

**Chairmanship: Germany**

## 959th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.  
Closed: 12.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador G. Bräutigam

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the modalities for that blended FSC meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic, conducted in accordance with FSC.GAL/109/20.

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON HOLDING A HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY DOCTRINE SEMINAR

Chairperson

**Decision:** The FSC adopted Decision No. 6/20 (FSC.DEC/6/20) on holding a high-level military doctrine seminar, the text of which is appended to this journal.

United States of America

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/297/20) (FSC.DEL/298/20) (FSC.DEL/298/20/Add.1), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/299/20), United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 1)

- (b) *On the situation in the South Caucasus: Armenia (Annex 2), Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Turkey*
- (c) *On the signing of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the United States of America and Poland: Russian Federation (Annex 4), United States of America*

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Informal meeting on implementation of assistance projects on SALW and SCA in the OSCE area, to be held on 12 November 2020, and a meeting on guidance notes for assistance projects, to be held on 17 November 2020: FSC Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on SALW and SCA (Austria)*
- (b) *Terror attack in Vienna on 2 November 2020: Austria, France*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 11 November 2020, 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/965  
4 November 2020  
Annex 1

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**959th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 965, Agenda item 2(a)

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

Madam Chairperson,

Our position regarding the internal Ukrainian conflict remains unchanged – there needs to be full implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures of 12 February 2015 through direct dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk. The Russian Federation, as a mediator alongside the OSCE, France and Germany, stands ready to facilitate this in every possible way.

On 9 December, in almost a month's time, it will be exactly one year since the "Normandy format" summit was held in Paris. We regret that, owing to the destructive position adopted by the Ukrainian Government, only two of the seven instructions issued by the leaders of the "Normandy format" countries have been carried out to date, and those only partially. The Ukrainian Government continues to avoid reaching an agreement with Donbas on the legal aspects of its special status. The "Steinmeier formula" has not been incorporated into Ukrainian legislation. There has been no progress in reaching agreement on new areas for the disengagement of forces and hardware on the line of contact or on demining areas. New checkpoints on the line of contact near the settlements of Shchastia and Zolote in the Luhansk region have still not been opened. We expect the Ukrainian Government to use its time profitably and make every effort to translate the "Normandy format" instructions into concrete agreements in the Trilateral Contact Group.

Despite the de-escalation of the military situation in Donbas following the entry into force of measures to strengthen the ceasefire regime on 27 July, firing continues along the line of contact. On several occasions, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) has reported on the uneasy situation near the Donetsk filtration station. According to media outlets in Donetsk, there are increasing reports of the shelling of territories not controlled by the Ukrainian Government using large-calibre mortars and anti-tank guided missiles. On 29 October, a serviceman was killed near the settlement of Naberezhne in the Donetsk region by an explosive device dropped by an unmanned combat aerial vehicle. We trust that the SMM will note this information and reflect it in its weekly reports.

In these extremely difficult circumstances, signals for peace are needed from the Ukrainian capital. However, the country's leadership evidently prefers to set different

priorities. On 20 October, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy remarked that in 2020 Ukraine's defence budget was the biggest in its history (over 4 billion US dollars) and set the goal of maintaining it at a similar level. The construction of two naval bases on the Black Sea was announced, along with the continuation of the policy to improve interoperability with the armed forces of NATO member countries. On the same day, the Ukrainian Minister of Defence, Andriy Taran, announced the delivery of Neptune coastal missile systems to the armed forces of Ukraine, which will be used as a means of "deterrence" in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Not a word was said about the Minsk agreements. It is clear that progress in a comprehensive peaceful settlement is being thwarted by the lack of political will on the part of the Ukrainian leadership.

Further prolongation of the violence in Donbas is unacceptable. The Ukrainian Government should put an immediate stop to the punitive operation against the civilian population of Donbas, withdraw its weapons and move them to the designated storage sites, disarm illegal groups, and pull foreign military equipment and mercenaries out of Ukraine. The inhumane socio-economic blockade of Donbas should be lifted and the region itself granted special status as a matter of urgency. All of Ukraine's obligations under the Minsk agreements must be fulfilled. Political and security measures are closely interlinked and should be implemented simultaneously. We emphasize the direct responsibility of the Ukrainian Government for the practical implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures.

The continuing crisis in Ukraine is the result of the February 2014 coup d'état, which was orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad and has led to the armed confrontation in Donbas and the suffering of millions of Ukrainian civilians. For more than six years now, the Western partners have continued training the Ukrainian army and beefing it up with weapons and equipment. The most recent example was in October when the Minister of Defence of Ukraine and the Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom signed a memorandum on enhancing co-operation in the military-technical sphere, which provides for the delivery of modern high-precision weapons to Ukraine, the establishment of military production facilities and the construction of military infrastructure for the Ukrainian navy. Once again, we emphasize that such actions give a boost to the "war party" in Kyiv with its belligerent aspirations towards Donbas and are not conducive to the de-escalation of tensions in Ukraine that the country's Western partners regularly call for.

The Russian Federation continues to provide humanitarian aid to the civilians in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. On 29 October, the 99th convoy of vehicles from the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations headed to the region, carrying a cargo of goods and medical equipment with a total weight of around 120 tonnes. Once they reached the State border, the trucks went through the necessary customs procedures at the Donetsk and Matveyev Kurgan checkpoints in accordance with international legislation for the delivery of humanitarian supplies. As before, Ukrainian border guards and customs officers participated in the visual inspection of the humanitarian convoy. We consider the attempts by a number of OSCE participating States to politicize the sensitive issue of providing humanitarian aid to the crisis region to be unacceptable.

In conclusion, we once again call on the OSCE, international partners and Ukraine's external "minders" to bring maximum influence to bear on the Ukrainian leadership in order to induce it to put an end to the internal Ukrainian conflict as soon as possible on the basis of the Package of Measures (endorsed by the United Nations Security Council) and through

direct dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk.

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



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**959th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 965, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to begin by expressing our solidarity with our Austrian friends and colleagues. Our prayers are with the people of Austria. Armenians from Artsakh have been fighting the international terrorism sponsored by Turkey and Azerbaijan for more than a month now and we know the criminal nature of those groups.

For more than a month now the war unleashed by the triple alliance comprising Turkey, Azerbaijan and foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists groups against the Republic of Artsakh and its people continues. The Azerbaijani military has been carrying out attacks using all the weapons in its possession, including combat unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), aircraft, helicopters and tanks, with the deployment of a large number of ground forces composed of Azerbaijanis, terrorists, mercenaries and Turkish special operations units.

This updated slide clearly shows the scale of the aggression. As of today, the Azerbaijani armed forces have suffered the following losses: 252 UAVs, 16 combat helicopters and 25 fighter jets, 698 tanks and other armoured vehicles, six TOS heavy flamethrower systems, and three multiple-rocket launcher systems (two Smerch systems and one Uragan). The casualties among Azerbaijani troops as counted by the Armenian side currently stand at 7,155. The number also includes the casualties among the foreign terrorist fighters and Turkish forces fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. If one could have trusted the information provided by Azerbaijan during the annual exchange, then this would have meant that almost 50 to 60 percent of its military equipment had been destroyed.

Our delegation also regularly informs our partners in the OSCE of the devastation caused by Azerbaijani attacks on the civilian population and infrastructure of Artsakh. The Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression against Artsakh has resulted in major casualties among the civilian population – 45 civilians have been killed and 141 wounded. More than 17,800 items of immovable and movable property and civilian infrastructure (including industrial facilities) have been destroyed or damaged.

The Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression has led to many schools and kindergartens in Artsakh being damaged. Children in Artsakh are completely deprived of the education to which they have a right. Ten out of 58 kindergartens and 61 out of 220 schools have been damaged.

We have previously talked about Azerbaijan's violations of its commitments regarding the humanitarian truces which were established through the consecutive mediation efforts of all three Co-Chair countries of the Minsk Group. All three times, the Azerbaijani politico-military leadership, instigated by Turkey, openly demonstrated its total disregard for the calls of the international community and continued the aggression against Artsakh and Armenia.

On 30 October, in Geneva, during the meeting of the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan with the participation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, the agreement was reached, in accordance with international humanitarian law, not to deliberately target civilian populations or non-military objects. However, just several hours after the release of the press statement by the Co-Chairs, the Azerbaijani military resumed the shelling of Stepanakert, Shushi and other settlements of Artsakh. In this video you can see the results:  
<https://twitter.com/ArmenianUnified/status/1322441588828708865?s=20>.

Moreover, Azerbaijan has decided to deploy a new munition – white phosphorus, which is prohibited under the international humanitarian law. Armenia has already drawn the attention of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to this fact, requesting the launch of an investigation into Azerbaijan's use of munition which when used against civilian settlements or in their vicinity is considered to be a chemical attack. Azerbaijan's actions have an impact on the environment as well. For three days now, forest fires have blazed in Artsakh, resulting from deliberate attacks by the Azerbaijani military against forest areas of various communities as well as on the flora and fauna of Artsakh. Here you can see video footage of one such attack: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONLASjID5Iw>.

Yesterday, Stepanakert was shelled with Smerch multiple-rocket launch systems. Among the targets was the mother-and-child health care centre. Three more missiles were fired in the direction of Shushi. Journalists working in Stepanakert reported that allegedly cluster bombs were being used again. At least two civilians were wounded as a result.

The aggression of the triple alliance is not limited to the territory of the Republic of Artsakh. On 2 November, Azerbaijani forces once again fired with artillery at the positions of the armed forces of Armenia in the village of Davit Bek in the southern Syunik province. As a result one civilian was killed and two others were wounded. Yesterday the artillery attacks continued.

Dear colleagues,

Azerbaijan does not consider itself bound by relevant norms of international law any more. The driving desire behind its aggressive policy is the genocidal policy of total extermination of the people of Artsakh.

Today, as 30 years ago, the people of Artsakh are fighting for their fundamental human rights, including the right to live in dignity and freedom in their ancestral homeland.

Madam Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,

From the very first day we have talked about Turkey's direct involvement in the military hostilities, from the planning through to the execution of military actions. We have talked specifically about the support provided by Turkish air forces to the ground forces of Azerbaijan, and the command and control functions exercised during aerial attacks against the cities and population of Artsakh and Armenia.

On 24 October, credible reports from some open sources emerged of a Turkish special commando brigade of around 1,200 troops being sent to take part in the fighting in Artsakh. Later, the Defence Army of Artsakh reported that special operations groups had been spotted in the mountains and forests inside the territory of Artsakh. They were concentrated mainly in the areas surrounding Shushi, the second largest city of Artsakh. On 2 November, the Defence Army of Artsakh killed around twenty servicemen of the Turkish special operations group during fighting near the village of Avetaranots in the Askeran region of Artsakh.

Another aspect of Turkish involvement is the supply of armaments. Since the beginning of the aggression there has been a sharp increase in Turkish military transport flights and arms transfers to Azerbaijan. During the last FSC meeting on 21 October, we presented some figures compiled by the Turkish Exporters' Assembly. The update of these figures indicates that in the first ten months of 2020 Azerbaijan bought military equipment worth a total of 224 million US dollars from Turkey. For comparison, military sales to Azerbaijan in the first nine months of 2019 amounted to only 20.7 million US dollars.

In October 2020, Turkish exports of military items to Azerbaijan amounted to around 101.3 million US dollars after the monthly sales of Turkish military items to Azerbaijan had leapt from around 280,000 US dollars in July to 36 million US dollars in August and to 77.1 million US dollars in September.

In addition to receiving Turkish supplies, Azerbaijan is itself engaged in the smuggling in of large amounts of armaments and large numbers of foreign terrorist fighters. Azerbaijani civilian and cargo airlines are operating daily flights to military air bases in various countries, including Afghanistan and Libya. If one analyses the destinations of the Azerbaijani flights, it is not difficult to deduce the content of the transfers.

Madam Chairperson,

In addition to arms, Turkey continues to supply Azerbaijan with foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists. As of now, the Artsakh Defence Army has captured two terrorist fighters involved in the military hostilities against Artsakh. They have confirmed that they were recruited by Turkey and promised up to 2,000 US dollars per month, with an additional hundred-dollar reward for every head of an "infidel", as they call the soldiers of the Defence Army.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) continues to monitor the process of recruitment of terrorists and their transfer to Azerbaijan. Yesterday, SOHR announced that a new batch of nearly 230 Syrian fighters had arrived in Azerbaijan, while at least 22 fighters had fled the fierce battles and returned to Syria.

The arrival of a new group of fighters brings the total confirmed number of Syrian fighters at the Artsakh-Azerbaijani battlefield to 2,580. 342 fighters have returned to Syria after having “given up and forgone their payments”.

SOHR has also confirmed the deaths of nine Syrian mercenaries in the past few hours, while the total number of confirmed fatalities among Syrian fighters stands at 240. The bodies of 183 such fighters have already been returned to Syria for burial.

Madam Chairperson,

With each passing day it becomes more and more clear not only to us but to the international community in general that the main obstacle to the cessation of hostilities is Turkey. Moreover, if it had not been for Turkey and its instigation, Azerbaijan would probably have refrained from the use of force. Therefore, we reiterate our position that Turkey should withdraw its troops and equipment from Azerbaijan, withdraw the terrorist fighters and jihadists from the conflict zone, and refrain from bellicose statements and anti-Armenian rhetoric. We call on the OSCE participating States to exert pressure on Turkey to stop instigating Azerbaijan to continue hostilities, since such actions by Turkey, both in the South Caucasus and in the wider region, are aimed merely at aggravating the situation on the ground, which can only lead to further bloodshed.

Thank you.



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**959th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 965, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to update the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on the ongoing aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and its consequences in the reporting period since the last meeting of the FSC on 21 October.

The agreement on a humanitarian ceasefire facilitated by the efforts of the United States in Washington, DC, on 24 October has been violated by Armenia almost immediately after entering into force on 26 October. Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire the units of Azerbaijani armed forces located in the Safiyan village of Lachin region. Later, the city of Tartar and the villages of the Tartar district came under intensive shelling.

After the most recent meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan with the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, held on 30 October in Geneva, where the Co-Chairs again called the parties to observe a humanitarian ceasefire, the Armenian armed forces using heavy artillery and small weapons kept intensively shelling Azerbaijani military units and civilian areas in the Tartar, Aghdam, Goranboy and Aghjabadi districts. Thus, it is the fourth time in a row that Armenia has blatantly ignored and violated the agreed humanitarian ceasefire regime. The consistent pattern of these violations by Armenia is a demonstration of wilful ignorance of its commitments and a sign of open disrespect to the efforts of international mediators. This clearly resonates with provocative and warmongering statements coming from Armenia's officials and agents of the unlawful puppet regime it has set up in the occupied territories, and confirms that this country is not interested in a peaceful negotiated resolution of the conflict and that its ultimate goal is to continue the military occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan.

Since the last FSC meeting on 21 October onwards, despite the agreement on humanitarian ceasefire as well as the most recent commitment taken in Geneva not to deliberately fire on civilian areas and infrastructure, Armenia's armed forces continued their deliberate, systematic and indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population of Azerbaijan along the front line and farther away from the conflict zone. These attacks are being carried out both from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and from the territory of Armenia.

In this period of time, the territories of Tartar, Aghdam, Aghjabadi, Goranboy, Barda, Fuzuli, Naftalan, Tovuz, Gazakh, Gadabay and Dashkesan districts of Azerbaijan were

subjected to intensive fire. On 24 October, Armenian armed forces launched a 9M528 “Smerch” missile in the direction of Tapgaragoyunlu village of Goranboy district (exhibit 1). As a result of one of the attacks on 24 and 25 October, a 16-year-old boy has been killed in Kabirli village of the Tartar district by a 300mm “Smerch” multiple-launch rocket system rocket (exhibit 2). The armed forces of Armenia also fired on a secondary school in Garadagli village of the Aghdam district (exhibit 3).

On 24 October 2020, a 13-year-old national of the Russian Federation, Artur Mayakov, died in hospital where he was placed after being seriously wounded on 17 October as a result of Armenia’s ballistic missile strike on Ganja city.

On 26 October 2020, after shelling of the Dashkesan region, located outside the combat zone, a fire broke out in the forest in the mountainous area. Another fire broke out in the forest near Tazakand village of the district as a result of artillery fire on 3 November (exhibit 4).

On 27 October 2020, a 300mm “Smerch” cluster munition rocket was launched on the residential areas of Barda district (exhibit 5). As a result of this attack, five civilians, including an infant, were killed, 12 civilians were injured. In the evening of the same day, the Tartar district also came under attack from a 300mm “Smerch” multiple-launch rocket system. As a result, the Tartar branch of the Azerkhalcha Open Joint-Stock Company was seriously damaged.

In the morning of 28 October 2020, the armed forces of Armenia attacked the city centre of Barda with a “Smerch” multiple-launch rocket system (exhibit 6). As a result of this atrocious terrorist attack, 21 civilians, including children, were killed and more than 70 people were seriously wounded. One of the volunteers of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was killed while delivering humanitarian aid to civilians. Being thus far the deadliest single attack on civilian areas of Azerbaijan, it once again exposed the terrorist nature of Armenia’s politico-military leadership. Deliberate killing of peaceful population in the city of Barda constitutes another war crime and crime against humanity committed by Armenia.

On 29 October, Amnesty International and, on 30 October, Human Rights Watch (HRW) in their respective reports have confirmed the use of cluster munitions by Armenia for killing civilians in Barda city. Amnesty International and HRW identified two of the weapons used by Armenia for attacking civilians. These were a “Smerch” cluster munition rocket and a “Smerch” parachute-retarded high-explosive fragmentation rocket.

Right after the attacks on Barda on 27 and 28 October, the spokesperson of the Armenian Ministry of Defence Shushan Stepanyan made statements on her twitter page (exhibit 7) saying that Armenian or “Artsakh” armed forces have nothing to do with it and that it is “an absolute lie and a dirty provocation”. These statements basically suggest that it is the Azerbaijani side that is killing its own civilian population and, as such, embodies a very low point reached by the Armenian leadership in an attempt to deny its responsibility for atrocious crimes against Azerbaijani civilians.

Just at the same time as the Armenian armed forces attacked Barda, Armenian propagandists spread fake news about the alleged bombardment by Azerbaijan and Turkey of

the maternity hospital in Khankendi with F-16 jets (exhibit 8). It is clear that the shared photos depict an abandoned building rather than a functional hospital, as there are no traces of damaged medical equipment or even elementary pieces of furniture. This fake fits well into disinformation campaign widely employed by Armenia to divert attention from and cover up its heinous attacks on the civilian population of Azerbaijan.

Speaking of the disinformation campaign by Armenia, we would like to demonstrate another example of very unsophisticated and unprofessional fake created by the Armenian side. If you take a closer look at this picture, you will notice that the producers of this fake have even forgotten to remove the spider net from the munition which allegedly has been fired on civilian areas by Azerbaijan's armed forces (exhibit 9).

On 2 November, the Armenian armed forces shelled the villages of the Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts. One of the shells fell on a school in Mahrizli village of the Aghdam district and inflicted severe damage on the school building (exhibit 10). In total, since 27 September, as a result of Armenia's bombardment, nine school children have been killed, while 50 schools have been destroyed or damaged.

On 3 November, the Armenian armed forces shelled Fuzuli city and the surrounding villages from the "Smerch" multiple-launch rocket system. Two artillery shells were fired at Sahlabad village of the Tartar district. One of them fell on a private house (exhibit 11).

Since early hours of today, 4 November, Armenian armed forces continued to heighten tensions and kept shelling the territories of Aghdam, Aghjabadi and the Tartar districts.

Last week, the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan has issued a statement informing about the delivery of a large amount of phosphorus cargo to the units of the Armenian armed forces stationed in the direction of the occupied Khojavend district of Azerbaijan. The purpose of this, as it became known later, was to lay basis for Armenia's further provocations by spreading false and fake information about the alleged use of white phosphorus by Azerbaijan's armed forces. Further to this, Armenia, using white phosphorous munitions, has set fire to the forests of Shusha, thus aiming to create smoke and hinder visibility as well as vision of drones used by Azerbaijan's armed forces (exhibit 12). This constitutes an environmental terror and represents another sign of desperation on the Armenian side.

We would like to further remind that Armenia has a track record of using phosphorus munitions. Back in 2016, during the four-day April escalation, Armenia fired phosphorus projectiles on Askipara village of the Tartar district of Azerbaijan (exhibit 13). The unexploded ordnance has been neutralized back then. More recently, on 8 October 2020, Armenia fired a phosphorus projectile on Fuzuli district of Azerbaijan. Fortunately, it did not explode, and the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) experts have identified and decommissioned it (exhibit 14). Lastly, yesterday, on 3 November, Armenian armed forces fired phosphorus shells at Sahlabad village of the Tartar district (exhibit 15). ANAMA neutralized this unexploded ordnance on the spot (exhibit 16). These instances of the active use of phosphorus munitions by Armenia exemplify its typical blame-shifting exercises and attempts to evade responsibility.

Overall, since the outbreak of hostilities on 27 September 2020, deliberate and indiscriminate attacks of the armed forces of Armenia against the cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan, thus far, claimed the lives of 91 civilians, including children, infants, women and elderly, 405 civilians were wounded, 2,734 private houses, 98 residential apartment buildings and 500 other civilian facilities were either destroyed or damaged (exhibit 17).

I would like to further inform the Forum that in the reporting period, ANAMA continued to carry out its activity in the areas close to as well as farther away from the conflict zone affected by the Armenian aggression (exhibit 18). As a result of this work, as of 3 November, ANAMA found 317 unexploded ordnances, 1,627 pieces of anti-personnel mines, 276 pieces of anti-tank mines, explosives of 460 anti-tank mines, 76 pieces of detonators, 1,173 bomblets from 9N235 cluster munition, 723 exploded missiles parts. Furthermore, mine awareness specialists conducted a mine safety awareness campaign among 42,777 civilians.

Deliberate and indiscriminate attacks carried out by the Armenian armed forces on densely populated civilian areas of Azerbaijan, including those located far away from the conflict zone, indicate that Armenia does so in order to inflict a high level of casualties and cause disproportionate harm among the civilian population and civilian objects. Such attacks constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity and an act of State terror, for which all perpetrators, including those at the highest echelon of the politico-military leadership of Armenia, must bear international legal responsibility. Against the background of irrefutable evidence attesting to the continuous bombardment of cities and other densely populated civilian areas of Azerbaijan, Armenia continues to deny its responsibility for the atrocious crimes committed against Azerbaijani civilians during the conflict. In this regard, Azerbaijan calls on the participating States and the international community as a whole to strongly condemn the barbaric and atrocious methods of warfare employed by Armenia. These inhumane acts call for justice and accountability.

In particular, we reiterate our call on OSCE participating States made at the last FSC meeting and urge them again to fully implement their relevant collectively agreed commitments in the politico-military dimension in order to deny Armenia any means to commit further crimes against the civilian population of Azerbaijan with weapons and ammunition that it continues to get from OSCE participating States through various schemes of trafficking. Against the backdrop of unabated attacks on the civilian population of Azerbaijan, the OSCE participating States concerned have to take prompt actions arising from their relevant OSCE commitments and to reconsider their military-technical co-operation with Armenia.

Alongside indiscriminate attacks on civilians, in the reporting period the Armenian armed forces continued to attack the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the front line with the aim of regaining control over positions they lost in the course of Azerbaijan's counteroffensive. Armenia's provocations and attacks along the restored State borders between Armenia and Azerbaijan, particularly in the direction of the recently liberated Gubadli and Zangilan districts, deserve closer attention. The Armenian politico-military leadership must now realize and reckon with the fact that the restored State borders of Azerbaijan in the territories previously occupied by Armenia are not a zone of conflict anymore, but internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan, over which Azerbaijan has full sovereignty. The inviolability of these State borders must be ensured and

any provocation by Armenia in this direction will be assessed as an attack on our territorial integrity.

We further would like to draw attention to Armenia's provocations. Recently, the Ministry of Defence of Armenia released a photo of Armenia's Defence Minister, David Tonoyan, together with Armenian soldiers (exhibit 19). One of the soldiers sitting next to the Minister is wearing a military uniform identical to the one used by the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This is an intentional misrepresentation and constitutes a clear case of a false flag operation, which is forbidden under the laws and customs of war. Several minutes later, the Defence Ministry's press service deleted these photos from the official accounts.

Let us remind that recently Armenia has released an utterly unprofessional fake video of foreign mercenaries wearing uniforms of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan, alleging that they are fighting on Azerbaijan's side. An Armenian soldier sitting next to the Defence Minister of this country sheds light on these allegations of Armenia and proves that such shows are staged by Armenia.

Speaking of the use of mercenaries and terrorists, in the reporting period, further credible confirmations continued to emerge on deployment in the conflict zone of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries by Armenia. In addition to the information that our delegation provided in the recent FSC and Permanent Council meetings and shared through the document distribution system, there is further credible evidence on this presented by international media. Most recently, the presence of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries from Lebanon and Syria along with PKK terrorists in the ranks of Armenia's armed forces has been reflected in the reportage by Reuters and France 24. More than 300 mercenaries have been recruited through the "VOMA" terrorist organization. These are citizens of a number of countries, including Lebanon and Syria, as well as some OSCE participating States.

Evidence suggest that at least some of the terrorists deployed by Armenia are dressed in the military uniform of the armed forces of Azerbaijan, which is a clear violation of the laws and customs of war, let alone commitments on the use of foreign terrorist fighters. These tricks used by Armenia can prove extremely dangerous, as Armenia can potentially stage the perpetration of war crimes by the armed forces of Azerbaijan against the civilian Armenian population using its servicemen or foreign terrorist fighters camouflaged in Azerbaijani uniform and then mobilize all its propaganda resources in an attempt to put responsibility on Azerbaijan. This is a dangerous development and the delegation of Azerbaijan warns all participating States of the adverse consequences of this practice employed by Armenia.

Having exhausted its manpower on the battlefield, Armenia not only continues to recruit mercenaries and terrorists, but most recently turned to employing children as soldiers in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The recent videos and photos spread on social media clearly testify to this dangerous and unacceptable development (exhibit 20). By using children in military operations, Armenia violates a number of its international obligations related to the rights of children and protection of civilians. While using children as combatants, Armenia deprives them of their fundamental rights, in particular the right to life and the right to protection, as children might become military targets as combatants.

Moreover, Armenia which presents itself as one of the “advocates” of the Safe Schools Declaration does not hesitate to use school buildings and even kindergartens for military purposes. Recently circulated photos of a meeting of commanders of Armenian armed forces in a kindergarten proves that Armenia camouflages military headquarters inside kindergartens, thus committing grave violations of its international obligations (exhibit 21). Relevant international organizations need to thoroughly investigate these cases and take necessary measures to prevent further breaches of the rights of children by Armenia.

Further evidence has emerged that Armenia is using a secondary school in the Girmizi Bazar village in the occupied Khojavend district of Azerbaijan as a weapons and ammunition storage. The drone video shared by Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defence clearly show that Armenian servicemen load arms onto a military truck next to the school building. On the left side of the screen you can see a screenshot from this drone video, while on the right side there is a Google Earth image of the school with location co-ordinates (exhibit 22). This is yet another testament to the fact that Armenia is using kindergartens and schools as a cover for its weapons and ammunition depots in the hope that Azerbaijan will not strike them. But in case Azerbaijan does so, there will be “incontrovertible proof” to show the international community that Azerbaijan attacks “schools” and “kindergartens”. But even after this school has been converted into a legitimate military target, the armed forces of Azerbaijan did not destroy it and targeted only the military personnel loading ammunition outside the school building.

We would like to further update the Forum that as a result of the counteroffensive conducted by Azerbaijani armed forces, as of today Azerbaijan liberated four cities, 193 villages and three settlements in Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadli, Khojavand and the Tartar districts of Azerbaijan, thus implementing United Nations Security Council resolutions 874 and 884 demanding the withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces from these territories of Azerbaijan.

Since the beginning of the counteroffensive, the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan and other authorities have repeatedly stated that the Azerbaijani armed forces neutralize only legitimate military objects in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and do not target the civilian population and civilian infrastructure, adhering to the principle of distinction. Last week we informed the OSCE Permanent Council on the set of actions taken by the Azerbaijani side to ensure that its armed forces discharge their duties in full compliance with international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols as well as commitments enshrined in the OSCE documents. Our statement was distributed under reference number PC.DEL/1476/20, dated 29 October 2020.

Meanwhile, the amount of military equipment of Armenian armed forces destroyed and captured by the armed forces of Azerbaijan in the course of our counteroffensive keeps growing (exhibit 23). Thus, as of 4 November, Azerbaijani armed forces destroyed and captured 311 tanks of Armenian armed forces. To compare, in the latest annual exchange of military information within the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Armenia declared to possess only 145 tanks. Our armed forces also destroyed and captured 609 artillery pieces, while Armenia declared to have only 242 artillery pieces. These vast differences in numbers speak for themselves and once again testify to Armenia’s grave violations of its commitments and obligations under relevant

politico-military instruments, which we repeatedly have been bringing to the attention of the FSC. It also reveals a high scale of militarization of the occupied territories, which pursued the obvious goal to consolidate the unlawful occupation of these territories. One can only wonder how many more pieces of military equipment are still left at the disposal of the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories.

To conclude, we reiterate that the military occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan does not represent a solution and will never produce the political outcome desired by Armenia. The resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, in full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders. We would like to further stress that Armenia may prevent further senseless casualties and may become a partner in peace by putting an end to the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding regions of Azerbaijan, as it is demanded by the well-known United Nations Security Council resolutions.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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**959th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 965, Agenda item 2(c)

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

Madam Chairperson,

On several occasions, the delegation of the Russian Federation has stated in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) that the discussion of ways of further developing confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and conventional arms control in Europe should take into account the broader politico-military realities on the continent. NATO's official policy of "containing" Russia and building up the military capability of members of the alliance in the immediate vicinity of our borders continues to cast a shadow over the fundamental OSCE principle that participating States will not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of others.

In that regard, we have taken note that the implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement signed by the United States of America and Poland on 15 August calls for a qualitative increase in the offensive capability of US forces on the "eastern flank". It is planned to increase the overall US troop strength on Polish territory by 1,000 troops in addition to the 4,500 troops already stationed there. The Agreement provides for the development of a forward command structure of the US armed forces and combat training centres, the creation of conditions for the deployment of army aviation and air transport units, unmanned aerial vehicles, special operations forces and also logistic and support elements. It is worth recalling that the anti-Russian tenor of this document is emphasized in every possible way both by US and by Polish officials.

These plans change the security conditions in Europe and run counter to the provisions of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Russian Federation of 1997, which sets out the shared objective of strengthening stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. We also have to analyse how these plans square with the commitments set out in the Founding Act not to additionally station "substantial combat forces" on a permanent basis. We see that the United States is again demonstrating its willingness to go back on its commitments under multilateral agreements, if its own interests demand this.

We emphasize that building up the US military presence in Poland leads to an escalation of tensions on Russia's western borders and increases the risk of unexpected

incidents. We doubt that these steps are in keeping with the NATO leadership's statements about its interest in reducing tensions in Europe. There is no other explanation for the fact that Russia's specific proposals on de-escalation in the areas of contact between Russia and NATO still remain unanswered.

We call on the member countries of the alliance to return to a policy of restraint in the spirit of the NATO-Russia Founding Act and not to allow a departure from the principles and norms of conduct set out in it. For our part, we will continue a consistent course aimed at de-escalating the situation in Europe. We intend to closely monitor the situation and in the event of further actions by the United States to undermine the legal treaty-based security framework on the continent, we will be obliged to take the necessary measures to safeguard our legitimate defence capability interests.

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.DEC/6/20  
4 November 2020

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**959th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 965, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 6/20  
HOLDING A HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY DOCTRINE SEMINAR**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Determined to enhance the security dialogue in the OSCE,

Recalling paragraph 15.7 of the Vienna Document 2011 encouraging participating States to hold periodic high-level military doctrine seminars and paragraphs 30.1 and 30.1.2 on improving mutual relations and promoting contacts between relevant military institutions,

Decides to hold a High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar in Vienna on 9 and 10 February 2021 to discuss doctrinal changes and their impact on defence structures in the light of the present European security situation.