



FSC.DEL/122/11
6 July 2011

United States Mission to the OSCE
July 6, 2011

Original: ENGLISH

Statement to the 649th Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation
Regarding the Code of Conduct

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States warmly welcomes our speakers today and thanks them for contributing their thoughts and observations regarding implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

For the United States, this is an essential instrument in our political-military toolbox, in that it holds all of us accountable to agreed norms and standards of behavior vital to the evolution of our modern militaries and their ability to adapt positively to democratic development.

There is no such thing as a perfect democracy because democracy is a process and not an end-point. Although it is understandable -- but not acceptable -- that the nature of any institution is to resist change, at the nexus between the immovable object and the irresistible force of time's passage stand real people. As government officials it is incumbent upon us to create the conditions by which our institutions can adapt to their citizens who themselves continue to change, diversify, and realize their full potential as human beings.

The Code of Conduct gives us clear guidelines on how to evolve our political-military institutions together with the evolution of our citizens.

This is why the United States takes seriously the mandate from Athens to strengthen and improve the implementation of the Code because it not only builds confidence and security among, but also within, the participating States of the OSCE. While the commitment to this higher standard of behavior yields direct benefit to the States Parties and citizens therein, it also reflects positively

on the collective body as a whole, demonstrating the capacity of an international security organization to raise its norms and standards to a higher level.

Our adoption of the Code is a commitment to apply internationally agreed principles of democracy and the rule of law to national security policies and doctrines as a fundamental and existential exercise in strengthening our military transparency and security in Europe.

The provisions of the Code are increasingly relevant as many of us are in the processes of reorganizing militaries, modernizing doctrines, and adapting to the new European security challenges of the 21st Century.

Our speakers today, through their experiences and contributions, underscored this point at the operational level. Without diminishing the essential political-military instruments at our disposal, including conventional arms control, Vienna Document, Open Skies and the immensely valuable project work on small arms/light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, the Code of Conduct also should be understood as a vital piece of the DNA for a modern European security architecture.

Mr. /Madame Chairperson,

The Code's principles, such as "sovereign equality" and "territorial integrity," are derived from foundational documents that continue to guide our work today.

We believe the Code has much more to contribute to discussions on modernizing and improving the way we evolve our conventional arms control for the 21st century. Therefore, we believe we need to take a better look at how it contributes to and how it can improve our overall efforts here at the FSC.

Thank you.