange between participating States on the implementation of the Code and efforts undertaken in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) since the Kyiv meeting of the Ministerial Council. The report covers the period from November 2013 to November 2014.¹

2. Efforts by the FSC

In the year following the Kyiv meeting of the Ministerial Council in December 2013, the FSC continued to work towards enhanced implementation of the Code.

On 29 January 2014, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on “Democratic control and parliamentary oversight of armed and security forces”. The Chairperson of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee of the Maltese House of Representatives addressed the FSC and highlighted the need for comprehensive parliamentary oversight. He also drew attention to challenges in the cyber field, and suggested that consideration be given to the potential development of a Code of Conduct regulating cyber security. The second speaker at the event was the Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of Malta (MEDAC), who provided an overview on current security challenges in the Mediterranean region.

On 26 February 2014, the United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions spoke on the UN’s approach to security sector reform at an FSC Security Dialogue. The Code of Conduct was highlighted as an important landmark document for security sector governance, underlining the strong links that exists between the two fields.

¹ The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 14 November 2014.

From 26 to 28 March 2014, an OSCE-wide training workshop on the Code of Conduct was held in Belgrade, organized by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia. This workshop was the first of its kind, as it brought together all the OSCE executive structures to exchange experiences on the practical task of promoting and implementing the Code of Conduct. The workshop was held pursuant to FSC Decision No. 1/08, which requests the OSCE Secretariat to organize at least one specialized seminar or workshop a year in order to facilitate better implementation, and to promote awareness and support outreach of the Code of Conduct. The conference was co-sponsored by Austria, Germany and Switzerland, and was supported by the RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation (Zagreb), the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), NATO, and the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP). The event was hosted by the Government of Serbia, with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence and the Assistant Minister of Defence conducting the opening and acting as official hosts.

The workshop brought together over fifty members of OSCE field operations from all OSCE regions, several representatives of the host State of Serbia, and OSCE staff members from the Secretariat, the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The workshop allowed for the sharing of best practices and for discussion of relevant elements in the following fields: democratic control of armed forces, security sector governance and reform (SSG/R), defence reform, parliamentary oversight, respect for international humanitarian law and the human rights of armed forces personnel, and issues related to women and peace and security (UNSCR 1325). It served as a unique opportunity for participants to learn from one another and to cross-fertilize efforts in the OSCE family to promote, raise awareness on and assist in the implementation of the Code of Conduct. A report on the event was produced by the BCSP.²

In April 2014, a number of participating States decided to co-sponsor a food-for-thought paper on the development of a compilation of practical examples of the democratic control of armed and security forces.³ In their proposal they invited participating States to contribute to the development of the compilation in order to make it an illustrative reference work reflecting the range of good practices in democratic governance. The ten co-sponsors suggest a thematic approach with the individual chapters being devoted to single topics of interest.

On 8 July 2014, a commemoration event to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Code of Conduct was held at the Museum of Military History, Vienna. The event was attended by around 150 persons, who were addressed by high-level speakers from Austria (Mr. Werner Fasslabend, former Defence Minister), Germany (Mr. Thomas Göbel, Head of the Arms Control Division of the German Foreign Ministry) and Switzerland (Lieutenant General Aldo C. Schellenberg, Chief of the Swiss Air Force). They underlined the undiminished importance of the Code of Conduct as a key politically binding commitment governing the role of armed forces in democratic societies. A press release was produced.⁴

2 FSC.NGO/5/14.

3 FSC.DEL/103/13/Rev.2.

4 <http://www.osce.org/fsc/121153>

On 9 July 2014, the third Annual Implementation Discussion was held pursuant to FSC Decision No. 12/11, in which it was decided to “regularize a focused discussion on implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security by devoting an annual special one-day meeting to the Code of Conduct”.

The third Annual Implementation Discussion marked the twentieth anniversary of the Code of Conduct and provided a unique opportunity for experts from delegations and capitals to discuss how to promote and improve its implementation, including its annual information exchange; to undertake an evaluation of the Code; and to examine its application in the context of the existing political and military situation.

During the meeting, a great number of proposals were made on the development and implementation of the Code of Conduct. The subjects touched upon by the suggestions included: strengthened outreach of the Code of Conduct; increased co-operation with other international and regional organizations; enlargement of the scope of the annual questionnaire; a qualitative assessment of the yearly information exchange; and the inclusion of the issues of women, peace and security in the annual information exchange. A survey of suggestions was drawn up following the meeting.⁵

At the FSC Security Dialogue held on 16 July 2014, a representative of the ODIHR delivered remarks on the topic of “Conditions of service and the human rights of armed forces personnel”, with a focus on some effects and human rights implications of the financial crisis on armed forces personnel in terms of their working and living conditions, health and safety, and family life. The ODIHR’s intervention at the Security Dialogue served to introduce the next day’s event on the same topic.⁶

On 17 September 2014, the Director of the ODIHR spoke on the “Civil and political rights of armed forces personnel” during the Security Dialogue. In his remarks he emphasized that when putting military duty first, armed forces should apply a degree of sensitivity and acute reasoning in order to avoid unduly curtailing such rights of personnel as the right to express oneself freely or associate with others. His contributions to the Security Dialogue set the premise for the ODIHR’s fourth event in the ongoing series held on 23 October.⁷

In addition, the FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct convened the informal Group of Friends in April and November 2014 in order to discuss topical issues related to the Code’s implementation and promotion. The Group of Friends was founded in July 2013 to exchange views and ideas on how to promote the Code of Conduct and to strengthen its implementation, and has enjoyed the participation of 38 delegations so far.

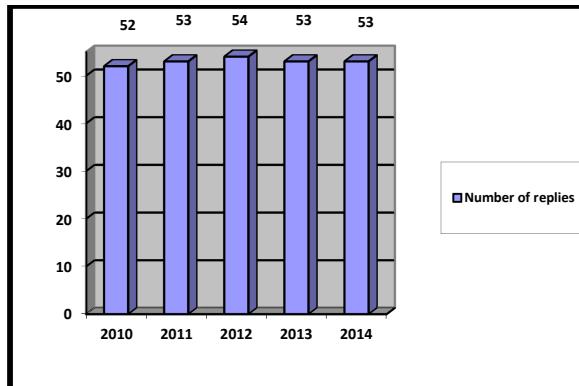
5 The survey of suggestions can be found under FSC.GAL/96/14.

6 See sub-chapter 4.

7 Idem.

3. Information exchange

The OSCE participating States are committed to exchanging information annually on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in accordance with an agreed questionnaire (FSC.DEC/2/09). The level of commitment to the information exchange has always been high, and the great majority of participating States have regularly provided information about their efforts in implementing the Code (see graph below).



The annual information exchange is a unique mechanism for fostering international transparency with regard to armed and security forces and their control by constitutionally established authorities. Since 2008, the replies have been published on the OSCE website, where they can be accessed by the public.⁸

A statistical report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was prepared by the CPC in July 2014.⁹ In accordance with FSC Decision No. 12/11, this report was based on the 2014 annual information exchange under the Code of Conduct and was limited to the provision of statistical data related to implementation. Common practices were highlighted in general terms only, and the report did not enter into comparisons of national policies or provide any assessment of implementation.

By 14 November 2014, 53 participating States had provided information on their implementation activities.

In 2009, the participating States agreed to update the format of the questionnaire. All the participating States that submitted replies used the new format.

Several replies included additional voluntary information. In accordance with the interpretative statement appended to FSC Decision No. 5/11, 36 participating States provided information on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security (2013: 35 participating States). Furthermore, in accordance with the interpretative statement appended to FSC Decision No. 2/09, seven participating States included information related to private military and security companies (PMSCs) in their 2014 returns (2013: three participating States).

⁸ <http://www.osce.org/fsc/86841>

⁹ FSC.GAL/86/14.

In 2010, a reference guide on the Code of Conduct Questionnaire was developed as a voluntary tool to facilitate the annual information exchange. On 31 March 2014, this was complemented by an additional voluntary working document on indicators to improve reporting, which was prepared at the OSCE-wide workshop held in Belgrade.¹⁰

4. Awareness raising and outreach

FSC Decision No. 1/08 on awareness raising and outreach of the Code of Conduct requested the OSCE Secretariat to organize, in co-operation with other international organizations or with participating States, at least one specialized extrabudgetary seminar or workshop a year in order to facilitate better implementation, to promote awareness and to support outreach of the Code of Conduct. The decision also encouraged participating States to contribute extrabudgetary funds to make such events possible, and called upon the FSC Chairperson to engage the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

In accordance with this decision, the CPC and the Mission to Serbia organized the above-mentioned OSCE-wide workshop for staff members of executive structures to improve assistance on the Code of Conduct. Previous regional seminars had been held in Kazakhstan for Central Asia (2008), Bosnia and Herzegovina for South-East Europe (2009), Belarus for Eastern Europe (2010), Ukraine for the Black Sea region and the Caucasus (2011), Latvia for the Baltic Sea region (2012) and Malta for the Mediterranean region (2013). The seminars were funded by Austria, Germany and Switzerland through extrabudgetary contributions.

In 2014 the CPC was also very active in promoting and improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct across the OSCE area.

From 30 September to 2 October 2014, the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation collaborated with the CPC on organizing a peer review conference for South-Eastern Europe that was the first review meeting of its kind. It brought together high-level representatives responsible for the implementation of the Code of Conduct from all over the region. The Conference provided the participants from parliaments, ombudsman institutions, ministries of foreign affairs, justice, defence and the interior and NGO representatives with an opportunity to present their experiences in implementing the Code of Conduct. An expert from RACVIAC analysed each of the countries' submissions and provided feedback and suggested possibilities for improvement. During the meeting, the participants displayed considerable openness and transparency and showed themselves ready and willing to engage in discussions on individual national submissions. The conference thus created an unprecedented opportunity to improve reporting and to further strengthen confidence-building in the OSCE area with regard to implementation of the Code.

On 9 July 2014 the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) participated in the Third Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The ODIHR representative presented the main findings of an ongoing study that analyses the responses of participating States to the annual Questionnaire on the Code from the perspective of upholding the human rights of armed forces personnel. Looking particularly at the qualitative aspects of the reporting, a key recommendation to participating States was to include in their responses

information on how individual complaints are handled and followed up on, in order to promote a better understanding of how laws, institutions and procedures work in practice to protect the rights of military personnel in the OSCE area. The presentation was well received and the ODIHR was commended for its work in this area.

The third event in the ODIHR's Human Rights Discussion Series for the FSC, on 17 July 2014, brought together 45 participants primarily from the OSCE delegations (14 women and 31 men). The event considered the conditions of service and relevant human rights implications for military men and women and their families, in peacetime, in operations, and after leaving service. A number of issues were presented and discussed, such as: remuneration and entitlements, advancement and equal opportunities, access to adequate medical care, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), gender-based violence in the armed forces, benefits for veterans, parental leave, access to nurseries and schools, childcare benefits and employment opportunities for spouses. Speakers came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the United States.

On 23 October 2014 the ODIHR continued its Human Rights Discussion Series for the FSC, with the fourth event focusing primarily on the freedoms of expression and association of men and women in uniform. In practice, this includes the ability of armed forces personnel to use social media outlets and join professional associations or trade unions. Speakers referred to examples from a number of participating States, which demonstrate that comprehensive protection of such human rights is compatible with the requirements of service, political neutrality and national security concerns. Speakers came from Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Moldova, Serbia, and the United Kingdom.

During the reporting period the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) continued to lend its valuable contribution in connection with the Code of Conduct, reflecting its unequivocal support for the Code of Conduct as also displayed in a number of pertinent declarations and resolutions adopted by the PA over the past few years.

On 13 February 2014, at the winter meeting of the PA, its Committee on Political Affairs and Security held a thematic debate on "Parliamentary control of armed and security forces: ensuring transparency at the national and international levels". The debate followed an address on the same topic by the Committee's rapporteur, Finnish member of parliament Pia Kauma, who also called for "strong and effective parliamentary oversight which should be based on principles of constitutionality, legality and accountability". Moreover, the debate also followed presentations by keynote speakers including the FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct, the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, and a representative of the Swiss Chairmanship, whose presentations focused on the importance of the Code of Conduct and its role in parliamentary oversight over the security sector.

At its Annual Session in Baku in June/July 2014, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly reiterated its call and support for full implementation of the Code of Conduct by dedicating several paragraphs of the Baku Declaration to this matter.¹¹ A topic of particular concern in the Baku Declaration is the democratic control of the public and private security sector.

11 <http://www.oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/annual-sessions/2014-baku/declaration-2/2540-2014-baku-declaration-eng/file>

Especially in the context of private security companies the OSCE PA repeatedly voiced its concerns about the absence of any specific regulatory framework.

In addition to the Annual Session, the Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly continued to complement the important work of members of parliament in this specific field. More specifically, staff of the OSCE PA Secretariat included the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's perspective in several informal working group meetings and discussions. The Secretariat also participated in a meeting of the focal point network for security sector governance and reform that took place in Bratislava in October. On that occasion, the Secretariat emphasized that strengthening parliamentary oversight remains a key factor in the security sector governance reform process. The Secretariat also participated in the OSCE-wide workshop on the Code of Conduct that took place in Belgrade in March 2014. On that occasion, it delivered a presentation on parliamentary oversight of the defence and security sector. One important point raised, beside the ones mentioned above, was the need for continued capacity-building both for members of parliament and for parliamentary staff in the field of democratic control of the security sector.

During the reporting period, the OSCE field operations were also actively promoting implementation of the Code through awareness-raising and training activities, as reflected in the following summaries.

In the course of 2014 the OSCE Presence in Albania undertook a comparative review of Albania's Code of Conduct submissions for the period 2010–2014. The review established that work to raise both awareness and also the quality of submissions during 2015 was essential. The translations of several key related documents into Albanian have since been shared with the host government.¹² They will assist the process of a comparative review.¹³ Moreover, consideration will also be given to work to enhance the role of women in peace and security and to raise the awareness of the importance of the Military Ombudsman.

The OSCE Office in Yerevan is promoting the implementation of the Code of Conduct as a key activity. Over the past three years the Armenian Ministry of Defence has become significantly more transparent in dealing with non-combat deaths and displays a genuine political will to improve the situation. In December 2013 the OSCE Office and the Armenian MoD signed a comprehensive action plan for 2014 on the improvement of the human rights situation by strengthening of the educational component on human rights and ensuring transparency and reduction of corruption in the armed forces. The Office's activities in this area during the reporting period were based on this plan.

The Office in Yerevan strives to enhance democratic control of the armed forces through increased transparency and accountability by working with the MoD, civil society and parliament. The human rights situation in the armed forces is closely monitored. In co-operation with civil society, the Office is working on several projects aimed at assisting the MoD in its efforts to improve the human rights situation in the armed forces. These projects relate to: provision of legal advice on military service issues for future conscripts and their relatives; lectures on military psychology for high school students; training courses on modern aspects of civil-military relations for the teachers of the subject "initial military

12 <http://www.osce.org/sq/node/119812?download=true>

13 <http://www.osce.org/sq/node/119812?download=true>

preparedness” and for the officials of military recruitment offices; and the elaboration of a new textbook on military rights.

The Office continues to co-operate effectively with the local Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and National Security and the Internal Affairs Committee. In 2014 a number of international seminars and parliamentary hearings on police accountability, financial oversight of security sector and cybersecurity were co-organized with the Committee under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF). A study tour to Montenegro was organized for the Committee members to learn about best practices on parliamentarian oversight of the security sector. On the basis of the outcomes of the visit to Montenegro, the Committee is in the process of preparing amendments to be included in Armenia’s package of constitutional reforms.

In October 2014, together with the Armenian MoD and with direct support from the CPC and the involvement of NATO, the Office also organized an international workshop on the Code of Conduct. The two-day workshop in Yerevan provided an excellent platform for experience-sharing by key international players in the field and for the discussion of concerns and achievements in the host country. A press release was issued.¹⁴

In February 2014 the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina held a politico-military-related training course to advance Bosnia and Herzegovina officials’ understanding of the OSCE’s activities and initiatives in the first dimension. This kind of politico-military briefing is intended to provide information to new personnel and appointees, and to consolidate and advance the knowledge of the target groups. Such briefings have become a routine activity and are in line with a recommendation of the Review Conference on Implementation of OSCE/UN Security Commitments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The briefing provided qualitative information on OSCE politico-military matters. Officials in different positions in the Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions were familiarized with the OSCE security issues, and awareness was increased. The event brought new impetus and synergy for the improved implementation of OSCE principles. The participants are expected to engage with their superiors and subordinates in this area during the conduct of their professional activities. The training course contributed to the overall result of improved compliance with politico-military commitments.

The Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina also supported the OSCE-wide training workshop on the Code of Conduct held in Belgrade in March, giving a presentation for other field missions of its best practices in promoting the Code and supporting information exchanges. The networking of politico-military officers in the region was notably enhanced, which will contribute to increased implementation of the CoC and to a wider dissemination of its principles.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina gave support to the participation of two representatives of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in the Third Annual Discussion on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Participation has been deemed very beneficial and the Bosnia and Herzegovina representatives were grateful for the opportunity to take part in the 2014 Discussion.

The 6th Review Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina's compliance with the OSCE and UN security commitments in the politico-military field was held on 3 and 4 December 2013 in Sarajevo/Ilidza. The Review Conference provided a comprehensive and appropriate list of recommendations and conclusions, and continued the process of analysis of OSCE/UN politico-military commitments. Participants of the Conference gave a general picture of the implementation of the OSCE and UN security commitments in reference to past events in the politico-military dimension. This subject was discussed and also tackled in presentations. Progress in the development of the reply to the Questionnaire on implementation of the Code of Conduct was confirmed. Already, however, the process of analysis had commenced and the process of defining more detailed implementation status was continued throughout the year by round tables and working groups. The conference underlined Bosnia and Herzegovina's future priorities for the fulfilment of its commitments, the most significant of which were enhancement and better structuring of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers Co-ordination Team for Implementation of the OSCE/UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and an intensification of work in expert groups to address achievements and implement future priorities. As the implementation of politico-military commitments covers a wide range of security issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was necessary for all actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina to co-ordinate properly and respond to all the related challenges.

In October 2014, the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and representatives of the Bosnia and Herzegovina MFA and MoD and of the OSCE PA's Committee for Defence and Security took part in the first peer review Conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct organized by RACVIAC. The representatives responded to the challenge of studying and balancing the annual submissions included in the information exchanges.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina also supported the first event designed to mark the beginning of the development of internal guidelines to serve as a tool for OSCE staff to support SSG/R more comprehensively and coherently in order to strengthen the efficiency and sustainability of the OSCE. The event/workshop was held in Bratislava on 9 and 10 October 2014.¹⁵

Following up on the OSCE-wide workshop on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security of March 2014, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, in co-operation with the OSCE Office in Yerevan, supported a study visit of the Standing Committee on Defence, National Security and Internal Affairs of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia to the Committee for Security and Defence of the Parliament of Montenegro. In July 2014, the two fellow Committees shared their experiences and reflected on how to move forward in strengthening further their roles in security and defence sector reform.

In 2014 the Code of Conduct-related activities of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) included facilitating the participation of its staff in the Code of Conduct workshop conducted in Belgrade in March 2014 and support for the events surrounding the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Code of Conduct that took place in Vienna in July 2014.

In March 2014, in partnership with the CPC and the Serbian Ministry of Defence, the OSCE Mission to Serbia co-organized an OSCE-wide workshop on the Code of Conduct. The Serbian Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs shared experiences on implementation of the Code with OSCE institutions and field operations and developed recommendations for promoting closer co-operation and responsible conduct in the field of defence and security throughout the OSCE area. A report on the results of the workshop was submitted to the FSC in July.

Within the period from March to April 2014, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan engaged an international expert to assess the possibility of piloting the process of security co-operation and dialogue meetings in Tajikistan. The key objectives of the introduction of Tajikistan's Security Dialogue and Co-operation meetings are: (1) to improve the State's performance in the security sector, in particular on efficiency and effectiveness, increased oversight, and management and operational procedures; (2) to support reform processes and reorganization efforts in the security institutions; and (3) to introduce accountability mechanisms and enhance public trust of security sector institutions.

Analysis of the current situation in Tajikistan and meetings with various military and law enforcement structures and with representatives of civil society have shown that all parties are interested in launching multilateral dialogue on security-related issues. The Tajik Parliament has also expressed interest in the activity, noting that the meetings will add value to the joint efforts of OSCE and Tajikistan in the area of political and military security in the country.

The first pilot meeting is planned for 2015 and is intended to bring together representatives of Tajikistan's security sector institutions and civil society, and also of international organizations and NGOs active in the field of politico-military security in Tajikistan.

5. Conclusions

In 2014 it was proven once again that the Code of Conduct has a very important role to play as a set of principles and guidelines on inter-State and intra-State behaviour that are of critical relevance for the governance of the security sector. The year saw the Code of Conduct continuing along its successful path with several relevant activities being undertaken.

Foremost among the events of the year 2014 were the twenty-year anniversary with its associated commemoration event and the fourth Annual Discussion. Twenty years after its adoption, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is still a surprisingly modern and innovative document.

The fourth Annual Implementation Discussion, held on 9 July 2014, was generally considered a success, with a great number of proposals being made to improve the implementation and outreach of the Code of Conduct.

In addition, after the 2013 focus on outreach to the Mediterranean partners, the focus in 2014 was on strengthening internal coherence within the OSCE. All conferences were carried out with the financial support of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, in co-operation with the CPC.

In September/October 2014 the RACVIAC Centre for Security and Cooperation (Zagreb) held a successful first peer review meeting on the Code. The conference participants generally agreed that the Code of Conduct remains a relevant and valuable document in the current security and political environment. The broad and high-level representation of practically all South-East European countries at the conference was a testimony to the continued relevance of the Code of Conduct in setting guidelines for civil-military relations in and beyond the OSCE area.

The efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct were also supported by initiatives of the FSC Chairmanships to promote the Code of Conduct in the framework of the FSC Security Dialogues in 2014. In particular, the series of discussions on human rights issues which the ODIHR organized for the FSC during the year was very successful, contributing significantly to discussions in the Forum. In particular, the ODIHR discussion series was highly informative on human rights matters.

Further discussions in 2015 on topical issues related to human rights in the context of the Code of Conduct will be very much welcomed.

The information exchange in 2014 displayed a continuing very high level of commitment, as reflected both in the number and also in the improved quality of the replies. Again, a great number of participating States voluntarily provided additional information on women, peace and security, and eight States provided information on private and military security companies.

The focus in 2015 will be on the outreach to the Asian Partners, in particular through an OSCE-wide workshop in Mongolia and an awareness-raising event for military practitioners to be held in Serbia. These workshops will be the first of their kind in these two respective States.

Last but not least, the fifth Annual Implementation Discussion, which will be held in July 2015, will serve as an important opportunity to discuss the Code of Conduct and its implementation in a balanced, structured and focused manner.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

(Annex 3 to MC.GAL/2/14 of 1 December 2014)

Executive summary

This progress report provides comprehensive factual information on the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for the period from November 2013 to November 2014.

The reporting period saw the Forum for Security Co-operation continuing to conduct its activities aimed at combating the proliferation of illicit SALW and preventing destabilizing accumulations. In this connection, the Kyiv Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 8/13 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, which gave participating States a general framework for the future work of the FSC, including formulas allowing for improvements both in the normative aspects and in the implementation of the existing commitments.

A variety of different initiatives from participating States were discussed during the reporting period, including two that finally resulted in decisions, namely, FSC Decision No. 3/14 on voluntary guidelines for compiling national reports on SALW exports from/imports to other participating States during the previous calendar year, and FSC Decision No. 6/14 on the date and venue of the twenty-fifth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting. At the same time several proposals for draft decisions and food-for-thought papers were circulated by participating States, on areas of interest such as: subsequent transfer (re-export) controls; the maritime transportation of SALW; the provision of assistance to OSCE Partners for Co-operation as outlined in the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA; and on diplomatic privileges and immunities for military personnel and experts while exercising their functions on OSCE SALW and SCA field projects.

In June 2014 an OSCE delegation travelled to New York to participate in the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Several presentations were delivered on our work and achievements and bilateral meetings held with key actors such as the UNODA and the European Union.

The Forum remained focused on the full implementation of agreed SALW-related commitments, with an implementation review meeting being held on 23 and 24 September. At the meeting there was discussion of the effectiveness and efficiency of practical assistance provided by the OSCE in the areas of SALW and SCA, and on the way forward in the OSCE's contribution to the UN SALW process.

The FSC held four Security Dialogues devoted to SALW in the reporting period. Further activities were conducted in other formats and at other venues, notably expert-level training on physical security management, capacity-building, and destruction procedures. For

the first time, an outreach activity was conducted outside of the OSCE area, in Tunisia, together with other relevant institutions and international organizations.

Furthermore, the OSCE Mediterranean Conference held on 27 and 28 October focused two of its four sessions on threats to security and stability posed by illicit trafficking in SALW.

The practical assistance given to OSCE participating States through the implementation of SALW projects remains a key component in the work undertaken to improve security and stability in the OSCE area.

The present report notes the continuation of project activities in Belarus, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, the completion of implementation of the National SALW Strategy in Montenegro, and the requests from Albania and Moldova for assistance in the destruction of SALW.

The matter of extrabudgetary contributions and fund-raising remains a core issue.

Finally, in line with its mandate, the OSCE Secretariat further enhanced its co-operation with other international organizations dealing with SALW-related issues. In addition to the formal co-operation agreements already in place with the UNODA, the OSCE Secretariat updated the Joint Action Plan with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which will further promote effective planning and a more efficient use of resources.

1. Introduction

At the Twentieth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Kyiv, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), through its Chairperson, was requested to submit to the Twenty-First Meeting of the Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) (MC.DEC/8/13).

The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) was adopted on 24 November 2000 and reissued on 20 June 2012 (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1). It sets forth norms, principles and measures to address the threat posed to the international community by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW. This was acknowledged by the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, which regards the OSCE Document on SALW as an important tool for combating threats caused by terrorism and organized crime, and underlines the importance of further strengthening its implementation.

In its activities, the OSCE aims to complement action at the global level. The OSCE Document on SALW also constitutes a substantial contribution to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (UN Programme of Action on SALW).

2. Objectives

The present report is intended to provide an overview of the implementation of OSCE commitments on SALW; it also describes the progress made in the implementation of OSCE-related SALW assistance projects. It is primarily designed to serve as a basis for determining the status of implementation of the OSCE commitments on SALW. The report covers the period from November 2013 until November 2014 (the deadline for the inclusion of factual data having been 14 November).

3. Implementation assessment in respect of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA

In order to facilitate the implementation of the two above-mentioned documents, an Implementation Assessment Meeting was organized on 23 and 24 September 2014 in accordance with FSC Decision No. 5/14. The meeting brought together over 120 national officials and representatives of international organizations and selected NGOs. The meeting aimed to assess how well the relevant OSCE commitments were being implemented at the national level. The meeting also discussed the effectiveness and efficiency of practical assistance provided by the OSCE in the areas of SALW and SCA. Finally, it looked at how future OSCE action could best complement international efforts without duplicating them, and also discussed the OSCE contribution to the UN SALW process and the way forward.

The meeting showed that substantial results had been achieved in some areas related to the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW and the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, particularly in areas related practical assistance on SALW and conventional ammunition and reporting. However, it also demonstrated the need for further efforts to boost the implementation of the norms, measures and principles agreed.

4. Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW

The OSCE actively participated in the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was held in New York from 16 to 20 June 2014. The purpose of the Biennial Meeting was to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to date and to further chart its future. States also reviewed progress on the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (ITI).

During the meeting, the Moldovan FSC Chairmanship made a statement on the OSCE's efforts to implement the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the ITI. In addition, the OSCE organized a side event devoted to its work on small arms and light weapons, with the participation of the FSC Chair, the Chair of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW, the FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on SALW and SCA, and officials from the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and Germany. At this side event, which attracted approximately 30 participants, the OSCE presented its latest work with regard to normative

controls over SALW as well as practical SALW initiatives related to tracing, record keeping, destruction, and stockpile management and security. Moreover, the OSCE presented the newly adopted best practice guide on compiling annual information exchange on SALW exports to/imports from other participating States during the previous calendar year.

In advance of the Biennial Meeting, the OSCE submitted its report on implementation of the UN Programme of Action to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

5. Normative aspects

The OSCE Document on SALW establishes the OSCE normative base for the development and implementation of national legislation, rules and procedures. The review of these norms and the development of supplementary and/or complementary decisions by the FSC constitute a core part of the FSC's regular work, which in 2014 centred on the following issues:

5.1 Voluntary guidelines for compiling national reports on SALW exports from/imports to other participating States during the previous calendar year

2014 saw the adoption by the FSC of a voluntary guidelines for compiling national reports on SALW exports from/imports to other participating States during the previous calendar year. It provides guidance to the experts engaged in compiling the information to be exchanged and aims to overcome reporting fatigue, increase the number of participating States regularly reporting on SALW exports/imports, and improve the clarity of the data reported and its utility, thus enhancing the CSBM value of the information exchange. The initial proposal stemmed from the analysis of States' submissions on imports/exports of SALW in reference to the "OSCE Document, 2009–2011" drawn up by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The best practice guide was introduced during a side event organized by the OSCE on the margins of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States.

5.2 Proposals on SALW

The FSC is presently discussing several other proposals for draft decisions and food-for-thought (FfT) papers on such issues as introducing best practice guidelines on subsequent transfer (re-export) controls for SALW, on a system for the control of maritime trafficking in SALW, privileges, immunities and appropriate treatment of military personnel and experts while exercising their functions during SALW and SCA field projects and during their journey to and from places of such projects, and enabling the provision of assistance to OSCE Partners for Co-operation using procedures outlined in the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. The proposals aim to further enhance OSCE normative framework for comprehensive controls of SALW and facilitate the provision of practical assistance on this topic.

5.3 Informal Group of Friends on SALW

The work of the Informal Group of Friends (IGF) on SALW continued in 2014, with Major Magin Alvarez of Spain as its chairperson.

The IGOF met several times in 2014, with the participation of over 30 participating States. It dealt with a number of issues, including: discussion of the OSCE vision of SALW work; the planning and supporting of future events; discussing progress made at the national level in the implementation of OSCE commitments; contribution to other processes; and further potential normative work on SALW.

In addition, the IGF discussed a number of proposals, covering subjects such as:

- Record keeping;
- Making the results of information exchanges public;
- Export controls;
- The mapping study.

6. Implementation of existing commitments

6.1 Information exchanges on SALW

The OSCE Document on SALW commits the participating States to a number of standards which, if fully implemented, will assist States in their efforts to abide by many of the paragraphs on national implementation in the UN Programme of Action on SALW. Among other things, the Document on SALW established a mechanism consisting of transparency measures aimed at raising confidence and security and at further promoting trust among OSCE participating States.

The OSCE participating States exchange annual and one-off information on various matters related to transfer controls in respect of SALW and conventional arms more generally. These information exchanges are confidential between the OSCE participating States, and can be discussed at FSC meetings, special seminars and conferences. The general level of implementation in 2013–2014 shows a slight improvement in comparison with previous years. However, the achievement of this response rate required extensive use of the FSC Chairperson’s announcing and reminding mechanism.

OSCE information exchanges relevant to SALW transfer controls include:

- Information exchange on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/13/97 and FSC.DEC/8/98);
- Questionnaire on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/20/95);
- Information exchange on small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section III, (F)1).

In addition, the participating States have agreed to provide each other with updates as follows, when necessary:

- Information exchange on national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national procedures for the control of manufacture of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national legislation and current practice in small arms export policy, procedures, documentation, and brokering controls (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section III, (F)2).

6.1.1 One-off information exchanges

Under the OSCE Document on SALW, the participating States agreed to share and submit updated information, when necessary, on the following matters: national marking systems; national procedures for the control of manufacturing; national legislation and current practice in export policy, procedures and documentation, and in control over brokering; small arms destruction techniques; and small arms stockpile security and management programmes.

FSC Decision No. 11/08 tasked the participating States with exchanging information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.

FSC Decision No. 12/08 requested the participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.

Detailed information about the number of participating States that exchanged one-off information can be found in Annex B of the present report.

In March 2011, the CPC issued a revised template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11), with the suggested start date for reporting being 30 June 2011, in accordance with the deadline for reporting updated in the OSCE Document on SALW. By 14 November 2014, 13 participating States had provided updated inputs to the one-off information exchange on SALW in the new format.

In order to facilitate national reporting and to allow participating States to assess the level of implementation of OSCE commitments, the CPC, with the help of a consultant, produced a statistical analysis of the SALW one-off information exchange related to manufacture, export control, tracing, marking and record keeping. The analysis was distributed on 14 October 2014 under reference number SEC.GAL/160/14. It was also presented by the hired consultant during the OSCE Assessment Implementation Meeting on SALW and SCA on 23 and 24 September 2014.

Currently the OSCE and the UNODA are studying possibilities for further reducing the SALW reporting burden on States by making the submission of the OSCE reports possible online, following the example set by the UNODA for national reports on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW.

6.1.2 Annual information exchanges

In addition to exchanging information about existing norms and regulations, the Document on SALW requires the participating States to exchange data annually on exports to and imports from other OSCE participating States, as well as on small arms identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territories in the previous calendar year. An overview of this information exchange is displayed in Annex B.

According to the data exchanged, during the period from 2001 to 2013 OSCE participating States destroyed 14,056,226 items of SALW. Details are contained in Annex C.

6.2 Awareness raising

The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) organized a number of training events and workshops in 2014.

For example, on 12 and 13 May 2014, in Istanbul, Turkey, as a follow-up to the 2013 Inaugural Conference on Tracing Illicit SALW in the OSCE Area, the CPC and the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) collaborated on organizing the OSCE-UN-INTERPOL Expert Workshop on Tracing Illicit SALW, for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

In addition, the FSC hosted a number of guest speakers and presentations on SALW-related topics. A detailed overview of the Expert Workshop and a list of other activities related to the promotion of OSCE SALW initiatives is attached as Annex D.

7. Practical assistance on SALW

7.1 Overview

Implementation of the elements in the OSCE Document on SALW addressing requests from participating States for assistance in the destruction, management and security of stockpiles of SALW remains an essential part of the efforts of the Forum for Security Co-operation in this field.

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 15 requests for assistance from 11 countries relating to enhancing the management and security of stockpiles of SALW or to the destruction of surpluses.

7.2 National co-ordination bodies

In 2008, the FSC adopted Decision No. 4/08 establishing an OSCE Directory of Points of Contact on SALW and SCA as an additional tool for co-operation and co-ordination among the participating States on assistance projects relating to SALW and SCA. In line with the decision, the CPC established and maintained an aggregate database of points of contact provided by OSCE participating States and other parties to the directory.

7.3 Round-table on SALW in Armenia

Following a request from Armenia, the CPC organized an OSCE round-table on SALW in Yerevan on 14 and 15 October 2014. The purpose of the round-table was to review the implementation of relevant OSCE and international commitments and make recommendations for further work, particularly in the area of tracing, export/brokering controls, and stockpile management and security. The recommendations may serve as the basis for drafting a national SALW strategy for Armenia.

7.4 Inventory application software on SALW

Supported by EU funds in line with the EU Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP, the OSCE CPC started a project on improving SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile management and record keeping in eight participating States. In 2014, testing of the specialized SALW and ammunition inventory application continued. The software was developed by the Belarusian Ministry of Defence with the support of the OSCE and UNDP. In 2013, it was presented to eight interested participating States from South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This year, several countries confirmed their readiness to use this software in the future. Currently, compatibility requirements are being discussed in order for the software to be adapted to national needs. The software has been translated into English and the local languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Tajikistan.

7.5 Practical assistance projects

7.5.1 Republic of Belarus

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP, the two organizations continued the implementation of the project on capacity-building for SALW physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) in Belarus. During 2014, the UNDP, which is serving as the implementing agency for this project, is implementing the second phase of the project together with the Ministry of Defence; this second phase is currently focusing on two large storage sites, in Gomel (Homiel) and at Kolosovo, and one smaller site, in Marjina Gorka (Marjina Horka). The project is funded by EU Council Decision 2012/662/CFSP in support of activities to reduce the illicit trade in and excessive accumulation of SALW in the OSCE region. To date, the following activities have been carried out:

- Work on the installation of fire alarm and security systems in Gomel/Homiel is 90 per cent complete (EC funding);
- Work on the installation of electrical lighting and selected current repairs in Marjina Gorka/Marjina Horka is complete (OSCE funding);
- Correction of the previously developed design for capital repair of SALW storage located at Kolosovo is in progress (EC funding);
- Works on current repair of SALW storage located at Kolosovo are in progress (EC funding).

7.5.2 Kyrgyzstan

For information regarding the OSCE activities on SALW and SCA in Kyrgyzstan, see the FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

7.5.3 Montenegro

For information regarding the OSCE-UNDP Demilitarization Programme in Montenegro, see the FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

7.5.4 Tajikistan

For information regarding the OSCE activities on SALW and SCA in Tajikistan, see the FSC Chairperson's Progress Report on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

7.5.5 Ukraine

In May 2014, the OSCE established a repository programme for arms control and non-proliferation in Ukraine, building upon the Joint Geneva Statement on Ukraine of 17 April 2014. The first project under this programme is the baseline assessment of non-state armed groups and their weapons and ammunition. In addition to the assessment, the report will contain a number of recommendations, including projects for potential implementation. The report of the baseline assessment will be finalized at the end of November 2014.

8. Outreach and co-operation

8.1 Partnership and co-operation agreements with other international organizations

8.1.1 Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP

The OSCE continued co-operation with the UNDP following the signature of a new expanded Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP in 2013. The MoU foresees closer co-ordination and co-operation in the following areas:

- (i) Early warning, conflict prevention and reconciliation;
- (ii) Demilitarization and arms control;
- (iii) Confidence-building and community security;
- (iv) Good governance, anti-corruption work, rule of law, and judicial and legal reform;
- (v) Disaster risk reduction;
- (vi) Displacement;
- (vii) Activities in support of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security;

- (viii) Minorities;
- (ix) Environment, management of natural resources, and sustainable energy; and
- (x) Border management.

Since 2007, five large joint projects have been launched in the framework of the MoU between the two organizations: in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia. In 2014, the first co-ordination meeting was held between the OSCE and the UNDP to assess the implementation of the MoU, co-ordinate activities and discuss opportunities for closer co-operation in the framework of the MoU.

8.1.2 Joint Action Plan with the UNODC

In October 2011, the OSCE and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed a Joint Action Plan in order to improve synergies in the activities of the two organizations. The Plan specifically foresees joint development of policy and programmes. In April 2013, the Parties extended the Joint Action Plan to cover the period 2013–2014. It covers the following areas for co-operation and co-ordination:

The Parties will consider co-operating on awareness-raising, promotion and implementation in respect of:

- The UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition; and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- The decisions, taskings and recommendations emanating from their respective governing bodies;
- Specific regional initiatives, including ones in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe.

Furthermore, in view of, and as part of, the above, the Parties will consider developing partnerships in:

- Raising awareness regarding the ratification of/accession to the Firearms Protocol by the OSCE participating States;
- Supporting specific initiatives aimed at the implementation of the Firearms Protocol and the relevant OSCE documents, in such areas of preventing and combating illicit trafficking in firearms/SALW and ammunition as: firearms/SALW record keeping, standards for deactivation of firearms, and the establishment and maintenance of effective systems of export control for firearms/SALW in the OSCE area in the context of existing initiatives, projects and other activities;
- Providing technical assistance to countries, at their request, to help them comply with the requirements of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and

- Enhancing co-operation among representatives of law enforcement bodies, the judiciary and prosecution authorities for the purpose of countering illicit trafficking in firearms/SALW, including the tracing of illicit firearms/SALW.

Regular OSCE-UNODC staff talks were held in 2014 to discuss the implementation of the Joint Action Plan and to explore opportunities for closer co-operation in the framework of the Plan. Moreover, UNODC representatives were invited to give presentations at FSC meetings and specialized OSCE meetings on SALW.

8.1.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the UNODA

In October 2012, the OSCE Secretariat and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as part of their common efforts to further improve synergies between them.

In the MoU it was agreed that co-operation should be strengthened in the fields of disarmament, arms control and conventional arms regulation, and in confidence-building and related issues, through:

- (a) Exchange of information and co-ordination of policies and activities;
- (b) Organization of joint activities;
- (c) Resource mobilization for joint activities;
- (d) Exchange programmes;
- (e) Common visibility strategy to support and promote joint activities; and
- (f) Synergies in the planning of meetings.

Since the signing of the MoU, the parties have collaborated (also together with the UNODC and INTERPOL) on organizing the Inaugural Conference on Tracing of Illicit SALW in the OSCE Area, which took place in Vienna in May 2013. In 2014, the OSCE, the UNODA and INTERPOL organized a regional follow-up event for Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in Istanbul, Turkey, on 12 and 13 May 2014. For further detail, see Annex D.

Additionally, the UNODA and the OSCE are at present discussing the possibility of launching a series of practical joint initiatives in the following areas:

- Reducing the SALW reporting burden (further details on this initiative can be found in section 6.1.1);
- Roll-out of SALW record-keeping software to UN Member States outside the OSCE area (further details on this initiative can be found in section 7.4);
- Disarmament and non-proliferation education.

8.2 Operational support and information exchange

The OSCE Secretariat holds annual staff talks with the UN to share information about the latest developments and new initiatives, both on the setting of norms and standards and on practical assistance in connection with SALW.

8.2.1 Co-operation and information exchange with other international organizations

Since 2010, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) has held regular consultations with the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), which involves over 20 relevant UN agencies and programmes that deal with SALW issues, including the UNODA, the UNODC, the UNDP and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research. In 2014, regular meetings with CASA continued to result in exchange of information about ongoing and planned initiatives, to co-ordinate actions, and to seek synergies.

The OSCE Secretariat has initiated closer co-operation with the European Union with regard to funding for OSCE SALW activities. The first project proposal for a number of normative and project-related activities, with an implementation time frame of 36 months, was approved by the European Union on 25 October 2012 with the sum of 890,000 euros. The first instalment has already been received, and the implementation of the agreed activities is under way.

The OSCE also maintains regular co-ordination and information exchange with the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA). In October 2014, the Director of the CPC provided a briefing to the WA General Working Group on the latest relevant OSCE activities on SALW.

Furthermore, the OSCE Secretariat conducts biannual staff talks with NATO, at which issues related to the implementation of projects on SALW and conventional ammunition are discussed in detail. Such talks serve to promote the sharing of information and lessons learned, to avoid duplication of effort, to establish possible synergies, and to increase the effectiveness of projects.

Finally, the OSCE Secretariat holds biannual staff talks with the EU to exchange information and discuss a wide range of issues.

The CPC exchanges information with other international organizations on OSCE project activities and on normative achievements in the area of SCA. Since 2008, informal meetings have been organized with other international organizations to enhance co-ordination of efforts with regard to projects on SALW and SCA. The purpose of the meetings is to take stock of the projects relating to SALW and SCA being implemented by international organizations, to exchange lessons learned and best practices, and to co-ordinate ongoing and future activities. Such meetings are organized in accordance with the following modalities:

- The one-day informal co-ordination meetings are held twice a year;
- When applicable, the scope of such meetings may be expanded to accommodate relevant projects and issues outside the field of SALW and SCA.

8.3 Outreach to Partners for Co-operation

In response to Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/13 tasking to the FSC to “enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on issues related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition”, the OSCE continued its outreach activities on SALW. Most notably, in January 2014 a CPC official gave a presentation at the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation on possibilities for greater engagement with the OSCE in a number of fields including SALW.

8.3.1 Needs assessment visit to Tunisia

On 21 and 22 October 2014, following the request of Tunisia for assistance on SALW, the OSCE CPC collaborated with the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) on conducting a needs assessment mission in Tunis. The objective of the mission was to gain a deeper understanding of the national priorities of Tunisia with regard to SALW trafficking, border security and counter-terrorism, and assess the possibilities for the OSCE to provide assistance in these areas.

During the two days, the OSCE officials had meetings with a number of officials from relevant agencies including the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence and the National Guard, both in Tunis and at the regional level. The Tunisian side has shown a high level of interest in expanding co-operation with the OSCE and has also identified concrete needs, namely, to increase capabilities to fight the flow of illicit SALW and to increase border security and counter-terrorism efforts. Moreover, the Tunisian side has also arranged a visit to demonstrate security procedures at a cruise ship port near Tunis. The final report of the visit, including recommendations, is scheduled to be presented during the joint FSC-PC meeting on 27 November.

8.3.2 Mediterranean Conference

The 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference was held in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 27 and 28 October. Two of the four sessions were devoted to aspects of illicit trafficking in SALW (I: “current and emerging threats” and II: “routes and modalities”).

The Mediterranean Conference provided ample opportunities for representatives of the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to exchange ideas and share experiences. The interactions and debates were intensive, constructive and thought-provoking. The Conference confirmed that both the participating States and the Partner States are active in tackling issues of mutual concern; both groups demonstrated their readiness to act together in responding to the new challenges. In addition, the Conference yielded ideas on how to reinforce co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners in the field of SALW and SCA.

9. Conclusions

9.1 Normative work on SALW

The OSCE Document on SALW and the associated OSCE best practices continue to play an important norm-setting role in the OSCE area that in turn contributes to confidence and stability.

In line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/13 and the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (2010), work continued both on fostering the implementation of existing commitments and also on looking into means of making the measures more effective and efficient, whether through harmonization or through gap analysis. On both tracks, co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations, play a crucial role in terms both of recognizing the leading role of the UN in managing the SALW control process and of ensuring the most efficient and effective use of resources.

In addition, dialogue visits to specific countries, including for the first time to those of Partners for Co-operation, were conducted jointly with other relevant international organizations at the request of States seeking assistance with the revision of export-control legislation. Co-operation and co-ordination with other relevant international organizations dealing with SALW issues significantly improved, resulting in the signing of formal co-operation documents and the initiation of joint activities.

Although, through the FSC and the Informal Group of Friends on SALW, participating States have taken an active approach to further implementing the OSCE *acquis* on SALW issues, much remains to be done, and in some areas control measures are not in compliance with norms at the international level. Constant attention is required to assess implementation of the Plan of Action on SALW, to review the effectiveness of OSCE principles, norms, and measures, and to ensure that capacity and efficiency are satisfactory.

9.2 Practical assistance on SALW

In the context of the practical implementation of the Document on SALW, measures undertaken in response to requests for assistance from an increasing number of participating States remain a key OSCE activity. Steps continue to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of SALW activity through regular regional co-operation and informal co-ordination with other international organizations.

Further periodic information-sharing or briefings on projects, both by the co-ordinator and by the actors involved, are intended to raise awareness and help mobilize resources from the participating States.

However, in the absence of predictable multi-year funding strategies for SALW and SCA projects on the part of the participating States, the fact of the need for extrabudgetary contributions and the overall financial situation continue to be impediments.

9.3 The future SALW work of the FSC

Activities undertaken in 2014 within the FSC and in other forums such as the United Nations provide a platform on which to strengthen efforts to combat the security challenges resulting from the illicit spread of SALW and destabilizing accumulations. Both in the OSCE area and in its neighbourhood, especially the countries of its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, SALW continues to pose a threat that could be minimized through better normative controls and project-based activities, in combination with associated co-operative and capacity-building activities. The Forum now has the opportunity to take stock of the implementation of its normative basis in the context of developments elsewhere, which could lead to very positive progress.

10. Annexes

- Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW, as well as on brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport
- Annex B: Overview of the annual information exchange on export/import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed
- Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area
- Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2013 to November 2014
- Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW, as well as on brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport

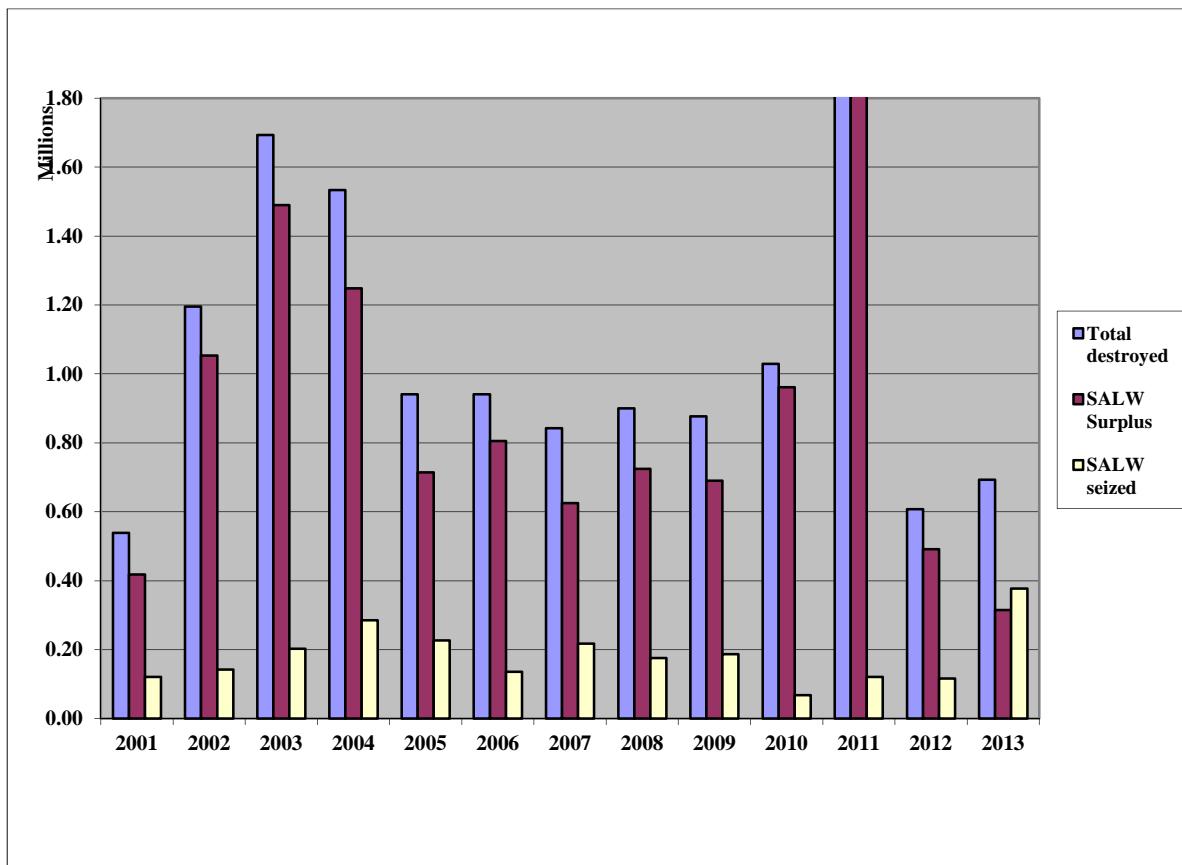
Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2013	Updates in 2014
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange on their national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms.	56 participating States	16 participating States	11 participating States
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange with each other available information on national procedures for the control of the manufacture of small arms.	56 participating States	15 participating States	10 participating States
Section III, (F)2 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States will exchange with each other available information on relevant national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering in small arms in order to spread awareness of “best practice” in these areas.	56 participating States	15 participating States	12 participating States
Section IV, (E)2 (starting from 30 June 2002)	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide, designed to promote effective stockpile management and security.	54 participating States	16 participating States	11 participating States

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2013	Updates in 2014
Section IV, (E)3 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange information on their techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide of techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms.	55 participating States	15 participating States	11 participating States
FSC Decision No. 11/07 (by 25 January 2008)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to small arms and light weapons.	48 participating States	—	—
FSC Decision No. 11/08 (by 30 June 2009)	The FSC decides that the participating States shall provide, as an update to the one-off information exchange established by Section III, part F, paragraph 2, of the OSCE Document on SALW, additional information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.	47 participating States	2 participating States	2 participating States
FSC Decision No. 12/08 (by 27 March 2009)	The FSC requests participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.	53 participating States	4 participating States	1 participating State
FSC Decision No. 17/10 (by 30 June 2011)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW.	n/a	14 participating States	9 participating States

Annex B: Overview of the annual information exchange on export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures		
		2013	2014
Section III, (F)1	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange among themselves about their small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year. They also agree to study ways to further improve the information exchange on transfers of small arms.	41 participating States	40 participating states
Section IV, (C)1	The participating States agree that the preferred method for the disposal of small arms is destruction.	36 participating States	29 participating States (excluding nil reports)
Section IV, (E)1	The participating States agree to share available information on the category, subcategory and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territory during the previous calendar year.		

Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area¹



1 It should be noted that in cases where a participating State has not differentiated between surplus and seized weapons, the statistics are reflected as surplus.

Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2013 to November 2014

OSCE-UN-INTERPOL Expert Workshop on Tracing Illicit SALW, May 2014

Following proposals made during the 2013 Inaugural Conference on Tracing Illicit SALW, the OSCE (Conflict Prevention Centre and Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit), the UNODA, the UNODC and INTERPOL collaborated on organizing the OSCE-UN-INTERPOL Expert Workshop on Tracing Illicit SALW, which was held on 12 and 13 May 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey. Focusing on the practical challenges of tracing and associated activities, this technical workshop served for the exchange of information and sharing of best national and international practices among experts, and for the discussion of opportunities for enhanced co-operation in the field.

The workshop consisted of two days of expert presentations of specific national case studies on marking, record keeping and/or international co-operation, which demonstrated successes or challenges associated with tracing weapons and with international tools that have been developed to facilitate marking, record keeping, firearms identification, international co-operation, and other tasks. There were introductions of practical international tools facilitating international tracing, such as INTERPOL's iARMS or ISACS modules.

The event brought together about 25 representatives from law enforcement agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan who were responsible for tracing illicit SALW and had focuses on international co-operation, investigations and prosecutions, and in addition representatives of other participating States, international organizations and NGOs. The full report of the event is available under reference number SEC.GAL/80/14.

Other events

Presentations related to SALW given in the context of the Security Dialogue of the FSC

FSC Chairpersons regularly invite guest speakers to address the Forum, also on issues related to SALW. In 2014, the presentations on topics related to SALW included the following:

- Presentation by Mr. Simon Delfau, Group Security and Regulatory Manager, CMA CGM/Safety Security Environment Management, on “Fighting against illicit maritime SALW trafficking – a corporate code of conduct for French Vessel Owners Corporation”;
- Presentation by Colonel Andrei Sarban, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova on the “Comprehensive conventional ammunition stockpile management programme in the Republic of Moldova”;
- Presentation by Mr. Abdul Razak Al-Grady, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Libya, on the “Illicit trafficking of armaments in the Mediterranean region”;

- Presentation by H.E. Ms. Milica Pejanovic-Djurisic, Minister of Defence of Montenegro, on the “Progress of the Capacity Development Programme for SALW Demilitarization and Safe Storage for Montenegro – MONDEM”;
- Presentation by Mr. Sho Morimoto, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, US State Department on “Fighting the illicit trafficking of SALW”;
- Presentation by Mr. Ivan Zverzhanovski, Coordinator of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC), on “Regional efforts to combat the threat posed by SALW in South East Europe”;
- Presentation by H.E. Mr. Zekerijah Osmic, Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr. Zoran Sajinovic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the “Project for security upgrade of ammunition and weapons storage sites (SECUP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina: status and perspectives”;
- Presentation by Mr. Valentin Vasilenko, Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, on “Russia’s proposals to improve the effectiveness of control over illegal supplies of arms, promoted in multilateral formats”;
- Presentation by Mr. Brian Montebello, Director of Trade Services, Ministry for Economy, Investment and Small Business of Malta, on “Strengthening the export control regime of SALW by maritime transport to conflict areas”;
- Presentation by Mr. Thomas Göbel, Head of Arms Control Section, Federal Foreign Office of Germany, on the “Outcome of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI)”;
- Presentation by Mr. Nic R. Jenzen-Jones, Director, Armament Research Services, on “Small arms and additive manufacturing: current and emerging trends”;
- Presentation by Ambassador Jacek Bylica, Principal Adviser and Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, European External Action Service, on “The ATT – the road towards effective implementation”.

Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

The OSCE continued its active external co-ordination and co-operation with other regional and international organizations and civil society, also participating in events organized by other actors.

In 2014, representatives of the CPC continued to promote the OSCE's outreach activities by participating in events organized by other international and regional organizations. The seminars and workshops at which presentations were given are listed below.

OSCE/FSC participation in SALW-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2014		
Date	Title	Place
4 February 2014	Meeting with the League of Arab States (LAS)	Cairo, Egypt
7 February 2014	Geneva Forum/Geneva Centre for Security Policy Needs Assessment Workshop on the ATT	Geneva, Switzerland
12 February 2014	Regional SALW meeting, RSG for SEE	Belgrade, Serbia
17 February 2014	Seminar on tracing illicit SALW	Brussels, Belgium
8–9 May 2014	Saferworld's Second Meeting of the Expert Group on ATT Implementation	Stockholm, Sweden
16–20 June 2014	Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the UN Plan of Action on SALW	New York, United States of America
28–29 October 2014	3rd Formal Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions of South-East Europe	Pristina

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT
ON STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

(Annex 4 to MC.GAL/2/14 of 1 December 2014)

Executive summary

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 38 requests for assistance in the area of stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) from more than ten participating States. To be more specific, these have been composed as follows: eight requests for assistance in ensuring the safety and security of stockpiles of ammunition; 11 requests to assist with the destruction of ammunition; 13 requests for assistance in the disposal of rocket fuel component (mélange and samin); and six requests for assistance with the disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

This progress report provides comprehensive factual information on the current status of implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in the period ranging from November 2013 to November 2014. Furthermore, the report also indicates specific areas where the most critical action or assistance is needed. The results achieved during the reporting period can be summarized as follows:

In 2014 the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition submitted by participating States. Certain phases of the ongoing projects were completed in Albania, Belarus, Moldova and Serbia. The largest extrabudgetary project that the OSCE has ever undertaken, on the disposal of 16,000 tonnes of mélange in Ukraine, was successfully completed in March 2014. On the basis of requests for assistance and assessment visits, a new comprehensive project was developed to tackle the same problem in Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, to be implemented in 2015–2016.

Projects continued to be implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. In Georgia, after the completion in 2013 of a pilot project for the destruction of 1,288 cluster bombs (RBK-250 and RBK-500), a new project was developed for the destruction of 25,609 units of aircraft rockets and bombs and for the melting out of TNT from artillery shells. The inception phase of the project is already under way, with the main destruction activities remaining to be implemented in 2015.

In 2014 there was a decrease in donor funding available for SCA projects as compared with the previous year.

In the absence of predictable multi-year strategies for the funding of SALW and SCA projects by the participating States, the matter of extrabudgetary contributions and fund-raising remains a core issue.

1. Introduction

The present progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) covers the past year's ongoing efforts to address the challenges posed by stockpiles of ammunition.¹ The report presents conclusions and suggests focus areas for further work.

It has long been recognized that surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, including rocket fuel and its component mélange, adversely affect the security and stability of countries and regions.

Since 1979, the world has seen at least 514 unplanned explosive events in ammunition storage areas, of which 211 occurred in the OSCE area (over 40 per cent).² This underlines the urgent need to develop further co-operation on SCA. The OSCE has developed a solid base of expertise for tackling the problem of SCA stored in conditions that do not meet minimum safety standards.

Since the OSCE is not a legal entity, the implementation of such projects requires a special focus to take account of increased risks and possible legal and financial liabilities.

However, non-action is not an option, as doing nothing could result in the loss of lives, severe damage to socio-economic infrastructure, and possibly even environmental catastrophes. Preventive action such as demilitarization and improvement of storage facilities is therefore supported in the Forum as a generally wiser and less costly course of action.

In 2014, the OSCE continued to provide practical assistance to participating States. As shown in the report, the OSCE was able to respond to the assistance requests and to assist the participating States in removing risks and in building or strengthening their national capacities. It does so by providing expertise, mobilizing both technical and financial resources, and implementing projects, some of which are implemented in co-operation with other international organizations.

2. Objective

This report is intended to provide a factual update on the implementation of the general principles regarding conventional ammunition agreed on by all the participating States in the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. It also describes the progress achieved in project activities on conventional ammunition carried out in response to requests for assistance from participating States. The report covers the period from November 2013 to November 2014.

The report is primarily designed to provide a survey of the status of projects, and to highlight the issues posing challenges to the successful implementation of the OSCE projects under the Document on SCA in the near future.

1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 14 November 2014.

2 Source: "Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites". Geneva: Small Arms Survey, accessed on 31 October 2014, <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets/stockpiles/unplanned-explosions-at-munitions-sites.html#c6001>

3. OSCE assistance pursuant to the Document on SCA

Since 2003 the OSCE has received 38 requests for assistance in the area of SCA from more than ten participating States. To be more specific, these have been composed as follows: eight requests for assistance in ensuring the safety and security of stockpiles of ammunition; 11 requests to assist with the destruction of ammunition; 13 requests for assistance in the disposal of rocket fuel components (mélange and samin); and six requests for assistance with the disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

In 2014, the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition submitted by participating States. This year has been marked by a strong implementation phase in many projects.

3.1 Projects under implementation

Since 2008, the OSCE Presence in Albania has supported the Albanian Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the implementation of its demilitarization action plan. With contributions from various donors, the OSCE has provided the military factories (for the destruction of surpluses of conventional ammunition) with 11 bandsaws and one steam generator, and has helped with the disposal of 60 tonnes of mélange rocket fuel and 120 tonnes of dichloroethane.

In 2012, approximately 80 tonnes of hazardous chemicals stored on military premises were identified as being subject to destruction. As a result, the MoD of Albania requested support on addressing this surplus, which led to the development of an extrabudgetary project.

Before the start of the project, the relevant memorandum of understanding was signed between the OSCE Presence in Albania and the MoD of Albania. The first phase of the project (repackaging of all chemical products and their storage in a safe and secure central location) was launched in October 2013 and was completed by the end of that year with a total of 116 tonnes of hazardous chemicals to be disposed of. In 2014, the funding gap was bridged and the contractor to transport and dispose of the chemicals was selected. The implementation of the project will be completed in 2015.

The latest inspection and inventory of all hazardous materials by the Albanian Armed Forces revealed an additional 250 tonnes of hazardous materials that are beyond the MoD's capacity to dispose of properly. Further consideration will be necessary to establish how these materials are to be collected, packaged, and transported out of Albania. It is hoped that in 2015 surplus funds from the current chemical waste project can be redirected to deal with this latest waste problem, in order to further reduce the chemical waste tonnage still in Albania.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the implementation of the project on "Security Upgrade for BiH Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites" (SECUP BiH) was continued. The project, implemented in close co-operation with the national MoD, is aimed at reducing the risk of theft and proliferation as well as of accidental explosion and thus risk to life.

SECUP comprises two components:

- Installing security infrastructure (fences, gates etc.); and
- Upgrading this with intruder detection systems in the years 2014–2016.

The practical installation of security infrastructure has already led to an improvement of the security of the four sites in question. The conceptualization for the necessary upgrading with intruder detection systems is ongoing and will – if further donations are forthcoming – contribute very much to a secure storage of Bosnia and Herzegovina's weapons and ammunition in line with international standards listed in the OSCE Best Practices on SALW and on CA.

The project is funded by donations from Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Turkey, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein.

The “UNDP/OSCE Explosive Ordnance and Remnants of War Destruction Project – EXPLODE” is ongoing. It aims at improving the safety of the storage sites.

It is funded under the EU Instrument for Stability (IfS) and is organized into three components:

- Component I – Ammunition destruction and demilitarization;
- Component II – Development of ammunition control capacities;
- Component III – Stockpile management.

The lead organization for components I and II of the Project is the UNDP Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; component III will be implemented by the UNDP in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two measures have been undertaken to facilitate the implementation of both projects and in order to bring about better information and closer co-ordination between the OSCE and the UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Firstly, the Security Co-operation Officer and Co-ordinator for South-East Europe on SALW and SCA Projects of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) invented a project management review cycle to bring the stakeholders together on a regular basis. And secondly, a “Co-operation mechanism between the OSCE and the UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of SALW” was created in February 2014.

Additionally, in 2014 the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has continued to support the CPC-led project entitled “Rollout of SALW Inventory Software Application”.

Accordingly, the CPC handed over two laptops and the software to the Bosnia and Herzegovina MoD for testing purposes. After having translated the software into the local language, the MoD started a testing process. The MoD's final decision on the software is still pending. If it accepts it, training courses for users will be conducted upon request.

Following the closure of the OSCE Mission in Georgia in 2009, the OSCE Secretariat, UNDP-Georgia and the MoD of Georgia undertook a range of technical assessments in 2010 with the aim of resuming demilitarization activities in Georgia. As a result, the OSCE and the UNDP have developed a joint ammunition-demilitarization and community-security programme. On 30 April 2014 the OSCE Secretariat and the MoD of Georgia signed a memorandum of understanding on furthering the work on the disposal of surplus conventional ammunition stockpiles in Georgia.

After completing a pilot project in 2013, with 1,288 cluster bombs being destroyed (RBK-250 and RBK-500), a new project was developed to destroy 25,609 units of aircraft rockets and bombs and to melt out TNT from artillery shells. The inception phase of the project is already under way, with the main destruction activities remaining to be implemented in 2015.

In Kyrgyzstan, 51 MANPADS (man portable air defence systems, in this case Strela-2 missiles) and 97 ATGMs (anti-tank guided missiles) were destroyed in November 2013 within the OSCE project aimed at assistance in SALW and SCA stockpile management and security.

According to an official statement made by the MoD of Kyrgyzstan, it will carry out further disposal of unserviceable stockpiles of conventional ammunition within the framework of a bilateral agreement with the Russian MoD.

The implementation of the OSCE project aimed at assistance in SALW and SCA stockpile management and security continued in 2014. At present, the preparatory work for the construction of the new storage magazines for SALW and ammunition in 2015 is under way, including bidding procedures and construction designs.

The OSCE SALW and Conventional Ammunition Programme in Moldova launched in 2009 comprises eight main projects. Four weapons systems destruction projects have been largely completed, with the destruction of 78 cluster bombs, 48 surface-to-air missiles and 105 250 kg air bombs, and the disposal of 19 air-to-air missiles located in Georgia. The destruction of the said 19 air-to-air missiles stored in Georgia since 1992 was completed in June 2013 with the assistance of the OSCE implementing partners in Georgia.

The Mission is working with the Moldovan MoD in order to maintain this momentum and elaborate further destruction plans for the coming years.

A visit was made to assess the need for the construction of a new ammunition storage depot fully complying with international safety standards. The visit showed the Moldovan MoD that the activities being conducted on the Bulboaca site were significantly hindered by constraints imposed by the depot. A further feasibility study convinced the Moldovan MoD to choose the military base of Danceni for this purpose. In addition, a new design for the depot meeting international standards was developed, but specifications need to be further defined.

The project to refurbish storage sites for SALW and ammunition in Floresti, Cahul, Balti and Chisinau was completed. In addition to these refurbishments, an anti-intrusion alarm system was installed in four storage areas at the Floresti depot. Anti-intrusion systems will be installed at other sites.

As a result of the delay in the construction of a new depot, it was decided to prolong the refurbishment project, including the upgrade of a fourth depot in Floresti, which started in October this year, and to conduct additional assessment visits in order to find temporary solutions to make all storage areas safer.

In parallel with these improvements, and in order to allow the implementation of sustainable training for ammunition specialists, the OSCE is working with the MoD to put in place the necessary conditions for running SALW and ammunition management systems in accordance with the OSCE best practices.

The Capacity Development Programme for SALW (Conventional Ammunition) Demilitarization and Safe Storage for Montenegro (MONDEM) is a joint programme established by the Government of Montenegro, the OSCE and the UNDP. In 2014, in a powerful affirmation of the partnership of the OSCE and UNDP, it continued to successfully address the highest security priorities in Montenegro. In the period from January to July 2014, under sub-Phase III2 of MONDEM's Ammunition Demilitarization component, 62 tonnes of obsolete unstable ammunition were safely and securely destroyed in the indigenous facilities of the "Poliex" factory in Berane. Under another MONDEM component, three storage buildings of the largest ammunition depot in Montenegro, "Brezovik", have been upgraded in line with international standards for safe ammunition management.

In June 2011, Serbia requested OSCE assistance in destroying surplus ammunition and improving the management and the security of stockpiles of ammunition, following which the OSCE and UNDP-Serbia jointly conducted an assessment visit from 11 to 14 September 2011. In February 2012, the MoD of Serbia, the OSCE and the UNDP established the Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management for the Republic of Serbia (CASM), the first component of which started implementation in May 2012. November 2013 saw the completion of the first phase of the project, which was devoted to the disposal of napalm powder. In July 2013, approximately 161 tonnes of napalm powder, that is to say, the entire napalm surplus held by the MoD of the Republic of Serbia, was removed from storage facilities at Jovac and the Batajnica Air Base and transported to the SAKAB specialist waste disposal facility in Kumla, Sweden. The entire surplus of napalm powder was disposed of in an environmentally benign and cost-efficient manner, with the result that Serbia is now free from napalm powder.

The implementation of the second phase of the project started with the demilitarization of 550 tonnes of white-phosphorus-filled ammunition. In the summer of 2013, the international tender for selecting the contractor to dispose of the said ammunition was put out and the contractor selected. In early 2014, the local demilitarization facility TRZ Kragujevac demilitarized the first batch of the white-phosphorus-filled ammunition of 105 mm calibre (rendering it unusable by removing the propellant and fuses). Subsequently, the phosphorus was transported in the original metal shells to the disposal facility in Bulgaria. Cost-efficiency was enhanced by incorporating the estimated scrap value of the metal into the charge paid to the contractor for disposal. The Serbian MoD announced that the planned national contribution to the white phosphorus disposal process was approximately 600,000 euros.

The full quantity of white phosphorus from the 105 mm shells was packed in special barrels for transport and exported for use by FILOCHEMICAL, a company based in

Switzerland that produces red phosphorus and phosphoric acid. The certificate that the retrieved phosphorus would not be reused for military purposes was received.

Because delays in the tendering process slowed down essential upgrades at TRZ Kragujevac, the demilitarization and subsequent export and disposal of the white-phosphorus-filled ammunition will take longer than planned. This will require an extension of the current project, which will be completed in 2015.

In the reporting period, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine was involved in implementing four concurrent projects to assist Ukraine with rehabilitating areas contaminated by ERW, unsafe ammunition, and hazardous military chemicals.

In an effort to strengthen Ukraine's capacity for safe clearance of the country's Black Sea and Sea of Azov coastal water areas from ERW and unsafe ammunition, nine dry dive suits, three underwater communication systems and four underwater metal detectors were provided to the respective Ukrainian authorities dealing with the humanitarian underwater demining.

In May 2014, in co-operation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), field assessments were conducted at the underwater clearance sites in the Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Odessa regions to identify solutions for underwater technical survey in these coastal areas, with the resulting recommendations then being transmitted to the Ukrainian government.

Funding is still required for an extrabudgetary project designed to assist Ukraine in the clean-up of the former Warsaw Pact military ranges, which are contaminated with ammunition and are of high interest for scrap metal collectors, poachers, and seekers of explosive materials for other illegal activities.

In May 2014, the OSCE Secretariat established a repository programme on arms control and non-proliferation in Ukraine, building upon the joint Geneva Statement on Ukraine of 17 April 2014 regarding de-escalation measures. The first project developed under this programme is a "Baseline Assessment of Non-State Armed Groups and their Weapons and Ammunition". In addition to the assessment, the report will contain a number of recommendations, including projects for potential implementation. The assessment is expected to be completed by the end of November 2014. In the meantime, on the basis of the urgent need to tackle the problem of the unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the east of Ukraine, another important project has been developed under the repository programme, entitled "Assistance to the government of Ukraine in clearing territories in the East of Ukraine from unexploded ordnances". It is expected to start in the second half of November 2014, with the main UXO clean-up activities to commence in March–April 2015.

In 2013, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan received an official request from Tajikistan's MoD for support in renovating its central SALW depots located within the Dushanbe garrison. As reasons for its concern, the Ministry quoted the situation in neighbouring Afghanistan and the uncertainty about future developments after the withdrawal of ISAF troops in 2014. On that basis, and also considering internal clashes with the remnants of former opposition groups in the recent past, the Ministry has made an operational reserve of small arms and related ammunition to be stored in its joint stocks facility.

On the basis of the outcomes of the OSCE experts' assessment team visit to Tajikistan in March 2014, the project was found feasible for implementation. Implementation of the project, it was considered, would add value to the OSCE's efforts in the development of a sustainable national capacity for the safe storage of serviceable SALW and ammunition, thus preventing excess weapons and munitions (and weapons and munitions otherwise at risk) from falling into the hands of terrorists, insurgents, or non-State actors.

Two additional components embedded into the project proposal relate to OSCE support for national training systems on small arms security and stockpile management, and the facilitation of cross-border co-operation with Afghanistan through the involvement of Afghan students in training courses in physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) in Tajikistan.

The project proposal consists of three components:

1. Renovation and security upgrade of the MoD joint depots;
2. Training of trainers on arms security and stockpile management for the relevant staff of Tajik military colleges and refresher training courses for technical personnel of arms depots;
3. Regional aspects of arms security, notably the facilitation of cross-border co-operation with Afghanistan through provision of training on SALW and CA PSSM for selected personnel from Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Internal Affairs. Implementation of the project is in line with the OSCE's exit strategy on the SALW and CA agenda in Tajikistan, as well as facilitation of cross-border dialogue and co-operation with Afghanistan.

Subject to availability of funds, the project is planned to start at the beginning of 2015.

3.2 Training

In Moldova, March 2014 saw the start of a comprehensive training programme for ammunition specialists, which is being carried out by a team of international specialists in the framework of a memorandum of understanding between the Moldovan MoD and the OSCE Mission. At the end of this three-year (training of trainers) programme, the Moldovan specialists will be able to conduct the training course by themselves for future specialists in all areas of physical security and storage management.

In Kyrgyzstan, at the end of August 2013, a training course on physical security and stockpile management was conducted for executives of the MoD in the context of the SALW and CA project. During this course, which was organized in co-operation with the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), 19 officials were exposed to OSCE best practices for the effective management of SALW and CA.

When budget cuts forced the DTRA to close its training programme, the Centre in Bishkek had to look for other options. Subsequently, the Russian MoD responded to a request for assistance and 55 logistics personnel of the Kyrgyz MoD from the Northern and Southern Regional Commands attended two four-day training sessions on physical security and

stockpile management conducted by Russian experts in July and October 2014. According to the results of the questionnaire survey conducted among the participants upon completion of training, the training course obtained an average marking of nine points out of ten. Two more courses are planned in 2015.

In September 2014, in co-operation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine held a seminar on international standards and best practices in ammunition safety and stockpile management attended by 14 practitioners from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Interior, and from the national Emergency Service.

In order to assist Ukraine in the introduction of the Information Management System in Mine Action (IMSMA), the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine conducted a training course that led to five staff members from the State Emergency Service, and two from the MoD obtaining IMSMA administration qualifications.

With the overall aim of the creation of national SALW- and CA-related programmes, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan is giving support in the development of national training programmes and the establishment of parallel classes on small arms physical security and stockpile management (PSSM). In 2013, in consultation with the OSCE, the national working group worked out training curricula that cover issues related to SALW and CA security; and in 2014, continuing efforts undertaken by the Tajik side, the Office in Tajikistan rendered financial assistance to the colleges of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior and National Border Guards, for the establishment of parallel classes for the newly developed training course. Within the colleges three classrooms have been refurbished and equipped, which will be used from 2015 for training selected students in the field of PSSM for SALW and CA.

3.3 Projects and assistance requests on elimination of liquid rocket fuel components (mélange and samin) and hazardous military chemicals

In 2014, the MoD of Armenia requested assistance in the disposal of 150 tonnes of the rocket fuel samin. The disposal of this quantity of hazardous chemical is considered in the overall comprehensive project mentioned at the end of this section.

On 24 April 2013, Belarus submitted a request for assistance in the disposal of the rocket fuel components mélange (409 tonnes) and samin (193 tonnes). In response to the request, in September 2013 OSCE experts made a visit to assess the storage conditions and the extent of assistance required. The assessment report was distributed to all 57 participating States in November 2013.

On 10 October 2012, Bulgaria submitted a request at the 694th meeting of the FSC for OSCE assistance to the Bulgarian army in the disposal and destruction of surplus special rocket fuels, namely, mélange AK-20K, samin TG-02, and the product TM-185. On 21 and 22 November 2012, an assessment team led by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre visited Bulgaria and held briefing sessions with the Bulgarian MoD and other stakeholders, also visiting the designated rocket fuel storage site near the town of Kalofer. Following the visit, the OSCE experts produced a technical assessment report and distributed it among the participating States. May 2014 saw the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the

disposal project between the OSCE Secretariat and the Bulgarian MoD. It is planned that the disposal activities will be conducted in 2015.

In Kazakhstan, the total amount of mélange subject to disposal was assessed by the MoD of Kazakhstan and the OSCE at the level of 410 tonnes. Kazakhstan made a decisive financial and technical contribution to its removal. On 29 June 2013, a train carrying more than 400 tonnes of the toxic rocket fuel component mélange departed safely from Sary Ozek, Kazakhstan, for disposal at a specialized chemical plant in Dzerzhinsk, Russia, as a part of a project supported by the OSCE.

The disposal of mélange was carried out by the same implementing partner as had been contracted for the mélange project in Ukraine (see below). To support the mélange loading operation in Kazakhstan and to create synergy between the two projects, Ukrainian military experts with previous experience in the mélange disposal project were engaged to conduct training exercises with local specialists before the actual loading of mélange into the railcars took place. As of August 2013, 402 tonnes of mélange had been disposed of at a specialized chemical plant in Dzerzhinsk, Russia.

Following Kyrgyzstan's request for assistance with the disposal of some 110 tonnes of mélange, the team of OSCE experts conducting the loading of mélange in Kazakhstan in June 2013 took advantage of their proximity to the Kyrgyz storage sites to conduct the preliminary assessment of the mélange storage conditions. The conclusion of the assessment suggests that with good co-operation with Kazakhstan, including but not limited to agreement on loading of mélange with support of the MoD of Kazakhstan and the transportation by rail of mélange through the territory of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan could rid itself of its stocks of mélange in a relatively quick and cost-efficient manner.

In October 2014 the Kyrgyz MoD forwarded an official letter to the Kazakh MoD requesting assistance in the loading and transportation by rail of mélange through the territory of Kazakhstan. It is envisaged that with financial support from the OSCE the disposal of rocket fuel component will commence at the beginning of 2015. Once the issue concerning the transboundary movement between the two countries is agreed upon, Kyrgyzstan could make use of the ongoing co-operation between the OSCE and the Russian chemical enterprises, which was established in the context of similar projects in the past.

The mélange project in Ukraine is the largest extrabudgetary project that the OSCE has ever undertaken. This project had a major positive environmental impact in terms of removing the risk of contamination/accident presented by the deteriorating stockpiles of the hazardous chemical substance.

In March 2014, the OSCE Secretariat, supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, successfully completed implementation of the project prior to the outburst of the military conflict in Ukraine. A total of 16,000 tonnes of mélange was removed from the territory of Ukraine and disposed of in a safe and cost-efficient way.

The managerial and technical solutions tailored during the implementation of the mélange project in Ukraine have provided the basis for the development of a new comprehensive project on disposal of the liquid rocket fuel components. This comprehensive project extends to disposal tasks in all the other five countries considered in this section

(Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan). Implementation of the project is planned to start in late 2014.

The goals of the project include the following:

- Armenia: 150 tonnes of samin to be disposed of on-site (thermal dissociation);
- Belarus: 409 tonnes of mélange, 195 tonnes of samin, and 105 tonnes of TM-185 to be disposed of at a specialized facility out of the country;
- Bulgaria: 533 tonnes of mélange, 266 tonnes of samin, and 277 tonnes of TM-185 to be disposed of at a specialized facility out of the country;
- Kazakhstan: 15 tonnes of samin to be disposed of on-site (thermal dissociation);
- Kyrgyzstan: 109 tonnes of mélange to be disposed of at a specialized facility out of the country, and 33 tonnes of samin on-site (thermal dissociation).

3.4 Donors

In 2014 the following participating States contributed to the designated projects: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

4. Co-operation and exchange of information

4.1 Co-operation with the United Nations

In 2014, the OSCE continued developing and implementing joint projects with the UNDP. In addition to two joint projects launched in Belarus and Montenegro in 2007, since that time three new joint projects have been started, in Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Following the completion of a pilot project in Georgia in June 2013, the follow-up projects under a three-year demilitarization programme in Georgia (disposal of 1,700 tonnes of Soviet ammunition) are now open for funding.

4.2 Exchange of information with other international organizations

Since 2008, the OSCE has engaged in exchanges of information with partner international organizations on OSCE project activities and on normative achievements in the area of SCA. Such co-ordination makes it possible to take stock of various SALW and SCA projects implemented by other international organizations and individual donors, identifying synergies and lessons learnt and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

5. Conclusions

The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) remains an effective and useful tool for addressing related problems. It continues to serve as an important framework for dealing with surpluses and stockpiles of ammunition, with a view to reducing the risk of destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation.

One of the most vibrant areas of implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA remains that of the response to requests for assistance from participating States in the field of destruction and stockpile management and security.

Projects on the demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are among the most tangible, visible and successful endeavours in the OSCE's spectrum of operations.

Quite apart from their intrinsic value, the fact that their results are measurable and comprehensible means that they possess high public relations value and are therefore of great importance to the OSCE.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
EFFORTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)
IN THE OSCE REGION**

(Annex 5 to MC.GAL/2/14 of 1 December 2014)

1. Introduction and objective

This report provides an overview of efforts undertaken in the OSCE in the field of non-proliferation. In particular, it addresses the OSCE's efforts in facilitating regional implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and draws on discussions and reports of national progress presented in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The report covers the period from November 2013 until November 2014.¹

2. Mandate

In 2004, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, which aims at preventing non-State actors from acquiring and possessing weapons of mass destruction. The participating States of the OSCE, recalling their commitments in this regard, in particular the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation adopted in 1994, decided to call upon all the participating States to fully implement UNSCR 1540 by adopting a decision supporting its effective implementation (FSC.DEC/7/05/Corr.1).

The OSCE agreed to contribute as appropriate and in co-ordination with the relevant United Nations forum, on the basis of the OSCE concept of comprehensive and co-operative security and the Organization's mandate as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council held in Athens in 2009, a Ministerial Council decision was adopted on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability (MC.DEC/2/09).

At the same meeting, Decision No. 16 (MC.DEC/16/09) called upon the Forum for Security and Co-operation (FSC), in accordance with its mandate, to facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfilment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004).

By adopting the Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation, the participating States also pledged to facilitate implementation of UNSCR 1540 through the provision of effective assistance to States requesting it (MC.DOC/5/09).

¹ The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 14 November 2014.

In the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration “Towards a Security Community”, the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States referred to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as an emerging transnational threat, noting that threats of this kind could originate within or outside the OSCE area (SUM.DOC/1/10/Corr.1).

In 2011, by adopting Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, the participating States of the OSCE expressed their commitment to the matter by tasking the FSC with exploring ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994, and also with supporting the ongoing activities designed to assist in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information-sharing on national progress and lessons learnt in this regard (MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1).

On 4 December 2013, recalling Ministerial Council Decision No 7/11, the FSC adopted the updated OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation in FSC Decision No. 7/13, which was endorsed by a Ministerial Declaration on 6 December 2013 (MC.DOC/5/13).

Within the framework of Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/11 (MC.DEC/8/11), the FSC was tasked with continuing to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE’s contribution to assist participating States, at their request, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540, in close co-ordination with the UNSC 1540 Committee, with the view to complementing its efforts.

In line with this tasking, in October 2014 the delegation of Belarus made a proposal for a draft FSC decision on the role of the OSCE in support of UNSCR 1540 (2004) (FSC.DEL/175/14).

3. Efforts by the FSC

3.1 Decision on Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 (2004) and its implementation

On 14 December 2011, in FSC Decision No. 19/11 on Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 (FSC.DEC/19/11), the FSC decided to establish a complementary and voluntary directory of national and OSCE Points of Contact with the purpose of facilitating information-sharing, promoting best practices and strengthening relevant international information exchange networks (where appropriate), between participating States on issues related to the national implementation of UNSCR 1540. The purpose of the directory was also to enhance capacity-building and to synchronize any non-proliferation activities in order to prevent duplication of efforts, also by third parties.

To date, 51 participating States have provided detailed information to the OSCE on their national Point of Contact on UNSCR 1540.

In accordance with FSC Decision No. 19/11, the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) has been appointed to act as the OSCE’s focal point on UNSCR 1540, and the network of Points of Contact has been shared with the UNSC 1540 Committee with the aim that it should become an integral part of the global 1540 network. This was acknowledged by the

1540 Committee Chairperson during the joint briefing to the Security Council of the three Committees (1267/1989, 1373, 1540) of 10 May 2012.

The first meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 took place in Vienna on 10 April 2014, with support of the Swiss Chairmanship.

With around 30 participating States present at the meeting, the discussions were focused on highlighting effective national practices, with statements being made by Serbia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the development of their national implementation action plans, and on peer review conducted by Croatia and Poland. Additionally, relevant OSCE executive structures briefed participants on their respective complementary efforts and effective practices, specifically as regards counter-terrorism, border management and operations of the Communications Network.

There was general agreement on the need to appoint national Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540, and to organize such co-ordination meetings on an annual basis.

OSCE-specific next steps called for by the participants included:

- Exploring ways to promote the role of 1540 peer review among interested States;
- Resuming work on the additional chapters of the Handbook of Best Practice Guides;
- Proposing the drawing up of an informal reference guide for the Network of Points of Contact.

3.2 Update of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation

On 4 December 2013, in accordance with a tasking contained in the above-mentioned Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, the FSC decided to adopt the updated OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation.

This strategic document acknowledges that the universalization and reinforcement of the non-proliferation regimes remain a top priority; in it the participating States thus reaffirmed their commitment to preventing proliferation, in all its aspects, of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The 2013 Ministerial Council in Kyiv welcomed FSC Decision No. 7/13 on the update of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. The FSC is to serve as a forum for the discussion of issues related to this document and is to review it as appropriate.

3.3 Appointment of the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues

On 4 July 2012 the Latvian FSC Chairmanship created the appointment of the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues (FSC.DEL/86/12).

As noted above, Ministerial Council Decisions No. 7/11 and 8/11 had specifically tasked the FSC with:

- (a) Exploring ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994;
- (b) Supporting the ongoing activities designed to assist the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information-sharing on national progress and lessons learned in this regard;
- (c) Continuing to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, the OSCE's contribution to assisting participating States, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540.

The FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues was mandated to assist the FSC Chairmanships in the implementation of these tasks and to consult with the delegations, the OSCE Secretariat and institutions, and other organizations on the best way to facilitate implementation.

In January 2014, the Maltese FSC Chairmanship appointed Mr. Raimonds Oškalns, Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Latvia, to act as Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues. He was subsequently re-appointed by the Moldovan and Monegasque Chairmanships.

3.4 Security Dialogues of the FSC

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) is one of the OSCE's two main decision-making bodies.

On 5 February 2014, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on the address "Effective and verifiable multilateral arms control: the role of the CTBT in international peace and security" by Mr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and on "Activities of the European Union in the field of non-proliferation" by Ambassador Jacek Bylica, Principal Adviser and Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, European External Action Service (EEAS).

On 18 June 2014, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 within the OSCE area, at which the address "UNSCR 1540: 10 Year anniversary" was given by H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and Chair of the UNSC 1540 Committee, Mr. Terence Taylor, Co-ordinator of the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts, and Ms. Svetlana Geleva, National CBRN Co-ordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Ambassador Oh Joon expressed the Committee's position as follows: "We are now moving from a decade of awareness-raising to a new decade of effective and sustained implementation. The CPC has undertaken excellent work in this regard in assisting OSCE States, at their request, in developing their voluntary national implementation action plans (NAPs)."

In addition, the first 1540 Points of Contact meeting, which took place in Vienna in April 2014, was highlighted as "an important contribution to the development of 1540 PoCs into a 'living network', which is one of the goals in the Committee's programme of work.

This attests to the commitment of OSCE States and to the excellent work by the staff of the Conflict Prevention Centre.”

On 21 May 2014, the FSC and the Permanent Council held a 57th joint meeting at which they heard Ms. Angela Kane, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, given an address entitled “The modernization of disarmament: a common cause for the OSCE and the UNODA”.

In the field of non-proliferation, Ms. Kane stressed that “the focus and work of the OSCE on implementing UNSC resolution 1540 is very crucial as it has now become a key component of the current international security architecture. Given this focus, the UNODA is proud to count the OSCE as one of its reliable and valuable partners. Through its exemplary work focused on awareness-raising activities and tailored training, the OSCE as a regional partner has led the way in Europe in advancing the implementation of this resolution among its participating States, thus also setting an example globally. The extension of the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding on the joint implementation of projects to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction signed between the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations is a good example of this.”

On 29 October 2014, the FSC held a Security Dialogue at which an address entitled “UNSCR 1540 – The OSCE’s role in facilitating the implementation – Russian view” was given by the guest speaker Mr. Sergey Federyakov, Head of the Export Control Policy Division, Department for Non-proliferation and Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Mr. Federyakov noted that even though for the OSCE non-proliferation was not a central concern, the OSCE could focus: (a) on general political support for the 1540 process, and (b) on the exchange of experience and on the development, under the Organization’s auspices, of best practices in the implementation of individual provisions of the resolution.

4. Practical assistance

4.1 Overview

Assisting the OSCE participating States in the comprehensive implementation of UNSCR 1540, while recognizing the need to enhance co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, has been the most important part of the efforts of the FSC during the reporting period.

Since the OSCE workshop mounted in 2011 “To identify the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540”, the OSCE has received more than a dozen requests for assistance in developing NAPs or strategies to tackle proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In particular, NAPs and/or strategic planning documents for Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro have been finalized and adopted by respective governmental structures, with the assistance of OSCE executive structures and in close co-operation with the 1540 Committee Experts and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

The implementation of UNSCR 1540 has been addressed in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner through country-specific dialogues involving all the interested national authorities of the respective participating States and representatives of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, relevant international organizations, and NGOs dealing with various aspects of implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Concrete examples of assistance provided by the OSCE to participating States in the field of non-proliferation are provided by ongoing country-specific dialogues with Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and by initial talks with Turkmenistan and Ukraine covering, *inter alia*, assistance with the development of an NAP on UNSCR 1540 implementation.

4.2 OSCE support in the national implementation of UNSCR 1540

4.2.1 Armenia

In a letter to the OSCE dated 12 February 2013, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia expressed Armenia's intent to "elaborate and adopt a national action plan for more comprehensive implementation of the resolution [1540]" and requested technical and financial assistance in this regard.

In a statement by H.E. Mr. Arman Kirakossian, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia delivered at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, held in Vienna, from 1 to 5 July 2013, it was pointed out that "UNSCR 1540 remains a key international instrument in the export control and WMD counter-proliferation sphere."

In order to further improve and enhance its implementation record, the Government of Armenia had recently initiated the drafting of a national action plan in co-operation with the OSCE.

As a result, OSCE executive structures, together with the 1540 Committee Expert attended a "National round-table meeting with the Republic of Armenia on the development of a national action plan for the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540", in Yerevan, Armenia, from 23 to 26 September 2013.

Since the Government of Armenia aims to develop a strategic and overarching approach to its chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) policies by preparing a NAP on UNSCR 1540 with the inclusion of an all-hazards CBRN policy in order to anticipate and respond to these risks, in accordance with the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence (COE) Initiative, the meeting was also attended by representatives of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) as implementing agency for the COE Initiative.

The subsequent consultation meeting on the Armenian National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540 took place in Vienna in July 2014, with participation of the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, the IAEA and the UNODC, with the financial support of the UNODA.

4.2.2 Belarus

In 2012, as a follow-up to the joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation that took place in July 2011 and the expert consultations held in Minsk in October 2011, Belarus engaged in developing a national framework document on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, with assistance being provided by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), the 1540 Committee Expert, and the UNODA.

During the second stage, in March 2012, a one-week consultative/drafting session was held in Vienna with various Belarusian authorities, the OSCE/CPC, a 1540 Committee Expert, and representatives from the UNODA and VERTIC. The National Framework Document of the Republic of Belarus on additional measures to implement UNSCR 1540 was finalized at this meeting.

In June 2012, the Inter-Agency Commission on Military-Technical Co-operation and Export Controls under the Security Council of the Republic of Belarus approved the National Framework Document (the “road map”), which was presented in July 2012 by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus as a final document to all the participating States during the Security Dialogue of the FSC plenary meeting devoted to implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Throughout 2013 Belarus was engaged in implementing the national framework document. The national legislation in the export control and biosecurity areas is being reviewed and amended, where necessary. The short-term export control courses for the representatives of industry have been introduced on a regular basis.

On 1 January 2013 Belarus created a single permit for the cross-border transport of goods, including biological materials and pathogenic microorganisms the cross-border trafficking of which is restricted. This form was developed pursuant to a decision taken by the Eurasian Economic Commission and is in use in the territory of the Member States of the Customs Union.

The Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Ministry of Health has been nominated as the national contact point for the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

4.2.3 Bosnia and Herzegovina

Some years ago Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed an interest in updating its national legislation in line with the UNSCR 1540 obligations and engaged in informal consultations with the OSCE. During the Security Dialogue of the FSC plenary meeting devoted to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 on 4 July 2012, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina reiterated his country’s willingness to develop a NAP on implementation of UNSCR 1540 with the assistance of the OSCE, the 1540 Committee and the UNODA.

Subsequently, the OSCE executive structures supported an informal working group in the preparation of a NAP on UNSCR 1540. The group, which is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has also revised Bosnia and Herzegovina’s national report submitted to the 1540 Committee.

In February 2013, the CBRN co-ordination body of Bosnia and Herzegovina held its second meeting in Sarajevo, with the Serbian CBRN co-ordinator presenting best practices derived from the establishment of such a body within Serbia. The co-ordination body on CBRN is chaired by the border police. Representatives of the OSCE executive structures attended the meeting, in order to consider a possible co-operation between the two working groups – 1540 and CBRN.

In April 2013 there was a meeting of experts on Bosnia and Herzegovina's National Implementation Action Plan, in Vienna with the collaboration of representatives from the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE executive structures, and the UNODA, and experts of the 1540 Committee.

In October 2014 a workshop was organized in Sarajevo for the drafting of Bosnia and Herzegovina's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1540. The workshop was supported by the OSCE executive structures and experts of the 1540 Committee. The group discussed the creation of a regional dialogue, enhanced co-operation, and result-oriented activities in the region.

4.2.4 Kyrgyzstan

Following a country-specific dialogue featuring in particular the national round-table meeting that took place in Bishkek in December 2011, and the subsequent drafting/consultative meeting in Vienna in March 2012, Kyrgyzstan, with the assistance of the OSCE executive structures, a 1540 Committee Expert, the UNODA, the IAEA and VERTIC, developed the Action Plan of the Kyrgyz Republic on Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The plan was adopted by the Government in April 2013.

The Action Plan of Kyrgyzstan includes a number of measures requiring international assistance, and in line with the 1540 Committee's role of a matchmaker in this process, the country has already received offers from registered 1540 assistance-providers.

In addition, in November 2013 the Kyrgyz authorities requested assistance from the OSCE and the UNODA in the implementation of measures in their National Action Plan. This assistance was facilitated in 2014 by the OSCE executive structures, more specifically on the update and translation of the Kyrgyz national control list on dual-use goods, which was approved by the Kyrgyz Government on 2 April 2014.

4.2.5 Moldova

In September 2011, Moldova requested assistance from the OSCE in strengthening its national capacities for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and defending itself against CBRN threats, in order to bring them into line with obligations arising from UNSCR 1540.

In March 2012, the OSCE executive structures, jointly with the German Federal Office for Economics and Export Control (BAFA) acting on behalf of the EU, and in co-operation with the 1540 Committee and the UNODA, initiated a country-specific dialogue with Moldova, also with the intention of reviewing national export control legislation for both dual-use and military goods.

As an outcome of this co-operation, in January 2013, with the support of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the parties presented the recommendations of the EU Experts for the update of the Moldovan export control legislation on dual-use and military goods to the relevant ministries and representatives of parliament.

Moldova has also further reaffirmed its intention to develop a comprehensive national implementation action plan on UNSCR 1540, and also to host a country visit at the beginning of 2015.

4.2.6 Montenegro

Some time ago Montenegro expressed its interest in updating its national legislation to bring it into line with UNSCR 1540 obligations. Subsequently, in October 2012, at the invitation of the Government of Montenegro, a national round-table meeting was held in Podgorica to discuss the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

The meeting was attended by 16 representatives from various ministries and the OSCE executive structures, a 1540 Committee Expert, and a representative of the European Union Delegation to Montenegro.

In October 2013, as a direct follow-up, a consultation meeting on Montenegro's National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540 was held in Vienna. It was attended by the 1540 Committee Expert and representatives of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, the UNODA, UNICRI as implementing agency for the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, and VERTIC. The Action Plan was adopted by the Government in June 2014.

4.2.7 Serbia

On 19 April 2012 the Serbian Government adopted the country's "National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Means of Delivery (2012–2016)", which had been drawn up following collective efforts by the Serbian authorities, the OSCE executive structures, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and the UNODA. On 4 July 2012 a representative of the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributed and presented the national document (FSC.EMI/252/12) during the FSC Plenary meeting devoted to UNSCR 1540.

Together with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and the UNODA, the OSCE executive structures have assisted the Government of Serbia, at its request, in sharing effective practices in the implementation of resolution 1540 and particularly in the development of the Serbian NAP with other countries in the region, most notably by organizing the regional "Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004)", which took place in Belgrade in May 2013. Regional follow-up is planned under the OSCE Serbian Chairmanship in 2015.

4.2.8 Tajikistan

In October 2012, following Tajikistan's request for the organization of a national round-table meeting on the implementation of UNSCR 1540, the OSCE executive structures,

the 1540 Committee Expert and the UNODA co-ordinated a country-specific dialogue with the relevant national authorities in Dushanbe in order to review the national implementation of UNSCR 1540. The matter had been placed in the competency of a newly established national working group, which produced a draft NAP. Follow-up consultative sessions with the Tajik authorities are planned for the near future.

In addition, the OSCE executive structures plan to support the relevant national authorities in 1540 peer-to-peer review between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, with Afghanistan being included as an observer State.

4.2.9 Turkmenistan

In July 2014, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, in close co-operation with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, organized a round-table discussion to raise participants' awareness about best practices in preventing, detecting and responding to the illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials.

The two-day event brought together about 25 participants representing the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Internal Affairs, National Security, Economy and Development, Finance, and Trade and Foreign Economic Affairs, as well as members of the State Customs and Border Services and the Ministry of Healthcare and Medical Industry.

OSCE and UN experts spoke about projects to support the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and about the importance of strengthening border management and implementing the resolution's provisions. Participants also discussed national approaches to non-proliferation issues and the development of a National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540. A representative of the Foreign Ministry of Uzbekistan shared best practices derived from the development of the Uzbek National Action Plan.

OSCE partner institutions which participated in this event included the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA).

4.2.10 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In the opening statement of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, the Government expressed its readiness to develop a "National action plan for implementation of UNSCR 1540" in co-operation with partners from the OSCE executive structures and the United Nations.

Subsequently, in October 2012, a representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia delivered a statement at an FSC plenary meeting outlining the country's national priorities and the commitments it had undertaken to ensure compliance with international and regional standards facilitating consistent implementation of UNSCR 1540. During the Security Dialogue the national representative acknowledged the role played by the OSCE/CPC, the 1540 Committee and its Expert Group, the UNODA and VERTIC in promoting national implementation of resolution 1540 during a national round-table meeting held in Skopje in June 2012.

In order to review a draft NAP prepared by the authorities, a “Consultation meeting on the National Implementation Action Plan on UNSCR 1540” was held in Vienna in October 2013, with the participation of the relevant national authorities, the 1540 Committee Expert, and representatives of the UNODA, the UNICRI as implementing agency of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, and VERTIC. The Government adopted its national action plan in February 2014.

4.2.11 Uzbekistan

A number of years ago, the Government of Uzbekistan expressed its interest in holding a joint meeting between a national working group and the OSCE executive structures and the United Nations, in order to review its existing national legislation in the context of the UNSCR 1540 obligations.

At the invitation of the Government of Uzbekistan, a national round-table meeting on the implementation of the UNSCR 1540 took place in Tashkent in May 2012, with a statement of intent that the Uzbek NAP on implementation of resolution 1540 should be drafted in the course of 2013.

As a follow-up to the first national round-table meeting on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in May 2012, an inter-agency group was established.

Throughout 2013, the group held several meetings for the purpose of developing the nation action plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1540, with the support of the OSCE executive structures, the 1540 Committee and its Expert Group, and the UNODA.

By October 2013 a draft NAP had been prepared by the Uzbek authorities, and in June 2014, the OSCE executive structures organized a consultation meeting in Vienna to discuss the draft national action plan (NAP) of Uzbekistan on the implementation of UNSCR 1540. Experts from Uzbekistan as well as representatives from the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, the UNODC, the IAEA, and the OSCE reviewed and discussed the draft and subsequent steps relevant to its practical implementation. In August 2014, the OSCE Secretariat sent the meeting’s official recommendations regarding the draft NAP to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the OSCE; these recommendations are currently being processed by relevant local agencies for incorporation into the final version.

4.3 Awareness-raising on UNSCR 1540

4.3.1 The GCSP-OSCE round table: “10 years of UNSC resolution 1540 on weapons of mass destruction”

On 7 March 2014, in Geneva, Switzerland, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the OSCE held a round-table meeting entitled “10 years of UNSC resolution 1540: Global and regional efforts in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament of weapons of mass destruction”. The meeting was convened in co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), and with the support of the Swiss Government.

Under the 2014 Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE, the GCSP actively contributed to the non-proliferation efforts of OSCE participating States. As Geneva is one of the seats of the disarmament community, the GCSP is well positioned to host meetings of governmental and policy experts on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in a regional context. The aim of the joint round table was to keep UNSCR 1540 on the broader arms control agenda, because it addresses one of the priority global security concerns, namely, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of their acquisition by non-State actors.

The meeting generated rich exchanges and gathered together more than 50 participants, including diplomats, experts and representatives of civil society.

4.3.2 Round-table meetings on UNSCR 1540 – International and regional organizations week

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004), the OSCE, with support of the Swiss Chairmanship, and the UNODA convened a series of meetings from 7 to 11 April 2014 in Vienna to provide an opportunity for relevant staff and experts from the secretariats of international, regional and subregional organizations (IROs) to engage in a comprehensive exchange of information and to address some important current issues related to the practical implementation of UNSCR 1540. The series of meetings was a direct follow-up event to similar meetings of IROs held in Vienna in December 2010 and February 2012. The subjects considered are reflected in the following summary of the series:

1. Briefing on efforts to promote a comprehensive security culture (7 April 2014);
2. Round-table meeting on UNSCR 1540 activities, focusing on technical assistance (8 and 9 April 2014);
3. Seminar on identification of effective practices (10 and 11 April 2014).

Staff and experts from the secretariats of more than twenty international and regional organizations discussed how to enhance co-operation and information-sharing, and identified synergies that could be enhanced for the benefit of all participating States in connection with issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540.

The UNODA and the OSCE/CPC have started to convene meetings of this kind on a regular basis to offer a platform to interested IROs and to enhance co-operation and interaction amongst them.

4.3.3 “CBRN security culture in practice”

The NATO Advanced Study Institute’s event on “CBRN security culture in practice”, which took place in Yerevan, Armenia, from 9 to 13 June 2014, was one event in the series of workshops, training sessions and briefings organized by the Center for International Trade and Security (CITS) of the University of Georgia (United States of America) under its multi-year Strategic Plan for the Promotion of CBRN Security Culture (Strategic Plan). Its time frame of 2012–2020 was deliberately chosen to span the period from the year after UNSCR 1977 (2011) extended UNSCR 1540 by ten years through to the end of the extension period. The event, which was also developed within the international legal framework of

UNSCR 1540, was co-sponsored and supported by the OSCE, with a financial contribution from Liechtenstein.

“CBRN security culture” is an integral part of the high standards of professionalism that should be applied to the imperatives of non-proliferation and terrorism prevention. It enables a person to respond – on the basis of carefully nurtured habit rather than improvisation – to familiar and unfamiliar security threats to materials and facilities (including insiders with malicious intent). In strategic trade and trafficking control, CBRN security culture can enhance due diligence in the processes of issuing export licences, verifying end-users, and preventing illegal transfers. Persons aspiring to professional standards of knowledge management in the field of advanced dual-use research are required to possess a mindset geared to the prevention of WMD proliferation, and to exercise discretion in the sharing of sensitive information.

The longer-term objective is to encourage States to include the CBRN security package in their voluntary action plans as recommended by UNSCR 1977 and to generate tangible results of its use for consideration at the 1540 review process scheduled to begin before the end of 2016.

5. Co-operation and co-ordination

5.1 Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the UNODA

In line with UNSCR 1540, and in recognition of the need to enhance co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, the OSCE has developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). In October 2011 the two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Joint Implementation of Projects on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Means of Delivery, in Response to OSCE Participating States’ Requests”, with the goal of enhancing both organizations’ capacities in the implementation of resolution 1540. The MoU has now been extended for another two years, until October 2015.

The OSCE and the UNODA co-operate and co-ordinate in assisting OSCE participating States (at their request) in the development of their legislative framework and technical capabilities.

These collaborative efforts, which are undertaken in close co-operation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, have led to a number of successful national round tables, to the continuation of country-specific dialogues, and to the adoption of five national implementation action plans and/or strategies (Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia). All five NAPs can be found on the 1540 Committee’s website.

In addition, regional co-ordination workshops and tailored events have been held throughout the present year, mounted jointly by the two organizations.

5.2 Co-operation with the United Nations and international, regional and subregional organizations

OSCE Ministerial Decision No. 8/11 on the proper role of the OSCE in the facilitation of UNSCR 1540, adopted in 2011 in Vilnius, duly noted UNSCR 1977 (2011) and emphasized the need for the OSCE's contribution to assist the participating States in further implementation of UNSCR 1540, in close co-ordination with the 1540 Committee.

The OSCE has been consistent in continuing constructive dialogue and co-operation with the United Nations, more specifically with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and in continuing to pursue enhanced co-ordination with relevant technical and regional organizations.

5.2.1 The 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts

With the creation of the four-year extrabudgetary project “Support of regional implementation of the UNSCR 1540” carried out by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), a priority was set to develop a close working relationship with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

The CPC has co-ordinated all of its non-proliferation efforts with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, resulting in a number of successful national round-table meetings, country-specific dialogues, and the development of NAPs and/or strategies of several interested OSCE participating States.

The 1540 Committee has acknowledged the efforts of the OSCE in the field of implementation of resolution 1540 on a number of occasions, notably in the FSC in 2013 and 2014.

In addition, in New York in March 2014, the CPC presented outcomes of the OSCE's 1540 activities from 2010 to 2013 to the 1540 Committee Working Group on Cooperation with International Organizations. The chair of the Working Group has acknowledged successful work of the OSCE in this field and has called for continuous support to the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, as well as to the OSCE participating States.

5.2.2 United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

In line with their Memorandum of Understanding concluded in 2011 and extended for a further two years in 2013, the OSCE and the UNODA hold regular consultations on various practical issues related to facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 by interested OSCE participating States.

In addition, the OSCE and the UNODA have jointly organized regional outreach, capacity-building and awareness-raising events.

Furthermore, the OSCE and the UNODA have worked closely in providing assistance to interested OSCE participating States, in particular in the organization of country-specific dialogues, with the aim of developing national implementation action plans.

5.2.3 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC-OSCE Joint Action Plan for 2011–2012 was agreed upon by the two organizations in September 2011, with the parties committing themselves to undertaking substantive long-term co-operation in numerous areas including that of promoting implementation of UNSCR 1540.

In April 2013 the parties extended the Joint Action Plan for the period 2013–2014. The Plan covers the areas of co-operation and co-ordination on specific regional initiatives, including initiatives in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe; in addition, it considers the development of partnerships designed to provide technical assistance to countries, at their request, in complying with the requirements of various instruments including UNSCR 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The plan has been put into practice by involving UNODC experts in the country-specific dialogues with interested OSCE participation States, particularly in the provision of assistance in the development of national implementation action plans.

5.2.4 Co-operation with international, regional and subregional organizations

Since 2010, when the UNODA organized the Meeting of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations on Co-operation in Promoting the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), and since the initiation of the four-year extrabudgetary project supporting OSCE participating States in UNSCR 1540 implementation, the OSCE has established all-embracing relations with the following institutions:

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW);
- Biological Weapons Convention/Implementation Support Unit (BWC/ISU);
- Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO);
- European Union (EU);
- Interpol;
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);
- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);
- German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), acting as an implementing agency of the EU Outreach Programme on Dual-Use Export Controls;
- World Health Organization (WHO).

6. Conclusions and recommendations

Since the OSCE began its activities in assisting regional implementation of UNSCR 1540, its efforts have been the object of increasing demand and also support on the part of the participating States. In order to provide comprehensive support to the participating States requesting assistance, and to avoid duplication of efforts, the OSCE/CPC has created an effective network of partners from other international and regional organizations, and also from academia and the non-governmental sector.

It is often noted that in order to tackle a strong network of proliferators, an equally strong network of non-proliferators needs to be established. As this is exactly what the OSCE aims at, it has established and operates a solid network of partner organizations and interlocutors within participating States.

Partnering with the UN as the lead organization, the OSCE community is in a position to benefit from a comprehensive assistance mechanism, and the OSCE area has become one of the most active players in this domain.

Its particular approach – which consists in country-specific dialogue and the development of national implementation action plans elaborated in partnership with interested OSCE participating States, the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, and the UNODA – is now considered an effective practice that can also be applied outside the OSCE area.

In addition, the OSCE has followed the appeal to international, regional and subregional organizations contained in resolution 1977 (2011) to designate and provide a point of contact or co-ordinator for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Furthermore, the OSCE has created a Network of Points of Contact encompassing 51 States, which it has shared with the 1540 Committee. A simple measure, it is generally recognized by the UN as an effective tool in facilitating co-operation. Following the success of the first meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540, it is now intended to convene the meeting on an annual basis to bring together more and more expertise in order to discuss the future orientation of OSCE activities in support of non-proliferation.

These endeavours continue to keep the OSCE at the forefront of the global non-proliferation agenda.

7. Attachments

Attachment A: Overview of participation in events organized by other international organizations

OSCE/CPC participation in UNSCR 1540-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2013 / 2014		
Date	Title	Place
26–27 November 2013	GUAM Round-Table on Building CBRN Security Culture	Baku, Azerbaijan
16 December 2013	6th Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting	Vienna, Austria
25–27 February 2014	G8 Global Partnership Working Group Meeting	St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
8 May 2014	7th Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting	Vienna, Austria
30 June 2014	Global Partnership CBRN Security Assistance for Ukraine	London, United Kingdom
7–9 October 2014	Regional Workshop to Familiarize States in Europe with Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs)	Chisinau, Moldova
3–4 November 2014	G7 Global Partnership Working Group Meeting	Berlin, Germany
5 November 2014	8th Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting	Vienna, Austria

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON
THE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 (2000)
IN THE OSCE REGION**

(Annex 6 to MC.GAL/2/14 of 1 December 2014)

1. Introduction and objectives

This report provides an overview of efforts undertaken in the OSCE in the field of women, peace and security. In particular, it covers the main discussions within the Forum for Security Co-operation on matters relating to UNSC resolution 1325, mainly during Security Dialogues; activities in relation to Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and in the area of SALW and SCA; activities of the field missions and events organized by the ODIHR relating to UNSCR 1325.

This report covers the period from November 2013 until November 2014¹.

2. Mandate

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 1325 which acknowledges and addresses the impact of conflict on women and women's participation in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, peace-building and post-conflict recovery. Over the past fourteen years the Security Council has passed six subsequent resolutions that make up the women, peace and security agenda and international policy framework: SCR 1820 (2008), 1888 (2008), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013). The OSCE has recognized the linkages between the women, peace and security agenda and achieving comprehensive security also through past Ministerial Council decisions such as Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 on the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality; Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/05 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/05 on preventing and combating violence against women; Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/09 on women's participation in political and public life; and Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11 on elements of the conflict cycle.

In 2011 the Ministerial Council tasked the Forum for Security Co-operation in 2012 to "examine ways that it can assist in the implementation in the OSCE region of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on the issue of gender and security" (MC.DEC/7/11).

In 2012, the Kyrgyz FSC Chairmanship for the first time appointed a Forum for Security Co-operation Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325. The terms of reference set out in FSC.DEL/32/12 include the following main responsibilities:

1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 14 November 2014.

- (a) Assist the FSC Chairmanship in fulfilling the responsibilities to implement Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 in relation to UNSCR 1325;
- (b) Consult with delegations, the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and organizations on the best ways to facilitate implementation of the Ministerial Council decision;
- (c) Remain informed on developments in the area of UNSCR 1325 by, if necessary, attending external events that are relevant to this mandate and report to the FSC as needed on the developments and fulfilment of the mandate;
- (d) Prepare proposals, for the approval of the FSC Chairmanship, on how the FSC can assist participating States in the implementation of UNSCR 1325;
- (e) Co-ordinate with the FSC Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat in the organization of events, as decided by the FSC, associated with this mandate;
- (f) Carry out any other relevant duties and responsibilities as may be given by the FSC Chairmanship.

3. Efforts by the Forum for Security Co-operation

3.1 FSC Security Dialogues

In line with the tasking by Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, the FSC Chairmanships in 2014 have devoted attention to promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 within their activities. On 16 July 2014, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on women, peace and security as part of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Human Rights Discussion Series for the Forum for Security Co-operation, with a presentation on “Conditions of service and the human rights of members of the armed forces” by Ms. Snježana Bokulić, Head of the Human Rights Department at the ODIHR and a joint presentation on “The OSCE and women, peace and security: the way forward” by H.E. Ambassador Miroslava Beham, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and Ms. Megan Bastick, Gender and Security Fellow at the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

This Security Dialogue was followed by a special ODIHR event on 17 July 2014 dedicated to “Conditions of service and the human rights of members of the armed forces” where representatives of OSCE participating States to the FSC were invited to participate.

On 17 September 2014, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on the Code of Conduct as part of the ODIHR Human Rights Discussion Series for the Forum for Security Co-operation, with a presentation on “Civil and political rights of armed forces personnel” by Mr. Michael Georg Link, Director of the ODIHR and a presentation on “The position of women in the French Ministry of Defence” by Ms. Françoise Gaudin, Senior Civil Servant for Equality of Rights at the French Ministry of Defence.

On 1 October 2014, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on violence against women and children in conflict with a presentation on “Preventing sexual violence: next steps” by Ms. Rosy Cave, Gender and Conflict Adviser at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of

the United Kingdom. This Security Dialogue was organized as a follow-up to the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict that took place in London from 10 to 13 June 2014.

3.2 In the area of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

During the OSCE wide workshop on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security held in Belgrade from 26 to 28 March 2014, a panel was dedicated to “Related aspects of UNSCR 1325: women in armed forces and voluntary reporting within the information exchange”.

Recommendations were developed subsequent to this panel and were endorsed by the plenary. It was agreed to generate and empower stakeholders to work on substantive issues related to women, peace and security, to target first dimension capacity-building for women and to develop a female roster in the first dimension and to adopt an OSCE-wide action plan on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

Moreover, in the Working Document on Possible and Non-exhaustive Indicators to Improve Reporting on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (FSC.DEL/61/14) developed at the Belgrade Workshop, specific indicators related to reporting on women, peace and security were added.

In the framework of the Code of Conduct information exchange carried out in July 2014, specific sections were dedicated to women, peace and security in the voluntary annex of the Questionnaire. This year, 63 per cent of all participating States voluntarily reported on women, peace and security whereas only 60 per cent submitted information in 2013 and 48 per cent in 2012.

The conclusions of the report revealed that many participating States have developed national action plans and other strategies to assist them with the implementation of UNSCR 1325. However, most efforts are put into the participation of women in the armed forces and international peacekeeping missions whereas there is a lack of gender-sensitive conflict analysis.

Specific training sessions on UNSCR 1325 and gender equality issues have been conducted by several participating States. It was noted, however, that the quality and choice of information included in the reporting on women, peace and security varied to a high degree and that the suggesting format was only loosely followed with a lack of detailed information.

3.3 In the area of SALW and SCA

One co-ordination meeting among the FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325, the chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and representatives from the OSCE Gender Section was held. It was agreed to start working on a reference “Guideline for gender and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes” (including all practices related with SALW and SCA during these processes), mainly focused on OSCE missions.

In the course of an open competitive recruitment process a female expert was selected by the OSCE Secretariat to conduct a statistical analysis of the one-off Statistical Analysis of OSCE Information Exchange on SALW 2011–14 (SEC.GAL/160/14).

All SALW and SCA projects duly considered gender issues in accordance with UNSCR 1325 by including, where possible, the requirements on gender disaggregated statistics and information. This ensures that the gender tools that exist are used in the planning of activities.

Several projects aimed at demilitarization and/or disposal of SALW, conventional ammunition or toxic rocket fuel components envisage the engagement of women. For instance, approximately 40 per cent of women were engaged at the demilitarization facility TRF Kragujevac during the implementation of the project on disposal of the white-phosphorus-filled ammunition.

A similar situation could be observed at the SALW and ammunition disposal facilities in Albania, Belarus and Montenegro.

During the implementation of the mélange disposal project in Ukraine, the project team heavily relied on the expertise of the personnel of the Ministry of Defence, 50 per cent of which were women, including one OSCE female expert.

In addition, every project proposal contains respective references to UNSCR 1325 and provisions such as equal opportunity recruitment for the staff, helping to contribute to its implementation following general rules and regulations of the OSCE, including the respective United Nations agencies in the case of joint project activities.

4. Field missions

4.1 OSCE Mission to Montenegro

On 4 and 5 September 2014, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro organized a two-day training programme dedicated to “Pre-deployment human rights training for the army of Montenegro personnel to be engaged in international missions” in Danilovgrad. This training was organized jointly by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro.

The Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Dutch Centre for European Security Studies provided support and expertise for the design of the training curriculum.

This training increased the awareness of human rights and obligations of 22 women and men of the Army of Montenegro and the Defence Ministry, including the rights arising under the international humanitarian law, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Geneva Convention and the Hague Conventions as well as the commitments under the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The training sessions covered the following topics: human rights versus fundamental freedoms; history of human rights and contemporary perception; international treaties on human rights; economic and social rights: conditions of service and the human rights of members of the armed forces; national perception of human rights for Montenegro armed forces personnel: legislative and institutional framework, gender, human rights training in practice; international humanitarian law: relevant conventions and missions abroad. UNSCR 1325 was part of two training sessions.

4.2 OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted its second Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality for the period 2014–2017, while both the adoption and the implementation of the Plan have been actively supported by the OSCE Mission’s Department of Security Co-operation and the Human Dimension Department. The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has also recently adopted its Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (2013–2015) which, among other components, endorses UNSCR 1325 as one of the key international documents for a comprehensive security approach.

On 4 July 2014 in Sarajevo, the Bosnian Gender Equality Agency, primary co-ordinating body in the country for UNSCR 1325, organized with the OSCE Mission’s support, the regional conference “Platform for Joint Action in Areas of Human Security, Gender Based Violence and Economic Empowerment”. The conference gathered representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro to map out priorities in regional co-operation on gender equality. The four countries’ representatives issued a joint statement calling for regional co-operation on five priority thematic areas: (1) strengthening institutional gender mechanisms and gender mainstreaming; (2) gender and security; (3) economic empowerment of women; (4) gender-based violence; (5) gender and environment. The Agency and the Mission are now in the process of developing a regional project proposal which will include co-operation among institutional gender mechanisms from these countries in the mentioned areas, and in particular on gender and human security.

When it comes to support to the implementation of UNSCR 1325, the Mission’s Department of Security Co-operation, in its work supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina compliance with its international security commitments, emphasizes the importance of UNSCR 1325 in its annual briefings on politico-military commitments to the Bosnian Compliance Co-ordination Team and representatives of various ministries and agencies. As a result, Bosnia and Herzegovina has regularly included information on women, peace and security in the voluntary annex to the OSCE Code of Conduct Questionnaire dedicated to the subject. In continuation of these efforts in 2015, the Mission will organize a workshop on “Reporting on women, peace and security in the framework of the OSCE Code of Conduct information exchange”.

4.3 OSCE Mission in Kosovo

In line with Article 8 of UNSCR 1325, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMiK) works to ensure women have access to services and rights and have adequate representation in the judicial and security services.

In the areas of judiciary and legal representation, OMiK supported the first survey of the level of access to justice and legal services to residents in Kosovo.² The survey results indicated that women and members of non-Albanian communities are particularly underserved when it comes to legal representation before the courts. The survey results also highlighted where and in what legal fields the demand for legal services is underserved. Gaps in legal services were noted mainly in the areas of employment, property disputes, education, healthcare, inheritance and government benefits.

In the field of the prevention of violence against women, OMiK is working to increase the capacity of institutions, civil society and service providers to effectively promote gender equality and to respond to gender-based violence. OMiK provides support to duty bearers to become more aware of their responsibilities in the process of identification, referral and assistance to survivors of domestic violence, as well as support to the applicable legal framework. As part of the prevention mechanism, OMiK is working to enhance public awareness of gender-based violence prevention and protection mechanisms and to improve engagement with men and youth in preventing domestic violence.

OMiK's activities for 2014 include the drafting and the distribution of the commentary to the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and organizing five training courses on the "Standard operating procedure for protection from domestic violence in Kosovo" for duty bearers. Furthermore, leaflets promoting the "Anti-trafficking and domestic violence help line" were printed and disseminated. OMiK organized the training of trainers to conduct 24 outreach workshops and one regional event on the prevention of violence against women for members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities from the rural areas of the Prishtinë/Priština region.

As part of its efforts to prevent gender-based violence and reach out to the younger generation, OMiK organized six trainings and an awareness-raising campaign on gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence and gender discrimination in high schools in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë.

With regards to equal access to public decision-making, OMiK, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Serbia has facilitated a series of high-level meetings between prominent women in Prishtinë/Pristina and Belgrade. The representatives comprise of female members of the assemblies, representatives of civil society, media and academia. In October 2014 these women met for the third time, in Zurich, Switzerland. The outcomes of the conference included an agreement to initiate a joint pilot leadership academy (summer school) for young women in 2015; the establishment of a blogging platform for both groups of prominent women; and the production of a documentary film on women in politics.

In the areas of public safety and security, OMiK, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, organized in 2014 a regional workshop on women in the security sector. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen the involvement, role and position of women in the public safety sector at the regional level. The event featured representatives of the interior ministries and police from the neighbouring countries who shared their experiences and challenges in this area, and vowed to enhance their future co-operation.

2 All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Council resolution 1244.

Representatives of the neighbouring countries agreed to establish a network for women in the security sector for continuous exchange of best practices.

4.4 OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Following the challenges brought about by the June 2012 events in Osh, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek significantly refocused many of its activities on reconciliation and conflict prevention. In this respect, acknowledging the role played by women during the violence with their reconciliation efforts, as well as after the violence, during the reconstruction phase, the course of action on gender activities underwent a thorough reformulation and culminated in the establishment of a model of women's empowerment at community level.

A network of women leaders was established under the name of Women Initiative Groups in 2011 in the south of Kyrgyzstan. The endeavour was conceived as a tool to support the implementation of the National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality 2012–2020 and the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 calling for a broader participation of women into post-conflict reconciliation and peace-building.

In addition, women are highly represented in the Peace Messengers/“Yntymak Jarchylary”, impartial individuals who monitor the situation on the ground in order to identify and prevent potential conflict and/or assist conflicting parties to find mutually acceptable solutions of the conflict they are engaged in.

Women constitute a significant and very important element of the Peace Messengers teams that have a strong focus on gender balance and gender mainstreaming through relevant activities. Focus on gender balances in the composition of Peace Messengers teams remains an important component of the project. Mediation trainings and cases will also to some degree focus on gender-based issues related to potential conflict that Peace Messengers may encounter in their communities.

The Community Security Initiative (CSI) and the Police Matters Programme (PMP) has also been actively promoting community engagement towards issues of gender-based violence through their work with local police, community leaders and institutions.

In October 2014, the department organized an international conference on “Women in Law Enforcement” which aimed at promoting the role of women in law enforcement highlighting their contribution to peace and security. More than 100 participants attended the event, including the former President of Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbaeva, the General Prosecutor, representatives of law enforcement agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic, Central Asia, Europe, United States of America, Georgia, Armenia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Conference participants adopted a declaration with recommendations to the Kyrgyz Government, the Ministry of Interior and other law enforcement agencies, as well as international organizations.

5. Co-operation with the ODIHR

Over the course of 2014, the ODIHR together with the OSCE Gender Section in Vienna and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) developed a set of guidance notes that seeks to integrate gender perspectives into the work of

institutions that exercise oversight of the security sector. The guidance notes for armed forces focuses on how internal oversight mechanisms, such as an office of an inspector general or human resources, can become more aware of the different needs of men and women and better identify and investigate gender-based grievances. The guidance notes were distributed to members of the Forum for Security Co-operation during the ongoing ODIHR Human Rights Discussion Series.

On 13 and 14 May 2014, the ODIHR, together with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, implemented a two-day training workshop for representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova in order to raise awareness about obligations arising from UNSCR 1325 and related international standards. The training focused on improving co-ordination among national bodies on reporting about Moldova's women, peace, and security efforts at the international level. The training also contributed to current discussions about developing a 1325 national action plan for the Republic of Moldova.

In 2014, the ODIHR also continued its Human Rights Discussion Series for the Forum for Security Co-operation. This series is meant to brief members of the FSC on the latest issues that have an impact on the rights of servicemen and servicewomen. On 17 July 2014, the ODIHR organized the third event in this series that focused on conditions of service and relevant human rights implications for military men and women, and their families, in peacetime, in operations, and after leaving service. Among a number of issues, speakers and participants discussed remuneration, entitlements and the advancement of women, gender-based violence in the armed forces, parental leave for both men and women as part of a comprehensive childcare benefits package, and employment opportunities for military spouses. Speakers came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the United States of America.

On 23 October 2014, the ODIHR organized the fourth event in the Human Rights Discussion Series that focused primarily on the freedoms of expression and association of men and women in uniform. In practice, this includes the ability of armed forces personnel to use social media outlets and join professional associations or trade unions. Discussions followed on the issue of gender-appropriate messaging in military job advertisement in the media and the role of female staff associations. Speakers came from Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Moldova, Serbia, and the United Kingdom.

6. Conclusions

The OSCE activities in facilitating the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security received support from a significant number of OSCE participating States. Throughout the year, the FSC provided a suitable forum to discuss issues on women, peace and security agenda and to exchange views and best practices in this field. Most participating States showed a growing interest in this topic, recognizing it as an important component to OSCE's approach to comprehensive security and expressed their readiness for exploring ways and means to make further progress in this field.

While the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the OSCE area is mostly related with issues falling under the purview of the first dimension, the ever broadening agenda and the cross-dimensional nature of women, peace and security issues were also reflected in the work

of second and third dimension of the OSCE. The deliberations at the Gender Equality Review Conference that took place on 10 and 11 July 2014 in Vienna clearly demonstrated this approach.

Women, peace and security has been attracting increasing attention in international fora and OSCE's and FSC's activities complement the efforts undertaken on the global scale. This also raises the visibility of the Organization in relation to these efforts and keeps the OSCE as a relevant partner on issues related to women, peace and security.

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
CONTACT GROUP WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS FOR
CO-OPERATION TO THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/3/14 of 2 December 2014)

The 2014 Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group assisted the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship in its activities to promote an open and interactive dialogue between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation following a demand-driven approach and responding to the interests and priorities of the Asian Partners.

During the course of the year, five meetings of the Asian Contact Group were held, as well as a joint meeting with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation all of which provided a good platform to further the OSCE's dialogue with the Asian Partners. For each meeting, the topic was selected jointly by the Chairmanship and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, featuring a speaker from a Partner's country. In addition to presentations by the Partner countries, each meeting saw a presentation by experts on topics pertinent to the Asian Contact Group.

The first meeting of the Asian Contact Group, held on 28 February, was dedicated to three topics of interest to the Asian Partners for Co-operation. It started with a presentation on "The Japanese Security Policy" delivered by Ambassador of Japan, Makoto Taketoshi. As one of the eight appointed co-ordinators of the informal Helsinki+40 process, Ambassador of Mongolia, Gunaajav Batjargal then presented the draft working plan of his activities in a capacity of the Helsinki+40 co-ordinator on the activities aimed at increasing interaction with Partners for Co-operation and with international and regional organizations. The third presentation was given by Ms. Maria Brandstetter, CSBM Officer at the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Support Section, on "The work of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and the Conflict Prevention Centre in the field of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs)".

The second meeting of the Contact Group took place on 4 April. During the meeting Ambassador of Afghanistan, H.E. Ayoob Erfani, made a presentation on the "Afghan Presidential and Provincial elections 2014". The ambassador provided an update on the elections, emphasizing that these elections constitute a historic moment for Afghanistan, as they marked the first-ever democratic transfer of power in the history of the country based on the 2004 Constitution. Presentations were also given by Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs (UNODC), on the "The illicit economy of drugs in Afghanistan: status and prospects", by Mr. Richard Lappin, Senior Election Adviser (ODIHR), on the "OSCE/ ODIHR's Election Support Team to Afghanistan and current developments", and by Mr. Dennis Cosgrove, Head of the OSCE Border Security and Management Unit, on "Border-related support by the OSCE in Central Asia".

The third meeting, on 23 May, focused on protection and empowerment of women and started off with a presentation delivered by Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, Ambassador of Thailand, on the "Thailand and the protection and empowerment of women. Ms. Nathalie Tagwerker, Deputy Head of the Democratization Department (ODIHR), continued with a presentation on "The ODIHR's engagement with the Partners for Co-operation with a focus on women empowerment" and Mr. Marko Letho,

Adviser on Gender Issues (OSCE Secretariat), gave a presentation on the “Current activities of the Gender Section and future plans”, outlining six priority areas that the Gender Section is currently focusing on with the participating States and that could further be extended to the Partners for Co-operation. The mentioned priority areas were equal opportunities, violence against women, legal frameworks, conflict prevention (UNSCR 1325), national mechanisms and political participation.

The 2014 OSCE-Japan Conference, aimed at “Sharing experiences and lessons learned between the OSCE and Asian Partners for Co-operation in order to create a safer, more interconnected and fairer world in the face of emerging challenges”, was held in Tokyo on 16 and 17 June. Co-organized by the OSCE and the Government of Japan, the Conference provided a good platform for exchanging views on all three security dimensions – the politico-military, the economic and environmental and the human dimensions, thus reflecting the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security. The participants had an extensive exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices and identified several areas where it would be desirable to deepen co-operation between the OSCE. Many thoughtful ideas were presented that could further be explored in interaction with the Asian Partners, namely in the areas related to confidence-building measures, addressing emerging challenges such as security of and the use of ICTs; the global security environment, including energy security and water management, and the role of women in creating a fairer world with a particular emphasis on women’s participation in public, political and economic life, protection of their rights. It was noted that the Conference took place at a time when the OSCE faces the biggest challenge in its history in view of the crisis in and around Ukraine.

The annual joint meeting of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups, held on 17 October, focused on “The role of women in building democracy” with presentations by two speakers. OSCE/ODIHR Gender Adviser, Ms. Ajla Van Heel spoke about the role of women in parliament and politics in the OSCE region and beyond. OSCE Adviser on Gender Issues, Ms. Ana Lukatela, presented two projects by the OSCE Gender Section; the first was about equality inclusion in mediation processes and the second about mentoring networks. The meeting provided the opportunity for an update on recent developments and the progress achieved by participating States and the Partners for Co-operation in promoting the active participation of women in domestic public affairs.

The fourth meeting, held on 7 November, focused on the growing phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters as a matter of concern for the OSCE region and beyond. The Ambassador of Australia, H.E. David Stuart, presented “Australia’s experience in addressing the foreign terrorist fighter issue”. His presentation was complemented by Mr. Thomas Wuchte, Head of the Action against Terrorism Unit (OSCE Secretariat) speaking about “Foreign terrorist fighters and OSCE counter-terrorism strategic priorities” and herewith explaining the anti-terrorism approach of the OSCE.

The fifth meeting, held on 25 November, focused on how the lessons learned from the European experience could help shape an Asian multilateral security co-operation. Mr. Sang-hwa Lee, Deputy Director General for Policy Planning of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Korea, presented on the “Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative”. Ms. Frances Mautner-Markhof, Director of the Austrian Center for International Studies in Vienna, presented on the “Application of OSCE experience to multilateral security co-operation in Northeast Asia”. The third presentation was held by Ambassador Fred Tanner, Senior Adviser to the OSCE Secretary General and Liaison for the

Swiss OSCE Chairmanship, about “Building on OSCE expertise and experience: ways forward for increased co-operation in Northeast Asia”.

An important task in advancing dialogue and interaction should remain the follow-up activities based on discussions which took place at the Asian Contact Group’s meetings and the OSCE Asian Conference.

The 2014 Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group expresses its sincere appreciation to all the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the participating States for their meaningful and dedicated engagement in promoting this partnership as a platform for open dialogue dedicated to a result-oriented co-operation and mutually enriching exchanges of experiences.

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
CONTACT GROUP WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR
CO-OPERATION TO THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/4/14 of 2 December 2014)

The 2014 Serbian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group worked together with Mediterranean Partners to foster an open and interactive dialogue within the Group and on following a demand-driven approach to responding to the interests and priorities of the Mediterranean Partners. Important steps have been taken by the chairmanship to strengthen the results-oriented co-operation between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners.

During the course of the year, six meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group were held, as well as a joint meeting with the Asian Partners for Co-operation. Each meeting focused on a topic proposed by one of the Mediterranean Partners. The Serbian chairmanship encouraged and supported contributions from the Partners' capitals. At each meeting the relevant experts from the OSCE structures were also present in order to foster a genuine dialogue.

During the first meeting of the Mediterranean Contact Group, held on 7 March, the discussion focused on the importance of strengthening the dialogue between the Mediterranean Partners and the participating States, in order to effectively deal with current threats and challenges in the Mediterranean region. The Serbian chairmanship presented the 2014 work plan, followed by the presentations of H.E. Dominic Schroeder (United Kingdom), H.E. Olga Algayerova (Slovakia), chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee, and H.E. Robert Kvile (Norway), chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee. The OSCE Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, presented recent developments from his recent visit to Cairo, stressed the significant contribution of Ambassador Batjargal of Mongolia to the Helsinki+40 process, noted the importance of Libya's application for partnership and introduced the new Mediterranean focal point "Mediterranean Track II" of the Secretariat.

The second meeting of the Mediterranean Contact Group, held on 28 March, featured presentations by Mr. Mohamed Chafik Sarsar, President of the High Independent Commission for Elections in Tunisia, and by Mr. Richard Lappin, Senior Election Adviser of the ODIHR. The meeting focused on the significance of Tunisia's new democratic constitution and the important role of ODIHR in elections observation, while pointing out the increasing involvement of the Partners for Co-operation within OSCE activities in all three dimensions, and the Helsinki+40 process.

The third meeting, on 16 May, focused on the Syrian refugee impact on Jordan with presentations by H.E. Mr. Nawaf Wasfi Tell, Ambassador-at-large and Special Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, and of Mr. Amin Awad, Director of the Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa, Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Syria Situation, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Mr. Awad spoke about the impact of refugees on the States neighbouring Syria and the role of the UNHCR in responding to the refugee influx.

At its fourth meeting on 27 June, the Mediterranean Contact Group focused on combating trafficking in human beings. Ms. Merav Shmueli, Israeli National Inter-ministerial Coordinator in the Campaign Against Trafficking in Human Beings, presented the achievements reached in Israel in this field and discussed the remaining challenges highlighting the importance of collaboration with international bodies, NGOs and civil society as well as the private sector in order to achieve results.

During the fifth meeting, held on 19 September, the Swiss Chairmanship presented the results of the “Regional workshop on kidnapping for ransom” that took place in Valletta, Malta, on 16 and 17 September 2014 and Dr. Emiliano Alessandri, Track II Programme Officer, of the “Helsinki+40: OSCE, the Global Mediterranean, and the Future of Co-operative Security” conference that took place in Rome on 18 September 2014.

The sixth meeting, held on 21 November, focused on the topics of migration and terrorism. It included presentations by H.E. Mr. Ali El Mhamdi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, on “Le Maroc et les questions migratoires”, and by Mr. Karim Haggag, Deputy Head of Political Planning and Crisis Department, MFA of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on “Combating Terrorism”. Both interventions cultivated a stimulating exchange on different means to address both issues and highlighted the need to tackle their root causes.

Beside these regular meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group, the Serbian chairmanship took the initiative of setting up informal Med Coffee Meetings, where lively discussions took place at the level of ambassadors and with the Secretary General’s attendance, on the Mediterranean Track II initiative, Cluster 8 of the Helsinki+40 process, Libya’s application to become a Partner to the OSCE, ISIL as a security threat, preparations for the 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference and updates by the Swiss Chairmanship, including the new format adopted for the Basel Ministerial Council, which was held on 4 and 5 December 2014.

The annual joint meeting of the Mediterranean and Asian Contact Groups, held on 17 October, was focused on “The role of women in building democracy” with presentations by two speakers: Ms. Ajla Van Heel, Gender Adviser (ODIHR), spoke about the role of women in parliament and politics; Ms. Ana Lukatela, adviser on Gender Issues (OSCE Secretariat), presented two projects by the OSCE Gender Section; the first was about equality inclusion in the mediation process and the second about mentoring networks. This meeting provided the opportunity for an update on recent developments and the progress achieved by participating States and Partners for Co-operation in promoting the active participation of women in domestic public affairs.

Consistent efforts were made by the Serbian chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group, directed at successful preparation of the annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference, which was held in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 27 and 28 October on: “Enhancing co-operation to curb proliferation of small arms and light weapons and counter-terrorism in the Mediterranean region”. The report of the Conference has been circulated on 1 December 2014 under SEC.GAL/194/14.

The 2014 Serbian chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group expresses its sincere gratitude to all the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation for their commitment and co-operation in the framework of the OSCE

Partnership as a platform for open dialogue and exchange of views, as well as in promotion of a results-oriented and demand-driven co-operation.

REPORT TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE OSCE IN 2014

(MC.GAL/5/14/Corr.1 of 3 December 2014)

Introduction

The Swiss Chairmanship attaches great importance to the legal framework of the OSCE as a necessary tool for the effective and efficient implementation of the various tasks the participating States entrust to the Organization. The participating States have tried) for many years to strengthen the legal framework of the OSCE in order to make the Organization more effective and more responsive to evolving needs. In 2007, a draft “Convention on international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE” (2007 Draft Convention) was agreed at expert level. While the general agreement on the contents of the 2007 Draft Convention has never been challenged, the Convention has not been adopted because of three footnotes, inserted by some participating States, predicated on the adoption of the draft on the conclusion of an OSCE Constituent Document. Since then it has become clear that for a number of participating States the adoption of the 2007 Draft Convention was linked to the issue of an OSCE Constituent Document, while the start of discussion on such an OSCE Constituent Document could not attain consensus.

Meanwhile, the adverse practical effects of the uncertainty of the legal status of the OSCE continue to negatively impact on its effectiveness and efficiency, damaging efforts to fulfil its mandates, leading to additional expenditures and legal risk.

The consequences of that lack of clarity became sharply manifest during the involvement of the OSCE in the events occurring in Ukraine. The Permanent Council saw the urgent need to respond quickly in the crisis unfolding there, and requested the Secretary General to deploy advance teams within 24 hours. By applying urgent efforts, the appropriate legal status, privileges and immunities to enable the successful implementation of the mandate and the protection of the OSCE officials deployed were concluded in record time. Nonetheless, a full ten weeks passed before the legal arrangements were in place and in force. Events which occurred in Ukraine made evident that the ambiguities surrounding the legal status of the OSCE lead to situations that can frustrate both the implementation of the mandate of the OSCE and the expectations of participating States for OSCE efforts to resolve crisis and conflict. As another example, a field operation in a different participating State is operating with no legal status for itself or its personnel and thus potentially exposed to legal risk.

In order to foster the necessary dialogue among participating States on these challenges and to search for a uniform and appropriate solution, the Chairperson-in-Office continued convening meetings of the open-ended Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE (IWG) in 2014 and extended the mandate of Ambassador John Bernhard as Special Adviser to the Chairmanship and as chairperson of the IWG.

Activities of the Informal Working Group

First meeting: April 2014

The first meeting of the IWG was held on 11 April 2014. A cross-section of Secretariat departments presented case studies serving as examples of current challenges due to the lack of clarity of the legal framework of the OSCE. This was followed by presentations on international law approaches to the legal status of international organizations from a comparative perspective. It was deemed valuable that an update on the operational consequences of the lack of a clear legal status should be a standing agenda item at future meetings of the IWG. The Special Advisor of the Chairmanship concluded that more work on various possible models for the OSCE's legal framework was called for and announced that the main theme of the next meeting of the IWG would be to revisit all proposals tabled to date.

Second meeting: July 2014

The second meeting of the IWG was held on 11 July 2014. The main object of that meeting was to systematically present and discuss the various options that had been submitted to date to strengthen the legal framework of the OSCE. Five options were circulated: (Option 1) adoption of the 2007 Draft Convention; (Option 2) "splitting up" the stages for the conclusion of the 2007 Draft Convention; (Option 3) adoption of an OSCE Constituent Document and the 2007 Draft Convention; (Option 4) the "Convention Plus" (incorporating the elements of an OSCE Constituent Document into the 2007 Draft Convention text; and (Option 5) an update of the 1993 Rome Decision on Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities of the CSCE. During the discussion an additional option was proposed, consisting of the implementation of commitments contained in the 1993 Rome Decision through signature and ratification of the 2007 Draft Convention by participating States interested in doing so (Option 6).

Following the discussions, the Chairmanship proposed to continue the consideration of all options. In respect of Option 5, it was considered that the Secretariat should strengthen the "OSCE Red Book" with additional text in the OSCE official languages drawn from the 1993 Rome Decision. This was proposed in order to support the usefulness of the document in resolving difficulties at borders, etc. as the "OSCE Red Book" is the only existing document which the OSCE can provide to its officials when on official mission.

In its presentation on the operational consequences of the lack of a clear legal status of the OSCE the Secretariat underscored the nearly universal character of functional privileges and immunities of international organizations. It informed the IWG that in the absence of any firmer arrangement to address operational needs, the Secretariat asserts the objective legal personality of the OSCE and functional privileges and immunities as a matter of custom, in particular when faced with the special exigencies of a legal framework for the OSCE in case of rapid deployment.

Third meeting: October 2014

The third meeting of the IWG was held on 15 October 2014. Discussion of the six options continued. The Chairmanship presented a draft non-paper containing the text of a rudimentary "Convention Plus/Statute" for Option 4, based on the text of the 2007 Draft

Convention and incorporating elements of a constituent character. It was recognized that more elements, e.g. about the role of the PA, would have to be considered. A non-paper was also circulated with respect to Option 6. A summary, together with the documents related to all six options are attached to the present report.

Consensus emerged that as there were many options on the table it would be advisable to reduce the number, setting aside some in order to focus on the options that seemed to offer more potential for reaching a compromise. Additional suggestions for future consideration by the IWG continue to be welcomed.

Other Relevant Developments

Swiss national measures

Taking into account the convening of several OSCE conferences in Switzerland during the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE, including the Basel Ministerial Council meeting, together with the necessity to provide appropriate conditions for the work of the OSCE in the country holding the Chairmanship, the Swiss Government regulated the status of the OSCE conferences to be held during 2014 in Switzerland and of their participants, extending to those conferences, their premises, delegations of OSCE participating States and other international organizations attending, and OSCE officials, certain provisions of the 2007 Swiss Law and Ordinance on the Host State, the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1969 United Nations Convention on Special Missions in respect of status, privileges and immunities.

Legislation survey

In order to inform the IWG discussions with current information on the legal status of the OSCE, the Swiss Chairmanship distributed a Survey of National Implementation Measures adopted by OSCE participating States in respect of OSCE Legal Capacity, Privileges and Immunities. Participating States were asked to respond to a few questions regarding their implementation of the 1993 Rome Decision and aspects provided for in the 2007 Draft Convention. Within the relatively short deadline a number of participating States replied. The issue was considered by the IWG at its October meeting and participants were encouraged to send their responses by the end of 2014. The incoming Chairmanship may wish to further extend the deadline to gain a greater sense of the general legal status of the OSCE in the OSCE region. An interim conclusion that can be drawn from the replies received so far reflects a lack of uniformity in application, despite the purpose of the 1993 Rome Decision to assist participating States in harmonizing the rules concerning the legal status of the executive structures and privileges and immunities.

Chairmanship Conference on Local Staff Income Tax

The Swiss Chairmanship also convened on 2 September 2014 a Conference on OSCE Local Staff Income Tax. This conference was part of the ACMF-related activities of the Chairmanship, however, as part of the proceedings touched upon issues that arise partly due to the lack of clarity of the legal status of the OSCE in some host States, a briefing was provided to the IWG of 15 October 2014.

Conclusion

The Swiss Chairmanship believes that the strengthening of the legal framework of the OSCE is a common goal shared by all participating States but divergences exist as to the way to achieve this goal. The IWG is a valuable forum for the discussion on the issue and it should continue its work. Currently, in particular, as a significant number of options have been tabled, the IWG should serve to explore which options may hold promise for achieving consensus on solutions, and proceed with further elaborating them with a view to pave the way to a concerted approach.

The commemoration of the 40 years since the signature of the Helsinki Final Act, the founding document of the OSCE, is well-timed for achieving progress on the issue of strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE. A clear legal status of the OSCE is critical for enabling the OSCE to perform effectively and efficiently the mandates assigned to it by its participating States, ensuring the centrality of its role in the European security architecture.

Attachments

1. Summary of the options pending in the IWG: Annotated agenda attached to CIO.GAL/173/14, 2 October 2014.
2. 2007 Draft Convention, CIO.GAL/48/07/Rev.6, 23 October 2007 (+ MC.DD/28/07, 29 November 2007).
3. Non-Paper: Proposal for further work on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE in 2013, CIO.GAL/118/13, 26 July 2013.
4. Draft Constituent Document, circulated by the Irish Chairmanship, CIO.GAL/68/12, 12 June 2012.
5. Chairmanship non-paper on a possible “Convention Plus or OSCE Statute”, attached to CIO.GAL/173/14, 2 October 2014.
6. 1993 Rome Decision on Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities, CSCE/4 C/Dec.2, 1 December 1993.
7. Non-paper on the Option 6, attached to CIO.GAL/173/14, 2 October 2014.