

Chairmanship: Armenia

972nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 21 April 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 11.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Papikyan

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the technical modalities for the conduct of FSC meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in FSC.GAL/31/21 OSCE+.

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ARA AIVAZIAN,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA

Chairperson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia (Annex 1), Sweden (Annex 2), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, San Marino, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/118/21/Rev.1), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/117/21 OSCE+), Turkey (Annex 3), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/113/21 OSCE+), Canada, United States of America (FSC.DEL/122/21 OSCE+), Norway, Belarus (FSC.DEL/112/21 OSCE+), Georgia (FSC.DEL/123/21 OSCE+), Ukraine (FSC.DEL/121/21), Russian Federation (Annex 4), Azerbaijan (Annex 5)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Modalities for the 2021 Global Exchange of Military Information and Automated Data Workshop, as outlined in FSC.GAL/20/21 Restr.:* Chairperson
- (b) *Distribution of a draft agenda and information on how to register for the meeting of the Informal Group of Friends of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 to be held on 27 April 2021 (FSC.GAL/32/21 Restr.):*
FSC Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues (Belarus)
- (c) *Statement by the delegation of Azerbaijan on the request for assistance in enhancing the capacity of Azerbaijan's national authorities for reducing and responding to explosive hazards:* Azerbaijan (Annex 6)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 28 April 2021, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/978

21 April 2021

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

972nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 978, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today I am delighted to launch the Armenian Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

Let me start by thanking Germany as it leaves the FSC Troika, congratulating former US FSC Chairmanship for successful leadership of the Forum in the last trimester, and welcoming Austria as the new member of the Troika.

Armenia is taking over the Chairmanship of the Forum for the second time after 17 years. Back then the FSC's preventive measures aimed at reducing the risk of armed conflicts and the threat of such conflicts set the tone of our Chairmanship's agenda.

Today, Armenia assumes the Chairmanship of the Forum when security, peace, and stability in the OSCE area are being challenged like never before due to several factors.

Firstly, the security map of Europe had always covered wider geography than Europe itself and this logic is embedded in the OSCE extending from Vancouver to Vladivostok. After 46 years of establishing the geography of European security, we have to acknowledge that its current map does not entirely reflect the realities. New threats to European security have emerged particularly from the south Mediterranean and Middle East regions. These threats, especially the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, have been on the radar of our Organization since 2014. However, too little was done to create effective capacities to counter these security risks. As a result, in 2020 we had the first case of the massive use of foreign terrorist fighters from Syria and Libya in the OSCE area amid complete inaction of our Organization.

An inability to sustain the indivisibility of European security has been reflected in its mapping as well. The OSCE area seems to be fragmented into the core and periphery of European security. This phenomenon is well observed in the disproportional attention towards different conflict and crisis situations in the OSCE area.

Secondly, OSCE mechanisms designed to strengthen security have been questioned due to the growing disagreements on essential arms control regimes and confidence- and security-building measures. And here I am primarily referring to those who formally remain in those regimes and have undermined their credibility by systematically, intentionally and massively violating them for many years. As a result, the integrity of the arms control regime has been seriously damaged which allowed certain participating States to create capacities for war.

Thirdly, the global decline and erosion of multilateralism, which did not bypass the OSCE, is reflected here by clear shortcomings in utilizing the early warning and conflict prevention toolbox.

Last but not least, the very idea of security and co-operation in Europe whether within Conference or Organization has been the inadmissibility of war and the use of force.

The Helsinki Final Act revealed the determination of the participating States to co-operate and engage in an inclusive dialogue with the aim of reducing the risks of war, *inter alia* by seeking mutually agreed ways to resolve the disputes peacefully even in the event of failure to reach a solution.

It was 46 years ago. Last year the massive use of force by Azerbaijan with the direct involvement of Turkey and its supported foreign terrorist fighters took 44 days and led to thousands of casualties, war crimes and ethnic cleansing, tens of thousands displaced in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijan has not been merely justifying the use of force but claiming that through the force it resolved the conflict and created new realities on the ground. Moreover, Azerbaijan currently threatens to resort to force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia. Realities created by the use of force cannot be legitimate as they generate an environment conducive to war in each and every conflict and crisis situation.

The mere fact that the use of force occurred within a conflict addressed by the OSCE clearly indicates that the Organization has not been able to defend its key values, principles and commitments. Thus, the relevance of the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region has been questioned.

Apparently, our Organization today does not meet the requirements set up by the Helsinki Final Act. It failed to prevent, undertake early actions or respond to conflicts particularly through the work of the executive structures. Successful conflict-related missions are the exception rather than the rule and we risk turning the OSCE into a single conflict-related arrangement.

In a situation when a large portion of the OSCE commitments, particularly those related to the politico-military dimension, is not implemented, we need to reassess the role of the executive structures initially designed for assisting participating States to implement those commitments.

Genuine dialogue among participating States on the implementation of the OSCE commitments should be our first priority. In our view, we need to be driven by the spirit of dialogue which prevailed in Helsinki and led to the establishment of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The current security environment in the OSCE area requires joint efforts, commitment, and the political will to uphold the OSCE concept of comprehensive, indivisible and co-operative security. The programme of the Armenian Chairmanship derives from the urgent need to protect the OSCE principles and commitments to prevent further erosion of the OSCE security environment. Armenia is committed to leading these efforts during the second trimester of the FSC Chairmanship under the motto of “Rebuilding trust and confidence through implementation of the politico-military commitments”.

Dear colleagues,

The Armenian Chairmanship will launch a Security Dialogue on compliance with international humanitarian law which will provide an opportunity for the participating States to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of international humanitarian law as embodied in the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

We believe that the OSCE as the largest regional security organization should be resolute in protecting its principles and combating terrorism, particularly the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. It requires consolidated and comprehensive efforts and a cross-dimensional approach given the nature of the threat. The role of the OSCE in combating terrorism in all its forms and implementation of the existing commitments will be the focus of a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council.

Arms control and disarmament issues have always been in the centre of the OSCE’s activities as they are key in ensuring security and stability. Since the early 1990s, the OSCE has gone beyond a modest set of confidence-building measures introduced by the Helsinki Final Act and developed the conventional arms control regime in Europe which is considered as the cornerstone of European security. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Treaty on Open Skies, and other confidence- and norm-setting measures have for years proved their effectiveness in enhancing military transparency and predictability. Yet it is unequivocally clear that today we are experiencing a crisis in this field as many participating States believe that those regimes no longer serve their interests.

Thus, we need to stand back and assess the very foundation of the comprehensive and co-operative security upon which all arms control regimes were hinged. Without clear commitments of all participating States to the non-use of force and collective efforts to prevent the use of force everywhere in the OSCE area, the efficiency of legally and politically binding mechanisms will be elusive.

With this in mind, the Armenian FSC Chairmanship will initiate a number of Security Dialogues dedicated to arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, new generation warfare, military exercises, small arms and light weapons, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, enabling the participating States to engage in dialogue on the future of these measures and their role and relevance in enhancing European security.

The evolving security threats require co-ordination of efforts and co-operation among relevant organizations. The similar activity areas of the OSCE and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) establish a solid foundation for interaction between the two organizations. The Security Dialogue of the Armenian Chairmanship on regional security arrangements will be aimed at discussing the role of the CSTO in enhancing regional security and addressing contemporary security challenges and threats, and the perspectives of strengthening co-operation between the OSCE and the CSTO towards a common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

Distinguished colleagues,

Peace is not sustainable without the protection and promotion of human rights, including the human rights of women. Women, peace and security is among our priorities and will remain high on the agenda of the Armenian FSC Chairmanship. Armenia firmly believes that women have a key role to play in all stages of conflict cycle and peace is more sustainable with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women.

In conclusion, let me commend the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for its leadership and dedication. Armenia will continue to co-operate with the OSCE Chairmanship as well as the members of the Troika and stands ready to work with all the participating States that are willing to support our efforts in renewing respect for shared principles and commitments.

Thank you and please attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.



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

FSC.JOUR/978

21 April 2021

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

972nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 978, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Your Excellency, dear Minister Aivazian,
Dear colleagues,

It is an honour for Sweden as OSCE Chairmanship to attend this first Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) under the Armenian Chairmanship. I would like to use this opportunity to warmly welcome you, Your Excellency, and your team to the new position.

I also thank you for outlining your programme and priorities for the months ahead. You have presented an agenda for your Chairmanship with a variety of important topics. As we see it, these are very useful, highly valid and will bring important impetus for the OSCE work in a broader context.

We are now about one third through the one-year-long Swedish Chairmanship of the OSCE. The work of the Forum for Security Co-operation is one of the pillars on which a Swedish Chairmanship, along with its priorities, rests. We have experienced excellent support and co-operation with the United States chairing the FSC and are looking forward to continuing on the paved road with first Armenia and later Austria, to facilitate an efficient continuity among the chairmanships. A close and open dialogue is a prerequisite for fostering confidence and transparency, which is central at a time when the OSCE and the FSC are facing many challenges.

As Chairmanship of the OSCE, we especially appreciate your plans to hold Security Dialogues on arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. These themes are all fully in line with the priorities of the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship.

We are also looking forward to our joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on 14 July on the OSCE's role and commitments to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms: trends and challenges, a topic that carries many challenging aspects.

During your Chairmanship, provided that we can reach a consensus on the dates, we also foresee the Annual Security Review Conference and the Annual Discussion on the

Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Both two very important OSCE events.

Already last Wednesday, Sweden and Armenia started our common efforts, with the joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the FSC, a meeting convened under the Vienna Document, a key confidence-building, conflict prevention and military risk-reducing tool we as OSCE participating States have at our disposal. There can be no doubt that the use of the Vienna Document needs to be further discussed, including the issue of modernizing the document, which has been highlighted many times.

From our point of view we look forward to a comprehensive and interesting FSC Chairmanship, which we hope will encourage us all to continue the important work of the OSCE for the benefit of all participating States. You have our full support.

Once again, a warm welcome as new Chairperson for the FSC and good luck.

Thank you, Your Excellency/Ambassador.

Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/978

21 April 2021

Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

972nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 978, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, allow me to express our gratitude to the outgoing United States Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), that is, to the former Chairperson and her team for their successful tenure during the first trimester of 2021. We welcome Austria as the new member of the FSC Troika. We have also taken note of the Armenian Chairmanship's work programme.

Mr. Chairperson,

The FSC is our principal body for addressing existing and future challenges in the politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

We the 57 participating States own the Forum. The efforts undertaken here are meant to be joint efforts. Our time is precious.

Chairing this august body is an important and honourable duty. It requires the utmost responsibility and vigilance, together with absolute neutrality and impartiality vis-à-vis all the participating States.

The FSC's achievements make a positive contribution to the overall success of the OSCE in its pursuit of comprehensive and indivisible security.

The Forum's *acquis*, which is rooted in our shared values, provides us with a solid basis for our work.

Achieving substantial progress on many of the topics falling within the FSC's purview requires all the participating States to follow a professional, responsible and careful approach on that solid basis.

Another asset of the Forum lies in its function as a platform for dialogue.

Mutually respectful and meaningful dialogue is essential for our collective efforts.

Having a respectful working environment at the FSC meetings, imbued with mutual understanding and constructive engagement, will be beneficial for us all.

We should focus on the wider opportunities that we can open up at the FSC, rather than on counterproductive monologues.

We appreciate the efforts of the recent FSC Chairmanships that have set good examples in this regard.

We look forward to the continuation of this positive trend in the forthcoming meetings and other activities of the Forum.

Turkey for its part will continue its active and constructive engagement with a view to building such a common understanding.

Mr. Chairperson,

Confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) are essential tools for restoring trust and confidence.

The FSC, with its working groups and regular activities such as the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, has been instrumental in the implementation as well as the development of a wide range of CSBMs.

The Vienna Document, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Treaty on Open Skies, all of which are cornerstones of our collective security, should be fully implemented in both letter and spirit by all the participating States.

In connection with the motto at the top of the indicative schedule for FSC meetings under the Armenian Chairmanship (FSC.INF/19/21), namely “Rebuilding trust and confidence through implementation of politico-military commitments”, we renew our call on all the participating States to strictly adhere to their commitments and obligations under the aforementioned instruments. Selective and arbitrary implementation attempts should be refrained.

Mr. Chairperson,

We regret that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, in his opening statement, has deviated from the common ground and repeated unfounded accusations against Turkey.

We completely reject these allegations, which are part of long-term black propaganda campaign.

Having been directly targeted by heinous terrorist organizations for decades, such as ASALA, PKK/YPG/PYD, Deash or FETO, Turkey has always been, and will continue to be at the forefront of the international efforts in the fight against terrorism by all means and manifestations, including foreign terrorist fighters.

We are determined to eradicate the threat of terrorism, from whichever direction it may come.

There is no need to prolong this discussion. At numerous FSC and Permanent Council meetings, we have already openly and frankly shared our views on the matter.

I shall take this opportunity to directly convey our principal messages.

Aggressive rhetoric, distortion of the facts and hate speech fully contradict with the spirit of the OSCE.

It is time to turn the page, change the paradigm and try to be a part of the solution.

The Southern Caucasus needs peace, stability, co-operation and collaboration in good faith. Peaceful coexistence and good neighbourly relations are possible.

For that, though, we need the Government of Armenia to change its course vis-à-vis Turkey.

It is Armenia and the Armenian people that can benefit most from the stability and economic developments in the region.

A positive step by Armenia will be sincerely reciprocated by Turkey.

It is high time to promote the language of peace and co-operation, not that of hatred or confrontation.

I kindly ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/978

21 April 2021

Annex 4

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

972nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 978, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear Armen,

Allow me to extend our heartiest congratulations to the distinguished delegation of Armenia as it assumes the highly challenging but honourable duty of chairing the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We warmly welcome His Excellency Mr. Ara Aivazian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, and thank him for his profound and highly instructive address setting out the Chairmanship's priorities for the summer session.

We join in the assessments made of the US Chairmanship's work. We welcome Austria as the incoming member of the FSC Troika and wish it every success, and also express our gratitude to Germany as the outgoing member.

Mr. Chairperson,

We listened with interest to the distinguished Minister's address outlining the main areas of the Forum's work on which the Armenian delegation proposes to concentrate during the second trimester of this year. We note that many of the ideas presented are also in line with our views on how to strengthen the Forum's role as a platform for dialogue on the military aspects of European security. There seems to be a particular need for this at present.

The current situation in the world and, in particular, in the OSCE area is characterized by growing instability. And this includes not only the well-known inter-State conflicts. We are facing a multitude of global and regional challenges, including the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition, armed conflicts and crises. Common tasks can, in our view, be solved only on the basis of the principles of equal and indivisible security and openness, the rejection of confrontation and of the imposition of ideologies in international relations, while conducting a joint, mutually respectful and in-depth analysis of the problems. We believe that the Armenian Chairmanship's work plan will provide opportunities for such co-operation.

With regard to the FSC programme for the forthcoming round of negotiations, we should like to highlight its balanced nature and broad thematic scope, providing for the

discussion both of traditional issues for the Forum, such as conventional arms control, confidence- and security-building measures and the transparency of military activities, and of completely new and extremely important topics.

These include the issue of compliance with international humanitarian law in conflicts in the OSCE area, which will be the focus of the first Security Dialogue of the summer session. We believe that, in this context, it would be very useful to consider how reporting international humanitarian law violations has an impact on the enforcement of international humanitarian law.

We share the view of our distinguished Armenian friends regarding the importance of strengthening the OSCE's contact with other relevant international organizations. We welcome the inclusion on the Forum's agenda of the work of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). We consider it important and useful to continue the discussion of the CSTO's activities from the point of view of sharing experience in countering current risks and challenges and intensifying co-operation on the basis of the "Priority areas for the development of co-operation between the CSTO and the OSCE" approved at the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers in 2009.

We look forward to having the topic of new military technologies examined at the Forum. Incidentally, during the Russian FSC Chairmanship in 2017, we too proposed this topic as one of the Security Dialogue themes. We are confident that coverage of this multifaceted issue will help to generate "intellectual capital", including in terms of the discussion of the future of conventional arms control.

We attach great importance to the forthcoming plenary meeting on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. This year is special in view of the comprehensive review of the status of implementation of the resolution and the reaching of agreement on the OSCE's contribution to that process. The Russian delegation's view is that you and I, colleagues, have succeeded in producing the best regional contribution to the comprehensive review. In that connection, we should ensure high-level participation of keynote speakers and delegations in the forthcoming event.

When drawing up the programme for our joint work, our Armenian colleagues devoted considerable attention to traditional FSC issues, including the topic of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. This thematic meeting could create a blueprint for increasing the effectiveness and practical benefit of the OSCE's project activities.

In addition, the Armenian Chairmanship has the responsibility of holding important events such as the Tenth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the Annual Security Review Conference. The Chairmanship's programme also provides for a joint meeting of the Forum and the Permanent Council on the OSCE's role in combating terrorism. We hope that these events proceed in a constructive spirit.

Mr. Chairperson,

Discussions of the politico-military aspects of the crisis in Ukraine will continue during the FSC session ahead of us. We expect these discussions to be based on real, objective facts, rather than on conjecture. Let us be frank, in recent weeks, our Organization has been simply mired in conjecture. We have witnessed outrageous attempts to draw parallels between the low-intensity military exercises on the territory of the Russian Federation and the escalating tensions in Donbas. In addition, courtesy of Ukraine, the Vienna Document 2011 has been used as an instrument of “information warfare”, in which so-called concerns are raised on the basis of uncorroborated so-called facts and, what is more, topics that have nothing to do with unusual or unscheduled military activities of armed forces are proposed for dialogue. We urge our colleagues to abandon their groundless attempts to provoke tensions within the OSCE and beyond, for which they bear responsibility.

We expect the Ukrainian Government to finally show political courage and make efforts to ensure that the ceasefire regime in the south-east of the country is consistently respected. This will make it possible to resolve other issues within the settlement process for the internal Ukrainian conflict more effectively. Encouragement, on the other hand, of Ukraine’s militaristic sentiments by its Western “minders” could spur the Ukrainian Government on to ill-considered actions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We hope that, in spite of the differences in the approaches of the OSCE countries to the development of a pan-European security architecture, the political will to seek compromise solutions to existing problems and ways of countering common threats will prevail in this virtual setting. It should not be forgotten that the purpose of the FSC is to bridge dividing lines and agree on actions to combat common challenges. Achieving consensus through depoliticized dialogue and seeking harmony on the basis of a balance of interests and mutual benefit remains our absolute priority. As the Chancellor of the Russian Empire, Alexander Gorchakov, said to the Russian Envoy to the United States of America Eduard de Stoeckl in 1861: “There are no such divergent interests that cannot be reconciled through zealous and hard work ... in the spirit of fairness and moderation.”

Finally, allow me to express my sincere thanks again to His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his detailed outline of the Armenian Chairmanship’s priorities, and to wish the distinguished delegation of Armenia success for its Chairmanship of the FSC – a very important and worthy role. We should like to assure you, dear Ambassador Papikyan, that we stand ready to provide all the assistance that may be required from us. We look forward to working productively with you and the distinguished members of the Troika.

Thank you, Mr. 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/978

21 April 2021

Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

972nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 978, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan takes note of the statement delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

At the outset I wish to stress that Azerbaijan expects to establish a working relationship with Armenia in its capacity of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in fulfilling our shared commitments as well as in support of the implementation of the two trilateral statements signed on 10 November 2020 and 11 January 2021, and with a view to ultimately normalizing relations between our countries.

We anticipate that Armenia will conduct its FSC Chairmanship in an orderly and impartial manner, and use the Chairmanship as an opportunity to contribute to the vision of durable peace, security and stability in our region provided by the trilateral statements, while upholding the values and foundational principles of our Organization, in particular those related to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders. These principles remain the basis for our co-operation within the OSCE and beyond, and it is the Armenian FSC Chairmanship's responsibility to maintain and strictly adhere to these fundamental principles.

Regretfully, the opening statement of Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs does not serve this objective. It rather demonstrates that thus far Armenia deliberately chooses the path of confrontation, promotion of outworn conflict narratives, distortion of facts and complete detachment from the new reality on the ground that emerged in our region in the aftermath of the signing of the trilateral statements. We once again call on the Armenian Foreign Minister and the delegation of Armenia to revert from their reactionary direction, adopt a constructive attitude for promoting realization of the trilateral agreements and bring to the FSC the spirit of dialogue and co-operation rather than confrontation based on obsolete notions and narratives.

It would be a pity to disrupt the Chairmanship programme, which in our view covers a broad spectrum of issues of high importance and relevance to the work of the OSCE in general and the FSC in particular. We note the importance of such topics as compliance with international humanitarian law, United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 on

non-proliferation and United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), practical assistance mechanisms in the field of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), and preventing and combating terrorism.

These topics could provide a solid ground for active engagement and discussions among participating States within the format of Security Dialogues. In particular, we are looking forward to discussions on compliance with international humanitarian law in view of the egregious violations by Armenia of international humanitarian law and the perpetration of war crimes in the course of last year's war, including through the systematic and indiscriminate bombardment of civilian areas in Azerbaijan located far away from the former combat zone. For this purpose Armenia used various rockets and missiles, including Smerch cluster munition rockets, Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems, Scud-B ballistic missiles, as well as Iskander-M missiles – as it was established most recently.

We emphasize the importance of discussions on arms control and CSBMs, recalling that Armenia for decades, in gross violation of its politico-military obligations and commitments and by evading all applicable arms control and CSBM regimes, illegally deployed its armed forces, engaged in a massive military build-up and conducted countless illegal military exercises in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. It is alarming that under new circumstances, Armenia still attempts to illegally transfer its armed personnel to the territories of Azerbaijan under various disguises.

We take a positive note of the inclusion to the Chairmanship programme of the topic of practical assistance mechanisms in the field of SALW/SCA. Taking this opportunity, we thank the previous FSC Chairmanship of the United States for its support to Azerbaijan's practical assistance request for implementing explosive hazards risk reduction and response action. Expert consultations regarding our request convened by the US Chairmanship on 18 March 2021 provided a good opportunity for Azerbaijan's Mine Action Agency (ANAMA) to thoroughly present the problem at hand, and for experts from other participating States to actively engage in discussion with ANAMA on the requested assistance. We call on the Armenian and upcoming FSC Chairmanships to proceed further with Azerbaijan's assistance request and facilitate the formulation and start of the project.

We also positively assess the inclusion to the programme of the topic on preventing and combating terrorism. Azerbaijan has been consistent in its support to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including addressing the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, financing of terrorism and addressing the linkage between terrorism, violent separatism and extremism, organized crime, corruption, money laundering and other illicit activities. The 2001 Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, which remains a founding and guiding document of the OSCE in the field of combating terrorism, stipulates that violent separatism and extremism engender conditions in which terrorist organizations are able to recruit and win support. Thus, the cases of violent separatism and extremism in the OSCE area as enablers of terrorism have to be paid due attention to and the OSCE's comprehensive and cross-dimensional approach to security has to be utilized in addressing these threats. We urge the Armenian FSC Chairmanship and Swedish OSCE Chairmanship to consider this linkage while convening a joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council on the topic of countering terrorism.

While I have the floor, I would also like to shortly respond to some participating States who referred to Azerbaijan, and to the Foreign Minister of Armenia. The results of the last year's 44-day war have been accepted by the Prime Minister Pashinyan of Armenia, President of Azerbaijan Aliyev and President of Russia Putin, and supported by President Erdogan of Turkey. The trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 has put an end to the armed conflict and set new realities, and constitutes the basis for building durable peace in the region. The agreement acquired a form of international treaty and became a part of international law. The trilateral statement created a solid ground for working towards a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of respect to sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of States. The provisions of the trilateral statement are thus far being largely implemented by the parties – Armenian troops withdrew from the formerly occupied Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan, the ceasefire is being maintained, and dialogue among the government representatives of three countries is consistently taking place, unlike here in Vienna. The joint Turkish-Russian monitoring centre, established in line with the trilateral statement, operates to ensure control over the implementation of relevant provisions of the statement. Humanitarian measures envisaged by the agreement are being carried out too. Moreover, this trilateral statement has been supplemented by another trilateral statement signed by the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia on 11 January 2021, in order to facilitate lifting of obstacles to transport connections and opening of economic co-operation. Failure by Armenia to fully implement the two trilateral statements would be tantamount to suicide for this country, as it was rightly put by one of the signatories of these statements, and Azerbaijan shares this assessment.

On a concluding note, Azerbaijan is currently engaged in the phase of post-conflict rehabilitation of the conflict-affected territories. We believe that the OSCE can play a role in this area based on its broad experience in realizing confidence-building measures and reconciliation initiatives. We are expecting proposals from respective formats. To this end, we attach importance to the FSC's support to forging confidence and security and contributing to the implementation of the trilateral statements in order to help regional peace and stability to take hold. Azerbaijan once again calls on Armenia in its capacity as FSC Chairmanship to render support to, rather than oppose this process, and facilitate the practical engagement of the OSCE in the post-conflict rehabilitation phase.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



972nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 978, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to communicate the following in relation to its practical assistance request on enhancing the capacities of Azerbaijan's national authorities (Mine Action Agency of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)) in implementing explosive hazards risk reduction and response action, as well as on the place and role of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and its FSC Support Section in this process.

Guided by Section VI of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), Azerbaijan made a formal request for practical assistance at the 966th Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) meeting on 27 January 2021 (FSC.DEL/47/21). This request was distributed in written form among all OSCE delegations. As a follow-up to this request and in compliance with Section V (Transparency about needs and assistance) of the SCA Document, which emphasizes that "information gathering is of prime importance", Azerbaijan supplemented all delegations with the Report of Mine Action Assessment Mission to Azerbaijan conducted by a team of experts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) from 10 to 16 December 2020. The report, among others, provided information on the nature, locations, risk and threat level of explosive hazards – elements indicated in Section V, paragraph 26(A) of the SCA Document.

Subsequently, in accordance with the aforementioned Section VI, paragraph 35(I) of the SCA Document, on 10 February 2021 the FSC Chairperson requested additional information from Azerbaijan in the form of eight questions. Azerbaijan replied to this request on 18 February 2021 by providing answers to the questions posed by the FSC Chairperson and additional information (FSC.DEL/76/21/Corr.1). These questions of the FSC Chairperson addressed to Azerbaijan also reflect questions contained in the model questionnaire of Annex I to the SCA Document.

As a next step, the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on SALW and SCA assistance projects on behalf of the FSC Chairmanship convened expert consultations on Azerbaijan's assistance request on 18 March 2021 and provided indicative guiding questions. The consultations were arranged in line with the SCA Document with the intention to allow participating States to share their views and ask for additional clarifications on Azerbaijan's

request. All OSCE delegations were invited to attend these consultations. At the consultations Azerbaijan was represented by an expert from ANAMA, who delivered a presentation, which also included responses to the indicative guiding questions. The presentation was followed by an active discussion, as experts from other participating States, including potential donor countries, addressed further questions to ANAMA in relation to the latter's assistance request. The presentation delivered by the ANAMA expert was then distributed among all OSCE delegations (FSC.DEL/92/21).

The expert meeting held on 18 March 2021 had the primary purpose of providing further information in relation to Azerbaijan's assistance request and facilitating contacts between ANAMA and experts from other participating States, including potential donor countries and, thus, was organized in accordance with the consultation procedure envisaged by the SCA Document.

Against this background, we would like to draw attention to the somewhat ignorant role of the CPC and its FSC Support Section in regard with Azerbaijan's request for assistance. SCA Document, Section VI, paragraph 35(I) stipulates that "[t]he CPC will assist in liaison with other relevant international organizations (IO's) and relevant non-governmental organizations (NGO's). The CPC will provide technical assistance to the FSC Chairman and the CiO as necessary in responding to the request".

The OSCE Unified Budget document identifies the role of the FSC Support Section within the CPC as rendering support to the FSC during three chairmanships; helping field operations to implement their politico-military projects stemming from respective mandates by providing field operations with policy advice, including on the OSCE-wide context, assisting in co-ordinating and raising donor funds and resources, and providing concrete project support ranging from management, reporting, and co-ordination in procurement and recruitment processes. In accordance with Output 2.1.4. of the 2021 Unified Budget Proposal, "[t]he FSC SS gives high priority to requests from participating States for assistance with normative and operational support to all aspects of the life cycle of SALW/SCA, and in countering illicit proliferation of weapons, ammunition and explosives."

As Azerbaijan has provided all the necessary information on its assistance request in line with the SCA Document, we expected the CPC and its FSC Support Section to respond promptly to the request of Azerbaijan by commencing work on the project design. However, almost four months passed and apparently the CPC and its FSC Support Section have chosen the path of politically motivated silence, delays and undue linkages with unrelated issues, which contradicts the CPC's mandate. The inability of the CPC and FSC Support Section to perform its mandated activities, when its technical assistance is needed the most, raises serious questions as to the utility of the CPC and FSC Support Section and prompts reconsideration of its role in the overall structure of the OSCE Secretariat. The delegation of Azerbaijan reserves its right to adequately question the effectiveness and integrity of these structures in the respective OSCE formats and take the needed steps to optimize their performance in the interests of the OSCE and its participating States.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.