

Chairmanship: Belarus

1019th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 27 July 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 10.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. D. Dovgalev

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Current security situation in the OSCE area: United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/269/22 OSCE+), Canada, Russian Federation (Annex 1), Czech Republic-European Union (FSC.DEL/264/22), United States of America (Annex 2), Switzerland (Annex 3), Belgium (Annex 4)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcing and Reminding Mechanism pursuant to FSC Decision No. 10/02 (FSC.DEC/10/02)*: Chairperson (FSC.DEL/267/22 OSCE+)
- (b) *Update on the 2022 OSCE-UNODA Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme for young professionals*: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre (FSC.GAL/68/22)
- (c) *Matters of protocol*: Canada, United States of America
- (d) *Closing remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation*: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 7 September 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/1025

27 July 2022

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1019th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1025, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Please accept our warmest congratulations on the successful conclusion of the Belarusian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), which coincided with a crisis in the work of our autonomous decision-making body. At a time when the Western OSCE participating States are breaking the plank of politico-military dialogue over their knees, our Belarusian friends have performed their task worthily, continuing in a balanced manner the Forum's negotiating traditions, which are based on the consensus principle and respect for the interests of all participating States. This is the essence of diplomacy.

For three months, the Russian delegation has watched in astonishment as the West applies its primitive world view to the only remaining platform in Europe for discussing military security issues, undermining its normal functioning. It was not our initiative to freeze the work of the NATO-Russia Council almost a decade ago. What are you trying to achieve now?

We strongly disagree with the line taken here by the United States of America and its European subordinates – a neocolonial diktat, ultimatums and ostracism of countries pursuing an independent foreign policy. Things have reached the point where NATO and European Union member States decide for themselves whether or not to attend the Forum's plenary meetings, depending on whether the Chairmanship meets the short-term interests of the "Western masters". That is nonsense. We cannot even bring ourselves to call them the "Western OSCE participating States", as they have been relaying exclusively bloc-based approaches, while consigning to oblivion the collective principles of our Organization.

Stop dividing OSCE countries into "acceptable" ones and "undesirable" ones. Stop imposing your demands and change your lecturing tone. Your actions are at complete variance with the fundamental principle of the Charter of the United Nations on the sovereign equality of States. Or does that now also mean nothing to you?

The West refuses to admit that the reason for the special military operation in Ukraine has been the refusal over a period of many years to take into account the legitimate national

security interests of the Russian Federation. Our concerns have not been taken seriously. The NATO military machine was closing in on Russia's borders. As a consequence, we were forced to start defending our sovereignty and right to a secure future by other means. In this round of negotiations, the once Great Britain, Canada and the European Union were loudly accusing Russia, but under the leadership of the United States they had for eight years been preparing Ukraine for war with our country. Now, these "beacons of democracy" are doing everything they can to drag out the conflict and cause maximum damage to Russia and its people. They will not get away with this so easily. We guarantee that.

The ramping up of Western arms transfers to Kyiv may force the Russian Federation to switch to a tougher response. The tactical and technical characteristics of the weapons and military equipment supplied by the West are such that they pose a threat to our citizens. Under these conditions, we will move the neo-Nazis away from our borders in proportion to the range of the missile systems being used by the Ukrainian Government. And then we shall see.

The United States is pushing its European satellites to co-operate closely with the Ukrainian Government and aggravate relations with Russia, forcing them to train Ukrainian soldiers and use their territory as a transit zone for arms supplies. These actions could lead to an expansion of the zone of armed conflict. Colleagues, do not let your masters on the other side of the Atlantic make you relax your vigilance: if the Ukrainian armed forces use US-made multiple-launch rocket systems or other NATO long-range weapons against Russian territory, the consequences will be more than serious. We urge you to listen, Western States have for too long paid no heed to everything the Russian Federation has been trying to convey to them. Remember what I told you last December. Hear us!

There is no doubt that the objectives and tasks of the special military operation set by Russian President Vladimir Putin will be accomplished. Our country will help the Ukrainian people to get rid of the regime in Kyiv that is directed against the people and history, where political chancers are manipulating the issue of restoring Ukraine's statehood within its former borders with a view to siphoning off the flow of money allocated to the junta of Nazis and drug addicts by Western countries. We sincerely sympathize with all those who have succumbed to the State propaganda of the Ukrainian Government and its handlers. God and history will judge them.

A few words in connection with the failed attempts by Western delegations to defame Russian diplomats. Yes, we are representatives of the Kremlin and we are proud of this. Our activities draw on considerable support from the citizens of the Russian Federation. We use all the tools available to inform them about the work being done within the OSCE Forum and about what the US satellites here are saying about them. Our citizens will tell you much more about Russian-Ukrainian relations than a representative of the Canadian Government who relies in his statements on parroted clichés rather than a knowledge of history.

One way or another, the approaching winter and the success of the special military operation will put everything in its place. We pity Europe if it does not come to its senses.

In closing, let me once again express our deep appreciation to the Belarusian Chairmanship team for their professional approach to handling FSC affairs.

We thank the delegation of Azerbaijan, which is leaving the Troika, and we welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina as the incoming member of the FSC Troika.

We trust that the future Belgian Chairmanship, despite its close proximity to NATO and the European Union and its status as an unfriendly State towards Russia, will prove to be a fair arbiter.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1019th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1025, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the opening session on 4 May, the United States announced we would disengage from the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) while Belarus occupied the Chairmanship. Our principled stance was a direct consequence of the decision by Belarus to support Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. By allowing its territory to be used by Russia's invading forces and otherwise abetting that invasion, Belarus made itself complicit in this unprovoked attack in violation of international law and in contravention of the Helsinki Final Act. Its actions were also wholly inconsistent with the mandate of this Forum to ensure security co-operation by encouraging responsible and co-operative norms of behaviour on politico-military aspects of security. Under these circumstances, it is regrettable that Belarus insisted on remaining as Chairmanship.

It has been a long three months. While presiding over the FSC, Belarus continued to abet Russia's war: Allowing the use of Belarusian airspace for barrages of long-range fires against population centres in Ukraine and staging menacing accumulations of forces along its southern border with Ukraine, among other forms of support. And yet, when legitimate concerns are raised about its actions that subvert the letter and spirit of the Vienna Document, Belarus dismisses those concerns as "spurious pretexts."

The US decision to disengage from the FSC during the Belarusian Chairmanship was principled but difficult. Not in the least because we knew Russia would continue to abuse this Forum for propaganda purposes, as a hybrid tool, while it continued its brutal, kinetic aggression against Ukraine. And though the Kremlin's disinformation narratives have zero credibility with anyone in this chamber, or the broader public, they could not go unanswered. We are grateful to the handful of delegations who remained, week after week, in the FSC for the sole purpose of refuting every lie, every false denial and deflection and every manipulation of the truth about Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine and Ukrainian nationhood.

The truth is that there is no way to defend the indefensible, no way to justify the unjustifiable. The victim, Ukraine, is not the aggressor, the aggressor, Russia, is not a liberator, and might cannot make right, although Russian forces have not been so mighty, as our UK colleague reminds us. The delusions of a Russkiy Mir cannot supplant the validity of Ukraine as a sovereign State, entitled as is every sovereign State under the UN Charter to legitimate self-defence. NATO is not engaged in a proxy war and the "collective West" is not

fighting Russia to the last Ukrainian. This is a war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine. A war unparalleled since the “Great Patriotic War” but this war is neither “patriotic” nor “great” for Russia and will not be remembered as such. It will only be remembered as the most blatant act of aggression since the Second World War.

Russia’s aggression has taken a devastating human toll in Ukraine and beyond Ukraine, its effects have had a global impact on food and energy supplies. Over the course of five months of war, we have borne witness to an unspeakable catalogue of atrocities committed against the Ukrainian people, the destruction of their cities, homes, schools, hospitals and shopping malls, attacks on civilian objects with artillery barrages and missile strikes at great cost in human lives and suffering. Be assured that the mounting evidence of Russia’s wholesale violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights, as well as its contraventions of OSCE documents including the politico-military Code of Conduct, are being documented, by this Organization in Moscow Mechanism reports, and by ongoing International Criminal Court and UN investigations, and national accountability mechanisms.

For our part, we will continue to stand with Ukraine for however long it takes. We will provide the military support it needs to counter Russia’s aggression, 7.6 billion US dollars thus far since Russia launched its assault on Ukraine. We will also continue to ensure the economic and humanitarian assistance needed to sustain the Ukrainian people. Those heroic people have every right to self-defence and Moscow has no right to demand their capitulation.

As we close out this FSC session amid these dark times, Russia needs to pause and reassess, and to recognize that this war is a strategic failure, which will bring severe and longstanding consequences on itself. Moscow can stop this war. Russia can choose to de-escalate on the ground; can choose to refrain from irresponsible weapons of mass destruction sabre-rattling and disinformation narratives, can choose to return to responsible international behaviour, where nations may disagree but do not seek to undermine their neighbour’s sovereignty and sovereign choices.

The era of co-operative security was premised on adherence to the principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, principles that underpinned our arms control confidence- and security-building measures and the European security architecture as a whole. Russia has upended the European security order and demonstrated a complete disregard for those foundational principles.

We look to our incoming Chairmanship, Belgium, to help us find a constructive way ahead, which must include upholding the commitments we have made. You have our full support at this challenging time for the FSC. We also welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Troika.

On a personal note, as this will be my last FSC, I am saddened to leave our Forum in such a state. In my three years here, I have seen high points, the US Chairmanship last year among them, and low, most markedly in the early dawn of 24 February and the five months since Russia’s brutal invasion. I am honoured to have worked with so many diplomats and military officers who remain committed to the foundational principles of this Organization. If

only this commitment were shared by all. I leave you now with a fervent wish for a better future.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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FSC.JOUR/1025

27 July 2022

Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1019th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1025, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

As we all have witnessed since 24 February 2022, the European security architecture has been severely contested and damaged. It is to be hoped that this damage is not irreversible. Decades of efforts within the OSCE and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to build confidence and security among participating States have proved insufficient and have sadly been lost. Through its escalation of the military aggression against Ukraine, which we condemn in the strongest terms, Russia has abandoned our common commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the OSCE region. Switzerland urges Russia to cease all hostilities and to withdraw its troops without delay from Ukrainian territory. We repeat our urgent call for both international humanitarian law and international human rights law to be strictly respected. We also condemn the involvement of Belarus in Russia's military aggression. Let us be clear, nothing – I repeat, nothing – can justify this war and the overall loss of human lives it is causing.

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland continues to attach high importance to the role of the OSCE as the largest regional security organization in the world and to the FSC as one of its two permanent decision-making bodies. We therefore value and call for the continuity of our discussions within the Forum. Switzerland considers the FSC to be an important venue for dialogue, where we should all be able to express diverging opinions in an open, transparent and constructive manner. The Forum was, is, and should remain an important contributor to “[the] strengthen[ing] [of] security and stability through the negotiation of concrete measures aimed at keeping or achieving the levels of armed forces to a minimum commensurate with common or individual legitimate security needs within Europe and beyond”, as stated in the decision establishing the FSC laid down in Chapter V of the Helsinki Summit Declaration of 10 July 1992. Even if the current situation may raise serious doubts as to whether co-operation and mutual trust among all participating States will be restored in the near future, we should be united in our common goal of striving for peaceful and respectful coexistence for ourselves and the next generations. We should all ensure that our Organization is able to be a relevant actor in conflict resolution and in post-conflict rehabilitation, as it was originally designed for and by us, the OSCE participating States.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today is the last meeting of the FSC under the Belarusian Chairmanship before the “summer pause”. The Swiss delegation would like to thank Ambassador Dapkiunas and his very able team, especially Counsellor Denis Dovgalev and Colonel Pavel Khatsianouski, for chairing the FSC meetings in a reduced format during the past few months in view of the complex and sensitive context. We recognize and commend your personal efforts in having exercised the Chairmanship of the Forum in a very appropriate, impartial and professional manner. Since Ambassador Dapkiunas is absent today, please convey this message to him.

Mr. Chairperson,

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Azerbaijan as it leaves the FSC Troika. Looking further ahead, we welcome Belgium as the incoming holder of the FSC Chairmanship and assure our Belgian colleagues of our strong support. Although the evolution of the situation may be unpredictable and volatile, the FSC will continue to convene regularly. We are convinced that Ambassador Nagant de Deuxchaisnes and his competent and committed team will strike the right note and undertake all necessary efforts to ensure a balanced and adequate Chairmanship for the benefit of all participating States.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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FSC.JOUR/1025
27 July 2022
Annex 4

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1019th Plenary Meeting
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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELGIUM

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Belgium fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. However, please allow me to add some remarks both in my national capacity and in my capacity as incoming Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

Let me start by thanking those who have expressed their support for our upcoming FSC Chairmanship.

Five months ago, Russia, enabled thereto by Belarus, launched an unjustified and unprovoked war against Ukraine, violating its obligations under international law as well as the joint OSCE commitments. Today, the people of Ukraine continue to suffer while defending their territorial integrity, as Russia continues to trample upon its engagements and the basics of multilateralism.

At the opening of the Belarusian FSC Chairmanship, we took note of the intention of the Chairmanship to keep their presidency technical and expressed our hope they would do so with respect for our common principles. Today we can confirm that the Belarusian Chairmanship has indeed been technical. However, it is regrettable that during this period Belarus not only continued to enable the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, but that there are indications that they have even intensified their support hence further violating the principles of the international community, our own Organization, as well as this Forum.

Three months ago, Belgium was welcomed as the incoming member of the FSC Troika. Today, we have the pleasure in turn of warmly welcoming Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Troika. We look forward to a close co-operation.

To conclude, Mr. Chairperson, Belgium has repeatedly expressed its conviction that the FSC and politico-military dialogue have an added value but that the correct use of this Forum is a precondition. Today, we unfortunately are still in a situation where business as usual remains impossible since the situation on the ground continues to heavily impact the work of, and discussions at, the FSC. Therefore, Belgium as the incoming holder of the FSC Chairmanship will have to reflect this deplorable current state of affairs in its work programme for the third trimester of the year. We remain in close contact with participating

States, the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretariat as we fine-tune our agenda, which we will distribute as soon as it is finalized.

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