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RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 2020 ANNUAL SECURITY  
REVIEW CONFERENCE**

25 June 2020

**Working session IV: The OSCE's role in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation: lessons learned and the way ahead**

Madam Chairperson,  
Good afternoon,

The OSCE's work in the area of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation is one of the key tasks of the Organization. The OSCE has accumulated an ample stock of mechanisms for crisis management and an impressive amount of relevant experience, which means that we are well-equipped to respond to the emergence of crises in a manner that does justice to their scale and fully takes into account their nature and potential consequences.

In general, we support the idea of strengthening the OSCE's linkages with partner organizations in the field of crisis management. For many decades now, there has been a highly successful rallying of efforts by international organizations and individual States to support crisis management from the Western Balkans to the South Caucasus, with the OSCE fulfilling the important function of promoting inter-ethnic harmony or, in some cases, being involved directly as a mediator in conflict resolution within agreed formats. It is important for this work to be based on collective decisions and that it should be performed with full accountability to the OSCE participating States.

I should like to dwell separately on the problems involved in post-conflict settlement.

A specific new factor that significantly complicates the process of post-conflict settlement is the close intertwining (even merging) of the interests of State actors, guerrilla and terrorist organizations, and transnational organized crime within a conflict zone. That is why it is so difficult not only to resolve effectively and swiftly the differences that have accumulated, but even just to make sense of the situation.

The brutality of armed conflicts also has a negative effect on post-conflict settlement.

This is not something completely new of course: it has arguably been like that since time immemorial. Nowadays, though, new information and communication technologies make it possible to go

about it more “effectively”, to inflict a deeper wound on the collective consciousness of a country’s population and sometimes even on that of the international community.

As a result, post-conflict settlement is becoming an increasingly complicated and lengthy process. Moreover, in the twenty-first century, alongside the usual mechanisms for post-conflict settlement, one comes up against completely novel problems where it is not always clear how they might be tackled.

What we need today is integrated policymaking that ensures that the world order is restored promptly in post-conflict spaces, and that the risk of a resumption of conflict is minimized.

The time has come for post-conflict settlement measures within the OSCE framework to be applied more intensively even at the pre-conflict stage.

However, despite periodic mopping-up operations in conflict hotspots, the simmering potential of crises continues to exist, with all the ensuing negative consequences for international stability. Among the main reasons for this situation and for the limited possibilities of crisis diplomacy in the face of new challenges is the continuing gap between the political decision-making process and the influence of the established system and mechanisms of preventive diplomacy on that process. Another reason is the poor synchronization of rapid response measures to crisis situations (usually of a short-term nature) aimed at preventing conflict and of “structural” measures to avert crisis situations, which are intended primarily to address the root causes of crises.

A further pressing problem in relation to post-conflict settlement has to do with personnel. Today, as never before in the past 50 to 70 years, we are faced in all its magnitude with the problem of the availability of specialists in the field of post-conflict settlement, that is, of people with creative, sound, clear and acceptable ideas who have a “hands-on” attitude and are also good organizers. Unfortunately, this problem is not being given due attention.

We are simply obliged nowadays to keep a very close watch on the evolving situation around the world, especially in those countries that have already come up against crises.

Thank you for your attention.