
Chairmanship: Portugal**832nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 12 October 2016

Opened: 10 a.m.

Suspended: 12.55 p.m.

Resumed: 3.05 p.m.

Closed: 3.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. da Graça Mira Gomes
Mr. D. Girão de Sousa

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson offered condolences to Turkey in connection with the car bomb attack that took place in south-eastern Turkey on 9 October 2016.

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: “WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES – INCREASING THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING AND OPERATIONS”

– *Colonel B. Kassymova, Associate Professor of Military and State Governance, General Staff Department, National Defense University, Kazakhstan*

– *Lieutenant Colonel D. Azevedo, Military Advisor to the President of the Portuguese Republic*

– *Ambassador M. Marinaki, EU/EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*

Chairperson, Colonel. B. Kassymova, Lieutenant Colonel D. Azevedo, Ambassador M. Marinaki, Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Austria (also on behalf of Finland, Kazakhstan and Turkey) (Annex 1), Norway, Ukraine (FSC.DEL/201/16), Spain, Romania, Croatia (Annex 2), United Kingdom (Annex 3), Canada, United States of America, Armenia,

Slovenia, Russian Federation, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to
UNSCR 1325 (Italy)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/202/16), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/198/16), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 4), France (Annex 5)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Large-scale military exercise conducted by the Russian Federation in the Pskov, Ivanovo, Kostroma and Yaroslavl regions from 3 to 10 October 2016:* Latvia, United States of America
- (b) *Visit to an air base and military facility in Serbia conducted from 27 to 30 September 2016:* Serbia
- (c) *Visit to an air base and military training facilities in Croatia conducted from 3 to 6 October 2016:* Croatia
- (d) *Food-for-thought paper on options for follow-up to the OSCE High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar (FSC.DEL/197/16 Restr.):* Netherlands, Chairperson, Austria (Annex 6), Belgium

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 19 October 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/838
12 October 2016
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

832nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 838, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF FINLAND, KAZAKHSTAN AND TURKEY)**

Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of Austria, Finland, Kazakhstan and Turkey I want to thank the Portuguese Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for putting this important topic on today's agenda. I would also like to thank the speakers for their interesting contributions and the Conflict Prevention Centre for sharing with us the findings of the report on women's participation in the Vienna Document 2011 verification activities.

Let me stress that the inclusion of women in armed forces and operations is an issue of women's rights and gender equality and also a matter of operational effectiveness and missions' ability to implement their mandates. Experience and recent findings of the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the UN Global Study on UNSCR 1325 have shown that women's participation in armed forces and operations ensures better contact with the local population, enhances situational awareness, intelligence-gathering and early-warning capabilities, and allows to better account for the needs of a diverse population. These are just some examples of the positive impact women's participation in armed forces and operations has.

Despite existing efforts by the international community, 16 years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325 women continue to be severely under-represented in armed forces, operations and peace- and security-related activities at large. Recognizing this implementation gap in the women, peace and security agenda, we call for increased efforts to ensure that our political commitments are translated into concrete and meaningful action and impact on the ground. We need to step up our efforts in raising the number of women within the armed forces and operations at all levels, and call on political and military leaders to appoint more women, in particular to relevant decision-making and leadership positions. Moreover, we need to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into all phases of operational planning, including situation analysis, mission design, mission implementation, and the very last phase of mission withdrawal. To that end we also encourage gender advisers to be placed strategically high within operations' and organizations' hierarchies, and thus closer to information and decision-making.

While States have the primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, regional organizations such as the OSCE also have a key

role to play. In relation to this we wish to recall the OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security co-sponsored by Austria, Finland, Kazakhstan and Turkey. The main objective of this action plan is to strengthen already existing commitments on the women, peace and security agenda and to provide a platform for participating States to share best practices and lessons learned. We hope that the continued support of the vast majority of participating States for an OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security will lead to its adoption in the very near future.

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



832nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 838, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CROATIA

Madam Chairperson,

I thank you for convening this meeting with its especially important subject. The field is one in which my country is very active and has made huge strides since its adoption of the milestone UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security.

I will speak both in my national capacity and also as the representative of the host country of an important regional security organization, namely, the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation.

Croatia has in place a full national legal and policy framework to facilitate the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.

In order to implement the legal framework, the Ministry of Defence has adopted the Action Plan for the Promotion and Establishment of Gender Equality in the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces, and the Gender Awareness Policy for the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces.

Similarly, the Ministry of Defence has appointed a Co-ordinator for Gender Equality and two committees have been established for military personnel on active service. Furthermore, the Ministry of Defence has increased the number of lectures on human rights with a special emphasis on gender-related subjects such as violence against women and UNSCR 1325.

This educational, awareness-raising approach has been employed at all levels of military education and training, with the aim of integrating the gender perspective into all core military functions as a routine matter in evaluation, planning and executive processes at all levels.

The principle of equal opportunity is one of the basic tenets underpinning the Armed Forces Service Act, which regulates important professional development and personnel management functions in the Armed Forces.

In this connection, I would like to point out that last year saw the Croatian Armed Forces' first promotion of a woman to the rank of General. It is worth noting that the woman

in question previously served as gender policy advisor at the headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul.

As RACVIAC's host country, Croatia is involved in supporting the Centre's programme activities in the Security Sector Reform for South Eastern Europe, within which we have a special interest in the integration of gender perspective and the implementation of UNSCR 1325. In order to further these goals we support two standing activities: the holding of the Annual Conference on Gender Perspectives and Security in South-East Europe and the annual "Gender Training of the Trainers Course".

Through the Conference, the Croatian Ministry of Defence has since 2012 continually supported and maintained a network of national focal points on gender in South-East Europe.

The Gender Training of the Trainers Course is mounted in collaboration with the General Staff of the Croatian Armed Forces and the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations. The curriculum is based on the Nordic Centre's template, which is certified by NATO. The ten-day course prepares instructors and trainers to plan and conduct pre-deployment training and education on gender perspectives in military operations for troops, units and personnel.

To conclude, let me once again emphasize that through its involvement with RACVIAC the Republic of Croatia remains committed to greater promotion of gender equality and to the integration of the gender perspective into the security sector of South-East Europe, thus constantly contributing to the stability of the region as a whole.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/838
12 October 2016
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

832nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 838, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Firstly, let me thank the Portuguese FSC Chairmanship for organizing a Security Dialogue on this issue, which is at the heart of the women, peace and security agenda, and this morning's speakers for their very interesting presentations. I wish to provide a couple of updates on developments in the United Kingdom.

The UK Ministry of Defence is committed to recruiting and retaining the best possible people for our armed forces, regardless of background, gender, ethnicity, working pattern, caring responsibilities or sexual orientation. This is not only morally the right thing to do but is fundamental to the operational effectiveness of our defence forces, as it helps to ensure we are accessing as wide a talent pool as possible. In July, the UK Government announced the lifting of the ban on women serving in ground close combat roles. From November 2016 women will be able to join the Royal Armoured Corps, both Regular and Reserve. The remaining ground close combat roles will open to women in late 2018, once additional health mitigation provisions are in place. These developments increase the opportunities for women to serve in the full range of roles, and complement the UK strategy to increase the proportion of women serving in the armed forces.

Women, Peace and Security and particularly the participation of women in national forces and on peace operations were key themes at the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial hosted by the Ministry of Defence in London last month. More than 60 countries signed the resulting London Communiqué, which recognized the indispensable role of women in UN peacekeeping and in conflict resolution as a whole. The Communiqué called for the UN and its member States to do more to increase the participation of women, particularly in leadership positions, and included six ambitious commitments. The implementation of these commitments will have a significant impact on the progress of this agenda both nationally and internationally. An action plan for implementing commitments made by the United Kingdom is already in place.

The Ministry of Defence is one of three government departments with commitments in the UK's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Increasing the number of women serving in the Armed Forces is crucial to improving operational effectiveness. General Gordon Messenger, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, has taken on the role of Gender

Champion and is driving this cultural change forward in the Armed Forces. As part of that commitment we are actively increasing the number of Gender Adviser-trained peacekeepers across our deployments. Doctrine is being updated and issues pertaining to women, peace and security and preventing sexual violence have been incorporated into all pre-deployment training.

The United Kingdom strongly encourages our international partners to develop and implement their own National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325, with the participation of women in armed forces as an important area of focus. We are also interested in learning from the experiences of others. Speaking at the FSC in July, the Right Honourable Baroness Anelay, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, called for women, peace and security issues to feature prominently throughout OSCE programming and decision-making. Interest in this issue in the OSCE context was demonstrated by broad participation in the side event on women, peace and security that took place during last month's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and was co-hosted by Spain and the United Kingdom, with broad co-sponsorship. The OSCE offers a unique platform for exchanging best practice and helping to promote implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in our region, and we look forward to further practical and constructive engagement on this issue.



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

FSC.JOUR/838
12 October 2016
Annex 4

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

832nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 838, Agenda item 2

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

Dear Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the reference to Crimea in the statements by a number of delegations today, the delegation of the Russian Federation feels obliged to make the following observations.

The proclamation of independence of the Republic of Crimea and its incorporation into the Russian Federation was a legal expression of the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination at a time when Ukraine, with outside support, was in the throes of a *coup d'état*, with radical nationalist elements exerting a forceful influence on the decisions adopted in the country, which in turn resulted in the interests of the Ukrainian regions and Russian-speaking population being ignored.

The multi-ethnic population of Crimea took the corresponding decisions by a huge majority in a free and fair expression of its will. The status of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as constituent entities of the Russian Federation is not open to reconsideration or discussion. Crimea is and will remain Russian. This is a fact that our partners will have to come to terms with.

This position is based on and fully complies with international law.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/838
12 October 2016
Annex 5

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

832nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 838, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE

Madam Chairperson,

My distinguished Russian colleague mentioned the words of the President of the Republic. These words were taken out of context.

For the information of everybody, I should like, if you would allow, Madam Chairperson, to read two paragraphs from the statement by Mr. Hollande at the Council of Europe on 11 October. These two paragraphs concern the situation in Ukraine.

I quote:

“Members of the Parliament, the values of the Council of Europe inform France’s diplomatic activity at the very frontiers of the Union and our continent. In Ukraine, the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia and the destabilization of the east of Ukraine have first of all produced many victims and then thousands of displaced persons. Together with Chancellor Merkel, I have personally undertaken within the framework of the Normandy format to seek a diplomatic solution. This is referred to as the Minsk agreements.

“Put simply, progress is too slow, and we must make headway on the political and security conditions that will enable elections to be held in the east of Ukraine as soon as possible, as provided for in the Minsk agreements, in accordance with Ukrainian law and in line with international criteria. With Chancellor Merkel, I am ready at any time to reconvene the Normandy format with President Putin and President Poroshenko to ensure full implementation of the Minsk agreements. Ukraine itself must play its part in the planned reforms, and I know that the Council of Europe can perform a useful role in helping it to do so.”

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



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

FSC.JOUR/838
12 October 2016
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

832nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 838, Agenda item 3(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA

Madam Chairperson,

Austria would like to thank the delegation of the Netherlands for its efforts, and very much welcomes the food-for-thought paper on options for follow-up to this year's High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar (FSC.DEL/197/16, 7 October 2016).

The HLMDS was in our view a successful undertaking. Topics such as the security situation in the OSCE area and newly emerging challenges were discussed in an open and lively manner. Delegations shared a variety of assessments related to current conflicts. The Seminar furthermore provided delegations with the opportunity to discuss the impact on armed forces, security and defence policies and to compare changes in national military doctrines.

As highlighted by the Austrian Chief of Defence at the opening of the Seminar, openness and transparency are fundamental elements of confidence-building. Especially in the present dynamic security environment, the Vienna Document and its CSBMs make a special contribution to achieving this goal. There is thus good reason to recommend and welcome dialogues that are more frequent on strategies and doctrines as well as mil-to-mil contacts as prescribed in the Vienna Document.

We share the assessment of the Netherlands that there is a need to continue the dialogue on military doctrines in a more regular fashion. We would therefore like to express our support for this food-for-thought paper. We see merit and added value in pursuing all three options outlined.

As the incoming holder of the Chairmanship-in-Office, Austria encourages and supports the FSC Chairpersons in the organizing and holding of events on military doctrines next year and beyond 2017.